



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Lockwood, 733-3737

New local builder now building in South Valley

VISALIA – San Joaquin Valley Homes has entered the South Valley homebuilding market, giving buyers a new, locally owned, choice.

Joe Leal, who led McMillin Homes' growth in the Central Valley for five years, combined forces with Don Faye of Presidio Residential, and brought in fellow McMillin team members Jim Robinson and Randy Merrill to form San Joaquin Valley Homes.

The three friends and colleagues "had always wanted to form their own homebuilding company," Leal recalls, and, with support from Presidio Residential, San Joaquin Valley Homes is a dream come true. Based in Visalia, the company has broken ground on its first two subdivisions and expects to open as many as eight neighborhoods in Tulare, Kings and Kern counties by the summer of 2014.

Hartley Grove, in Hanford, is under construction near 12th Avenue south of Highway 198. Savannah, the Tulare neighborhood, is under construction at Cross Avenue and West Street. Merrill oversees all field operations, insuring timely, quality delivery. Both neighborhoods feature five floor plans, with one- and two-story designs, ranging from 1,390 to 2,322 square feet.

"Jim, Randy and I worked together for 15 years at The Allen Group and then at McMillin Homes, and we have learned a great deal over the years," Leal said. "We understand that homebuyers want a quality home that offers value. As a small company, we can deliver on that promise, and on our commitment to responsive, personal customer service."

Robinson, an engineer by trade, manages land acquisition, land development and entitlement for the new company.

"We were fortunate to be able to make some good decisions, and the time is right," Robinson noted. "The economy has picked up and there is now a shortage of available homes. We are excited about the future and pleased to be building homes again."

Adding to the depth of expertise in the company are Lissa Walker, marketing director, who worked for Centex Homes for 15 years in marketing and in the Design Center; and sales manager Jodi Musgrove, a Visalia-based broker with experience in all aspects of home buying.

For information, contact Lissa Walker, director of marketing, at 559-732-2660.