COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REACH AGREEMENT ON SECTION 8 HOUSING COMPLIANCE CHECKS

Investigation Centered on Practices in the Antelope Valley

Alhambra, July 20, 2015 - The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) has announced that it has reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), regarding the DOJ’s investigation of unannounced compliance checks performed on Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher properties in the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, dating back to 2005.

The investigation was initiated by the DOJ, Civil Rights Division, in June 2011, following similar claims made by public interest groups. HACoLA chose to negotiate to better understand the claims and to work toward a resolution. The terms of the agreement will be disclosed when finalized.

HACoLA’s compliance check program was halted in 2011, and discontinued in its entirety in 2013. HACoLA has since adopted alternative program enforcement measures, vetted by the DOJ, that have actually proven to be more effective and efficient. These
measures have helped HACoLA continue to safeguard its valuable and scarce housing resources.

“This agreement will allow HACoLA to put the matter behind us and focus efforts on our goal of providing quality housing assistance to low-income families, seniors and veterans,” stated Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director.

HACoLA assists approximately 23,000 families through its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in partnership with over 13,000 property owners. The agency is dedicated to ensuring safe, decent, and quality housing for its participants, and is committed to the Fair Housing laws that govern assistance.

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