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AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN CHICO SURPASSES ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY

Record number of 948 units, a 65 percent increase in housing production by the end of 2023

CHICO, CA — (June 1, 2023) — The current affordable housing unit construction activity in Chico surpasses that of any other time in the City's history.

There are 948 units anticipated to be complete by the end of 2023, a 65 percent increase in housing production over the last most-active period between 2006-2008, when 334 affordable units were built. The attached map provides more detail about the planned development.

In 2022, two affordable apartment projects, Lava Ridge for families at 2796 Native Oak Drive and Creekside Place for seniors at 1250 Notre Dame Blvd., totaling 199 units received certificates of occupancy in Chico. Both projects utilized 2020 Disaster Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) made available due to the local wildfires that ravaged Butte County in 2018.

Creekside Place, located across from Marsh Junior High School, is a 101-unit complex serving seniors, some of whom have a behavioral health diagnosis and are at risk of homelessness. This project is a collaboration between the City of Chico, Community Housing Improvement Program, Inc., Butte County Department of Behavioral Health, and the Housing Authority of the County of Butte. The development was built with secured funding through the State's *No Place Like Home* program, in addition to the Disaster LIHTC.

"Senior housing was an identified need in Chico going back to the City's 2014 Housing Element. This need was exasperated by the Camp Fire. With the new construction, we have the added benefit of 15 of the units dedicated to not only seniors, but seniors coming from homelessness with a mental health diagnosis. Housing these individuals will greatly serve our community," stated Marie Demers, housing manager for the City of Chico.

By the end of 2023, an additional 526 units will be completed. These projects also received federal 2020 and 2021 Disaster LIHTC and include North Creek Crossings at Meriam Park, 2265 Maclovia Ave., built in two phases of 106 and 54 units, the first phase which is now leasing. Both projects received City funding in addition to the tax credits.

"AHDC along with our partner, The Housing Authority of the County of Butte, is thrilled to continue our 20-year partnership with the City of Chico to assist in bringing desperately needed quality, attractive and sustainable affordable housing to the City and surrounding areas affected by devastating wildfires," said Laurie Doyle, executive vice president of the Affordable Housing Development Corporation based in Clovis, California, "The 160-units at North Creek Crossings would not have been possible without the critical financing provided by the City of Chico, and the extraordinary support of the City Council and 2020 and 2021 Low Income Housing Disaster Tax Credits administered by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee. We commend the City for its efforts to provide necessary funding and for being a strong advocate for bringing affordable housing to the community."

An additional 164 units for seniors are currently under construction and will be completed in 2023; 104 units at Tonea Senior Apartments located in the Northwest Chico Specific Plan area south of DeGarmo Park and 60 units at B20 Apartment Complex, located at the corner of Bruce Road and 20th Street. All of these are a result of Disaster LIHTC including these additional projects:

- 1297 Park Ave. (previously the Jesus Center) is a 59-unit complex funded in part by the City and will serve special needs households.
- Deer Creek Apartments, also in two phases with a total of 204 units located on Native Oak Drive.
- Senator Conness Apartments is also located on Native Oak Drive and includes 162 units for families.

Currently there are six additional projects with a total of 463 units in predevelopment that have been awarded Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from either the City of Chico or Butte County and are anticipated to begin construction in 2024-2025. One 38-unit project will serve special needs households, two projects will provide a total of 140 senior units and three projects will serve 285 family households.

"If these six projects receive LIHTC awards, it is anticipated that they would be fully constructed by early 2026," said Chico's Community Development Director Brendan Vieg, "Construction of all these affordable housing projects combined would result in a total of 1,411 new units, making a significant contribution to the City's need for affordable housing."

For more information about affordable housing development within the City of Chico, contact: Marie Demers, Housing Manager, marie.demers@chicoca.gov or 530-879-6303.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

