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**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-9**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING ITS CONCERNS ON THE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, as part of its 2011-12 budget proposal, the Governor has proposed permanently abolishing California’s more than 400 local redevelopment agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal represents more of the same State budget raids of local government funds that voters have repeatedly sought to end, most recently in November 2010 when voters of Alameda County and the State approved passage of Proposition 22 to stop State raids of local government funds, including redevelopment funds; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal will significantly damage progress in local economic development, which in Albany means the reduction or elimination of an estimated 100-150 construction jobs and 100 permanent jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 15, 2010, the Albany Community Reinvestment (ACR) Agency Board of Directors approved a new five-year redevelopment implementation plan to attract private investment and jobs, create a stronger tax base, and to spur economic activity in other areas of the city and region that will benefit other public agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 17, 2011, the ACR Agency Board of Directors approved a Public Improvement Grant and Cooperation Agreement with the City of Albany, by which the Agency will pay for the acquisition and improvement of, and design, construction and related activities to complete public improvement projects contained and referenced in the Five-Year Implementation Plan in order to alleviate blighted conditions in the Project Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the improvements in the Project Area on Cleveland Avenue total approximately \$2.8 million and include Gateway and Way finding signage; Street repaving and installation of sidewalks; Streetscape improvements; Creek and Storm

1 Drain improvements; Traffic Improvements at the Freeway off ramp; and a Bicycle and  
2 Pedestrian Trail connection; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the improvements in the Project Area also include the acquisition,  
4 development, and associated improvements of property on Pierce Street, with an  
5 estimated cost of \$7.5 million, including: Acquisition of the 4.45 acre Pierce Street parcel  
6 from the California Department of Transportation; Relocating the City’s maintenance  
7 center activities from leased space on Cleveland Avenue and constructing a new  
8 maintenance center; Development of park space for an underserved population; and  
9 Constructing a regional bicycle and pedestrian trail to connect the Bay Trail to BART;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, on January 17, 2011, the Albany City Council authorized execution  
12 of a purchase agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to  
13 acquire the Pierce Street property as referenced in the Public Improvement Grant and  
14 Cooperation Agreement, and pay the State of California \$1.9 million; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albany has been negotiating with Caltrans for more than  
16 15 years to acquire the Pierce Street property and reached agreement on terms of the  
17 purchase prior to January 1, 2011; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the acquisition of the Pierce Street property and relocation of the  
19 City’s maintenance center will allow for the assembly of properties in the Project Area on  
20 Cleveland Avenue for private development, for which the City has targeted the “green  
21 jobs” industry as part of its membership in the East Bay Green Corridor; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the private investment into and development of the ACR Agency  
23 Project Area will generate income, sales, and other tax revenue for the State of California  
24 through re-use and revitalization of underutilized urban infill properties located in an  
25 existing transportation corridor; and

26 **WHEREAS**, any proposal to eliminate redevelopment including housing set-  
27 aside for low and moderate income housing will significantly decrease the feasibility of  
28 constructing affordable housing in Albany, which is a goal of the State of California as  
29 expressed in its Regional Housing Needs Allocations; and

