



Mutual Housing gets \$3M grant to aid farmworkers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Mutual Housing California – which has built low-income homes for farmworkers in Woodland in the Spring Lake area – has received a \$3 million loan of \$26 million to help provide safe and sanitary housing for farmworkers in nine affordable rental communities in four states.

Nationally, the loans will support 439 rental units in California, Florida, Kansas and Texas, according to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.



Congressman John Garamendi talks about the solar-powered and green community Mutual Housing at Spring Lake. A \$3 million grant just received could mean additional homes being built in the subdivision.
Photo credit: Jim Smith-Daily Democrat

“American agriculture is grateful to the individuals working in the fields, day-in and day-out, to grow and harvest the food we eat,” Vilsack said. “Since 2009, USDA has invested \$268 million to build or repair more than 2,000 affordable homes for farmworkers nationwide. USDA, under the Obama Administration, is proud of its efforts to help ensure farmworkers and their families have safe, adequate housing. Every year, agricultural workers who are immigrants come to the United States for the opportunity to work, pay taxes and fully contribute to this country’s economy, many with a dream of someday becoming American citizens. America’s farmers, ranchers and the businesses supporting our rural communities depend on these hardworking individuals to ensure we remain a productive, food-secure nation. That is why we need comprehensive immigration reform today—because a food-secure

nation with a thriving, growing economy is a more secure nation.”

The money locally will go toward building 39 affordable apartments most likely in the Spring Lake area, where energy-efficiency housing has already been built.

It was only in April that Mutual Housing also received \$438,000 for affordable housing from NeighborWorks America – a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization that supports community development nationwide.

That grant also included operating costs that allows the Sacramento nonprofit to continue improving energy efficiency, sustainability and longevity at their properties.

The \$300,000 capital grant will be used for renovation and energy upgrades of Sacramento’s Mutual Housing at Foothill Farms and the Owendale Mutual Housing Community in Davis.

It also will help the nonprofit build the region’s first LGBT-welcoming senior affordable housing, Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing.

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.

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Nonprofits such as Mutual Housing California generate \$260 billion in economic activity annually and rank as California's fourth-largest industry based on employment, a study done at the University of San Diego, found.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable rental housing for the diversity of the region's households.

Earlier this year, Mutual Housing at Spring Lake received the first LEED Platinum certified home for multi-family affordable housing in Woodland.

The 62 households use conventional electricity, but that is also offset by solar energy generated throughout the development, which is then sent back into the power grid.

The apartment and townhome community opened in June 2015 at 2170 Farmers Central Road, and caters primarily to agricultural workers.