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Yolo County Housing

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Woodland, CA, September 13, 2007:

Yolo County Housing Presents Balanced Budget

This week the Yolo County Housing Board of Commissioners adopted the agency's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007-2008. Yolo County Housing's overall budget is \$15,393,892, the majority of which is dedicated to providing rental housing in units it owns and operates; subsidies for Housing Choice Voucher programs, including homeownership; and seasonal family housing for migrant workers in the county. Yolo County Housing has been operating under a continuing resolution since July 1, 2007 while it finalized the budget.

"Balancing the budget was not an easy task," said Yolo County Housing Commission Chair Mariko Yamada. "We appreciate everyone's dedication, hard work and shared sacrifice needed to make this a reality."

Debt service, increases in expenses, and ongoing reductions from funding partners, along with a new federally-required management system for operating rental units were cited as contributing to the deficit. Entering the budget cycle, Yolo County Housing was facing an estimated deficit of almost \$1,000,000. The agency's final operating budget will be \$5,004,880, which includes rental management, program delivery and administrative costs.

Yolo County Housing was able to balance its budget through three avenues: non-personnel related reductions and revenue enhancements, including elimination of vehicle purchase, elimination of underutilized equipment and cost reduction in administration, which result in savings of \$495,292; six employees have been laid off, which result in an annual savings of \$426,284. Further, staff and management unanimously agreed to cuts in hours and benefits to produce annual savings of \$258,590. Such reductions include a two-week furlough, transitioning to a 36-hour work week and suspending vacation buybacks, bilingual pay and call back pay.

"In the nine months that I have been here, I have been overwhelmed by the dedication and service demonstrated by the staff at Yolo County Housing," said Lisa Baker, Yolo County Housing Executive Director. "Their willingness to agree to temporary reductions in order to resolve the budget deficit shows their level of commitment to the residents of Yolo County."

Yolo County Housing, formerly the Yolo County Housing Authority, was created in 1950. Its primary programs are funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and through the State of California. The agency and its allied organizations provide assistance to almost 5,000 low to moderate income persons, with the exception of migrant centers. Total assisted units from all programs is currently at 2,118 units.
