MEDIA ADVISORY:

“Flipping the Switch” on New Solar Photovoltaic System and Green Upgrades in Hayward
Affordable community for low-income seniors in Hayward goes green!

WHEN: Friday, May 13, 2011 at 11:00 am

WHERE: Eden Issei Terrace, 200 Fagundes Court, Hayward, CA 94544 (Located off of Jackson Street in Hayward near freeway access and bus transit. Parking is available on Cypress Ave.)

WHO: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Regional Director Ophelia Basgal, Mayor Michael Sweeney, the Eden Housing team, and the diverse, senior residents of Eden Issei Terrace

WHAT: “Flipping the Switch” on the new solar photovoltaic system and green upgrades at a 100-unit residence for low-income seniors living largely on social security. The apartment community, constructed in 1984, has been in need of major renovations for some time. But with a long list of capital needs, there are no programs available to fund the extensive rehab that is needed on the 27 year old building. Eden took advantage of stimulus money and California solar rebates, using them for green and solar upgrades. This is the first time that California solar rebates have been used for affordable housing.

WHY: Eden Housing has been able – through green and solar renovations at Eden Issei Terrace -- to reduce gas usage by 22%, electricity usage by 40%, and water usage by 21%. The property has realized initial cost savings of 38% for gas, 44% for electricity, and 20% for water. Sustainable upgrades to this beautiful senior community incorporate energy- and resource-efficient features such as solar photovoltaic panels, hydronic heating systems, high efficiency water heaters, energy efficient lighting for the units and common areas, and formaldehyde-free insulation. Water-conserving features include dual flush toilets and low-flow fixtures.

FOR PHOTO EDITORS: Mayor Sweeney together with an Eden Issei Terrace resident will flip a large breaker switch positioned in front of the beautiful courtyard and building with solar panels.

About Eden Housing
In its 43 years of service throughout Northern California, non-profit Eden Housing, Inc has provided a roof for over 58,000 people. Hayward-based Eden Housing is the long-term owner-operator of its developments, and is committed to preserving and maintaining its buildings as community assets and supporting residents with a range of services. Since the organization’s beginnings in 1968, Eden Housing has developed or acquired over 6,300 homes and 61,100 square feet of adjoining commercial/retail space in 85 properties. Eden has over 4,500 apartments in its property management portfolio and provides access to supportive resident services programs at 100% of its communities. For more information about Eden Issei Terrace and Eden Housing, visit www.edenhousing.org.

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