



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Angela Jones, Public Information Officer
(916) 440-1355, or (916) 919-3090
www.shra.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2006

HOUSING AUTHORITY UNVEILS SIGNS AND SPECIAL PHONE LINE TO ADDRESS BOARDED AND VACANT HOUSES IN OAK PARK *Agency has received HUD approval to start a new homeownership program to renovate single family homes in Housing Authority inventory for sale*

Oak Park, Sacramento, CA. The Sacramento Housing Authority and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency today announced a new sign campaign and telephone number for single family houses owned by the Housing Authority that will be renovated in the next six months and offered for sale. The signs and new phone number are part of an effort by the Housing Authority to improve communications and to address concerns by community members about the Housing Authority's homeownership program and boarded and vacant houses in Oak Park, as well as other communities in the City and County.

"Our commitment is to stay connected to the community and to make sure everyone knows that we're going to do everything we can to be good neighbors," said La Shelle Dozier, Director of Housing Operations for the Housing Authority.

Community members can call (916) 440-1301, which is a dedicated phone line specifically for calls about houses under renovation and homeownership opportunities. Staff will respond within one business day. A similar sign with the same phone number will be placed at boarded and vacant single family houses that will be scheduled for renovation and sale next year. Officials urge community members to call the Housing Authority first about problems with boarded and vacant units so that staff will have an opportunity to address their concerns.

"We're redoubling our efforts to make sure the visual appearance of our houses is maintained, including landscaping and exterior painting," said Dozier.

Dozier says staff will go out into the neighborhoods to talk face to face with community members who live near the houses to explain the projects and keep them informed. Updates on Housing Authority activities will also be posted on the Agency's website at www.shra.org.

SHRA (www.shra.org) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2006 budget of \$227 million and approximately 308 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.



Newly appointed Director of Housing Operations La Shelle Dozier shows one of two new signs that the Housing Authority is posting at its single family homes scheduled for renovation or held boarded and vacant for future improvements. A new phone number is dedicated for community members to call with questions about the properties. Housing Authority staff will respond within one business day.



The Housing Authority recently received approval from HUD to participate in a homeownership program known as Section 32 that will make it easier to renovate some of the single family houses in its public housing inventory and make them for sale to low income families. Agency officials say it's part of a commitment to extend the life of existing housing and particularly the Housing Authority's single family houses in the Oak Park community.

The program includes 48 vacant houses in the City and County; 11 of these houses are in Oak Park and are scheduled for completion by the end of the year. One vacant house currently under renovation in Oak Park is scheduled to be completed and ready for sale in July, and two vacant houses currently under renovation in Oak Park will be completed and ready for sale by the end of August.

The Redevelopment Agency has engaged a number of homeownership initiatives in Oak Park. Last March, the City Redevelopment Agency approved the allocation of \$500,000 in Oak Park tax-exempt bond funds to rehabilitate houses in the HUD 5(h) homeownership program. The Housing Authority will use proceeds from the sale of the 5(h) homes to rehabilitate homes in the HUD Section 32 homeownership program.

The Agency says the following efforts will or have resulted in 268 additional homeownership opportunities for predominantly low income families in Oak Park:

- Partnership with Habitat for Humanity (two houses sold in 2005; three to be built in 2006).
- Northern California Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program (19 homes built and sold in Oak Park).
- Stockton Boulevard and 9th Avenue development (currently approximately 37 units proposed for development. Construction to begin on the east side of Stockton Boulevard by the end of 2006; working with architect to design a project for the east side of the street).
- Developer Boarded and Vacant Program (assisted 31 homes in Oak Park for low income first time buyers from 1997-2003).
- Assisted 145 first time homeowners in Oak Park since 1996.
- In the past year, 27 low-income families have purchased homes under the 5(h) program.

SHRA (www.shra.org) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2006 budget of \$227 million and approximately 308 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.