STATE AGENCY APPROVES CITY OF VALLEJO'S HOUSING ELEMENT

VALLEJO – The California State Department of Housing and Community Development has reviewed and certified the City of Vallejo's housing element.

Certification means the City is in compliance with state law, and is able to apply for funds through state housing programs. The housing element is one of eight elements of the City's General Plan, with the remaining seven being land use, circulation, open space, conservation, noise, safety and economic development.

Housing element law, enacted in 1969, mandates that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The law acknowledges that, in order for the private market to adequately address housing needs and demand, local governments must adopt land use plans and regulatory systems which provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development.

Housing element law also requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review local housing elements for compliance with State law and to report its written findings to the local government.

"We are pleased to find Vallejo's adopted (housing) element in compliance with state housing law," stated Cathy Creswell, Deputy Director of the DHC in a letter to the City. "The element now includes, among other things, a program to encourage and facilitate residential mixed-use development in commercial zones, and an analysis of the impact of the conditional use permit process on multifamily projects and a monitoring/mitigation program."

The Vallejo City Council adopted the City's current housing element in October 2003. The element provides goals, policies, objectives and implementation programs to guide the City's actions regarding housing through June 30, 2006.

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It includes programs to encourage and facilitate mixed-use residential development within the City's commercial zones, a program that addresses housing for the disabled, programs to maintain and increase the affordability of the existing housing stock and expand the number of new housing units for lower-income households, and several other housing programs that address the City's housing needs.

Copies of the Element are available for public review at the City of Vallejo, Development Services, Planning Division – 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo. Copies may also be purchased for \$11.60.