



Meeting Date: 6/03/08

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Ernest Whitaker *EW* Agenda Item No. **I-13**

Reviewed By: City Manager *[Signature]* City Attorney *[Signature]* Finance *[Signature]* Other (Specify) _____

DATE: May 21, 2008

TO: City Council

FROM: Sal Gonzalez, Housing Director
Housing Department *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill No. 762

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council support Assembly bill AB 762 which makes improvements to the Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program and authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support to Assemblyman Pedro Nava.

DISCUSSION

AB 762 makes several changes to the existing Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program which provides grants and loans for the construction or rehabilitation of housing for agricultural workers and their families. Oxnard received a \$361,000 grant in June 2005 for the replacement of substandard units at the Oxnard Mobilehome Lodge.

AB 762 allows the Department of Housing and Development (HCD) to waive the requirement for matching funds if an applicant can demonstrate an inability to provide matching funds. The bill removes the 5% limitation on the Joe Serna funds that can be used for projects not providing a match. The bill also allows HCD to provide a portion of the Joe Serna funds to seasonal housing for migrant workers. Previously, only specific bond funds could be used for migrant housing.

The overall intent of the bill is to make more efficient use of Joe Serna funds and make them more accessible to potential applicants.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no estimated financial impact to the current FY 2007-2008 budget.

Attachment #1 – Mayor’s Letter

(EW/em)



DR. THOMAS E. HOLDEN
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7435 • Fax (805) 385-7595
E-mail: drtomholden@aol.com

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Pedro Nava
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0035

RE: Assembly Bill No. 762

Dear Assemblyman Nava:

I have been authorized by the Oxnard City Council to offer our support for Assembly Bill No. 762. Oxnard is a city with a large farmworker community. We have a Housing Department that services a large segment of that community. The changes proposed in the Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program will be beneficial to us in assisting that community.

The agricultural community advises us that during our harvesting seasons the farmworker population swells to between 18,000-25,000 workers. The positive changes in your bill will make it easier to apply for funding for some of our projects.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

ATTACHMENT NO. 1
PAGE 1 OF 1

000074