



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SENATOR ART TORRES (RET.), CHAIRMAN

MANL05.02

REBUILDING GULF COAST AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA & THE DEMOCRATIC PROMISE

WHEREAS: Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flood of New Orleans laid bare the unjust struggles that the poorest and weakest among us endure daily, and have endured and are enduring following the hurricane and the flood in measures that are abhorrent to a just and compassionate society; and

WHEREAS: The damage to life and property in the Gulf Coast exposed the wretched poverty, joblessness; lack of education, economic opportunity and hope for a better tomorrow (the “American Dream”) that affect mostly African-Americans and other citizens of this country living below the federally established poverty line; and

WHEREAS: The Republican President and the Republican Congress have shown themselves to be unwilling and incapable of resolving these issues of ever-widening inequality, and even when promising to deal with such concerns in his address to the nation following Hurricane Katrina, the Republican President referred to these issues as “regional” and provided solutions that were highly inadequate

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the California Democratic Party demands from Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, and the President of the United States that: the jobs for rebuilding the Gulf Coast states go to displaced residents of those states first; that everyone willing to work is found a job and paid a prevailing wage for that work; that training for jobs, displaced industries and new industries that are willing to locate in the Gulf States are provided to the displaced residents first before importing workers from other locations; that the rebuilding effort ensure quality educational facilities from pre-school to college in these new communities and quality affordable housing in consideration of the varying incomes in the area; entrepreneurship opportunities through small business loans and other incentives for those displaced from the Gulf States area first over non-residents of the area, and; homeownership opportunities through government-insured loans and other incentives first to those displaced residents of the Gulf Coast states over any non-residents seeking to reside in the area

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the California Democratic Party demands of all Congressional Democrats that they ensure those who reside below the poverty line, particularly African-Americans, who have been overwhelmingly loyal to the Democratic Party, that our measures and goals are one to uplift people from the senselessness of poverty and to empower people to obtain the American Dream of opportunity in this country, and call upon the Party to continue its historic role to eliminate the gap’s social and racial inequality.

Submitted by: Ted Smith, Chair/ African-American Caucus & Santa Clara County Central Committee

Adopted by the Executive Board
Of the California Democratic Party
At Its Executive Board Meeting
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