



HCDWEBNEWS

Department of Housing and Community Development



December 13, 2017

TODAY'S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

[Los Angeles Times: Ed Lee, San Francisco Mayor Who Tried to Tame the City's Tech Boom, Dies at 65](#)

By Rong-Gong-Lin II [12-13-17] // Lee was an unabashed supporter of bringing jobs and tech companies to San Francisco. He oversaw years of dramatic growth that transformed the city's skyline while also sending real estate values to stratospheric levels. And, he tried to tame the housing boom.

[Gimme Shelter Podcast: How Federal Tax Reform Could Hurt California Housing](#)

By Matt Levin and Liam Dillon [12-6-17] // (Audio) Matt and Liam discuss the potentially massive consequences of federal tax reform on California's housing woes, including the fates of the low income housing tax credit (18:00) and the mortgage interest deduction (28:00). Plus, an interview with Mary Murtagh (38:00), a nonprofit affordable housing developer whose projects are already imperiled by tax reform.

[Redding Searchlight: Affordable Housing Prospects Looking Sunnier in Redding](#)

By Jenny Espino [12-12-17] // Local affordable housing developers are hopeful about bringing more projects like the 55-unit Woodlands to Redding. The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee is considering a proposal to make it easier for smaller counties in Northern California to compete for funding.

[Los Angeles Daily News: LA's \\$100 Million Affordable-housing "Linkage Fee" Could Pass City Council](#)

By Craig Clough [12-13-17] // A Los Angeles City Councilman who helped craft a proposed affordable housing linkage fee expressed confidence that the measure would pass when it comes up for a vote today. Under the proposed ordinance, commercial and residential developers would have to pay a fee for every square foot of new construction, with the estimated \$100 million per year it would raise to be used to provide affordable housing units.

LAND USE / PLANNING / REGULATION

Press-Telegram: Long Beach Advances Land Use Plan Some Say Could Bring “Crackerbox” Construction

By Courtney Tompkins [12-12-17] // The Long Beach Planning Commission advanced controversial changes to the city’s land use maps after a lengthy meeting Monday night that was mostly packed with neighborhood groups opposed to the plan.

CityLab: Fire Damage to California's Homes Isn't as Random as It Seems

By Faith Kearns [12-11-17] // Researchers recommend what is known as a “coupled approach” to home and building survival. This means the development and maintenance of an effective defensible space, as well as the careful selection of [construction materials](#) and correct installation to ensure that, for example, there are not gaps in siding or roofing that would allow embers to penetrate. Decision-makers also need to be willing to take on the most taboo topic of them all: recognizing that there are places houses simply [shouldn't be built, or rebuilt, at all](#).

HOUSING MARKETS / REAL ESTATE

MarketWatch: Has the Housing Market Recovered? Ask the 1.4 Million Homeowners Still Underwater

By Andrea Riquier [12-13-17] // The number of homeowners who are underwater on their mortgage – meaning they owe a lender more than their home is worth – is still more than double what was normal in the years before the bubble.

MORTGAGE & FORECLOSURE ISSUES

PD&R Edge: The Role of Down Payment as a Mortgage Risk Deterrent

HUD [12-11-17] // Using loan-level origination and performance data, the researchers quantify the impact of down payment on delinquency and default and quantify the tradeoff between down payments and other loan characteristics. The research findings underscore the importance of the down payment in managing mortgage credit risk...

CoreLogic: Loan Performance Insights Report Highlights: September 2017

By Molly Boesel [12-12-17] // Impact of hurricanes evident in September delinquency numbers.

HOMELESSNESS

CBS: Homeless Shelter Going to Pot? Sacramento Winter Site Could Be Growing Green in Spring

By Angela Greenwood [12-8-17] // In the next couple of weeks, the warehouse will house up to 200 of the city’s homeless, but on March 31, the beds will be cleared out, and the facility on Railroad Drive will continue to prepare for its long-proposed future as a marijuana cultivation site.

[**The Chronicle of Social Change: Report Finds Youth Homelessness on the Rise, Asks Congress for Help**](#)

A national study conducted by researchers at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago found that one in 10 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 experienced some kind of homelessness over the past year. For youth between the ages of 13 and 17, that number is one in 30.

[**Los Angeles Times: Weingart Center Plans First High-rise Homeless housing for L.A.'s Skid Row**](#)

By Doug Smith [12-11-17] // Los Angeles: The Weingart Center has filed applications with the city to build three high-rise residences on the two blocks it shares with the homeless services providers Lamp Community, Union Rescue Mission, Volunteers of America and the Midnight Mission.

[**San Diego Union-Tribune: Homeless halfway House Approved Despite Community Opposition**](#)

By David Garrick [12-11-17] // The \$13 million project will transform a rundown motel just east of Imperial Beach into an 84-bed drug treatment center for homeless people who have a history of repeatedly committing low-level, non-violent crimes.

[**Curbed San Francisco: Homelessness Down in San Francisco, Says HUD**](#)

By Adam Brinklow [12-11-17] // But San Francisco still has one of the worst rates in the country.

ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT

[**California Budget & Policy Center: Making Ends Meet: How Much does it Cost to Support a Family in California?**](#)

By Sara Kimberlin and Amy Rose [12-2017] // *Making Ends Meet* shines a light on the economic challenges faced by many Californians by showing the cost of supporting a family or a single individual in different parts of the state.

[**Markets Insider: Bank of the West Gives \\$300,000 to Support Small Businesses and Jobs in California's Central Valley**](#)

[12-11-17] // Four nonprofits will receive \$75,000 each to support entrepreneurs and small business owners and also spur regional job growth. The grants will directly fund programs that start, strengthen, and grow businesses from San Joaquin to Kern Counties.

[**U.S. Government Accountability Office: Diversity in the Technology Sector**](#)

[11-16-17] // The GAO found that The estimated percentage of minority technology workers increased from 2005 to 2015, but GAO found that no growth occurred for female and Black workers, whereas Asian and Hispanic workers made statistically significant increases.

[**UC Riverside: 2017 Ends on High Note for the Inland Empire Economy**](#)

By Richard Chang [12-12-17] // New analysis says job and population growth may be stymied by lack of housing.

[Politico: Behind Trump's Plan to Target the Federal Safety Net](#)

By Andrew Restuccia et al [12-11-17] // Under the banner of welfare reform, the administration is eyeing changes to health care, food stamps, housing and veterans programs.

[UC Berkeley News: California Minimum Wage Hike, Savings Plan Will Boost Retirement Incomes, Reduce Poverty](#)

By Kathleen Maclay [12-12-17] // Nari Rhee found that additional Social Security benefits resulting from a new minimum wage law's implementation, combined with California's [Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program](#), can increase young low- and middle-income workers' retirement income by about 50 percent, compared to baseline Social Security benefits.

TRANSPORTATION / TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

[Daily Journal: Millbrae Planners OK BART Station Project](#)

By Austin Walsh [12-6-17] // It's full speed forward for a sweeping residential, commercial and hotel development proposed on BART land in Millbrae after officials gave a go-ahead to the rail station project.

[Watsonville Patch: Watsonville Awarded \\$2.3 Million in Funding for Transportation](#)

[12-13-17] // The projects include infrastructure improvements to Airport Boulevard, Freedom Boulevard, and Green Valley Road, as well as bicycle safety improvements at several locations within the city.

[Redwood City Patch: Where Is Redwood City Lacking in Public Transportation?](#)

[12-12-17] // SMC gov't leaders are expected to discuss this crucial issue as they look for potential shuttle stops to fill critical transportation gaps.

REDEVELOPMENT / INFILL / REVITALIZATION

[Governing: After Harvey's Rainwaters Receded, Fears Rose](#)

By William Fulton [12-2017] // (Opinion) Every disaster is different, and that's part of the problem for cities. The experience of Hurricane Harvey here in Houston, where I live, is a case in point.

NATIONAL HOUSING NEWS

[Governing: The Quiet Revolution Happening in the Suburbs](#)

By Alan Greenblatt [12-1-17] // Suburbs first gained popularity for being everything a big city wasn't. Now they want to be just like downtown.

DEMOGRAPHICS / QUALITY OF LIFE

[Los Angeles Times: U.N. Monitor on Extreme Poverty Tours Skid Row in L.A.](#)

By Gale Holland [12-11-17] // A ghostly chant of "Bill of Rights, Bill of Rights" drifted out of a sidewalk tent as the United Nations monitor on extreme poverty walked the streets of skid row as part of a national tour investigating human rights conditions for the poorest U.S. citizens.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

Legislative Analyst's Office: Cap-and-Trade Extension: Issues for Legislative Oversight

By LAO [12-12-17] // In [this report](#), we (1) provide background information on cap-and-trade and the recent extension of the program to 2030, (2) identify key administrative implementation decisions that could affect program outcomes and the need for legislative oversight, (3) identify potential opportunities to increase the effectiveness of a new advisory committee created by AB 398, and (4) describe potential state cap-and-trade revenue scenarios through 2030.

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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