



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Villa Vasconcellos in Walnut Creek Receives Green Sustainability Award

July 16, 2009 – Berkeley, California – Villa Vasconcellos, a 70-unit affordable senior development located on Geary Avenue and North Main Street in Walnut Creek has received the 2009 Sustainable Design Award from the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council. Developed by Resources for Community Development (RCD) in 2008 to serve low-income seniors with incomes ranging from 20% to 50% of Area Median Income (\$263 to \$764 per month for a one-bedroom), Villa Vasconcellos was designed as a high quality, sustainable residential development with seniors in mind. Amenities and details such as community gardens, capturing maximum natural light in corridors and the use of solar panels to power utilities all contributed to the award.

Villa Vasconcellos has also won other awards including, the *San Francisco Business Times*, Finalist Best Affordable Residential Award for 2009, and the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, Winner Home Excellence Award, 2008.

Villa Vasconcellos resident Barbara Wadley hopes "*there will be more senior developments like Villa developed in Contra Costa County for low-income seniors. Living in a beautiful place like Villa Vasconcellos has allowed me to live fully and independently at a price I can afford.*"

RCD is currently in negotiations for another affordable senior development, Berrellesa Palms, in the City of Martinez. Berrellesa Palms would provide 49 units of deeply affordable permanent housing to seniors in the 30% to 50% AMI (\$270 to \$770 per month for a one bedroom) income range. Berrellesa Palms would help meet production goals of the City of Martinez' Housing Element and the Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) RHNA recommendations of adding 427 units of housing for affordable to low- and very low-income families for 2007-2014.

About Resources for Community Development:

Resources for Community Development (RCD) is a non-profit affordable housing development corporation dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing for people with the fewest options, to build community and enrich lives. Founded by Berkeley community members in 1984, RCD has created nearly 1,600 affordable housing units which serve over 2,500 low-income and special needs families and individuals in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties. RCD's core programs are affordable housing development, asset management, and resident services.

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