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Pleasanton Weekly News

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First of city's major affordable housing projects goes to council tonight for final OK

High density apartment buildings will add more than 500 residential units to Hacienda Business Park's residential housing

by **Jeb Bing**
Pleasanton Weekly Staff

The Pleasanton City Council will vote tonight on bids for BRE Properties to build high density apartment buildings with 498 units in Hacienda Business Park.

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The Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) were approved earlier by the city's Planning Commission after more than a year of public hearings, workshops and task force considerations.

The project is an outcome of the settlement agreement between the city and Urban Habitat, an Oakland-based affordable housing coalition that successfully sued the city over its 1996 housing cap and lack of adequate affordable, workforce housing.

The two building sites up for consideration tonight includes a mixed-use, high density residential and commercial development containing 251 residential units, four live/work units and approximately 5,700 square feet of retail space at the southeast corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road.

Also scheduled for consideration is a second, similar project containing 247 residential units, another four live/work units and a half-acre public park at the northern corner of Gibraltar and Hacienda drives.

The planned projects will each provide 38 units that will be available to lower income households, which will help the city meet its lower-income housing goals, said Natalie Amos, the city's associate planner.

Although the measures to be voted on tonight give BRE five years to start the projects, it's expected that the national builder of affordable housing developments will start construction later this year.

In other action, the council is expected tonight to approve a fee schedule for five electric vehicle charging stations that were installed two months ago by Coulomb Technologies for public use. The use of the charging stations was free until April 1, when the city began charging \$1 an hour for their use.

Tonight, that fee will likely be made permanent, at least for now, with the fees expected to cover the city's cost for electricity and payment processing at each of the charging stations.

Three of the charging stations are at reserved parking spaces near the main entrance to the Pleasanton Civic Center with two other city-managed stations in other parts of the city's downtown.

Tonight's regular City Council meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Pleasanton Civic Center, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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