RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEDICATION OF THIRTY-THREE (33) SECTION 8 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS TO JORDAN DOWNS PHASE H3-A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS IN THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016 AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CEO, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS/DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR DEDICATION OF THE VOUCHERS

Douglas Guthrie
President and CEO

Carlos VanNatter
Director, Section 8

Geoffrey Moen
Director, Development Services

Purpose:

To provide thirty-three (33) project-based vouchers (“PBVs”) to the Jordan Downs Phase H3-a Redevelopment Project (the “Project”) pursuant to the Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act of 2016 (“HOTMA”). The provision of PBVs lends needed operating subsidy and leverage to the development partnership, Jordan Downs 4a, LP (the “Owner” or “Partnership”), and provides the opportunity to include replacement housing units for Jordan Downs public housing residents and additional methods to provide deeper affordability on a percentage of non-replacement units in the Project.

The Project, comprised of ninety-seven (97) units will be developed on a 1.823 acre parcel located between 99th and 97th Street, east of the new Croesus Avenue, north of the Phase 1A and Phase H Projects (see Attachment).

Regarding:

On June 28, 2012, by Resolution No. 8969, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles’ (“HACLA”) Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) unanimously authorized the President and CEO to execute a Master Development Agreement (“MDA”) with Jordan Downs Community Partners, LLC, (“Master Developer”), a joint venture of the BRIDGE Housing Corporation (“BRIDGE”) and The Michaels Development Company I, L.P., a New Jersey limited partnership (“Michaels”), for the redevelopment of Jordan Downs. The MDA between HACLA and the Master Developer was executed on August 1, 2012 and subsequently amended with Board approval on December 22, 2016, by Resolution No. 9327 and on April 28, 2016, by Resolution No. 9282.

On December 17, 2020, by Resolution No. 9670, the BOC adopted an updated Administrative Plan for Section 8, incorporating new HOTMA standards that allow HACLA to non-competitively award project-based vouchers to developments where HACLA is both an owner of the underlying fee title and where Section 9 public housing units are incorporated or are being converted.
Issues:

Background:
Since 2012, HACLA and the Master Developer have been working closely to implement the vision of a redeveloped Jordan Downs. This collaboration has involved creating a site plan and architectural studies and pursuing competitive and non-competitive financing for each phase. Phase 1A, completed by BRIDGE, delivered 115 apartment units to the community and is now 100% occupied. Michaels completed Phase 1B, a 135-unit residential development in October 2020 which completed its lease up in June 2021. Area H, an 80-unit residential development and Phase S3, a 93-unit residential development are under construction with tentative completion projected in November 2021 and March 2022 respectively. Phase S2 achieved financial closing on June 29, 2021 and is in the demolition phase with an expected construction start date of July 2021 and completion in May 2023. Phase H2A applied for 9% tax credits on July 1, 2021 and expects to achieve financial closing and start of construction in March 2022, with construction completion in January 2024. Phase H3A a 97-unit project is tentatively scheduled to start construction in the third/fourth quarter of 2023.

PBV Authority:

On October 30, 2017, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) issued Notice PIH 2017-21 which provided guidance to public housing agencies (“PHAs”) regarding changes to the Project-Based Voucher (“PBV”) program made by “HOTMA”. HOTMA section 8(o)(13) (N) allows a PHA to attach PBV assistance to units in a project in which the PHA has an ownership interest or over which the PHA has control without following a competitive process. In order to exercise this authority, the PHA must be engaged in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace a public housing property or sites. Attachment L to PIH Notice 2017-21 and HACLA’s Section 8 Administrative Plan describe the conditions for a non-competitive award. The following conditions must be met:

(a) The PHA must be engaged in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace the public housing properties or sites. The public housing properties or sites may be in the public housing inventory or they may have been removed from the public housing inventory through any available legal removal within 5 years of the date on which the PHA entered into the AHAP or HAP pursuant to the non-competitive selection.

(b) A minimum threshold of $25,000 in hard costs per-unit is required for new construction.

(c) The PHA must explain in its Administrative Plan the work it plans to do on the property or site and how many units of PBVs it plans to add.

The Project meets the criteria to receive a non-competitive award of PBV assistance because (i) HACLA is the fee owner and ground lessor and will be engaged through an instrumentality in the long-term ownership entity of the buildings/improvements, (ii) HACLA is engaged in the replacement of public housing units at the Project property with 33 of the 97 units designated as public housing replacement units, and (iii) the per-unit construction costs for the Project are greater than $25,000. In addition, the commitment of PBVs as a source of subsidy for replacement and non-replacement units is included in the current Section 8 Administrative Plan.

This report recommends dedicating thirty-three (33) Section 8 PBVs to Phase H3-a. This will include twenty-three (23) PBVs for replacement units and an additional ten (10) vouchers for
non-replacement units, which will assist in creating deeper affordability through low-income housing tax credits. The balance of the units on site will include ten (10) RAD replacement units, thirty-two (32) tax-credit only non-replacement units and twenty-two (22) market-rate non-replacement units, which includes one manager’s unit. All replacement and non-replacement units will have access to onsite supportive services which will meet Section 8’s normal requirement for supportive services and reaching households at or below 50% AMI. Although HACLA will request Tenant Protection Vouchers from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (“HUD”), residents will be given the choice of taking those vouchers off-site or returning to the Project. Therefore, in order to expedite the Project’s reasonable assumptions of rental income received from vouchers and expedite delivery of units, staff recommends that the award of PBVs be made to the Owner of the Project.

Developer/Ownership

Pursuant to the MDA, Jordan Downs Community Partners, LLC, has assigned its rights and obligations to develop and own Phase H3-a to Jordan Downs 4a, LP a California limited partnership. The current General Partner of the Partnership is JD Housing 4a, LLC, a California limited liability company, whose manager is BRIDGE Housing Corporation. If approved by its Board of Directors, La Cienega LOMOD, Inc., a California nonprofit public benefit corporation (“La Cienega”), or another instrumentality of HACLA, will be admitted into the Partnership as the Managing General Partner (.0049% ownership share) and JD Housing 4a, LLC will be admitted to the Partnership as the Administrative General Partner (.0051% ownership share).

Vision Plan: PLACE Strategy #1: Stabilize the physical and financial viability of the conventional public housing portfolio.

The development of Phase H3-a will allow for the construction of ninety-seven (97) new housing units. This will include thirty-three (33) replacement units. This development will further HACLA’s goals of improving its affordable housing stock as well as improved ADA-compliant, modern, sustainably designed, and amenitized units. This action will help HACLA extend the life of critical, deeply affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles to serve existing public housing residents and future income-qualified households from HACLA’s active public housing and Section 8 wait lists as well as the community of Watts.

Funding: The Chief Administrative Officer confirms the following:

Source of Funds: PBVs are a component of HACLA’s Annual Contribution Contract (“ACC”) with HUD for the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Budget and Program Impact: Use of PBVs is an effective approach to maintain deeply affordable housing in public housing conversion projects and provides needed operating subsidy to address the extraordinary costs associated with maintaining significant new infrastructure and open space improvements as well as providing extensive social services. The use of HACLA resources to support the preservation and expansion of affordable housing is aligned with the HACLA’s budget and program goals.

Environmental Review:

CEQA: The City of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Jordan Downs Redevelopment for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). The City of Los Angeles, acting through its
Planning Department, approved a larger project under the Jordan Downs Urban Village Specific Plan (1,800 residential units; up to 250,000 square feet of commercial/retail/offices plus up to 20,000 square feet of community-service retail and services in mixed-use buildings; a network of parks totaling 8.9 acres; and new community facilities), and its associated Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") and required findings on April 17, 2013 (ENV-2010-32-EIR). Two addendums to the EIR were prepared on January 11, 2016 and April 4, 2016 respectively to address additional impacts not considered in the EIR as the result of a proposed Specific Plan Amendment. On April 14, 2016, the City Planning Commission found based on the whole of the administrative record that no subsequent or supplemental EIR or negative declaration was required. The Phase H2-b redevelopment as contemplated in the current conceptual plans provided to HACLA is consistent with the Specific Plan and its Amendment (CPC-2015-3990-GPA-ZC-SP), however, the final plans will be reviewed by the BOC at such time as it considers the Ground Lease and Disposition and Development Agreement and a final design and construction drawings are complete to ensure consistency. Phase H3-a will be subject to the imposition of various measures contained in the Specific Plan’s conditions of approval, including Mitigation Monitoring.

NEPA:

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58, the City of Los Angeles, through its Housing and Community Investment Department ("HCIDLA"), serves as the entity responsible for preparation of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the Jordan Downs Public Housing Community Project. The EA/FONSI was circulated for public review on June 13, 2014 through July 2, 2014. On December 22, 2015 a technical memorandum was prepared to review any changes to the project description. Based on this memorandum HCID/LA found that changes to the project description did not result in changes to the conclusion of the EA/FONSI. On February 11, 2016, HUD’s Field Office Director issued approval of HACLA’s Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification.

Section 3:

The Owner will ensure that the residents of Jordan Downs public housing, other low-income Watts neighborhood residents, participants of Youth-Build, and qualifying residents in the City of Los Angeles have the opportunity to share in the economic benefits generated by the proposed development. Local Hire and Section 3 requirements for the Owner and their General Contractor will require the use of best efforts to set aside at least thirty percent (30%) of all new construction and post-construction jobs generated by the redevelopment, first for residents of Jordan Downs, second for residents of Watts, third to HUD’s Youth-Build Program in the City, and finally to residents of the City to the maximum extent feasible. Furthermore, the Owner and their General Contractor shall strive and use best efforts to set aside at least ten percent (10%) of their overall 30% Section 3 commitment for disadvantaged workers. Additionally, the Owner is committed to providing 10% of the total dollar amount of building trades work for all construction contracts and 3% of the total dollar amount of all non-construction contracts to Section 3 Businesses.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Site Map
RESOLUTION NO.______________

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DEDICATION OF THIRTY-THREE (33) SECTION 8 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS TO JORDAN DOWNS PHASE H3-A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PURSUANT TO PROVISIONS IN THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016 AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CEO, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS/DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR DEDICATION OF THE VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2017, the Department of Housing and Urban Development issued Notice PIH 2017-21 providing guidance to public housing agencies (PHAs) regarding changes to the Project-Based Voucher (“PBV”) program made by the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (“HOTMA”);

WHEREAS, HACLA and Jordan Downs 4a, LP (the “Partnership”), desire to develop ninety-seven (97) apartments on a 1.823 acre parcel, located between 99th and 97th Street, east of the new Croesus Avenue, known as Jordan Downs Phase H3-a project (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, all residential units (other than the manager’s unit) will be restricted for occupancy by households of moderate, low, very low and extremely low-income;

WHEREAS, an award of thirty-three (33) project-based vouchers to the Project will provide deeper affordability for twenty-three (23) replacement units and ten (10) non-replacement units at Jordan Downs; and

WHEREAS, the Project meets the conditions and requirements described in HUD Notice PIH-2017-21 Attachment L for awarding project-based vouchers to certain PHA projects where the PHA has an ownership interest, is engaged in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace the public housing properties or sites and the minimum threshold of $25,000 in hard costs per-unit is met with respect to new construction as defined under Attachment L without following a competitive process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the President and CEO, or designees (“Designated Officers”), to execute any and all contracts or related documents as approved by legal counsel, required for the PBV project based voucher program and approves the dedication of thirty-three (33) project-based vouchers to the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Designated Officers of HACLA referred to above are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Guthrie</td>
<td>President and Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marlene Garza</td>
<td>Chief Administrative Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Scanlin</td>
<td>Chief Development Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarita Lares</td>
<td>Chief Programs Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately

APPROVED AS TO FORM: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

BY: ____________________________ BY: ______________________
JAMES JOHNSON, GENERAL COUNSEL CIELO CASTRO, CHAIRPERSON

DATE ADOPTED: ________________________