

The County continually seeks other sources of grant funding to leverage with its entitlement allocation of CDBG and HOME funding for housing and community development activities.

HOUSING

Currently the County manages three other housing grant programs; the Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program, the CalHome Program and the Housing Preservation Grant Program.

Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program:

In 2003, the County received an award of \$1,000,000 from the Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant (FWHG) Program for housing rehabilitation/reconstruction activities. The County will assist eligible farmworker families earning no more than 80% of median income by providing grant funds for rehabilitation/reconstruction of their homes. Eligible activities will occur in the unincorporated areas of Fresno County for farmworker owner-occupied households.

State of California CalHome Program:

The CalHome Program grant funding, awarded in 2001 in the amount of \$500,000, is scheduled to be completed in October 2004. CalHome funds provide mortgage assistance for low income first-time homebuyers and rehabilitation assistance for low income owner-occupant households in the form of a loan.

USDA Housing Preservation Grant:

In August 2002, the County received an award of \$92,197 in HPG Program funding for housing rehabilitation for very-low income owner occupied households residing in the rural unincorporated county communities that provides loans to borrowers.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

California Department of Health Services SDWSRF:

In December 2002, the County submitted a \$600,000 application to the California Department of Health Services (DHS) for grant funding to construct a water distribution system in Raisin City. The DHS operates the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (SDWSRF) to provide subsidized funding to public water systems to correct infrastructure problems, to assess and protect source water, and to improve technical, managerial and financial capability.

The County was notified that the application was accepted, and the County was selected to receive a grant award. State funds will be leveraged with CDBG funds to complete the design engineering and construction of the water system. The County expects to start construction of the project during the 2003-04 FY.

Department of Housing and Community Development Jobs Housing Balance:

In 2003, the County applied for and received approval of a grant award in the amount of

\$64,700 from the Jobs-Housing Balanced Incentive Program (JHBP) to reconstruct Eleventh Street in the Fresno County community of Calwa. The JHBP encourages new housing construction by awarding grant funds for use in local capital improvement projects. Grant funds are awarded to local government agencies that increased the issuance of building permits for new housing units by at least 112%. The County will enter into an agreement for the funding during the 2003-04 FY and expects to start construction on the project during the same time.

Other Grants

Central Valley Infrastructure Grant:

In 2003, the County executed an Agreement with the Del Rey Community Services District for implementation of the Central Valley Infrastructure Grant (CVIG) Program. Grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 were awarded to the County by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in the previous reporting period. The project will expand the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant to allow the existing packing houses to connect and discharge waste to the community sewer system. It is estimated that the project will result in the retention of over 250 jobs in the community. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2004.

California Integrated Waste Management Board:

Additionally, during the reporting period, the County received assistance from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to clean up and abate a waste tire pile posing a potential health and safety hazard, in the community of Del Rio. The \$5,000 grant provided for the safe disposal of 3,949 tires from an illegal dump site in the community.