



HCDWEBNEWS

Department of Housing and Community Development



May 16, 2018

TODAY'S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

[KTLA: California Voters Could Decide on as Many as 5 Housing Measures in November](#)

By L.A. Times [5-14-18] // Gov. Jerry Brown's [embrace](#) last week of a \$2-billion bond to fund homeless housing could make for an even busier ballot in November.

[NLIHC: House Subcommittee's FY19 THUD Bill Maintains Increased Funding for Most Housing Programs](#)

[5-16-18] // The House Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding levels for affordable housing and community development programs at HUD released on May 15 a [draft fiscal year 2019 spending bill](#) that provides significant funding to housing programs serving low income people and communities.

[California Housing Partnership Corporation: Three New Briefs](#)

[5-2018] // CHPC has released three new reports detailing the housing emergency and proposed solutions in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties.

[Daily Bulletin: Reports: Funding Cuts Leave Inland Empire Short 137,000 Affordable Rental Units](#)

By Andrew Edwards [5-16-18] // Affordable housing advocates are blaming the 6-year-old elimination of California redevelopment agencies and other reductions in government...

[Santa Monica Lookout: Santa Monica Rent Control Board Raises Allowable Rent Increases by 2.9 Percent](#)

By Niki Cervantes [5-15-18] // The board will hold a public hearing on June 14 before deciding whether to also impose a dollar amount ceiling on the rent adjustment, as per the City Charter. Increases can start on September 1.

[Turner Center: A 'Safe Haven': Resident Stories Convey the Benefits of Affordable Housing](#)

By Carolina K. Reid [5-11-18] // The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) has become the most important funding source for affordable housing development in the United States, producing nearly 3 million housing units since its inception in 1986 and housing over 13 million people.

[City Journal: Heating up a Housing Crisis](#)

By Aaron M. Renn [5-15-18] // As *New York Times* climate reporter Brad Plumer [tweeted](#), adding 10,000 new apartments in San Francisco would reduce carbon-dioxide emissions in the state by three times as much as the solar-panel mandate because urban apartment-dwellers use less energy than single-home occupants.

[New York Times: These 95 Apartments Promised Affordable Rent in San Francisco. Then 6,580 People Applied.](#)

By Emily Badger [5-12-18] // The nation's housing policy for the poor can feel like a giant lottery. Sometimes it actually is a lottery.

[New York Times: Why Don't People Who Can't Afford Housing Just Move Where It's Cheaper?](#)

By Emily Badger [5-15-18] // Many San Francisco renters I met while reporting [an article](#) on affordable housing lotteries had responded to the region's housing crisis by putting up with great discomfort: They crammed in with family; they split apartments with strangers. Some even lived out of their cars.

LAND USE / PLANNING / REGULATION

[Land Lines: Quantifying the Economic Benefit of Trees](#)

By Rob Walker [4-2018] // It's widely recognized that plants absorb carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change, but city planners could benefit from a more precise, data-driven assessment of the urban canopy's value to guide how trees and other vegetation can most sensibly figure in the design and planning of the contemporary city.

[NMHC: New Research on Rent Control Confirms Negative Economic, Social Impacts](#)

[5-2-18] // A [literature review](#) by Lisa Sturtevant examines research from 1972 to 2017 covering the effects of rent control and rent stabilization programs, including case studies in cities such as Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The report includes the author's conclusions.

[KQED: New SF "Cultural Districts" Ordinance Aims to Counteract Gentrification](#)

By Chloe Veltman [5-15-18] // San Francisco's board of supervisors votes Tuesday on a new piece of legislation that aims to salvage the spirit and identity of a growing number of San Francisco neighborhoods threatened by gentrification and displacement.

HOUSING MARKETS / REAL ESTATE

PR Newswire: Strong Wage Growth and Steady Home Prices Buoy California Housing Affordability, C.A.R. Reports

[5-15-18] // The percentage of homebuyers who could afford to purchase a median-priced, existing single-family home in California in first-quarter 2018 edged up to 31 percent from 29 percent in 2017 Q4 but was down from 32 percent in the first quarter a year ago.

HousingWire: Housing Inventory Hovers at All-time Lows

By Kelsey Ramirez [5-14-18] // The median existing single-family home price increased 5.7% from the first quarter of 2017 to \$245,500 in the first quarter of 2018. This is up from the annual home price increase of 5.3% in the fourth quarter.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Enterprise: Enterprise Urges Policymakers to Increase Transparency of Opportunity Zone Investments

By Olivia Barrow [5-15-18] // The Treasury Department and IRS are expected to released guidance on Opportunity Zones in the coming months. To ensure that Opportunity Zones are implemented with transparent reporting requirements and an explicit commitment to prevent abuse, Enterprise encourages stakeholders to weigh in with Treasury and the IRS to influence implementation.

HOMELESSNESS

ABC Los Angeles: Studio City Homeowners, Homeless Hope for Solution to Restore Quality of Life for All

By Marc Brown [5-15-18] // Studio City's South Weddington Park is like many other suburban parks across Los Angeles County -- home to picnics on weekdays and little league baseball on Saturdays. But it's also a place where a growing number of homeless people are living.

L.A. Times: Emergency Shelters Get a Boost as L.A. County Increases Homelessness Spending by \$143 Million

By Doug Smith [5-15-18] // The new budget calls for \$402 million in spending on programs that include homelessness prevention, rent subsidies, outreach, preservation of affordable housing, employment services and shelters.

Fresno Bee: A Judge Rescinds a Fresno Law That Would have Closed Most Recycling Centers This Week

By Brianna Calix [5-14-18] // A Fresno Superior Court judge ordered the city of Fresno to rescind an ordinance set to go into effect this week that would've shut down a majority of local recycling centers by restricting where they could operate as a way to deal with homeless people and crime.

Fresno Bee: Road Relocation Will Keep This Homeless Mission Near Downtown and Allow It to Expand

By Tim Sheehan [5-15-18] // The California High-Speed Rail Authority will spend more than more than \$5 million to relocate a 2,000-foot stretch of G Street near downtown Fresno to accommodate the relocation of a homeless shelter.

[Canyon News: Meeting for Homeless Strategic Plan](#)

[4-14-18] // Representatives from the city of **Malibu** in conjunction with the Malibu Homelessness Strategic Plan Community Advisory Group will conduct the City's draft Strategic Plan on Homelessness for community review on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

[ECONOMY / EMPLOYMENT](#)

[Huffington Post: Hundreds Protest in Cities Across U.S. for 'Poor People's Campaign'](#)

By Sarah Ruiz-Grossman [5-14-18] // (Video and text) The movement demands lawmakers do more to help Americans in poverty, from supporting a \$15 minimum wage to ending systemic racism.

[Brookings: Charting a Course to the Sacramento Region's Future Economic Prosperity](#)

By Joseph Parilla, Sifan Liu, and Marek Gootman [4-30-18] // This report offers information and insights on the Sacramento region's economic position by benchmarking it against 15 peer regions based on economic size, wealth, productivity, industrial structure, and competitiveness factors.

[O.C. Register: Southern California Inflation at a 10-year High](#)

By Jonathan Lansner [5-14-18] // (Subscribe) Local inflation is racing higher at its quickest speed in nearly a decade, and you can blame pricier gasoline and **housing...**

[PR Newswire: Labor and Workforce Development Agency Announces Record Number of Apprentices](#)

[5-15-18] // "Apprenticeship programs provide workers with paid on-the-job training that can lead to good-paying careers and supply employers with skilled workers," said California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary David M. Lanier.

[TRANSPORTATION / TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT](#)

[Curbed L.A.: New State Bill Could Boost Funding for Affordable Housing Near Transit](#)

By Elijah Chiland [5-14-18] // [Senate Bill 961](#), drafted by state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), has already cleared two legislative committees without a single no-vote. It would allow a portion of tax revenue from businesses and properties around rail stops and major bus lines to pay for affordable housing, parks, new stations, and streetscape improvements. Taxes would not be raised.

[REDEVELOPMENT / INFILL / REVITALIZATION](#)

[Curbed L.A.: New Mixed-user Planned at Third Street Kmart, Whole Foods Site](#)

By Blanca Barragan [5-15-18] // The owners of a shopping center in the Fairfax district have filed plans with the Los Angeles planning department to redevelop and renovate the Town & Country shopping center site, creating a mixed-use space with **381 residential units**.

NATIONAL HOUSING NEWS

Curbed New York: New York State Joins Anti-segregation Lawsuit against Ben Carson and HUD

By Ameena Walker [5-14-18] // The move makes New York the first state to join in on the national lawsuit filed by a group of fair housing advocates.

Next City: What Taking Aim at Segregation Looks Like In Chicago

By Jared Brey [5-15-18] // The Metropolitan Planning Council's "[Our Equitable Future: A Roadmap for the Chicago Region](#)" details several policy proposals that Chicago could pursue to promote racial equity in economic development, job access, housing and neighborhoods, education, and criminal justice.

Next City: Seattle Passes Big-Business "Head Tax" to Finance Affordable Housing

By Rachel Kaufman [5-15-18] // In a unanimous decision, Seattle's city council has voted to tax large businesses to help address the city's homelessness crisis.

FAIR HOUSING

NFHA: 2018 Fair Housing Trends Report

By National Fair Housing Alliance [5-2018] // In [this report](#), we outline some of the key obstacles to achieving the goals of the Fair Housing Act, while acknowledging many of the achievements made under the act in the past 50 years.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

Land Lines: Houston Surveys Post-Harvey Policy Landscape

By Kathleen McCormick [4-2018] // Nicknamed the "Bayou City," Houston is naturally flood-prone. But critics say the region's longtime approach to urban planning (read: the lack of it) has resulted in zone-free development, low-density urban sprawl, and weak regulations that have led to or exacerbated destructive flooding.

COVERAGE INFORMATION:

California Department of Housing & Community Development WEB NEWS service coverage:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week includes electronic format articles retrieved from newspapers or news services that report housing and community development news in California and some national services. Coverage is for California newspapers that are available electronically via the Internet – and any significant related breaking news.

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