



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
2 Coral Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755

COUNTY JOINS THE CITY OF SAN GABRIEL TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO SAN GABRIEL BOULEVARD

Community Development Block Grant Used to Finance the Improvements to One of the City's Busiest Roadways



Pictured left to right: Vice Mayor, Mario De La Torre; CDBG Director, Terry Gonzalez; CDBG Program Manager, Maria Urzua; Councilmember, John R. Harrington; Mayor, Kevin B. Sawkins; Councilmember Juli Costanzo; Councilmember, David R. Gutierrez; and CDBG Manager, Angelica Contreras.

San Gabriel, May 7, 2012 - Last week, the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) joined the San Gabriel City Council, to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the San Gabriel Boulevard Streetscape Master Plan. Designed to enhance one of the City's busiest boulevards, the project integrates green building practices with commercial district revitalization activities. New crosswalks, medians, curbs and ramps, street lights, site furnishings, and greenery now line San Gabriel Boulevard between El Monte Street on the north, and Grand Avenue on the south. These amenities make the boulevard safer, more comfortable, and pleasant for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The City used over \$1.1 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding to leverage additional resources for the design and construction of the project.

The CDBG Program has faced substantial reductions to its funding through the past decade nationwide, and faces continued cuts in 2012. For more than 38 years, the CDBG Program has empowered Los Angeles County, local governments, and our partners to support our economy, strengthen public infrastructure, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of low- and moderate-income residents. Yet the Program has seen a 46% cut in CDBG funding over the past decade, including the recent 22% cut for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012. This has equated to about a \$6 million loss from last year, and a total loss of about \$18 million to the Urban County annually, when compared to Program funding in FFY 2002.

“Keeping the CDBG Program alive will enable cities throughout Los Angeles County to bring forth future projects, such as this beautiful streetscape project, that further enhances the quality of life for residents,” said Terry Gonzalez, Director of the County’s CDBG Program, who took the opportunity to congratulate the City of San Gabriel and advocate on behalf of the future of the Program.

The City of San Gabriel is gearing up for the next phases of construction and anticipates completing the streetscape project in 2013 at an estimated cost of \$5 million. In the end, more than 1.2 miles of San Gabriel Boulevard between Elm and Central Avenue will have undergone construction improvements.

For more information on the CDC’s CDBG Program, please call (323) 890-7220. All media should contact the CDC’s Public Information Office, Elisa Vásquez, at (323) 890-7415.

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