

TOWNHOMES/Renters like the privacy and convenience

From Page 6

Diaz-Infante said CHISPA is the main affordable rental developer in south county.

The Soledad Housing Authority manages 76 rental units for farm workers and 26 apartments for low-income families, said José Gomez, the authority's executive director.

The Monterey County Housing Authority also has rental properties in south county, housing officials said.

Diaz-Infante said CHISPA's rentals used to have a long waiting list to get in, but the organization now must do more marketing to fill the few vacancies. One factor is the attraction of renting a home where more people can share the rent, Diaz-Infante said.

In Greenfield, for example, more single-family homes are going on the market as rentals, with their owners "buying up" to a larger home, he said.

CHISPA is now accepting applications for its newest south county development, Walnut Place Townhomes, in Greenfield.

The 40-unit rental development is under construction at Walnut and 12th streets.

The homes are expected to be completed by December, Diaz-Infante said.

Another 40-unit, multi-family development is expected to get under way next year.

Vineyard Green, located at Oak and 13th streets in Greenfield, also will have self-help and moderate-income homes.

Also next year, CHISPA will apply for money to build 40 rentals in the Mills Ranch development in King City, Diaz-Infante said.

Residents give CHISPA's



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Marta Pantoja chats in the dining room of her CHISPA Market Street Townhome in Soledad on Sept. 11. Pantoja formerly lived in a one-bedroom apartment.

rentals high remarks.

As a pot of pozole — a Mexican stew — cooked in her kitchen, Pantoja said her townhome is spacious compared to the one-bedroom apartment she lived in before.

She said she applied to buy CHISPA homes in Greenfield and Gonzalez over the last year and a half, but wasn't chosen.

CHISPA generally sees more applicants than it has affordable homes when it builds a project.

Leslie Carranza also lives in Market Street Townhomes with her three children and husband.

Carranza said she used to live in complexes with other families above or below and enjoys the privacy of her two-

story townhome.

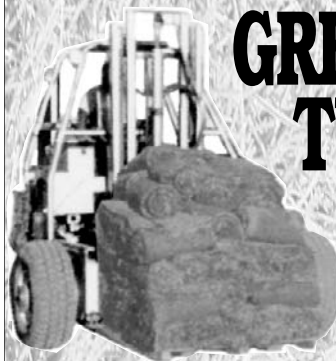
She said she also likes having hookups for a washer and dryer, so that she doesn't have to go to a self-service laundry anymore.

"I like the privacy of the entire community here," Carranza said.

Contact Zachary Stahl at zstahl@thecalifornian.com.

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