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San Francisco Redevelopment Agency

June 17, 2011

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Latest News on Gov. Jerry Brown's Proposal to Eliminate California Redevelopment Agencies

Update: On Thursday, June 16, Gov. Brown vetoed SB 69 and AB 98, which constitute the state's budget for fiscal year 2011-12, passed by the Legislature on Wednesday. The governor did not announce his intention to either sign or veto the various "trailer" bills that were passed in conjunction with the primary budget bills, including the bills relating to redevelopment, AB X1 26 and 27.

Subsequently, Speaker of the Assembly John Perez and Senate President Pro-Tem Darrell Steinberg conducted a joint press conference expressing their dismay at the governor's veto of their majority-vote budget. However, when asked about the redevelopment bills, the leaders responded, "we don't have to send them down to the governor; we can hold them." In other words, the redevelopment bills have not yet been sent from the Legislature to the governor for his action and they could purposely be held up.

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In an unprecedented show of solidarity in opposition to the governor's proposal, a coalition of San Francisco stakeholders comprised of redevelopment project area residents, merchants, labor organizations, senior citizens' groups, affordable housing advocates, renters and chambers of commerce have joined other groups statewide to ask Gov. Brown to drop his proposal to eliminate California redevelopment agencies. The crisis remains unsolved, and all stakeholders are urged to contact their representatives in Sacramento, now. Contact numbers are

listed below.

Senate and Assembly bills **SBX114** and **ABX126** will abolish redevelopment agencies outright and create a 'successor' agency, abolish tax increment, but will allow property taxes to be allocated to pay previously incurred redevelopment agency debt. The bills will redistribute the existing balance of the low/moderate income housing fund to schools. If adopted, affordable housing for the low income, the homeless, and seniors will be seriously impacted, at a time of huge disparity in housing statewide. These bills will reverse the progress it has taken several decades to accomplish in the City.

Hunters Point Shipyard projects are at risk because of these proposals.

Senate and Assembly bills **SBX115** and **ABX127** will retain redevelopment agencies, but require each of their cities or counties to make a mandatory payment to schools, fire protection districts and transit districts. Upon further analysis by the California Redevelopment Association, CRA has concluded that these bills, like the sister bills referenced above, violate numerous articles of the California Constitution, and will face legal challenges if enacted.

Redevelopment projects in San Francisco like Transbay are also at risk because of the state budget proposals.

Although the governor recognized SFRA as one of the best managed and most successful redevelopment agencies in California, his proposal is still on the table. San Francisco is at a greater risk because SFRA is the economic engine of the City. The agency is the prime provider of affordable housing, of which 30,000 units are in the pipeline. In 2011, SFRA added 4,000 construction jobs and continues to work in partnership with community-based organizations to implement its Job Readiness Initiative, which is a national model.

Massive redevelopment projects worth billions of dollars in the pipeline are at risk and the others in the planning stages face elimination as well. Altogether, the projects in the Transbay, Hunters Point Shipyard, Mid-Market, housing projects in the Bayview, and the remaining projects in Mission Bay could face an uncertain future.

Mayor Ed Lee and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have voiced their opposition to the proposed elimination of redevelopment agencies.

Please contact State Senator Mark Leno and State Assembly members Fiona Ma and Tom Ammiano, and let them know you are counting on them to hold the line in

Sacramento. Make sure to call their offices, write letters and keep the pressure on the governor and your elected representatives.

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