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**TODAY’S NEWS**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE: Affordable housing is good for all concerned**

By Toni Atkins // Housing instability is affecting more Californians than ever before. Many workers can’t afford to live where their jobs are, homelessness is affecting more families and children, and seniors are unable to pay rising rents on their fixed incomes.

**PENINSULA PRESS: California's affordable mobile home parks vanishing**

By Katie Kramon // Affordable housing for middle- and lower-income families is drying up by the month in California. Among the hardest hit are those living in mobile home parks. In the last decade, 4,792 mobile home lots in the state have vanished from the map according to data from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, with even more expected to disappear. …According to Evan Gerberding, director of external relations at the California Department of Housing and Community Development: “California’s economic recovery during the last year, while ahead of the nation, has been uneven with nuanced growth in coastal zones, and inland areas lagging behind,” leaving many repairs to the state of affordable housing in the Bay Area and L.A. far from complete.

**HOUSING MARKETS / REAL ESTATE**

**SACRAMENTO BEE: See how much income you’d need to afford a home in most California cities**

California median home prices have risen by $120,000 in the last three years, once again putting them out of reach of most households in the state. The median sales price for homes in California - the middle-priced home in a ranked list - was $393,000 in January 2015, according to real estate tracking firm Zillow.com.

**MORTGAGE & FORECLOSURE ISSUES**

**NATIONAL MORTGAGE NEWS: Keep Your Home California helps seniors with reverse mortgages**

Keep Your Home California has created a new pilot program to help low- and moderate-income senior homeowners with reverse mortgages avoid foreclosure. Under the Reverse Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program, homeowners age 62 and older who have a Federal Housing Administration Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, also known as a HECM, could qualify for as much as $25,000 in assistance.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SANTA MARIA TIMES: After-school program inspiring greatness
By Brian Bullock // Daniel Maldonado will graduate from UCSB this June, and while that life-changing moment is a few months away, it's light years from the time he spent picking strawberries in the fields of the Santa Maria Valley. The 21-year-old came to the United States a dozen years ago with his family hoping to find work and a better life. His parents, Jeronimo and Benita, came to Santa Maria, found work at local farms, and eventually wound up living at Los Adobes de Maria, an affordable-living apartment complex developed and operated by People's Self-Help Housing.

ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT

TIMES OF SAN DIEGO: Steady California growth seen; U.S. called 'an island of stability'
By Chris Jennewein // California will see steady gains in employment and personal income through 2017, as the overall U.S. economy remains an island in a troubled world, UCLA economists said Thursday. “The increase in U.S. growth rates from construction, automobiles, and business investment, as well as higher consumer demand, will continue to fuel our local economy,” said Senior Economist Jerry Nickelsburg, author of the California report for the widely-followed UCLA Anderson Forecast.

BAKERSFIELD NOW: Health care, construction among job areas with opportunity
By Kahtia Hall // According to a new report released by the state, California's job growth is up by 3.1 percent, helping to add about 150,000 jobs last year. Despite the growth in California, Kern County's job growth is down by 1.1 percent. According to the Labor Market Division, the unemployment rate was 10 percent in December 2014, and in January 2015 it was at 11.1 percent. In the next 10 years, industry employment is expected to increase 14.7 percent.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE: SLO County still dry a year after drought emergency declared
By David Sneed // While several storms have passed through San Luis Obispo County this winter, dry conditions persist, and there’s no sign that they will let up anytime soon. “The drought in San Luis Obispo County and other areas of the state is far from over,” said Lisa Howe, an administrative analyst who heads the county’s drought task force. “It is important that people remember to continue to conserve water.”

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays 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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