

Fair Oaks EcoHousing project breaks ground

Nov 6, 2017 by Ben van der Meer, Staff Writer



Photo by Louise Mitchell

After a groundbreaking last week, formal construction should start by mid-month for a long planned cohousing project in Fair Oaks.

Bardis Homes is the general contractor for the 30-home project, and Teichert Construction will be the site work contractor. If work gets underway on schedule, the homes should be ready for occupancy in spring 2019, according to project manager and future Fair Oaks EcoHousing resident [Marty Maskall](#).

"It's been such a long journey, and you don't realize how hard it will be when you tackle it," she said. "You just keep putting one foot in front of the other."

Cohousing is a small community of homeowners who share spaces for functions such as meals and social gatherings, but have separate living quarters. Of the 30 homes in Fair Oaks EcoHousing, 27 have committed buyers, and organizers want to drum up attention to help sell what's left, Maskall said.

In the works for more than three years, Fair Oaks EcoHousing first had to [overcome some neighborhood opposition](#) during entitlement review. Getting a construction loan also proved difficult, complicated further because the project can't be built in phases, she said.

But the concept has remained the same, with the only change being the number of people interested in getting involved, she said. "We all have so much skin in the game by now," she said.

Fair Oaks EcoHousing is a \$15 million project, with a loan for \$10.3 million from Torrey Pines Bank of San Diego. The project site is 3.7 acres at 4025 New York Ave., with homes ranging from 934 to 1,726 square feet. Common spaces include a 3,800-square-foot clubhouse, pool and spa, garden and workshop.



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