



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

January 27, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Linda Maio, and Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention in Economic Recovery Package

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council urge the President and Congress to support a federal economic recovery package that dramatically expands affordable housing production for low income and homeless families and individuals.

#### BACKGROUND:

Currently, Congress is considering the housing-related elements in a Federal Economic Recovery Package that could amount up to \$1 trillion. During the current economic crisis, millions of people are falling under the poverty line and on the verge of being homeless. These funds could help Bay Area governments expand production of affordable housing and reduce in homelessness. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), if the Economic Recovery Package included the seven items listed below, 800,000 households would be assisted and 201,800 jobs created.

The NLIHC proposes that the Economic Recovery Package should include:

- **National Housing Trust Fund:** Capitalize the new National Housing Trust Fund with \$10 billion over two years to rehabilitate and build 100,000 rental homes, using green standards, for households with the lowest incomes.
- **Housing Choice Vouchers:** Issue 400,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers at a cost of \$3.6 billion over two years to provide rent assistance for lowest income households.
- **Prevent Homelessness:** Provide \$2 billion to the homelessness prevention component of the Emergency Shelter Grant Program to prevent 400,000 households from becoming homeless or rapidly re-house those who might lose their homes.
- **Renters in Foreclosure:** Include protections for renters in homes facing foreclosure.

- **Public Housing:** Provide \$5 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund over two years to upgrade, using green standards, public housing units that have not had adequate maintenance and modernization funds.
- **HUD Multi-Family Housing:** Provide \$3 billion over two years to upgrade federally assisted multi-family housing using green standards.
- **Gulf Coast Recovery:** For Alabama's ongoing disaster relief efforts, provide at least \$110 million through Community Development Block Grant Recovery Assistance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

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