March 26, 2015

TODAY’S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SAN FRANCISCO ABC NEWS: Several affordable housing projects in pipeline for SF
Everyone knows San Francisco is just about the most expensive housing market in the nation, but several affordable housing projects are in the pipeline. Tenants are now moving into one that helps meet the needs of a specific group - young people. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee says he likes to show up for housewarmings to reflect the city’s commitment to affordable housing.

CBS 8 SAN DIEGO: Protesters deliver petition and a message regarding One Paseo Project
By Gene Kang // More than 60,000 petition signatures aimed at getting the San Diego City Council to overturn its approval of a 23.6-acre mixed-use housing, retail and office development in Carmel Valley were Wednesday turned over to the county Registrar of Voters Office. Nearly 29,500 forms have been submitted from people asking that their names be withdrawn from the petition, City Clerk Elizabeth Maland said.

THE SANGER HERALD: $15.7 million apartment project finally coming together
By Mike Nemeth // The framing is done, the site work has been completed and the pavers arrive in June. The first phase of one of the more significant Sanger multi-family construction projects in the past 10 years, the Sanger Crossings Apartments, with an estimated total cost of $15.7 million, should be complete by the middle of summer. Rents for the affordable housing project will range between $350 and $950 per month.

LAND USE / PLANNING / REGULATION

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT: Planners OK emergency shelters
By Jessica Weston // The Ridgecrest Planning Commission at their meeting Tuesday voted to recommend that the City Council approve a zoning amendment permitting emergency shelters within residential zone districts, modifying sections on density bonuses, and adding a section on reasonable accommodations. According to a staff report, “during the past several months the city of Ridgecrest has been preparing an update to the Housing Element of the General Plan,” and the city was “made aware that in order for the draft Housing Element to be certified by the State of California Housing and Community Development Department, two amendments to the city’s Zoning Ordinance must occur,” namely “Emergency shelters shall be permitted in residential
SAN RAFAEL PATCH: State accepts Marin's Housing Element
By Renee Schiavone // Marin County has been notified that its 2015-2023 Housing Element, which outlines a comprehensive plan for future housing, has been certified by the State of California and found to be in compliance with state housing element law. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reviewed the 2015-2023 Housing Element that was adopted on December 9, 2014, by the Marin County Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State HCD. On March 20, 2015, HCD notified the County of its certification, meaning that Marin remains eligible for funds that serve local transportation needs.

MORTGAGE & FORECLOSURE ISSUES
BUSINESS WIRE: CalHFA awarded $450,000 to provide counseling for struggling homeowners
The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) today announced that it will receive more than $450,000 in additional federal dollars to provide free counseling to homeowners struggling to avoid foreclosure. "While the number of home foreclosures is declining, there are still homeowners continuing to struggle with their mortgage payments," said Tia Boatman Patterson, Executive Director of CalHFA. "The additional funding will enable us to continue this critical counseling program, one of several ongoing efforts we are involved with to help homeowners throughout the state."

ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT
CENTRAL VALLEY BUSINESS TIMES: California may outpace U.S. economy
This year has a chance of going down as one of California’s best in a long while, according to a new report from the California Lutheran University Center for Economic Research and Forecasting. The state’s economy is likely to outperform the U.S. economy as a result of increasing wealth and demographics providing the impetus for a post-industrial economy, it says in its First Quarter California and United States Economic Forecast.

TRANSPORTATION / TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
LOS ANGELES TIMES: L.A. transit officials should support affordable housing near rail lines
By the Times Editorial Board // The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency is considering expanding its mission to include the development of affordable housing along transit lines. Metro, which operates the subways, light-rail lines and most of the region's buses, owns about 50 properties along its lines that could be developed, but until now has been a passive landowner and has generally stayed out of land-use issues.

POPULATION / CENSUS
THE PRESS ENTERPRISE: Riverside County: Area is 10th largest in nation
Riverside County is now America’s 10th largest county, according to new U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Riverside County passed Queens County, which encompasses the New York City borough of Queens, to land in the Top 10. Riverside County had 2,329,271 residents as of July 1.

FRESNO BEE: Valley population keeps growing despite outward migration
By Tim Sheehan // The central San Joaquin Valley’s population grew by about 52,000 between the 2010 U.S. Census and mid-2014. Of the region’s four counties, only in Kings County did the population fall in the four-year period.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE
PATCH: Lafayette to be honored for its tough secondhand smoke policies
By Susan C. Schena // Lafayette (2013), Oakley (2014) and San Ramon (2013) adopted policies that prohibit smoking in most public outdoor areas and common areas of multi-unit housing, with Oakley taking an extra step to ban smoking in all new multi-unit housing units built after the ordinance adoption date.

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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