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Pleasanton approves 500 apartments south of BART station

By Denis Cuff
Contra Costa Times
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The City Council has approved plans for 500 apartments in the Hacienda Business Park that will help the city meet court-approved requirements to provide more affordable housing in town.

The unanimous approval on Wednesday night OKs plans by BRE Properties, a national builder of affordable housing, to construct a mixed-use housing project with about 500 apartments plus retail space.

Fifteen percent of the apartments are to be set aside for low-income renters.

The development plan calls for 18 three- and four-story buildings on two sites south of the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. About 8.4 acres are at the corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road, and the other site covers 8.1 acres at the northern corner of Hacienda and Gibraltar drives.

The project helps the city meet terms of a lawsuit settlement with the state and Urban Habitat, which argued that Pleasanton wasn't meeting its responsibility to provide sufficient housing at below-market sales prices and rents.

In the August 2010 settlement, the city agreed to plan for more homes and drop a voter-approved growth limit cap of 29,000 housing units in town.

"The approval of the projects with a set of conditions that are acceptable to the applicant means that we were successful in fulfilling our obligations under the settlement agreement," Brian Dolan, the city's community development director, said in an email.

Many representatives for construction unions appeared

before the council Tuesday night to express their unhappiness that BRE plans to use nonunion labor in constructing the development.

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Contact Denis Cuff at 925-943-8267.



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