

BRIDGE housing plan OK'd by Colma

May 15 groundbreaking set for 119 rental units

By Christine Morente

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People searching long and hard for low-income housing may find a reprieve.

In May, construction is expected to begin on Trestle Glen — a \$45 million affordable-housing project, within walking distance of the Colma BART station.

BRIDGE Housing — a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable homes in California — is building the 119-unit rental community on a former mobile home park in unincorporated San Mateo County.

A groundbreaking for the complex is scheduled for May 15 and construction is expected to be completed in November 2009.

"Too many people need these homes," said BRIDGE spokeswoman Lyn Hikida. "Demand has been high for a very long time."

She blames the subprime mortgage crisis for forcing people back into renting after owning homes. It's putting a squeeze on what is available and causing rents to go up, Hikida said.



Rendering of Trestle Glen, a BRIDGE Housing project that will be built adjacent to the Colma BART station. Trestle Glen is 119-units and in unincorporated Colma.

The rent at Trestle Glen will be about one-half to one-third of the market rate. With this lower expense, people who are accepted will have the breathing room to pay for adequate child care, finish a degree or save money, Hikida said.

Since it was founded in 1983, BRIDGE has created more than 13,000 apartments and homes available for rent and for sale — serving at least 35,000 people statewide.

Last week, the county Board of Supervisors greenlighted the plan. Colma's Town Council approved the proposal in concept, even though it is not in its jurisdiction. However, it will monitor the area for six months on how it affects the town's first responders, said Mayor Helen Fisicaro.

"We know people need to have a special place to live," she said.

BRIDGE has developed nine other properties in the county.

According to Hikida, Trestle Glen's one-to-three-bedroom apartments would be affordable to families with annual incomes ranging from \$22,620 to \$56,550 for a family of four. Amenities would include a parking garage, a community room and a 56-slot child care facility with an outdoor play space.

The application process takes 45 to 60 days and involves a credit check, interview, third-party verification of income and assets and a home visit, Hikida said.

People interested in living at Trestle Glen are asked to call 650 266-820