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## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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City of Alameda Housing Authority and Development Services Department

Receive National Award for

Program Innovation for Affordable Housing

Alameda, CA, 2007 - The Housing Authority of the City of Alameda and the Development Services Department have been named recipients of the 2007 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Award for Program Innovations. The award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the nation, was presented to Nancy Gormley, Chair of the Housing Commission for the Alameda Housing Authority, for The Breakers at Bayport Apartments and Townhomes, an affordable rental and home-ownership project completed in 2006.

In accepting the award, Ms. Gormley said: "We are extremely proud of our ability to put together a team comprised of public, private and non-profit entities to successfully develop this affordable housing complex at the old Navy East Housing site. Through collaboration of all the partners, a great asset has been added to the City's affordable housing stock."

In 2000, the City of Alameda, the Community Improvement Commission, the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority, and the Housing Authority entered into a Disposition and Development Agreement with the Catellus Development Corporation for the reuse of the East Housing site at the former Alameda Naval Air Station. The agreement called for a new 485-home master-planned community called Bayport Alameda. The Agreement was amended in 2001 to provide for at least 60 additional affordable housing units within the new community. The affordable housing development was to include at least 60 family units of two or more bedrooms on a three-acre parcel within the Bayport neighborhood, which consists of primarily \$700,000+ single-family homes.

In an effort to ensure that the affordable housing complex would be developed quickly and be well-integrated into the Bayport neighborhood, the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and the Community Improvement Commission (which is the City Council acting as the Redevelopment Agency board) established a competitive process to pick a developer for the project. Resources for Community Development (RCD), a local non-profit housing developer, was selected to help develop and manage the affordable housing project known as The Breakers at Bayport.

RCD completed The Breakers at Bayport Apartments and Townhomes in April 2006. The project includes 52 rental apartments serving low-income families and ten affordable for-sale townhomes that were sold to moderate-income families. The apartment complex has 34 two-bedroom and 18 three-bedroom apartments, as well as access to on-site community and recreational spaces. The townhomes are all three-bedroom units with over 1,450 square feet of living space. Four of the rental units are “universally designed,” making the environments accessible to as many people as possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation, and without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Additionally, Resources for Community Development’s multi-lingual resident services staff work directly with residents during weekly onsite office hours and monthly community meetings to provide community development programs, service referrals, and links to a variety of other resources specific to the needs of individual residents.

This project was completed with support from the City of Alameda, the County of Alameda, the Bank of Alameda through the Federal Home Loan Bank program, the California Housing Finance Agency, California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, State Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Alameda County Waste Management Authority.

Resources for Community Development is an experienced nonprofit developer of affordable housing serving the East Bay. Founded in 1984 in Berkeley, RCD’s mission is to create and preserve affordable housing for people with the fewest options.

The 2007 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories.

**Administrative Innovation** recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation.

**Program Innovation – Affordable Housing** includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing.

**Program Innovation – Community Revitalization** includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing.

**Program innovation – Resident and Client Services** includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency.

**Project Design** includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials is a 74-year-old membership organization of 3,200 housing and community development agencies and 19,200 professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO ensures that housing and community development professionals have the leadership skills and education to serve communities; advocates for appropriate laws and policies; and fosters the highest standards of ethical behavior, service and accountability.

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