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New Harmony coming together in Davis

Because it's visible from the freeway, people are wondering what the construction is at the Mace Road exit near Cowell Boulevard in Davis. Framing on New Harmony Mutual Housing Community is nearly complete; the roof will be going on next.

Construction began this winter and should be finished in December.

The project has preserved more than 200 jobs and created nearly 30 new ones.

"Construction projects like this help keep the economy going," said Sunseri Construction, Inc.'s President Donny Lieberman. "Because of this development, we are putting people back to work."

Sunseri has hired more than 40 subcontractors, numerous vendors and suppliers for the project. Teichert and Syar Industries are supplying concrete. Waldeck Wright and Associates are providing new doors and hardware. Morrow Surveying, KO Construction, BJ's Heating and Air as well as Hilbert's Hardware and Davis Waste Removal also are working on the year-long project.

An energy-efficient development, Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing staff is expecting to get 199 or 200 Build It Green points, more than twice the 70 required for such projects in Davis. "Our goal of 200 points is really

unique for multi-family projects not just in Davis, but across California," said Vanessa Guerra, New Harmony project manager.

Build It Green is similar to LEED certification, but more adapted to residential developments.

New Harmony also will have a solar-powered community building that will house a financial education classroom and a study hall as well as an event and meeting space. The photo voltaic system is being installed by Oakland-based Sun Light & Power through the California Solar Initiative Program, administered locally by Pacific Gas & Electric.

When completed, each of the 69 apartments will have environmentally friendly building materials and finishes, high-quality indoor air filters and energy-efficient appliances. "Because of the energy-efficiency that has been built into the apartments, residents will have minimal utility bills," said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing's executive director. "For people of modest means, this can sometimes make a difference between putting food on the table or buying school supplies for their children."

The City of Davis has produced more than 1,700 units of affordable housing since 1987. For New Harmony, the City used federal HOME funds and money from the local redevelopment agency as well as land from local

inclusionary requirements.

Funding also came from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, Merritt Community Capital Corporation, Bank of America and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. NeighborWorks America and the Home Depot Foundation also assisted with funding.

Sacramento-based Kuchman Architects PC is the architect of record. Chico-based Sunseri is the general contractor.

The 18th Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association community will have one-, two- and three-bedroom flats for families of modest means, wheelchair accessible or adaptable. To get on the housing list for potential residency, call (888) 453-8404 Ext. 226.

Founded in 1988, Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association develops and operates well-designed rental housing for the diversity of the region's households. The communities have 2,750 residents, half of whom are children.

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