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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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California Department of Housing and Community Development Awards \$2.3 Million in Planning Grants to Accelerate Housing Production

Sacramento – The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has announced awards totaling more than \$2.3 million to local governments that are working to streamline housing approvals and accelerate housing production.

These are the first awards from HCD's [Planning Grants Program](#), which was created in 2018 as a result of Senate bill 2 (Atkins, 2017). The grants are designed to address California's housing shortage and high housing costs by providing cities and counties financial resources to plan for housing, implement plans, and create or improve processes that result in accelerated housing approvals and production.

These first awards went to nine local governments (list of awardees follows below). The local governments will use the grants for a variety of planning documents and process improvements that increase the supply of affordable homes and apartments, while reducing costs and saving processing time.

"We're excited to see these first grants go out the door and provide this financial support to cities and counties that are working to meet the housing needs of Californians," said HCD Director Ben Metcalf. "The team at HCD is highly focused on providing proactive support to local jurisdictions, so they are well-positioned for success as they apply for funds."

All 539 cities and counties in California will be eligible for these non-competitive funds, provided the jurisdiction has an HCD-approved housing plan ("Housing Element"); has submitted their 2017 or 2018 annual progress reports, showing how the jurisdiction is pacing against their housing plan; and demonstrates in their application that grants will be used to work toward accelerated approvals and production.

HCD is providing free technical assistance to cities and counties to help them identify activities, share best-practices, and complete their applications.

"SB 2 offered the City of Redlands a great opportunity to complete the planning process currently underway to create our Transit Villages Specific Plan," said Redlands Planning Manager Brian Foote. "It will promote mixed-use development with significant increased residential density development around each of the three planned rail stations scheduled to open in the city by 2021. The staff at HCD has been extremely helpful and has made the application process simple and easy to complete."

“The City of Folsom is thrilled about the opportunity to use SB 2 Planning Grant funds to create a state-of-the-art permit center with modern technology and enhanced web platform,” said Folsom Community Development Director Pam Johns. “In conjunction with our new electronic permit processing and plan check systems, the new Community Development Permit Center will improve the customer experience with expedited processing and improved access to information and interaction with the plans and permit process.”

HCD is accepting applications from cities and counties on an ongoing basis through November 30, 2019. Local governments interested in applying should visit HCD’s [Planning Grants Program](#) webpage, where they will find application information and regional contacts who can provide free technical assistance to applicants.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to the preservation and expansion of safe and affordable housing, so more Californians have a place to call home. Our team works to ensure an adequate supply of housing for Californians and promotes the growth of strong communities through its leadership, policy and program development. For more information, please visit www.hcd.ca.gov and follow us on Twitter: @California_HCD, Facebook: @CaliforniaHCD, and LinkedIn

List of Awardees

March 28, 2019 NOFA		
Applicant	County	Award Amount
City of Shasta Lake	Shasta	\$160,000
City of Woodland	Yolo	\$310,000
City of Long Beach	Los Angeles	\$625,000
City of Monterey	Monterey	\$160,000
City of Gonzales	Monterey	\$160,000
City of San Jacinto	Riverside County	\$160,000
City of Banning	Riverside County	\$160,000
City of Redlands	San Bernardino	\$310,000
City of Folsom	Sacramento	\$310,000
TOTAL		\$2,355,000