
IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
2008/2009 North Richmond Waste & Recovery
Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan
- April 2009 -

The funding allocation amounts shown below are for the two-year 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan period unless otherwise identified. Some of the strategies and related activities listed were initiated prior to January 2008 under the 2006/2007 Expenditure Plan.

PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Strategy 1 - Bulky Clean-ups **\$5,000**

Bulky Clean-ups are used in conjunction with the Disposal Vouchers (Strategy 3) which were both launched on May 18, 2007. The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) will serve as the community's primary point of contact for this program and will handle requests on an appointment basis following prescribed procedures. The CSC will provide Committee Staff from the County and City (Staff) with documentation on monthly basis. Bulky Clean-ups are available to residents with an active residential account with Richmond Sanitary Service (RSS), are limited to one per household per year, and will be disbursed on a first come first served basis.

There has been limited interest in this program, only 3 community members have requested a Bulky Item Pick-up since the program was launched (only 1 within the 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan cycle). Staff, the CSC and Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSC) continues seeking new and different strategies to better inform local residents about this program.

Strategy 2 - Neighborhood Clean-ups **\$25,000**

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the second community-wide Neighborhood Clean-up took place. Approximately 66 tons of household trash was collected. The City, County and Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) worked with RSS, Sims Metal, Hi-Tech Recycling and others in the community to ensure the success of the clean-up. There were 5 drop-off locations throughout the North Richmond area. Community youth from YouthBuild and the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC), as well as senior volunteers helped staff each location. Volunteers distributed handouts in English and Spanish with information about local disposal and recycling resources, including details about the Mitigation Fee funded Disposal Voucher & Bulky-Item Pick-up programs and what they should and should not place in their green waste containers at home to address problem of increased contamination found in local residential green waste containers (copies of both are attached). The CSC/BOC coordinated the volunteer activities. Volunteers from UPS also participated in the community clean-up by picking up trash along neighborhood streets.

Strategy 3 - Voucher System **\$7,500**

The Disposal Voucher program officially began on May 18, 2007. The Community Services Coordinator (Strategy 4) serves as the community's primary point of contact for this program. The CSC distributes vouchers on an appointment basis and provides Staff with documentation as needed for verification at the time payments need to be processed.

Households are limited to twelve Disposal Vouchers (\$5 each) per year. Disposal Vouchers will be disbursed on a first come first served basis and will expire six months following issuance.

To date, 26 requests for vouchers have been made (totaling approximately 312 vouchers). A total of 154 vouchers have been redeemed at Republic's Golden Bear Transfer Station on Parr Boulevard (about 41 have been redeemed within the current 2008/2009 Expenditure Plan cycle and the remaining 113 in 2006/2007)..The majority of the vouchers requested have been by residents that are referred through code or law enforcement staff.

Strategy 4 - Community Services Coordinator **\$144,262**

Saleem Bey, the Community Services Coordinator (CSC), is responsible for illegal dumping/blight referrals and tracking, public outreach, and illegal dumping prevention and acts as a liaison between the community, the City and County. The CSC is employed through CHDC of North Richmond. The CSC is diligently working on community outreach efforts, informing the community of mitigation funded programs, assisting Mitigation Staff with implementation of specific strategies, and educating residents about other local issues related to illegal dumping and blight. The CSC, along with the BOSCO, attends numerous community meetings and meets individually with numerous community leaders.

The CSC has worked on creating a newsletter, the October 2008 Neighborhood Clean-up Flyer and various other public outreach materials. He disburses disposal vouchers, processes requests for bulky clean-ups, works with YouthBuild students involved in Mitigation Fee funded stipend programs, and staffs the Keep North Richmond Beautiful (KNRB) Committee. Mr. Bey has been the central force in developing and building support for the North Richmond Green Campaign In 2009 This outreach campaign is intended to facilitate positive changes within and for the benefit of the North Richmond community. The driving force behind this campaign and its plan of action has been the community itself.

Strategy 5 - Bilingual Outreach Services/Coordinator **\$56,000**

Carla Orozco, the Bilingual Outreach Services Coordinator (BOSCO), assists the CSC with illegal dumping referrals/tracking and public outreach by serving as a link between the Spanish speaking members of the community of North Richmond and the City and County. The BOSCO is also employed through CHDC of North Richmond. Ms. Orozco is dedicated to identifying and pursuing opportunities to outreach to the Latino community. For example, she regularly attends and distributes information at the North Richmond

flea market, which is mostly attended by Latino residents. Ms. Orozco prepares and translates into Spanish various outreach and resource materials for community-wide distribution to Latino community members, including the Spanish versions of the Newsletter and Neighborhood Clean-up Flyers developed by the CSC and the handouts distributed at the October 2008 Clean-up (described under Strategy 2 above).

Strategy 6 - Public Outreach Campaign **\$50,000**

Mitigation staff, the CSC and the BOSC assists with the development of public outreach materials to help educate the North Richmond community about various mitigation strategies. The following are examples of outreach conducted in the community:

- Word of mouth is a very effective means of informing community members about mitigation strategies. The CSC and BOSC continue to work at street level to educate community members on available resources and to increase awareness.
- The CSC and BOSC meet with a variety of people and organizations within the community, such as Project Pride, The Young Adult Empowerment Center, Verde Elementary School, Head Start, and HEAL to discuss strategies to prevent illegal dumping, to inform members about current beautification efforts and developments, and to discuss environmental concerns in the community.
- The CSC and BOSC have begun development of an outreach campaign called "North Richmond Green" intended to build recognition for mitigation funded beautification projects as well as help build pride and rally community support around all beautification efforts. The CSC, BOSC and Mitigation Fee staff has registered a new website (www.nrgreen.org) to replace www.stopdumping.org in order to build upon this theme as a means of providing residents with an online resource for Mitigation Fee supported programs and services which are intended to compliment the printed outreach materials created.
- A variety of flyers and resource materials has been developed and will be reviewed for distribution in the upcoming months.
- The next community newsletter is expected to be completed and distributed in May 2009. The newsletter provides the North Richmond community with updates related to the implementation of Expenditure Plan strategies and other important information related to illegal dumping/blight in the community. The newsletters are created by the CSC, edited by Mitigation Fee Staff and translated into Spanish by the BOSC. The newsletter will be mailed out to all North Richmond residents, and the CSC and BOSC will also distribute some door-to-door.
- The Keep North Richmond Beautiful (KNRB) Steering committee meetings occur during the first Thursday of every month. Through the dedicated efforts of the CSC and BOSC, the KNRB meetings experience greater community participation. Staff is proposing to hold steering committee meetings during the day and conduct quarterly evening meetings with community residents.

ABATEMENT & ENFORCEMENT

Strategy 7 - City/County Pick-up from Right-of-Way \$120,000

The City Public Works Illegal Dumping Abatement Crew receives work requests to pick-up materials that are not suitable for collection by Republic Sanitary Service's Hot Spot Crew such as tires, electronics, and unidentified liquids. The increase in illegally dumped tires is still a major issues and the City's Abatement Crew desires to work with enforcement entities to collectively solve the problem. The Abatement Crew supervisor provides monthly invoices and reports to the City for reimbursement of staff costs, equipment usage and mileage. The City Public Works Abatement Supervisor is working closely with the CSC and Staff to ensure the effective implementation of this strategy.

Strategy 8 - Vacant and Abandoned Lot and Properties Clean-up \$40,000

This strategy includes the clean-up of abandoned lots and properties within the Mitigation Area. CHDC staff is interested in utilizing some of the vacant lots for community gardens (See Strategy 16A update). Although no funds have been expended to date, City Code Enforcement has plans to utilize a portion of the available funding to abate a City-owned parcel in May 2009. Currently, the City does not have sufficient funds in place to pay for the abatement of the property and is therefore utilizing mitigation funds to cover the associated costs. In the meantime, Code Enforcement staff is working to set up a system by which these funds can be utilized more effectively. The County already has a system and funds in place for vacant lot clean-ups but they also have access to a portion of the funds if needed.

Strategy 9 - Vacant and Abandoned Lot Fencing \$57,000

Although no funds have been expended to date, City Code Enforcement plans on utilizing a portion of them in the upcoming months to repair a fence in the incorporated area surrounding a problem vacant lot. City Code enforcement is currently in the process of soliciting bids. The County also has access to the funds if needed.

Strategy 10 - Code Enforcement Staff \$313,514

Effective March 10, 2009, Eduardo Franco began filing in for Conrad Fromme the County Building Inspector officially assigned to the dedicated Code Enforcement position who is out on medical leave for several months. The monthly status report submitted by Mr. Fromme and Mr. Franco for March 2009 indicated they had opened 3 cases, closed 18 cases and had 61 total cases active. Mr. Franco works with the Illegal Dumping Officer, City Code Enforcement and Contra Costa County Environmental Health staff to create a more comprehensive code enforcement system to address the illegal dumping problem in the North Richmond community.

Strategy 11 - Graffiti Abatement \$58,240

The City Public Works Graffiti Abatement Crew cleans graffiti visible from the public right-of-way located within the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area. Although reports show that graffiti incidents are very nominal in the community, the City's Graffiti

Abatement Crew is very responsive to requests for abatement in order to ensure that the needs of the community are met in a timely manner.

Strategy 12 - Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer **\$274,808**

Recent lay-offs forced by the current budget crisis resulted in vacancies which the Sheriff's Office was obligated to fill using existing Deputies. Unfortunately, Felipe Monroe will no longer be serving as the Illegal Dumping Officer due to circumstances involving the mandatory criteria the Sheriff's Office has to use when filling certain vacancies. Sheriff Deputy Felipe Monroe served as the Illegal Dumping Investigator/Officer from April 30, 2007 to April 23, 2009. Deputy Monroe made a significant impact in the area in the relatively short amount of time he filled this position. Deputy Monroe worked very closely with the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor, the CSC, the Code Enforcement Officer, City & County Public Works, County Environmental Health and Richmond Sanitary Service. He attended certain community meetings to build relationships with and increase awareness of the residents of North Richmond.

Deputy Monroe issued approximately 226 citations for everything from unsecured and uncovered loads to illegal dumping of trash and/or tires. Deputy Monroe towed numerous vehicles from the streets that are laden with trash or are in disrepair. On average Deputy Monroe spent about 10 hours of overtime per month. When conducting surveillance one night, Deputy Monroe caught 2 individuals that go door to door and ask for work collecting and disposing of construction debris or other garbage. The individuals were paid to haul construction debris from a house and proceeded to dump it at a known dumping location a block away. Both individuals received a citation and were required to properly remove and dispose of the construction debris.

Deputy Monroe found that issuing verbal warnings can be very effective if done properly that can really help establish accountability among residents that illegally dump their trash on the streets. He usually instructs residents to pick up trash in front of their house within specific timeframe (often 24 hours) in order to avoid receiving a citation, and in most cases the illegally dumped materials are removed within the specified time period.

Some examples of Deputy Monroe's accomplishments include:

- Caught a man dumping a load of yard waste on Pittsburg Ave. (by Action Metal) and was able to immediately issue him a citation
- Gathered enough evidence, including information found inside the illegally dumped material which linked back to one individual, to file a case against two individuals from San Pablo who dumped 3-4 cubic yards of construction materials on Brookside Drive.
- Appeared in court 9 times for people who attempted to contest fines received from the issuing of citations. The Court Commissioner that presided over these cases initially found defendants not guilty for the violations. However, the Commissioner began to find people guilty in 2008 after Deputy Monroe met with him to explain the purpose of the Mitigation Fee funded enforcement work in North Richmond and the reasons for the violations.

Issues/trends involving ongoing collaboration between law and code enforcement staff:

- *Waste tire hauling/dumping.* Illegal tire dumping has become quite rampant and suspected of coming from various sources. Action Metal, which accepts scrap metal for recycling, receives numerous rims however they do not accept tires so often they are dumped (without rims) throughout North Richmond. There are also several vehicle “chop shops” throughout the Mitigation Funding area. Additionally, those that illegally haul waste tires are suspected sources of illegally dumped tires within the Mitigation area. The law and code enforcement team will continue exploring possible strategies to help manage this problem effectively.
- *Abandoned shopping carts.* There is a section in the Penal Code that states that being in possession of a shopping cart with out permission from the cart’s owner (stores) is a misdemeanor. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to make any progress enforcing this law because 90% of stores do not want to press charges leaving no basis upon which to file a case.
- *Illegal transfer stations.* There are numerous illegal transfer stations in the North Richmond area, which have proven to be real enforcement challenges. Expect to use what is learned from the first successful enforcement action/conviction to help deal with other illegal transfer stations.

Although Deputy Monroe is no longer working as the dedicated illegal dumping officer in North Richmond, the Sheriff’s Office remains committed to providing excellent service to the community and is actively implementing changes recommended by Supervisor Gioia intended to maximize law enforcement resources in North Richmond using a new Resident Deputy Team approach.

The Resident Deputy Team approach was officially launched in North Richmond on April 27, 2009. The Team consists of three pairs of deputies assigned to one of three shifts, either the Day Shift (Mon-Thu, 7a -5p), Swing Shift (Tue-Fri, 2p-12a) or Weekends (Fri, 7a-7:30p / Sat & Sun, 2p-12:30a). All 6 deputies will have the same overall “Roles & Responsibilities” which include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Conduct illegal dumping surveillance and investigations.
- ✓ Build & file cases specific to instances of commercial dumping which are suitable for prosecution.
- ✓ Conduct sting operations to catch illegal dumpers.
- ✓ Target specific locations and/or time frames where illegal dumping occurs most regularly.
- ✓ Attend and/or participate in community meetings and events.
- ✓ Exchange accurate information with residents about crime, the community and the goals of policing.
- ✓ Develop and/or assist in youth programs and activities.
- ✓ Develop operations to combat crime in North Richmond.

There are two Resident Deputies assigned to the Day Shift that will be working the same schedule as Deputy Monroe, which is Monday through Thursday from 7am to 5pm. Both are expected to work exclusively in North Richmond and will routinely patrol the entire North Richmond Mitigation Funding Area as well as conduct investigations and surveillance to address illegal dumping.

Over the next month or so, Deputy Monroe expects to complete a handbook (written procedures/guidelines) to serve as a tool for the newly assigned Resident Deputies based upon the knowledge and experience he gained over the past two years serving as the Illegal Dumping Officer in North Richmond. He intends to document his overall approach as well as relevant tips/techniques, resources/contacts and other details he has found to be most effective in the fight against illegal dumping.

Strategy 13 - Increase Nighttime Patrols & Investigation **\$100,000**

Increased nighttime patrols are intended to complement the work of the Investigator/Officer (Strategy 12). At the meeting on October 27, 2008, the Committee voted to approve some changes to the 2008/2009 Second Amended Expenditure Plan and Budget which included Committee Member Gioia's suggestion to allocate an additional \$60,000 to Strategy 13 "Increase Nighttime Patrols & Investigations" in order to fund increased law enforcement presence during nighttime hours through 2009. Supervisor Gioia reported that there was a growing need for additional patrols in North Richmond which he and the Sheriff had just discussed at a meeting. Since that meeting, Supervisor Gioia has successfully helped secure enough funding from other sources, when combined with this \$100,000, to cover the cost of additional Resident Deputies dedicated to North Richmond. At least two of six Deputies that comprise the Resident Deputy Team launched on April 27, 2009 (see Strategy 12 above) will be working until midnight every Tuesday through Sunday (coverage provided by the two pairs assigned to Swing Shift & Weekends). The Deputies working at night have the same overall "Roles & Responsibilities" which include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Conduct illegal dumping surveillance and investigations.
- ✓ Build & file cases specific to instances of commercial dumping which are suitable for prosecution.
- ✓ Conduct sting operations to catch illegal dumpers.
- ✓ Target specific locations and/or time frames where illegal dumping occurs most regularly.

Strategy 14 - Surveillance Cameras **\$260,000**

The Mitigation Committee allocated funds for the purchase and installation of eight (8) surveillance cameras in the Mitigation Area via the City's contract with ADT Security Systems to help combat illegal dumping. As need, the mitigation funds will be used to repair, maintain and move cameras and associated mounting kit/accessories but also to maintain the coverage network, purchase needed software and additional deterrent mechanisms.

Camera installation was completed in spring 2008. North Richmond's dedicated illegal dumping officer, Deputy Felipe Monroe, worked closely with the City's Police

Department and ADT staff to set up the camera views and analytics and to gain access to the camera footage. The 8 camera locations were initially selected because they were considered illegal dumping “hot spots.” Based on conversations with Deputy Monroe, the cameras in those locations have helped deter illegal dumping. There are other areas within the Mitigation Area that have been identified as locations for new or relocated cameras. Mitigation staff is awaiting information from ADT regarding cost estimates and the feasibility of moving and/or placing cameras in specific locations. Once information is received, Staff will continue to explore the technical, operational and financial feasibility of using future allocations to move cameras and/or expand the coverage network so that the entire Mitigation Area is covered which would provide maximum flexibility when moving cameras based on changes in illegal dumping hot spots.

Strategy 15 - Illegal Dumping Prosecutor **\$65,149**

The Illegal Dumping Prosecutor works closely with the City Police Department and the North Richmond Illegal Dumping Officer to discuss various strategies and important information needed to prosecute illegal dumping cases. The allocated funds cover 15% of the full-time salary for 2 years. Derek Butts was assigned to this Prosecutor position from January 2, 2007 to August 15, 2008. The Illegal Dumping Prosecutor has filed cases on individuals found guilty of violating codes related to illegal dumping which have resulted in fines, jail time, and community service (details regarding some cases are included under Strategy 12). As of August 18, 2008, Mark Eichman replaced Mr. Butts as the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor.

- In late 2007/early 2008, the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor was successful at charging two individuals with a misdemeanor resulting in one defendant receiving 10 days of jail time and the other a \$2,000 fine. Both individuals were required to do community service as part of their probation.
- In late 2008, the Illegal Dumping Prosecutor began working with Deputy Monroe on a case involving a construction hauling company witnessed illegally dumping 7.1 cubic yards of construction debris containing dry wall and asbestos. This company was also operating an illegal transfer station. A community member informed Deputy Monroe that they witnessed a hauling company employee dump the debris on private property belonging to AT&T on Brookside Avenue. When approached by Deputy Monroe, the person responsible admitted to the dumping. The District Attorney’s Office filed a felony case against the owner of the company, a \$20,000 warrant was issued and the owner has since been arrested at his place of business in front of his peers.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Strategy 16 – Beautification

A. Neighborhood Landscaping & Gardening Projects \$68,000

The CSC, in collaboration with the Keep North Richmond Beautiful Steering Committee and the community, identified the need to implement a community gardening project to efficiently utilize vacant lots and turn them into community assets. CHDC has partnered with Iyalode Kinney of Communities United Restoring Mother Earth (CURE) and Urban Tilt to develop proposal for the “Lots of Crops” Gardening Program. The proposal is included in the Committee’s agenda packet for consideration at the May 2009 meeting to address Committee member Viramontes’ request at the last meeting asking for a report about the North Richmond Community Gardens Project

In addition to funding for the community gardening project, CHDC will be compensated for certain costs associated with neighborhood landscaping projects. Funding is to be expended exclusively for plants/materials needed for pre-approved landscaping projects (labor to be provided by YouthBuild Participants funded through Strategy 17). The CSC and the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) staff are also discussing possible landscaping projects to ensure collaboration and reduce duplicative efforts.

B. Servicing, Maintenance and Moving/Removal of Street Cans \$3,962

In 2007, four (4) street cans, covered in tile art created by Verde Elementary School children, were located at the following sites within the Mitigation Area:

- 3rd & Market Ave
- 5th & Market Ave
- 6th & Market Ave
- Giaramita & Verde

Republic Sanitary Services (RSS) provided weekly collection service for all four street cans. However, due to increasing problems with the street cans in these locations, including substantial vandalism/damage (e.g. parts removed, turned over, burned, etc.) and misuse (e.g. overstuffed with household garbage rather than litter), the cans are no longer useable. As a result, Mitigation staff requested and RSS staff concurred, that service to these street cans would be terminated, unless needed. Instead of disposing of the street cans, CHDC staff was able to secure new locations for them at Verde Elementary School. City staff is working with City Public Works staff to move the cans to their new location in May/June 2009.

Strategy 17 - Community Involvement

A. Stipends and Mentorship Program \$118,000

Mitigation Fees are now allocated to fund stipends to West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Transition Program students, YouthBuild and Young Adult

Empowerment Center (YAEC) participants, and other groups as identified and approved by Committee staff for illegal dumping abatement and beautification programs.

As part of its contract with the City, CHDC is compensated for stipends provided to WCCUSD Transition Program Students and YouthBuild participants for conducting agreed upon activities related to trash and beautification. Since fall 2008, the WCCUSD decided not to allow their students to participate in Mitigation funded activities.

YouthBuild participants clean different areas of the Mitigation Area at least once per week, as part of their responsibilities under CHDC's contract with the City. They helped support the October 25th Neighborhood Clean-up by conducting door-to-door distribution of the bilingual flyers, monitoring debris boxes, assisting seniors and disabled residents with pick-up, and assisting other residents unloading materials into debris boxes. CHDC and Mitigation Fee staff is exploring ways to more efficiently utilize YouthBuild staff to support Mitigation-funded projects.

In October 2008, the County entered into contract with the County Housing Authority in the amount of \$24,978 to administer the Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) Advisory Council Stipend Program. The purpose of the YAEC Advisory Committee is to provide a meaningful experience to each Member through service leadership, while establishing a valuable community resource that focuses on issues and projects intended to enhance the quality of life of all North Richmond residents. Members of the North Richmond YAEC Advisory Committee are between the ages of 17-25. The Stipend Program covers time spent by Members undertaking activities which are directly related to planning and conducting trash abatement and beautification activities on public property within the Mitigation Fee Primary Funding Area (activities can also be conducted on private property but only with pre-authorization from Committee staff).

Supervisor Gioia's Office and County staff are working with the County Housing Authority to the draft proposal for their Young Adult Empowerment Center (YAEC) Mentorship Program which has been designed to incorporate efforts to address and combat illegal dumping and blight in the community.

B. Parks Rehabilitation Initiative \$175,000

The City of Richmond Parks and Landscaping Division requested and received proposals on March 25, 2009, for the creation of redesign and construction contract documentation for Shields-Reid Neighborhood Park. The Parks Division asked respondents to consider the following options when creating the redesign and construction documents:

- Adult size soccer field and youth soccer practice area;
- Edible garden;
- Reconfigured baseball diamond;
- Skate park;
- Play lots; and
- Other important features.

The Parks Division plans on encumbering the allocated Mitigation funds prior to the beginning of July 2009. The Parks Division is also currently engaged in a variety of renovation projects at 3rd Street Ball Park.

C. North Richmond Greening Project **\$90,000**

The North Richmond Greening Project consists of working with community stakeholders to create a greening plan for the area and installing and maintaining the selected plan. To-date, no funds have been allocated to any phase of this project. County staff has been approached by the County Redevelopment Agency to explore whether any of this funding could be used for certain streetscape improvements that the community has expressed interest in pursuing.

D. New Street Can and/or Tile Art Project **\$8,000**

The new street can project is currently on-hold due to the current issues, effectiveness and utilization of the four street cans. The tile art project was added to this strategy and approved in October/November 2008. The tile art project started in January 2009. Hand-painted tiles, based on themes of anti-littering and environmental stewardship, will be created by Verde Elementary School students. The plan is to place the tiles in appropriate places throughout the community (such as benches).

E. Senior Center Improvements **\$15,000**

Staff attended a bidder's job walk-through with potential contractors on March 13, 2009 for proposed exterior improvements to the Senior Center. The two contractors present were Marvin Collins Construction of Hercules and Baines Group of Oakland. The walk-through was conducted by Charles Moore and Pamela Neyland from the Neighborhood House of North Richmond and Brenda Kain from the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency.

Staff from Neighborhood House outlined the proposed exterior improvements with the two contractors as follows: Remove and Replace 80' x 50' existing asphalt parking lot (includes new parking stalls and code compliant ADA parking stall and ramp to access senior center), replace or modify existing pole lighting in parking lot, replace wall mounted lighting in courtyard with new security lighting, remove and replace ½ of existing concrete driveway entrance, add new wrought iron gate and associated fencing over driveway and add new fence and gate in back of Senior Center along 5th Street, install new irrigation in front with drought resistant plants.

The exterior improvements are being jointly funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) obtained by the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency and the North Richmond Mitigation Fee. At this point, it appears that this \$15,000 funding will be used for the installation of the new wrought iron gate and fencing.

F. Safe Routes Program & Community Mural Project **\$15,000**

Both the Safe Routes Program and Community Mural Project are being implemented by Harold Beaulieu, founder of a nonprofit organization that coordinates community based art projects in the Bay Area and administered under contract between CHDC and the

City. Mr. Beaulieu submitted budget/work plan for the Community Mural Project at the Young Adult Empowerment Center in second quarter of 2008 and began work during the third quarter of 2008. In April 2009, Mr. Beaulieu submitted a budget/work plan for the Safe Routes to School Project and will likely begin planning, outreach, recruitment and training on this project in the upcoming months.

G. West County Watershedz Program **\$15,000**

The Urban Creeks Council submitted a proposal to fund the design and implementation of a rehabilitation project within the Wildcat Creek riparian zone and trail corridor near Verde Elementary School. The proposed project would have employed North Richmond youth and was part of a larger environmental project in the North Richmond area. In March 2008, Committee staff went on a tour of the riparian zone and trail corridor with Josh Bradt, the project leader from the Urban Creeks Council. Mr. Bradt left his position prior to submitting a detailed scope of work. As of late 2008, the new point of contact at the Urban Creeks Council is Doria Robinson. In early 2009, Ms. Robinson submitted a proposal entitled "Native Habitat Restoration Along the Wildcat Regional Trail" covering design, installation and short-term maintenance of native vegetation adjacent to the walking trail along Wildcat Creek between Giamita Rd and 3rd Street. The proposal acknowledges that ongoing maintenance of a restoration project located on a small, heavily disturbed urban site like this is critical to the project's long-term success. Therefore, they are partnering with the County Flood Control District to solve this problem through development of a comprehensive management program for lower Wildcat (below the San Pablo city limit), which would include this restoration site.

H. Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Enhancements **\$20,000**

The Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District submitted a proposal requesting funding for at least a portion of three creek-related projects. These projects would enhance either fish passage, water quality or habitat preservation along Wildcat and/or San Pablo Creeks. The funding allocated was significantly less than the amount requested and therefore not adequate to fund a portion of all three creek projects. No funds have yet been spent because the District staff is currently exploring opportunities to provide the most effective enhancements to these creeks, including possible partnership with the Urban Creeks Council related to Wildcat Creek management program mentioned above under Strategy 17g.

I. Capital Improvement Projects **\$103,707**

Committee members recommended capital improvement projects to be considered should include fencing or alternate barriers, and street/sidewalk improvements related to railroad crossings. The City and County have flexibility to split the funds for separate projects or combine some or all of the funds for use on one joint project that benefits the entire community. No funds have been allocated to specific capital improvement projects because City and County staff still need to determine the most efficient and effective use of the allocated funds within the Mitigation area. County staff has been approached by the County Redevelopment Agency to explore whether any of this funding could be used for certain improvements that the community has expressed interest in pursuing.