



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

September 21, 2011

Ms. Catherine Bishop
National Housing Law Project
Housing Justice Network
c/o National Housing Law Project
703 Market Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Bishop:

Thank you for your letter dated July 5, 2011, regarding the Department's processing of applications to demolish and/or dispose of public housing under Section 18 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. I appreciate the feedback and suggestions you provided about this program at our June 22, 2011 meeting and continue to provide in this letter. The Department will carefully consider all of your comments as it continues to implement processing improvements and regulatory changes to this program.

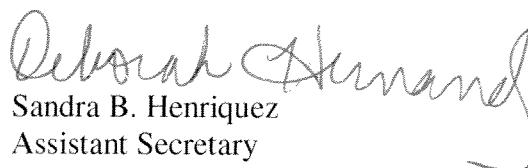
As we discussed, my staff is in the process of drafting a PIH Notice on demolition and/or disposition activities and the applicable PHA Plan requirements as well as the resident consultation requirements for dispositions when the property will be redeveloped as new public housing under the mixed-finance method pursuant to 24 CFR Part 941, subpart F. We will also consider the suggestions in your letter for including other matters in that notice and will strive to publish that notice as soon as possible.

My staff is also in the process of revising how it processes and reviews applications for demolition and/or disposition. Specifically, we are taking steps to ensure that residents are consulted on a PHA's final and complete application to ensure that HUD does not process incomplete or otherwise deficient applications that fail to meet applicable regulatory requirements when submitted to HUD. We hope to have the new processing and review steps finalized in the very near future and will post these review processing criteria on HUD's Special Applications Center (SAC) website at www.hud.gov/sac. Should you have questions about this processing, please contact Mr. Ainars Rodins, P.E., Director of the SAC, at ainars.rodins@hud.gov or (312) 913-8766.

My staff and I are working closely with Assistant Secretary John Trasviña and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) regarding Section 3 and other civil rights requirements as they relate to demolition and disposition activities. I appreciate your offer to further discuss these issues on a joint call with me, Assistant Secretary Trasviña and our staff

about the demolition/disposition issues we previously discussed, as well as new issues, to include Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) funds, prioritizing and expediting certain applications, and replacing public housing with project-based vouchers or other federal assistance. My staff will be in contact soon to arrange these follow-up meetings.

Sincerely,

for 
Sandra B. Henriquez
Assistant Secretary