

Real Estate: Ventura County approves its biggest farmworker complex ever

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artist's rendering of the Somis Ranch project

On Feb. 2, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved the Somis Ranch Farmworker Housing Project, the largest farmworker housing development ever in Ventura County.

Somis Ranch is planned as a 360-unit complex on 36.4 acres of land just north of Camarillo. The project is intended to be affordable for farmworkers making 80% or less of the area's median income.

The project will include units for farmworkers and their families, as there will be one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom apartments, as well as facilities such as community centers, play fields, playgrounds, a basketball court, a community garden and pedestrian walkways. All of the residential buildings will be built in the Spanish Colonial architectural style.



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The complex will be built in three phases, with the first two each consisting of 100 units and the third phase having 160 units. Because of the scope of the project, the new development will also build a community wastewater treatment plant in the first phase.

Somis Ranch will be developed by AMCAL, a property management team that has extensive affordable housing operations throughout the state, but especially in Los Angeles. The company, which is based in Agoura Hills, has developed 1,100 new affordable units in the last five years, and offers free services to residents, including options like after school programs, ESL and Adult Education classes, resume and career assistance, financial planning tools, nutrition and health fairs and other options to help residents. The ranch will be managed by Premier Property Management.