

CEO who helped build Mutual Housing California stepping down

[Mutual Housing California](#) announced Thursday that CEO [Rachel Iskow](#) will be stepping down from the nonprofit that, under her nearly 23 years of leadership, grew into a powerful advocate for affordable housing for low-income residents.

Iskow told me: “I plan to let myself take a few months off to relax at home and spend more quality time with my ninth-grader and get back into exercising, which I have let go of for at least a decade! Maybe tai chi? Good for folks pushing 60, like me! After some R&R, I will see where my energy and passion lead me.”

She ticked off some things that make her especially proud. Along with city officials, the nonprofit campaigned for passage in 2008 of a mandatory rental housing inspection ordinance, a measure that assured safer, healthier housing for tens of thousands around Sacramento. In 2002, the agency also developed the first solar energy-producing multifamily property in Sacramento County, and in 2015, it developed the nation’s first Zero Net Energy-certified rental housing property.

Iskow said she will remain CEO until the end of the year. The board will launch a national search for her successor in March.

Mutual Housing board President [Mindy Romero](#) said about Iskow: “When Rachel took the helm of Mutual Housing California, the organization had two employees and served 300 residents. Today, Mutual Housing’s exceptional team includes more than 60 employees. The organization provides housing and resident leadership opportunities for more than 3,200 individuals, families, seniors, formerly homeless, and the disabled.”

Iskow used her position to ensure that all stakeholders had a seat at the table on key policy decisions, Romero said, and her legacy will live on with programs that promote education opportunities for residents and innovative residential projects that blend tenant leadership and environmental sustainability.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops sustainable 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.

