

August 14, 2017

TODAY'S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Los Angeles Times: State Senate Bills Aim to Make Homes More Affordable, but They Won't Spur Nearly Enough Construction

By Liam Dillon [8-11-17] // Last month, Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) and legislative leaders [promised in a joint statement to pass a package of bills](#) that “will help ensure Californians won’t have to pay an arm and a leg to have a roof over their head.”

Capital Public Radio: Efforts to Streamline Housing Developments Draw Scrutiny at California Capitol

By Ben Adler [8-9-17] // (Audio and text) California lawmakers are weighing several ideas to encourage – or force – cities and counties to speed up the approval process for housing projects.

KPCC - AirTalk: Affordability or Altruism? Looking at the Endgame of Senate Affordable Housing Bill Package

Hosted by Larry Mantle (Audio) With the gap between California’s growing population and the amount of homes being built to accommodate them, will the bills actually make a dent in the deficit? Carol Galante and Chris Thornberg discuss.

Mercury News: Housing Crisis: Will California Force Its Cities to OK More Building?

By Katy Murphy [8-12-17] // Amid a housing crisis that is displacing the poor and forcing millennials and countless others to look outside the Bay Area to live, all eyes turned this week to the tiny Peninsula town of Brisbane where a developer wants to build thousands of homes on a 684-acre swath of wasteland.

Public Square: Innovative Design for Affordable Housing

By Robert Steuteville [8-10-17] // Dignified affordable housing that matches the quality and character of market-rate housing—without breaking the bank—is desperately needed across America.

KQED: Marin Lawmaker Wants California Corporations to Pay for Affordable Housing

By Guy Marzorati [8-14-17] // Assemblyman Marc Levine (D-Marin) is working on legislation to raise the state’s corporate tax rate from 8.84 percent to 9.84 percent on companies with 500 or more employees. The new revenue, which Levine estimates at roughly \$500 million annually, would be spent on building affordable housing.

[Enterprise Community Partners: 10 Ways of Looking at Affordable Housing Preservation](#)

[8-11-17] // Any serious solution to addressing our country's affordability challenges must involve increasing supply through both new construction and preserving existing affordable homes.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

[Multifamily Executive: Affordable Family Development Trims Costs with Modular Construction](#)

[8-8-17] // Marea Alta, a 115-unit community in San Leandro, not only meets critical needs for San Francisco Bay Area families; it wound up saving some development costs through the use of modular construction, as well.

[Pleasanton Weekly: Kottinger Gardens, Rooted in Pleasanton](#)

By Julia Reis [8-10-17] // The City of Pleasanton and MidPen partner on affordable senior housing development on the edge of downtown.

LAND USE / PLANNING / REGULATION

[Pasadena News Now: Developer Fees Rise in Pasadena](#)

By Andy Vitalicio [8-11-17] // Developers can expect to pay higher fees after the City Council recently approved amendments to the Pasadena Municipal Code hiking-up the City's traffic reduction and traffic improvement fee.

HOUSING MARKETS / REAL ESTATE

[Sierra Sun Times: California State Supreme Court Affirms Homeowner Reimbursement Protections Supported by Insurance Commissioner](#)

[8-10-17] // The State Supreme Court Wednesday ended a long legal battle between a Richmond homeowner and her homeowner insurance company...

[Press-Enterprise: Want to Improve Housing Affordability? Increase the Homeowners Exemption](#)

By Jon Coupal and Phillip Chen [8-12-17] // (Opinion) ...A quick and effective way to provide financial relief to everyone in California with a roof over their head is to increase the homeowners exemption which has been stuck at \$7,000 since 1972.

MORTGAGE & FORECLOSURE ISSUES

[The Hill: How to Fix Fannie and Freddie to Give Americans Affordable Housing](#)

By Orlando Cabrera [8-11-17] // (Opinion) The political class's doctrinal concerns fail to address a fundamental problem: Fannie and Freddie's existence directly impacts both first-time homebuyers' ability to own and the net worth of a significant portion of the American middle class.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Next City: Bronx Worker Cooperative Plans to “Compost Capitalism”

By Oscar Perry Abello [8-9-17] // Dior St. Hillaire eats, sleeps and breathes the Bronx. She first learned about the intricacies of composting in the Bronx, at the New York Botanical Garden, where she earned a [Master Composter Certificate](#) from the city.

Next City: Chicagoan Sees Neighborhood Economic Growth in Trees

By Audrey F. Henderson [8-8-17] // A former attorney in Chicago is working toward creating the first accredited African-American community arboretum in the United States. The project will preserve green space and improve walkability.

UrbDeZine: Show Me the Money: Financing Public Facilities in the Age of Scarcity

By Jim Chappell [8-13-17] // In the wake of the 2011 demise of California’s 400 redevelopment agencies, cities, developers, and institutions are all struggling to find new ways to fund the construction and maintenance of essential infrastructure and other public buildings and facilities. A San Francisco official recently complained to me that there are 40,000 dwelling units entitled in the city that aren’t being built.

HOMELESSNESS

HUD: Disaster Recovery Homelessness Toolkit

HUD’s guides include the Local Planning Guide, Response Guide, and Recovery Guide, designed to help local jurisdictions manage disaster-related homelessness before, during, and following the event.

WAMU: Housing Challenges for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

By Sasha-Ann Simons [8-9-17] // “Sierra” is 19, a runaway and a mother of three. She spent years residing at various group homes and in and out of the juvenile detention system. She could be a grim statistic, but...

Los Angeles Times: Youths in Foster System Get Care until Age 21, but Struggles Persist

By Nina Agrawal [8-12-17] // Eric Usher dreams of working as an audio producer...

Sonoma West: Outdoors in Paradise: Homelessness in Guerneville

By Rollie Atkinson [8-9-17] // When homelessness is viewed as a statistic, the lower Russian River area of Guerneville, Monte Rio and Rio Nido gets onto a lot of charts.

ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT

Bakersfield Californian: State Gas Tax Driving 1,100 New Caltrans Jobs and New Work for Bakersfield and Kern, Too

By James Burger [8-13-17] // There’s a transportation hiring explosion going on...

[NBC: A New Look at How Latinos Are Powering the U.S. Economy](#)

By Stephen A. Nuno [8-11-17] // A new [report](#) puts a price tag on the Latino population in the United States, and it is over two trillion dollars.

TRANSPORTATION / TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

[Public Square: The Million-dollar Neighborhood](#)

By Robert Steuteville [8-7-17] // Even though housing is more expensive in walkable, transit-rich neighborhoods, vehicle costs are substantially lower...

[AZBigMedia: Studio Ma Cools Streets by Linking Transit, Shade and Housing](#)

By AZRE [8-11-17] // Phoenix: For the extreme heat of the desert Southwest, where temperatures are reaching 110°F and higher this summer, can transit-oriented development improve the quality of life? The answer is yes.

NATIONAL HOUSING NEWS

[Philly.com: Senate Bill Would Increase Investment in Affordable Housing](#)

By Phyllis Chamberlain [8-10-17] // Did you know that every dollar of federal tax credits issued has been generating roughly 10 times the level of investment? When it comes to a housing program in Pennsylvania, thankfully, it's become a proven fact.

FAIR HOUSING

[Next City: NYC Council Just Launched an 18-Bill Attack on Bad Landlords](#)

By Rachel Dovey [8-10-17] // New York City landlords trying to drive their tenants out with noisy construction work — and take advantage of the city's hot market with new renters — will have to answer to a new Office of Tenant Advocates.

[Urban Wire: Discrimination Is Limiting LGBTQ People's Access to Rental Housing](#)

By Diane K. Levy [8-3-17] // A transgender woman asked a rental housing agent about an advertised rental unit, noting that she was transgender to explain the difference between her legal name and the name she uses. The agent cut the meeting short... ([New Study](#) by Urban Institute)

[Wall Street Journal: Westchester Beats Obama](#)

By Editorial Board [7-23-17] // The feds concede that the New York suburb's zoning laws aren't discriminatory.

DEMOGRAPHICS / QUALITY OF LIFE

[CityLab: In Chicago, another Public Housing Experiment: Prisoner Reentry](#)

By Madeleine Hamlin [8-10-17] // The enduring stigma against ex-offenders makes providing them with subsidized housing a tough sell in a city where affordable housing is in short supply.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

Next City: These Urban Designers See a New York That Adapts to Watery Future

By Jared Brey [8-11-17] // A new exhibit from the research and advocacy organization, Regional Plan Association, offers a look at a future in which New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have successfully adapted to sea level rise — and Mark Zuckerberg's in the White House.

COVERAGE INFORMATION:

California Department of Housing & Community Development WEB NEWS service coverage:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week includes electronic format articles retrieved from newspapers or news services that report housing and community development news in California and some national services. Coverage is for California newspapers that are available electronically via the Internet – and any significant related breaking news.

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