



# NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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## **Board Approves Fix to Senior Home Repair Program**

**SAN BERNARDINO** – The Board of Supervisors approved a plan on Tuesday that will ensure the benefits of the grant-funded Senior Home Repair Program are distributed equitably throughout the County.

The Department of Community Development and Housing (CDH), which administers the program, brought the proposal forward after Second District Supervisor Paul Biane and other supervisors questioned the fairness of how the program dollars were being spent.

Ninety percent of the home repairs paid for by the Senior Home Repair Program in the past four years took place in the Third District (67 percent) and First District (23 percent) despite the fact that all five Supervisorial districts and 12 participating cities contribute Community Development Block Grant funds to the program.

“Residents in parts of our County were getting shortchanged on grant funding that should have been used in their communities,” Biane said. “It was an unfair situation, and I asked CDH to bring back a streamlined, more efficient program that would also instill equity and fairness in how the funds were spent.”

Under the revised Senior Home Repair Program, CDH will ensure repair costs in the five Supervisorial districts and participating cities do not exceed the CDBG funding contributed by the individual district or city.

CDH will contact the five Supervisorial districts and the 12 participating cities to educate them about the revised program and how the County will market it better to reach more clients. The five Supervisorial districts, which represent unincorporated communities, and the 12 cities will be given the option of opting out of the Senior Home Repair Program and using their CDBG allocations for other projects. CDH plans to return to the Board on July 14 to report whether any

cities or Supervisorial district want to opt out. CDH could recommend ending the program if too many opt out.

“Once CDH explains how the program dollars will be equitably distributed and the benefits of having this free home repair service for seniors and disabled persons, I’m confident the participating cities and Supervisorial districts will continue to be a part of the program,” Biane said.

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