



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## **Distinction Award Received for Solar and Energy Work**

### *Housing Authority's Maplewood Homes Community in San Bernardino Recognized*

(San Bernardino, CA) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) is the recent proud recipient of the Journal of Tax Credits Developments of Distinction Award for an effective and innovative renewable energy tax credit project that has had a positive impact on job creation and on its community's energy footprint. This award is specific to Maplewood Homes, a 65 year old affordable housing site with 296 units in the city of San Bernardino, California, which recently underwent extensive green and solar renovations.

Through the Housing Authority's partnership with HeliPower, an integrated energy solutions company, this award is recognizing their joint outstanding achievement in the development of this green initiative.

In 2010, the Housing Authority received \$1.84 million, the largest Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) Track 2 rebate award in California from Southern California Edison. The Housing Authority worked with HeliPower in the engineering and construction of the solar power system for what is arguably the most innovative solar project. The project consisted of 1,288 solar panels atop 100 building to offset electricity usage. A 302 kilowatt (kW) DC solar photovoltaic facility was installed with 85% of its production going to residents in the community and 15% being routed through common area energy savings to help fund on-site employment. The solar facility will offset over 1500 kilowatt hours (kWh) per unit annually. This will reduce the resident's energy bills on average by 30% or \$166/unit/year.

HACSB is monetizing the savings from the green energy generated on the common area meters and channeling those funds into the green job training programs now underway. HeliPower trained and hired two residents and one community member giving them the opportunity to learn a new trade and gain solar industry expertise. HeliPower also conducted workshops for residents of Maplewood Homes about the benefits of solar and energy efficiency, how it works, what it means for them, and other tips on reducing wasteful energy and water consumption.

"This project is the first of many that the Housing Authority is pursuing to show commitment to implementing green initiatives to increase sustainability and save energy, and provide on-going employment opportunities for its residents in the growing green-building industry," states Susan Benner, HACSB's President/CEO.

Housing Authority staff will receive a formal recognition at the Novogradac's Annual Tax Credit Developer's conference on January 14, 2012.

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*The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit [www.hacsb.com](http://www.hacsb.com).*