



FROM: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 28, 2000

SUBJECT: **Response to Grand Jury Report: Economic Development Agency**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve, with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the Economic Development Agency; and
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and to the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On February 1, the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding the Economic Development Agency.

Section 933 of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court within 90 days after the report was issued.

Attachment

THOMAS M. DeSANTIS
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST \$
NET COUNTY COST \$

ANNUAL COST \$
IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: FOR FY:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Officer Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Buster and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Venable and Wilson
Noes: None
Absent: Tavaglione and Mullen
Date: April 4, 2000
xc: EDA, Grand Jury, E.O., Presiding Judge, Co.Clk.-Recorder

Gerald A. Maloney
Clerk of the Board
By

Deputy

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.1

Document Recommendation: Policy Policy
 Consent Consent
Per Executive Office:

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. ***Board of Supervisors to immediately authorize funding for a second full time code enforcement inspection team with additional responsibilities to locate and monitor unknown and unpermitted parks.***

RESPONSE:

Concur. Approval was granted by the Board of Supervisors on December 21, 1999 providing for a Special Code Enforcement Team in the Eastern Coachella Valley. The Team consists of a Code Enforcement Officer, Code Enforcement Technician and a Code Enforcement Aide. The Team began work on January 1, 2000 and will focus on agricultural housing facilities in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. ***Reevaluate the loan limit for each mobile home space to ensure adequate funding to cover site utilities.***

RESPONSE:

Concur. EDA offers three programs to assist property owners in upgrading substandard agricultural housing facilities and mobile home parks, as follows:

- ***Agricultural Housing Assistance Loan Fund.*** This program targets existing unpermitted agricultural housing facilities located in the unincorporated area of Riverside County. Agricultural Housing Facilities may contain up to 12 spaces. The loan limit is \$75,000 per facility.
- ***Permit Assistance Grant Program.*** This program also targets existing unpermitted agricultural housing facilities located in the unincorporated area of Riverside County. In addition to the Agricultural Housing Assistance Loan, each facility may receive a grant up to \$10,000 toward the cost of County assessed fees for rehabilitation and improvement projects.
- ***Mobile Home Park Assistance Loan Fund.*** This program targets existing unpermitted mobile home parks located in the unincorporated area of Riverside

County. Mobile Home Parks are those facilities that exceed 12 spaces in size. The loan limit is \$6,250 per mobile home space.

As of February 1, 2000, the Economic Development Agency has approved ten (10) agricultural housing facility loans and one mobile home park loan. The loan programs are intended to assist the property owners in bringing their facilities into compliance, while recognizing that ultimate responsibility lies with the property owner to provide for the improvements. In each instance where the anticipated costs have exceeded the Agency's loan limits, EDA staff have discussed this circumstance with the property owner and each property owner has demonstrated how they plan to fund the difference, either from their own funds or borrowing from another source. Once several facilities have completed the upgrading process and better information on the actual costs is received, if necessary, the loan limits will be reevaluated at that time.

RECOMMENDATION:

3. *Provide adequate office personnel to monitor complete compliance with all grant and loan terms.*

RESPONSE:

Concur. The Economic Development Agency has a diverse and well-trained staff within the Housing Division that currently manage a housing loan portfolio in excess of 500 loans, as well as several hundred grant projects per year. The Agricultural Housing Program team will work closely with other housing staff to ensure that all loans and grants initiated under the agricultural housing programs are integrated into the overall monitoring program, and that all conditions are fulfilled. At this time staffing is adequate for this task.

RECOMMENDATION:

4. *Economic Development Agency, Environmental Health, Planning Departments and State HCD work closely together to expedite the park permitting and inspections process.*

RESPONSE:

Concur. The Agricultural Housing Program within the Economic Development Agency is staffed by a bi-lingual Ombudsman based in EDA's Indio Office as the lead person assisted by three Development Specialists including a bi-lingual loan officer and two staff members with extensive experience in the County's planning and permitting process. This team is working closely with each program applicant as well as the County's Planning and Environment Health Departments to process each application in an expedient manner. This process has proven effective to date.