

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Two historic houses moving to a new life as a green housing cooperative**

*Green. Affordable. Local. Cooperative. The Solar Community Housing Association (SCHA) is infusing the best of the Davis spirit into a unique infill project that will reuse and retrofit two historic houses using cutting edge green building technology. On August 2nd, the houses will travel from 311 & 315 B Street to the corner of 3rd and J Street, where volunteers, green design experts and community members will retrofit them to pursue the ambitious green standards of LEED homes. This historic event will be kicked off with a morning reception hosted by SCHA and city officials at 7:45am in Central Park prior to the move.*

Davis, CA July 26, 2010 -- On August 2nd, 8-10am, two downtown historic houses will be relocated to 3rd and J Street under the auspices of the Solar Community Housing Association (SCHA). Local volunteers will help refit them into an environmentally sound affordable housing cooperative that will open its doors at the beginning of 2011.

The retrofit houses will be a landmark of green building in Davis. From energy-efficient windows to rainwater catchment, solar panels to native landscaping, and the reuse of entire buildings, the houses will provide inspiration and serve as a perennial demonstration of how Davis can take sustainable living to the next level. The design includes gardens that can be enjoyed as a social space by the whole neighborhood.

The project strengthens Davis' global reputation for sustainable development while preserving its historical character and community-driven spirit. A homegrown nonprofit itself, SCHA has teamed with the City of Davis Redevelopment Agency, Davis Energy Group, Yolo Federal Credit Union, the Davis Historical Commission and Old East Davis Neighborhood Association on the project. Davis volunteers will work with local contractors and community experts for much of the labor needed to retrofit the houses.

The new housing will balance the high demand for affordable housing with the sustainable, small city feel of Davis. Residency will be reserved for individuals earning less than 80% of Yolo County median income. Another bonus, this high-density infill project conserves valuable open space while helping the city maintain its boundaries within the reach of bikes and public transit.

The project is run cooperatively. The whole community is providing invaluable technical design, outreach, and volunteer support. Volunteers will have hands-on opportunities to learn about green building through workshops led by community experts. The first volunteer work party is scheduled for August 21st-22nd.

To learn more about cooperative housing, the goals for this project and ways in which you can become involved, visit the SCHA website at: [www.schadavis.org](http://www.schadavis.org).

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About SCHA: Solar Community Housing Association is a Davis 501(c)(3) non-profit that has been providing environmentally conscious and affordable cooperative housing since 1979. SCHA owns two cooperative houses maintained by residents. The association is managed on a volunteer basis by residents and community members, and invests in local organizations such as Davis Food Co-op, Davis Bike Collective, Yolo Food Bank, California Center for Cooperative Development, and Davis Cooperative Community Network.

Contact:  
Ben Pearl, Project Manager  
Solar Community Housing Association  
[scha.davis@gmail.com](mailto:scha.davis@gmail.com)  
[www.schadavis.org](http://www.schadavis.org)

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