

# STAFF REPORT

## Lancaster Redevelopment Agency

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04/28/09
MVB

Date: April 28, 2009

To: Chairman Parris and Agency Directors

From: Elizabeth Brubaker, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Director

Subject: **Approve Agreement for the Acquisition of Real Property between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and George Rhodes for property located at 44820 Redwood Avenue, Lancaster, California**

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**Recommendation:**

Approve Agreements for the Acquisition of Real Property between the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency and George Rhodes for property located at 44820 Redwood Avenue, Lancaster, California

**Fiscal Impact:**

The purchase price of \$40,000.00 plus closing costs for the property located at 44820 Redwood Avenue will come from the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency's Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Fund, Account No. 920-0402-802.

**Background:**

On September 23, 2008, the City Council directed staff to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to create the Yucca Neighborhood Specific Area Vision Plan (YSP). The YSP is generally bounded by Sierra Highway to Division Street and from Avenue I to Avenue J.

There are significant components to removing blight and revitalizing the Yucca District Neighborhood. Improving the aesthetics of the area, improving the stability of the existing neighborhood, site planning, ensuring adequate infrastructure, and creating the implementation tools are needed to realize the vision plan.

Commercial uses along streets will enhance and promote a mixed-use area with a Main Street feel extending to downtown. The existing Transit Village boundary will be evaluated and creatively enhanced to best utilize its prime location. In addition, the Herald Lots portion of the neighborhood is in poor condition and will provide the opportunity for additional redevelopment and revitalization.

George Rhodes owns a parcel located at 44820 Redwood Avenue. Mr. Rhodes contacted staff after the subject property was repeatedly cited by Code Enforcement as a nuisance property. This property has not been maintained and has become an eyesore in the neighborhood as well as a haven for illegal activity. Due to the dilapidated condition of the property, following acquisition, the residence will be demolished and the site cleared. The attorney for George Rhodes provided Staff with a current appraisal of the subject property. During negotiations, staff determined that the purchase price of \$40,000.00 was fair and equitable for both buyer and seller.

Agency staff believes that purchasing the property at 44820 Redwood Avenue is in harmony with the Yucca Neighborhood Specific Area Vision Plan and the goals of the City Council, and therefore, is recommending that the City Council approve the proposed acquisition of the property.

**Attachment:**

Site Maps