

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melissa Flores
Phone: 916.324.4647
Fax: 916.322.2345
mflores@calhfa.ca.gov
www.calhfa.ca.gov

Escondido Awarded \$1.4 Million for Affordable Housing

SACRAMENTO, December 28, 2004- The California Housing Finance Agency's (CalHFA), Housing Enabled by Local Partnerships (HELP) program has awarded the City of Escondido Community Development Commission (CDC) \$1.4 million to help finance the acquisition, demolition and redevelopment of a blighted motel property. This represents one of eight California localities awarded a total of \$10 million in low-interest loans to acquire, develop, rehabilitate, or preserve affordable rental or ownership housing.

The HELP Program financing will be leveraged by pooling it with the CDC's other sources of affordable housing funds. As a result, an estimated two-dozen low and moderate income families will be able to purchase a home in this new single family community. Sales prices will remain affordable through the use of manufactured housing, the first project of its kind in San Diego County.

"The partnership between CalHFA and the City of Escondido is a positive approach to improving the affordability of housing in the community," said Theresa Parker, CalHFA Executive Director. "The most rewarding benefit from our partnership will be enabling those families, who believed they could never afford a new home, the ability to realize the dream of homeownership."

- more -

Since 1999, the HELP program has partnered with more than 85 local government entities to fund \$120 million in affordable housing. CalHFA funding provides additional resources to address the localities unmet affordable housing needs by using a competitive process to award ten-year loans at a three percent interest rate. Through the HELP program, CalHFA offers two funding cycles of \$10 million in the fall and spring of each year. Recipients of the semi-annual award are evaluated on six criteria: affordability, cost efficiency, maximization of benefits, implementation readiness, resource impact and comprehensiveness of program design.

CalHFA, the state's affordable housing bank, was chartered in 1975 to meet the housing needs of low and moderate income Californians. HELP's funding commitments, to date, will help to finance over 19,000 units of affordable housing for Californians that are most in need. More information on the HELP program and the full complement of CalHFA programs is available at 1.800.789.2432 or www.calhfa.ca.gov.

#