

State gives 'unprecedented' OK for more funds for mobile park

November 13, 2009

Sacramento Mutual Housing Association has been working to improve a mobile home park in Elk Grove since 2006, but it recently was forced to make the "unprecedented" move of asking for additional funds when it turned out problems were greater than anticipated.

The nonprofit, which develops and operates affordable-housing communities, recently received approval from the California State Dept. of Housing and Community Development as well as the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency for an additional \$560,000 to improve the 47-home Westerner Mobile Home Park in Elk Grove, which it took over in 2006 with a \$1.6 million state loan.

The association had upgraded drainage and electrical systems, and repaved and graded the park's deteriorating roads when project managers and residents discovered other problems. Costs went up for things such as paving, which will cost three times the expected amount. As a result, SMHA had to go back to get additional funding.

Project manager Vanessa Guerra said it was unprecedented and a breakthrough to get more money out of the Mobilehome Park Ownership Program because officials wanted to see the project finished.

Plans include repairs to deteriorating concrete decks, driveways and fencing. The nonprofit also plans to develop a vacant lot and will bring in a new facility to serve as a community center.

Community organizers have worked with residents to create a resident council that will address redevelopment issues as well as organize events, workshops and newsletters.

The award is similar to a forgivable loan, in that it is paid back through the receipts from the property itself.



Sacramento Mutual Housing Association develops housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development.

For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at mutualhousing.com.