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## **CEDC TO CO-HOST THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VENTURA COUNTY HOUSING CONFERENCE**

Ventura, California—The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) is once again proud to be a co-host of the annual Ventura County housing conference along with Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME) and Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA). The 8th Annual Ventura County Housing Conference will take place Wednesday, September 30, 2009, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Ventura County Office of Education Conference Center, 5100 Adolfo Road in Camarillo. Registration (\$95 by September 15) is available online at [www.vchome.org](http://www.vchome.org) or by calling (805) 200-6321 to request a brochure.

CEDC is a founding sponsor of the conference and has been committed to growing the awareness for the need of housing that's affordable in Ventura County for 28 years.

Attendees are expected to include advocates of housing that's affordable, business leaders, local officials, developers, architects, realtors, service providers and consumers. Attendees will be able to attend educational sessions and get industry updates on regional housing issues. This year's forum, themed: "Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way," will focus on leadership, best practices, policy issues, and accountability at all levels.

Nationally known author and motivational speaker Terry Paulson has been booked as the keynote to inspire conference attendees into action, and teach them valuable leadership skills. The opening session brings together three bright minds in the industry to discuss affordable housing opportunities and solutions: Economist Bill Watkins of the California Lutheran University School of Business, Deputy Director Chris Westlake of the California Department of Housing and Community Development, and Dawn Dyer, President of Dyer Sheehan Group of Ventura. The conference continues with breakout sessions, a workshop especially for elected officials, a table top trade show, and concludes with a Town Hall Forum. For details on all programming, speakers, and sessions, visit [www.vchome.org](http://www.vchome.org).

"This year's conference is especially important because of the challenging economic downturn and foreclosure crisis facing our community," said Rodney Fernandez, Executive Director of CEDC and Housing Conference Committee Member. "Having affordable housing choices available for everyone has taken on a whole new meaning in Ventura County. This conference provides an important forum for constituents from every sector to share ideas, challenges and solutions for creating and maintaining safe, stable and affordable rental housing options, *and* responsible homeownership opportunities."

The 8th Annual Ventura County Housing Conference is presented by title sponsor Citi, gold sponsors Reiter Affiliated Companies, Wells Fargo Bank, Ventura County Star, silver sponsors Bank of America, City of Simi Valley, City of Thousand Oaks, Dyer Sheehan Group, Inc., Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, Rabobank, SEIU 721, and numerous other community businesses and agencies.

CEDC is a private non-profit community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,000 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental housing, manages 693 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 577 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

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