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Ag housing nears completion

Written by Pat Sunderland
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Alta Vista de la Montana, a housing unit for agricultural workers under construction in North Delta, is about 75 percent complete.

The \$7.9 million project consists of 40 three- and four-bedroom units plus a community center, laundry facility and playground.

Built by Community Resources & Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC), it's designed to meet the need for decent, safe and healthy accommodations for agricultural workers. The project is progressing on schedule, with completion anticipated in late November. The development should be move-in ready in December.

The new facility is unique in that it meets an increasing demand for housing not only for agricultural workers, but for their families as well. CHRDC executive director Al Gold said much of what is available to agricultural workers is dormitory style, which does not accommodate families.

"This type of building at Alta Vista de la Montana allows families to stay together," Gold said.

To keep utility costs down, Gold said photovoltaic solar panels are being installed to provide about 40 percent of the electricity needed in each building.

"We're quite excited about these energy-saving features, as they'll help reduce utility costs for our tenants," Gold said.

One of the apartments in the complex will be occupied by an individual who will be responsible for the unit's management and maintenance.

The development's community center will have space for local non-profits to conduct trainings and to host financial literacy and home buyer education sessions led by CRHDC.

"We want the Alta Vista de la Montana development to be a resource for the entire community, not just the residents," says Robin Wolff, marketing and resource development coordinator.

CRHDC is currently seeking applications for residents. Qualified applicants must earn 65 percent of their annual income from agricultural work, and must be legal residents of the United States. Rents are determined on the individual's yearly income and will not exceed 30 percent of annual pay.

"We have some tenants lined up, but are still taking applications," said Al Gold, executive director of CHRDC. Among the tenants are a group of refugees from Thailand who are already working for local farmers.

Information about Alta Vista de la Montana can be obtained by visiting www.crhdc.org or calling (720) 542-6566.

"We hope this project will be a real asset to the community," Gold said.

A grand opening will be scheduled shortly after the project is completed, Gold added.



Photo by Pat Sunderland

At Alta Vista de la Montana in North Delta, exterior finishes are going up, asphalt will soon be laid for the parking lot, and drywall is being installed inside the units.

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