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BARRY SWENSON BUILDER

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Mountain View's First "From the Ground Up" Cohousing Begins Construction

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA, March 12, 2013 – Members of the Mountain View Cohousing Community (MVCC) are entering a new phase this week, as construction of its 19-unit condominium project begins. Their “new old-fashioned neighborhood” at 445 Calderon Avenue will be the first cohousing community built from the ground up in Silicon Valley. MVCC and its construction partner, Barry Swenson Builder (BSB), will host a public ground-breaking celebration for future Old Mountain View neighbors. The public event, will be held Friday, March 15, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the project site at 445 Calderon Avenue. Speakers at the ground-breaking include Mountain View Mayor John Inks, local elected officials, BSB senior project manager Kent Gerber and leaders of the cohousing group.

“At long last, our dream of cohousing is becoming a reality,” says Susan Burwen, one of the founding members of the group. Susan and her husband David are long-time Mountain View residents who were the initiators of the concept. MVCC members will enjoy privacy of their own condominium homes, while reaping the benefits of shared resources and caring neighbors with diverse interests. “This is a very special first for the Valley,” says BSB senior project manager Kent Gerber. “It’s an incredibly unique project and BSB is honored to be part of something so meaningful to the City of Mountain View and the peninsula.”

Four years ago, the initial members of MVCC bought the land and began working with cohousing architect Chuck Durrett to design their community. The walnut trees on the property, which were at the end of their life, will be replaced with an organic garden and a number of new fruit and shade trees. Northern California legacy builder BSB is responsible for construction, which has begun with clearing of the land in preparation for excavation for the underground garage and utility lines. Having an underground garage was a key element in the design, and the residents will have no cars on the surface and no cars parked on the street.

The City of Mountain View has been supportive of MVCC’s efforts, which they City sees as providing high-quality, much-needed housing in an in-fill location. The Greenbelt Alliance has endorsed the project because of its environmentally conscious and sustainable features. Final plans were unanimously approved by the City in September, 2011.

The historic Bakotich farmhouse, one of the oldest surviving structures in Mountain View, will be restored by BSB and retained on the site. The small farmhouse, which was built by Charles and Emma Abbott in 1885, will become the project's "front door" when moved forward to a prominent position near the street. Of the 19 homes, only four are still available.

About MVCC: The Mountain View Cohousing Community is an educated, environmentally conscious member association. MVCC exists to build stronger, vibrant community. Members enjoy privacy of their own condominium homes, while reaping the benefits of shared resources and caring neighbors with diverse interests.

About BSB: For thirty-five years, Barry Swenson Builder has been a dynamic partner in building the Bay Area. Three generations of expertise, along with a proven Design-Develop-Build platform, deliver an unparalleled level of creative design, quality developments and efficient construction practices. Throughout Northern California, BSB’s wide range of construction and development services is backed by decades of resources, referrals and sound business practices that have made BSB a respected leader in the community.

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