

Repairs to Private Property

May 30, 1991

Mr. Robert L. Rogers
272 Madrone Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939-0724

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter to me dated May 5, 1991, requesting funds to construct a twelve step staircase and to repair a damaged retaining wall situated on residential property occupied by your sister and her family, your mother and you. You request \$20,520 to make the needed repairs.

My office is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which provides grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to carry out a variety of community development activities directed towards neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and the provision of improved community facilities and services. The City of Larkspur is a participating jurisdiction in Marin County's program. Marin County, for fiscal year 1991, has been allocated \$1,627,000.

Each entitlement community receiving a grant is free to determine what activities it will fund, provided that the activity is eligible and meets one of the national objectives specified in the law. The national objectives are to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, and meet other community development needs of particular urgency. Prior to grant award, however, a grantee must furnish citizens with information about the CDBG program and provide them an opportunity to participate in the development of the program. A fact sheet providing additional information is enclosed.

Rehabilitation of privately owned residential buildings is an eligible CDBG activity. While the repairs that you discuss do not appear to be made to the dwelling unit itself, HUD would consider the activity eligible as rehabilitation if the County determined that the retaining wall and staircase were integral to the structure, e.g., without such improvements, the unit itself would suffer damage. Additionally, to be permissible under the CDBG program, the unit would have to meet one of the national objectives. For residential rehabilitation, the unit would have to either be occupied by a low- and moderate-income household (based on income guidelines established by the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program) or prevent or eliminate slums or blight.

You may wish to contact Marin County for additional information on the availability of CDBG funds and the eligibility of the rehabilitation activity that you describe. The contact persons is Mr. Roy Bateman, Community Development Coordinator, Marin County Planning Department, County of Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, California 94903. His telephone number is (415) 499-6268. Thank you for your interest in the Department's programs.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed J. Broughman)

James R. Broughman
Director
Entitlement Communities Division

Enclosure