

Memo

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Jack Sweeney
Date: 7/14/2009
Re: AARA/HERA

I am recommending the Board recognize Mercy Housing of California for its efforts in providing long-term solutions to meeting El Dorado County's affordable and workforce housing shortage and recommends that the Board endorse Mercy Housing when applying for related funding programs under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that support future projects within the County.

Background

Mercy Housing owns and operates several rental properties in El Dorado County including the Diamond Sunrise Apartments Phases I and II in Diamond Springs, White Rock Village Apartments in El Dorado Hills and Tahoe Valley Apartments in South Lake Tahoe. Currently, Mercy Housing is looking at several properties in our communities of Cameron Park, Shingle Springs and Diamond Springs which if developed will increase the number of Mercy managed units within the County.

All Mercy Housing projects strive to create stable, vibrant and healthy communities by developing affordable, program-enriched housing for families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. Mercy Housing projects include many on-site amenities and services including community centers with computer labs, child care classroom, workforce development resources and activity space. In addition, Head Start usually operates the child care center so that all the residents will have an affordable child care/pre-school option near their home.

As a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Mercy Housing can apply on behalf of a project within the County at any time, but usually only does so with the support of the Local Board of Supervisors. Under current HERA and ARRA funding program timelines, it is not always possible for Mercy to bring an item to the Board prior to an application deadline. By endorsing Mercy Housing in its efforts to apply for funding under these two Acts on behalf of potential projects within the County, we ensure funding under these programs are available for local projects should they move forward and are processed under local policies and procedures. This does not endorse any specific projects. This endorsement simply allows Mercy Housing to explore all funding options as they identify potential projects for our County.