

Local developer wins DOE Housing Innovations Award

For the first time, a developer in Northern California has been given a Housing Innovations Award by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Sacramento-based nonprofit Mutual Housing California has been chosen in the multifamily category for its zero-net energy home development in Woodland.



Mutual Housing at Spring Lake

Mutual Housing at Spring Lake has 62-apartments and townhomes for agricultural workers and is located in the Spring Lake area of southeast Woodland, 2170 Farmers Central Road.

The other categories are custom, production and affordable housing.

“The DOE knows there is one chance during home construction to lock in critical performance measures that can take the homeowner experience to a new level of efficiency, comfort, health, and durability,” a statement the DOE released said.

“But it will take housing industry leadership to provide this opportunity to all Americans.

“That’s why DOE proudly recognizes Mutual Housing California as one of our nation’s select 2015 Housing Innovation Award winning builders paving a path to the home of the future, today.”

A grand opening of the development occurred in late June. The housing is set aside for agricultural workers, including people who work in packing and processing as well as aquaculture.

In 2010, Mutual Housing acquired the 5.14 acres. It broke ground on 3.28 acres in December 2013. The remaining acres will be built when the nonprofit receives funding.

The city of Woodland helped fund Mutual Housing at Spring Lake. Funding also came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Citibank, Wells Fargo, NeighborWorks America, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Community Fund, Roseville Bank of Commerce, Dignity Health-Woodland Healthcare, Bank of America, Comerica Bank, U.S. Bank, Union Bank of California, Mechanics Bank and Insperity.

Mutual Housing California 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.

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Citibank, NeighborWorks Capital and Wells Fargo are lenders for the Woodland project.

A zero-net energy community, Mutual Housing at Spring Lake staff also expects to receive Platinum LEED certification.

“The green revolution is here,” said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing California chief executive officer.

“Homeowners are finding healthy, zero net energy homes on the market.”

“Now our goal is to bring the benefits of green building to renters throughout the country.

“The Department of Energy is to be applauded for showcasing this breakthrough development.”

Woodland was chosen as a place to build housing for agricultural workers because of its central location to farming in the region.

“Having access to green, affordable housing is of great benefit to the community, and in particular, agricultural workers in the area, both through reduced utility expenses and healthy homes,” said Paul Navazio, Woodland city manager.

“We commend Mutual Housing for building such a sustainable community in Woodland—and we are proud to have contributed to helping make this vision a reality.”

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable housing for the region’s diverse households.

A member of NeighborWorks America – a congressionally chartered nonprofit that supports community development nationwide—Mutual Housing has more than 3,000 residents, nearly half of whom are children.

Through its focus on leadership, the nonprofit provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, community-building activities and services for residents and neighbors.