



Contact: Angela Jones
Public Information Officer
(916) 440-1355 or (916) 919-3090

MATSUI VISITS SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Congresswoman assures seniors of her support for Federal funding that pays for the daily meal service

Sacramento, California – March 30, 2005. Representative Doris Matsui paid a visit to a nutrition program that feeds 11,500 meals per week to low income elderly residents including disabled and homebound seniors in Sacramento. The Congresswoman's visit came during National Community Development Week which recognizes recipients and sub-recipients of the longstanding federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The CDBG program, created in 1974, has been one of local government's most important flexible funding sources for leveraging other state and federal dollars. The funding supports programs and projects that assist low income residents that are beyond local government budgets.

The President's proposed budget for FY 2006 includes the elimination of the CDBG program by consolidating it along with 17 other federal programs and allocates less funding than CDBG alone receives in the current budget. The City and County of Sacramento would lose \$14.1 million (\$6.6 million in the City and \$7.5 million in the County) if the budget is approved.

Matsui talked with program participants and told them that she voted against the budget proposal.

"The CDBG program works without a lot of fanfare and maybe that's the problem," said Matsui. "Nobody really understands how important it is so those of us who know and understand should really make sure we talk about it."



Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency is responsible for administering the CDBG funds. Executive Director Anne Moore said the program has been a valuable tool for reinvesting in the community. "It provides a means to make sure that we have healthy neighborhoods and to make sure residents can have a quality of life in communities throughout our City and County."

"One Community, One Vision"
630 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-9210
www.shra.org

County Supervisor Roger Dickinson said if the County lost the \$7.5 million in CDBG funding, there would be no means to replace it and the community would feel the impact in very clear and obvious ways.

“The Senior Nutrition Services is one of the programs that the Board of Supervisors values the most. Anytime somebody says that we’re going to have to cut back on the Senior Nutrition Program, the entire board is united in a resounding ‘not on our watch,’ and we’re going to keep this program alive.”

Supervisor Illa Collin was also on hand at the Pannell Center which is located in her district where CDBG funds have made a noticeable impact. “What a difference it has made on Florin Road and for the neighborhoods along that thoroughfare,” said Collin. “We were able to use that very flexible fund to pull together the Florin Road Partnership and do some good things like commercial façade improvements.”

The Meadowview area also encompasses the district represented by City Council Member Bonnie Pannell who regards the CDBG as a very important program. “My community is not in a redevelopment area so I depend on the CDBG funds to support neighborhood improvements,” said Pannell. Over \$600,000 in CDBG funds have been invested in the community and the greater Meadowview area.

Mayor Fargo told the program participants that it is important for the President to hear from them about the need to continue funding for community improvements. “We’re here because we believe part of role of the federal government is to support communities and cities and to make sure they have the support that they need to succeed and be healthy.”

Two program participants told the group why the program is important to them.

“Many people are on a very low or fixed income,” said Ray Yee. “For some, getting the daily meal is a matter of survival.”

“I started coming here three years ago after I lost my husband,” said Margaret Flint. “In many ways it’s like an extended family. This place provides a lot of our needs and I love it.”

###

SHRA is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 13 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing. SHRA has a FY 2004 budget of \$196 million and approximately 328 employees. The Agency approximately 3,200 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers about 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.