



## NATIONAL AWARD FOR THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS SPORTS COMPLEX

It's official! During an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, January 25, 2007, the Community Development Commission (CDC) and the City of Bell Gardens were awarded the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award for the City of Bell Gardens' John Anson Ford Park Project.

This new state-of-the-art sports complex project was recognized by the National Community Development Association (NCDA) for its exemplary and innovative use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address the needs of low- and moderate-income residents. The project blended multi-layered funding sources, including \$5 million in Section 108 and over \$1 million in CDBG funds, in a dynamic public-private collaboration to create a community facility, which will provide the City of Bell Gardens with needed park and recreation space, serving an estimated 200,000 residents per year. The City of Bell Gardens' City Manager and the City Council members were in attendance to receive the award, along with CDBG's own Diann Viox and Scott Stevenson. Congratulations on an outstanding demonstration of how CDBG dollars can be used to support and enhance a community.



## REFORM SOUGHT TO CREATE NEW FAIR HOUSING CATEGORY WITHIN HUD ACTIVITIES

The CDC, a member of the NCDA, recently attended their Winter Legislative meeting held in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, staff from the CDC recommended a proposal to create a separate category for Fair Housing activities. Fair Housing activities are currently funded as either Program Administration or Public Service projects, which due to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development established funding caps, limit the amount of funding that can be allocated to these activities. This legislative proposal would reduce the restrictions on funding Fair Housing activities, while at the same time free up money that can be used for Program Administration and Public Service projects.

The CDC and the NCDA will be carrying this proposal forward as a legislative agenda item for consideration. The goal is to push the proposal through the United States Congressional Subcommittees during their Federal Fiscal Year 2008 authorization process. We will keep you informed of any progress or further information that becomes available on these changes. For further information, contact your Program Manager.

## NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

The annual "Community Development Week" is approaching and we should begin to highlight and promote our community development accomplishments with the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the CDBG Program. This is a great way to showcase an agency's latest and greatest projects from the past year.

This year's Community Development Week is scheduled for April 9-15, 2007, and it is an excellent opportunity to recognize the program's successes, especially in light of past budget cuts. This year's theme is "Building Strong Communities."

Highlighting CDBG activities can be done in a variety of ways, such as inviting congressional representatives and local members of the press to a Community Development Week's awards luncheon or a special event designed to promote recent CDBG activities or completed projects. Walking tours of project facilities, focusing on how the funding was used to directly assist your community's residents can have a big impact on people that would not otherwise see the benefits of the Program. If you are interested in developing other kinds of promotional events, the NCDA offers great tips for the best ways of describing projects and acquainting more people with the needs of the community. Be on the lookout for a future Electronic Distribution List message with guidelines to assist your agency in putting together a great Community Development Week. As soon as it becomes available, a message will be sent to all Participating Agencies.

### Important Dates:

#### February 2007

02/19/07

Presidents' Day, CDC Office Closed

02/14/07

Cities:

Quarterly Meeting

CDC-Commission Room

10 AM-12 PM

#### April 2007

04/02/07

All Agencies:

Financial Closeout Deadline for Projects that Expired on December 31, 2006

04/02/07

Cities & CBOs:

Single Audit Reports are Due

04/02/07

Cities:

Submission of all Funding Requests to Meet Drawdown Requirement