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REGIONAL HOUSING ALLIANCE CONTINUES UNDER IGA WITH RENEWED COMMITMENTS TO ADVANCE LOCAL HOUSING INITIATIVES

RHA builds on three years of progress to expand attainable housing and regional partnerships

DURANGO, CO — Following three years of partnership and significant progress under the support of the La Plata Economic Development Alliance (Alliance), the Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County (RHA) announced today a transition to a new operational structure as the Alliance’s administrative contract concludes.

During this period, the RHA has made substantial strides in rebuilding local housing capacity. With the Alliance’s administrative support, the RHA successfully reactivated its operations, secured new sources of funding, and supported the creation of programs designed to accelerate affordable and workforce housing development across La Plata County. These achievements include establishing the Housing Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund, created with nearly \$1 million from the Durango Industrial Development Foundation (DIDF) to provide low-interest financing for workforce housing projects. The fund has already supported two projects—Pine River Commons in Bayfield and Rock Creek Housing Project in Ignacio—bringing more than 34 for-sale attainable units online with another 52 planned.

As part of the next phase, the RHA Board has approved the transfer of management for the Housing Catalyst Revolving Loan Fund to the Alliance, ensuring its continued alignment with broader economic and workforce housing initiatives. The Alliance will maintain the fund’s structure, oversight committee, and evaluation process, providing consistency and long-term stewardship of this vital local resource with the RHA serving on the Alliance board and the Catalyst Loan Committee.

Looking forward, the RHA will begin recruitment for a Housing Manager to oversee the administration of RHA programs, grants, and contracts under the direction of the Board in 2026. This dedicated role will strengthen the organization’s ability to deliver on its mission and ensure continuity across regional housing efforts.

“The past three years have demonstrated what’s possible when our jurisdictions work together,” said Pat Vaughn, RHA Board Chair. “Thanks to the Alliance’s leadership and the collaboration of our local governments, the RHA has reestablished itself as a cornerstone of regional housing

strategy. We are excited to continue this work with renewed commitments and dedicated staffing to meet the housing needs of our community.”

The RHA Board expressed its gratitude to the Alliance for its invaluable support in staffing and program development since 2022. The partnership between the organizations has been instrumental in rebuilding operational capacity, restoring fiscal accountability, and positioning the RHA to carry forward its mission as a unified regional housing authority. The RHA and Alliance will continue to work closely together on shared housing priorities and coordinate across jurisdictions to advance regional projects.

The RHA will continue to serve as a regional hub for housing collaboration, supporting the Town of Ignacio’s DOLA Capacity Grant and advancing shared strategies that expand attainable housing in La Plata County. Guided by its role as a convener, the RHA will focus on building public-private partnerships, pursuing funding opportunities, and aligning local policy tools to strengthen the region’s housing ecosystem.

For more information about the Regional Housing Alliance, visit laplatahousing.colorado.gov.

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About the Regional Housing Alliance

The Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County is a Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Housing Authority (RHA) created in 2004 by an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between La Plata County, City of Durango, Town of Ignacio, and Town of Bayfield. The RHA is governed by a 9-member Board of Directors with two representatives from each of the parties to the IGA and one at large member appointed by the Board. The mission of the RHA is to facilitate, coordinate, initiate and support the development of appropriate, affordable housing for the long-term economic sustainability and resiliency of La Plata County and its communities.

About the La Plata Economic Development Alliance

The La Plata Economic Development Alliance is a 501(c)6 organization whose mission is to create a vibrant and resilient economy through the recruitment, retainment, and growth of business to preserve our quality of life. Our mission is achieved by fostering public and private partnerships that enable building business capacity, supporting attainable housing for the community workforce that is essential for long-term economic sustainability and providing workforce development.