



For Immediate Release

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HOUSING AUTHORITY INVESTS \$9 MILLION IN GREEN PROJECTS

Upgrades Help Families Save

(San Bernardino, CA) The first day of summer – summer solstice- is only a few days away, and families are looking for ways to save on their electric and water bill as the summer heat will eventually reach temperatures well over 100 degrees throughout the County. And during these economic times, small efforts go a long way.

After securing \$9 million in private funding, the Housing Authority is working on making wise investments in energy and water conservation measures to its' various affordable housing apartment complexes. This will help conserve the environment as natural resources continue to deplete and help families and individuals save money too!

The Housing Authority currently has 1667 affordable housing units in the County of San Bernardino, and over 900 of these throughout Barstow, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Redlands, and San Bernardino, are being upgraded to new-energy efficient water sub-metering, plumbing fixtures, thermostats, lighting, windows, and xeriscaping. Through the latest green technology, all the upgrades provide substantial water, energy, and cost savings immediately upon implementation for both the Housing Authority and its' residents.

It is projected that the energy conservation measures will result in annual utility cost savings in excess of \$800,000, or over \$16 million over the 20 year term of the financing. "Our primary motive for these upgrades was to transition our apartment complexes, the majority built in the 1940s, to green technology, conserve natural resources, invest in the County's economy, and also help our residents save," states Susan Benner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority plans to reinvest the cost savings back into the County.

As these upgrades take place, residents are also learning various ways to use water responsibly and conserve energy through regular on site community training meetings. Residents have become mindful of their water consumption and attempt to keep it within reasonable limits. These upgrades are transforming entire households and the Housing Authority hopes that this will also influence others in the community. "Overall the changes have been very positive, and the short run investment is worth it because our residents, our community, and our economy will benefit tremendously as project are completed by the end of the summer," reiterates Mrs. Benner.

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The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com