



THE NON-PROFIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, A SAFETY NET FOR OAKLAND'S LOW-INCOME POPULATION,
CRITICAL TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Oakland, Calif. - Governor Jerry Brown has proposed permanently shutting down local redevelopment agencies. The 20% of tax increment financing generated by redevelopment agencies is the single most important source of local government financing for the creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout the state. This proposal comes at a time when millions of Californians continue to lose their jobs to a struggling economy and their homes to foreclosure.

Affordable home production creates jobs and is key to California's economic recovery. The "safety net" for low-income families includes a safe, stable place to live. It is likely that without this important "safety net" many low-income seniors and families will become homeless.

Over the past 10 years, Oakland's redevelopment agency has allocated more than \$200 million to affordable housing projects in Oakland. The net effect: 1,900 units of new housing completed with 1,200 more in the pipeline. It also allowed 500 low-income families to become first-time homebuyers.

Cathedral Gardens, a proposed 100-unit affordable community for working families and seniors, is one of these developments in the pipeline that is dependent upon funding from city of Oakland's redevelopment agency. Cathedral Gardens will be located in downtown Oakland, on a site that has been vacant for more than a decade. It will incorporate the historic Rectory building of the Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral, which was irrevocably damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

The new EAH Housing community will provide housing affordable for very low-income families, with service connections that will allow people with disabilities and AIDS/HIV to live independently in a supportive environment. Cathedral Gardens will revitalize a site that once played a critical role in a historic district in Oakland, but has been abandoned and boarded-up for many years. This development effort is a shining example of the successful future that housing funds provided by redevelopment agencies can bring to impoverished, economically depressed communities.

Interviewees:

- 1) Mary Murtagh – President and CEO, EAH Housing
- 2) Dianne Spaulding – Executive Director, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California

Photo Opportunities:

- 1) Cathedral Gardens site, 668 21st Street Oakland, CA

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The Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California works to advance affordable housing as the foundation for thriving individuals, families and neighborhoods. As the collective voice of those who support, build and finance affordable housing, NPH promotes the proven methods of the non-profit sector and focuses government policy on housing solutions for low-income people who suffer disproportionately from the housing crisis.