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Estabrook Senior Housing Breaks Ground

By : Amy Sylvestri : 5/6/09

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A crowd, including Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, County Supervisor Alice Lai- Bitker and Mayor Tony Santos, gathered in the rain last Friday afternoon to use their golden shovels to ceremonially break the ground on the construction of the Estabrook Senior Housing project.

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PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI
Housing and Urban Development representative Laurence Ferguson speaks as golden shovels stand at the ready.

The development will be a three-story building with 50 onebedroom apartments for independent seniors aged 62 and over. The project will be overseen by Eden Housing, a Haywardbased non-profit that has developed over 5,000 housing units in the Bay Area since its inception in 1968.

Residents will pay 30 percent of their income to live in a unit and must have an income below 50 percent of the median income of the area to qualify. Right now, the area median income is \$30,150 per year for one person, \$34,450 for two, and \$38,750 for three, according to Eden.

The property — which is located on the corner of E. 14th and Estabrook streets — will feature a unique terraced roof garden as well as an exercise room, a courtyard, a library, a computer room, a gym and a theater.

Mayor Tony Santos said that the project was especially important in San Leandro, as the city has one of the largest populations of older people in the area. He added that working with Eden also helps the city meet some of its affordable housing goals.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of San Leandro's redevelopment fund, and others are funding the project.

"This is a really special day," said Laurence Ferguson of HUD during the ceremony. "Seniors are important here and they are going to call this home. Let's remember that we are talking about features and funding, but the bottom line is this will be someone's home."



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