



# Foreign-Language Foreclosure Hotline Launched

## *Assistance Offered In Five Languages*

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**S**ACRAMENTO, Calif. – Sacramento ranks sixth in the nation on the foreclosure list.

Treasury secretary Henry Paulsen will be here in Northern California tomorrow to talk to people about what to do if they are having a hard time making payments on their homes.

Figures indicate that foreclosures are hitting some immigrant communities the hardest.

Mia Vang said she had been saving for almost 20 years to buy a home. She purchased her south Sacramento home in July 2005 with a two-year fixed rate.

“They put her in a fixed rate for two years,” said Pa Phang, Sacramento Mutual Housing Association community organizer, translating for Vang.

At the end of the two years, her mortgage tripled.

Unable to speak English, Vang

did not understand letters sent to her by the bank. By the time she got help, the bank foreclosed on her property. “She is heartbroken, speechless,” said Phang.

Anne-Marie Flynn works for the Sacramento Mutual Housing Association. She said immigrants are getting hit hard by the sub-prime crisis.

“Language is a big one. People maybe got loans that should have documents in their language,” said Flynn. “Even if they did get loans in their own language, they didn’t always understand what they were getting into.”

The association is partnering with lenders and Assemblyman Dave Jones, D-Sacramento, to offer help to those in need.

“Right now, we are seeing a willingness on the part of some lenders to work out the loans, to give people more time to avoid re-sets,” said Jones.

They have set up a hotline with assistance in five different languages to help those with mortgage questions.

“We are trying to reach out and see what we can do for this particular group as a subset of this growing crisis overall,” said Flynn.

The mortgage crisis hotline number is open 24 hours a day. If needed, please call (916) 453-8400, Ext. 43.



SMHA develops and operates affordable housing that builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. Residents have governing councils at each property, are involved in virtually every aspect of the organization, and make up the majority of the board of directors.

For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at [mutualhousing.com](http://mutualhousing.com).