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City to help with housing authority project

By **JESSE B. GILL**
Staff Writer

REDLANDS — The San Bernardino County Housing Authority wants to build a new community in town and the Redevelopment Agency is going to help them do it.

The Housing Authority is planning a \$75 million mixed-income residential community including 189

rental units and 39 single-family homes. The project is slated for 19 acres on the northeast corner of Lugonia Avenue and Orange Street, where a complex of one-story apartments now occupies the property.

"It is to take out 115 units of distressed public housing that dates back to the late (19)40s or early 50s and replace (them) with 228 units

of rental housing and home ownership opportunities," said Susan Benner, the Housing Authority's executive director.

The City Council — acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors — authorized the agency Tuesday to provide financial assistance to the Housing Authority to build the project. The vote commits \$300,000 toward the

project's costs.

The Housing Authority expects to be supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"\$22 million of the \$75 million price tag would be in the form of HUD assistance," said Redevelopment Agency Dan Hobbs. "And then those funds would be used to leverage other resources."

The Housing Authority will also commit \$3 million toward the project's costs.

The Housing Authority is looking for community support to make up for the remaining \$50 million to the project needs to be built.

"Everybody really becomes a partner in this type of development," Benner said.

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Though the Redevelopment Agency's contribution of \$300,000 seems small in comparison to the amount the Housing Authority still needs, Benner said the contribution will show support from the city, which could encourage more support from HUD.

"We want to be able to show HUD and Congress that we have financial support from the city in this process because that's critical," she said.

The council chose to take the \$300,000 from the Redevelopment Agency's low and

moderately-priced housing fund to support the Housing Authority project.

"This part of the project that we have set aside for low and (moderately-priced housing) will actually help the city in terms of our numbers for regional housing needs assessments," said Mayor Pat Gilbreath.

The council's vote did not affect the city's General Fund in any way.

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