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INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

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GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATES NEW PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR LOCAL VETERANS



Rancho Cordova, CA | The vision of ending chronic homelessness among veterans moved a step closer to reality in Rancho Cordova as officials representing Sacramento County, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, and several veterans resource agencies joined in a ceremony hosted by Mercy Housing California to break ground on the first 50 units of permanent supportive housing at Mather Veterans Village for veterans and their families.

“The activity that goes on here at Mather is one of service to our veterans and broader community who are at any given time struggling with their daily lives,” said Supervisor Don Nottoli. “Mather Veterans Village will be a place where they can come to get better and regain their rightful place in this community.”

Director of U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development Maria Cremer said HUD has made a commitment to the veterans in this country to provide housing for chronically homeless vets. “This community will become an outstanding project that will bring together the needed resources to serve the veterans of this country.”

SHRA will partner with the Veteran Administration to provide rent assistance under the federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. Executive Director La Shelle Dozier said there are two cities in the country that have successfully used the VASH program to combat chronic homelessness. “We know it works and we’re committed to ensuring that it happens here in Sacramento and for many more veterans in the future.”

Phase 1 consists of 50 newly constructed permanent supportive homes. The existing Infirmary will be renovated and adapted to provide offices, meeting and community space as part of Phase 1. The remainder of the Infirmary will be part of Phase 2, with up to 60 beds of transitional housing to be operated by VRCA. Phase 3 will consist of an additional 50 permanent supportive homes on the site. The comprehensive on-site support services will be provided by VRCA in partnership with the VA and Mercy Housing, along with an extensive group of collaborative partners offering a wide range of support services, including health care, substance abuse counseling, case management, assistance in applying for Veterans benefits, and employment services. Phase 1 construction will begin in December 2014 with the Village’s first residents moving into their new homes by April 2016.

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. SHRA has a FY 2014 budget of \$167.7 million and 225 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,144 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,800 rent assistance vouchers per month.