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The California Department of Housing and Community Development Begins “Green-tagging” Homes at Oakridge Mobilehome Park

State Department Helps Park Residents Return Home after Six Months

Sacramento – This morning, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) began the process of reviewing homes at the Oakridge Mobilehome Park in Sylmar to start allowing residents to return to their homes for the first time since the devastating Sayre fire in November 2008.

HCD officials were on-site today evaluating the condition of homes that are still standing and 101 were certified as “habitable,” meaning those residents can begin moving back into their homes. On Friday, May 1, Los Angeles City and County officials certified the completion of removal of toxic debris from the park. The approval was based upon soil sampling and physical reviews of the park by the Environmental Affairs Department and the County Department of Health. Nearly 500 homes were destroyed in the fire.

"The clean-up efforts at Oakridge are a demonstration of how state, county and local departments work together to assure that Californians have a safe place to live," said Director Lynn L. Jacobs. "I hope that as the restrictions begin to be lifted, residents who have been staying out of their homes nearly six months will be able to start rebuilding and getting their lives back to normal."

HCD will also be streamlining the issuance of necessary permits and inspections for new homes that are being brought into the Oakridge Mobilehome Park. Staff will be working out of a mobile office in the park for at least two days a week. This will provide a great service to the dealers, contractors and home owners by reducing the time it would take to obtain the necessary permits.

HCD provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. The Department also supports increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing and works to improve the state's housing conditions and the health and safety of its residents. As the lead housing department, HCD is part of the state Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

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