

Celebration marks start of \$5 mil project

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California's largest Habitat for Humanity housing project celebrated a step closer to reality with a groundbreaking ceremony Monday morning in Angels Camp.

"This celebration honors the shared commitment to creating affordable workforce housing in Calaveras County, as well as the strong community bonds and partnerships that have made it possible," said Morgan Gace, executive director of the local Habitat affiliate.

The project called Eureka Oaks is a 107-unit residential development to be located off Copello Drive on the north end of Angels Camp. It sits on 17 acres donated in 2019 by a local couple. The development consists of 65 three- and four-bedroom homes in the first phase and 42 two- and three-bedroom condominiums in the second phase.

A highlight of the ceremony was a \$50,000 gift to Habitat from Angels Camp resident and retired elementary school teacher Julie Savelle.

Eureka Oaks homes will be sold to income qualified families meeting affordable mortgage guidelines. Future homeowners commit to contributing "sweat equity" hours.

Habitat Calaveras earlier this year was awarded a \$10 million grant from the state's Department of Housing and Community Development CalHome program – the largest grant award ever for a Calaveras County non-profit. Those funds will allow the group to complete the infrastructure of underground work, utilities, streets and sidewalks.

While this grant only funds about one-fifth of the construction budget, there is still a very large need for more funding, and volunteers skilled in grant writing, soliciting in-kind services and donations, and all-around volunteers.

In all, it is a \$50 million project.

"Eureka Oaks embodies innovation and collaborative solutions to address the critical housing shortage affecting our county and state," said Gace. She explained that the homes are being constructed with an innovative building material that is fire resistant with zero flame spread, mold, mildew and bacteria resistant, insect and rodent resistant with the highest insulation value available. Eureka Oaks homes will also be equipped with solar arrays to help bring down utility costs for the homeowners.

The Eureka Oaks project is instrumental in furthering Habitat Calaveras' vision of building family stability, healthy neighborhoods and creating a community of givers. Learn more at HabitatCalaveras.org and follow its progress on Facebook and Instagram.