



San Juan County Community Development & Planning

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DATE: September 11, 2008

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL

THRU: PETE ROSE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: COLIN MAYCOCK, SENIOR PLANNER

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT FOR MOUNT BAKER ROAD AFFORDABLE HOUSING
PROJECT

MEETING DATE: September 29, 2008

ISSUE:

As part of the process for closing out the 2006 Community Development Block (CDBG), contract, the County Council is obliged to hold a public hearing in order to gather comments from the public regarding the manner in which the CDBG funds and project were administered by the County.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2006, the County, on behalf of OPAL, submitted a CDBG application for approximately \$250,000 to the Department of Community, Trade and Development. The application met with success and the County was awarded the requested funds, which would ultimately be used to cover some of the infrastructure costs of OPAL's Mt. Baker Road affordable housing project.

As part of that process, the County signed a contract which, among other elements, required the County to hold at least two public hearings about the CDBG application. The first of the public hearings occurred in October 2006 when the County chose to submit OPAL's proposal to CTED.

ANALYSIS:

The County, at this hearing, need not adopt a resolution or pass an ordinance, rather, the hearing is required to provide an opportunity for citizens to voice their thoughts, observations and opinions regarding the County's handling of this project and grant funds.

By holding the Public Hearing on Orcas the citizens, who may not have attended otherwise will get a chance to speak directly to this issue.

The requirement simply stipulates that the Public Hearing is to be properly advertised, that the minutes show that bilingual hand outs were available at the Hearing and that the public was given sufficient opportunity to make comments.

CONCLUSION:

Staff expects that this would be a short public hearing and that there will be limited testimony.