

SECTION III CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE CAPER

This section of the CAPER describes the process whereby the city includes residents in the review of the completeness and adequacy of the CAPER document. HUD requires resident participation at every level of the Consolidated Planning process. A Citizen Participation Plan is a precondition for funding through the Consolidated Plan.

The Citizens' Unit for Participation in Housing and Community Development (CUP) Unit is an advisory board that provides an important forum for review of the Consolidated Plan and the CAPER. Requirements for membership in the CUP are designed to encourage participation by low-and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas; and in areas of Los Angeles where use of CDBG funds is needed. A council member, representing his or her respective Council District, appoints each CUP member.

The CUP Unit was provided CDBG funds in the amount of \$50,000 to defray the costs of CUP operations for 2003-2004.

The CUP is responsible for reviewing all substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan. Substantial amendments occur when an approved project is added or deleted, or funds are added above a certain threshold, or if beneficiaries of the project change, among several other "triggers". The CUP is now working with HUD and CDD in redefining substantial amendment requirements.

The draft CAPER was presented to the CUP at their June 2003 meeting. Each member was given a copy to review, and asked to submit comments to CDD within the allotted 15-day public comment period (June 27, 2003).

To encourage public comment, examination copies were provided to the Los Angeles Central Library, at CDD's offices at 215 West 6th Street and the Los Angeles Housing Department's offices. A notice of availability of the CAPER for community review was published in the Metropolitan News on June 15th. A copy of the proof of publication for the Metropolitan News is provided in appendix of the CAPER. The entire CAPER is also posted on CDD's Web Site.

Despite the availability of the CAPER, no public comments were received.

The City also provided the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment with a press release on the issuance of the CAPER, to be distributed to the 80+ neighborhood councils in the City.

Questions regarding the CAPER Narrative or associated reports may be addressed to Gregory Woo, Grants Unit Supervisor (213) 847-9984, Greg Mack (213) 847-3223, or Robert Hanks (213) 847-9982, all located at 215 W. Sixth Street, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90014. E-mail may be sent to Gwoo@cdd.lacity.org, Gmack@cdd.lacity.org, or Rhanks@cdd.lacity.org. Please contact Jeanne Blakely at (213) 847-3434 or e-mail her at Jblakely@cdd.lacity.org for questions pertaining to the CUP Unit.