

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 26, 2009
Maricopa County Community Development
222 North Central Avenue, Suite 5200
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 372-1535

On or about April 3, 2009, Maricopa County Community Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds under Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to undertake a project known as Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Single Family Homes for Homeownership under the amended FY2008 Annual Action Plan for the Maricopa Urban County Consolidated Plan of 2005-2009 which qualifies for categorical exclusions according to HUD environmental regulations at 24 CFR 58.35(a). Project activities include acquisition and redevelopment of approximately 50 - 100 abandoned and/or foreclosed upon single-family homes to be offered for sale to eligible homebuyers for an amount equal to or less than the cost to acquire and redevelop the property. Only existing residential structures will be included in the project. No new construction or increase in density will result from project activities. Eligible homebuyers will be at or below 120% Area Median Income and homes will be owner occupied. Project funds will be targeted to areas of greatest need within the cities/towns of Buckeye, El Mirage and Goodyear. Properties located within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area as defined by the most recent published FEMA FIRM maps are not eligible. Properties located in airport runway clear zones, approach protection zones or military clear zones are not eligible. To the extent possible, energy efficiency or renewable energy sources will be included in rehabilitations. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding over a four year period is anticipated to be \$6,233,274. Since recaptured funds will be reinvested into the program, estimated project quantities may increase as additional funds become available. It is anticipated that total funding including recaptured funds will not exceed \$8,700,000 and total scope of work including units funded by recaptured funds will not exceed 150 single-family homes during the four-year time frame.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.35(a). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the offices of Maricopa County Community Development and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Maricopa County Community Development will supplement this ERR with site specific reviews addressing such factors as Historic Preservation, Explosive and Flammable Operations, Airport Clear Zones, Toxic Substances and Hazardous Materials prior to approving any loan or grant under this program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Maricopa County Community Development at the address above. All comments received by April 2, 2009 will be considered by Maricopa County Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Maricopa County Community Development certifies to HUD that Renee Ayres-Benavidez in her capacity as NEPA Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Maricopa County Community Development to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Maricopa County Community Development's certification for a period of fifteen days following the submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Responsible Entity (RE); (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or

(d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1 North Central Avenue, Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85004. Potential objectors should contact *HUD* to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Renee Ayres-Benavidez, Director
Maricopa County Community Development
NEPA Certifying Officer

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