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San Bernardino County housing authority executive director resigns

By Ryan Hagen, *The Sun*

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SAN BERNARDINO >> The executive director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino will leave to accept a similar position at another large housing authority, he announced Thursday.

Daniel Nackerman [took the housing authority's top job](#) in 2012 after serving four years as head of the Marin Housing Authority and had another five-year stint as executive director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino before that. He did not say which agency he would join now.

“This decision to leave one of the most progressive and successful agencies in the U.S. is purely a financial and family decision,” Nackerman said in a resignation letter sent Thursday to county officials. “Frankly, replacing me as a leader will be easy — candidates from all over the country know about your Housing Authority — and great internal candidates exist within the agency.”

The seven-page letter spends three pages discussing the agency’s accomplishments under his leadership and another two suggesting goals for it.

More than 1,000 new affordable apartments are in production or have recently been completed, and the Housing Authority has worked to reduce blight through reconstruction projects like Waterman Gardens in San Bernardino, Nackerman said.

In an email to his staff Thursday afternoon, Nackerman said he would remain in the position for about six weeks to allow a smooth transition, said Ana Gamiz, spokeswoman for the housing authority.

“It’s bittersweet for the staff,” Gamiz said. “We obviously wish him well in his new position.”

Auditors [concluded in May 2015](#) that the San Bernardino County Housing Authority spent more than \$3.2 million in federal funds, earmarked for disabled homeless people, on individuals who did not qualify for the program.

Auditors for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General reviewed the files of 75 people in San Bernardino County who participated in the Shelter Plus Care program, which provides housing and other services to disabled homeless people. Of the 75 participants reviewed, 50 of them, or 66 percent, did not qualify for the program, with 33 participants not meeting HUD’s definition of homeless and 17 not meeting HUD’s criteria for being disabled and unable to live

independently, according to the audit.

Nackerman was a valuable partner in putting together Waterman Gardens, said Steve PonTell, who worked with the Housing Authority on that long-term [move to replace all 252 units](#) of the World War II-era housing in the high-crime area near Waterman Avenue and Base Line.

“Dan was incredibly knowledgeable and thoughtful and passionate, cares a lot about the residents of his communities and was very much committed to improving the quality of their lives,” PonTell said Thursday. “The Housing Authority had been working on Waterman Gardens for a couple years before Dan came back. When he came back, he was able to drive a process to move the process forward that had been taking a long time.”

Construction is nearly complete on the first phase of the project, 76 new units at Ninth Street and Valencia Avenue next to the existing Waterman Gardens project, PonTell said.

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is the largest provider of affordable housing in the county. It owns and/or manages more than 10,000 housing units in the county, according to [its website](#).

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