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First Google Fiber Community is Also Zero Energy

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elements of the EcoSmart program include Google Nest which provides smart home technology.

AUSTIN, TX—Model home construction is officially underway in **Whisper Valley**, according to **Taurus Investment Holdings**. The \$2 billion master-planned development will be the largest zero-energy-ready housing community in the nation. The first neighborhood, called **Whisper Rising**, features homes built by **Avi Homes** and **Pacesetter Homes** with prices ranging from the upper \$100,000s to \$300,000s. Models will be open by year end.

Combined, construction is commencing on about 30 homes ranging in size from 1,200 to 3,100 square feet. The builders are currently taking reservations from homebuyers for the first 237 homes. Homes will be

ready for occupancy early next year.

Whisper Valley, located off of Texas State Highway 130 and FM 973 about eight miles east of downtown Austin, is a 2,062-acre mixed-use development consisting of more than 700 acres of open space, clustered villages that include 7,500 single family and multifamily homes, village-style retail and neighborhood services, restaurants and commercial. Each neighborhood is planned with an innovative thermal energy supply system designed to save up to 65% on typical monthly energy usage. Solar PV using solar roof panels or solar fields will then generate enough energy to achieve zero-energy capable homes.

“With EcoSmart’s energy delivery program and super-fast Google Fiber available in every home, we’ve created a revolutionary approach to developing new home communities in order to offer the latest technology and most energy-efficient homes at an amazingly affordable price,” said **Douglas Gilliland**, president of **Taurus of Texas**. “With this innovative thermal energy supply system, all of our homes will be capable of achieving the carbon-neutral standard promoted by the city of Austin for all new construction homes.”

As the first Google Fiber master-planned community, Whisper Valley will have 1GB Internet, providing residents with fast connections and unlimited capacity. Other elements of the EcoSmart program include Google Nest which provides smart home technology. The community will use Rehau piping for the geothermal loop system in conjunction with the Bosch heat pump for heating and cooling which eliminates outdoor noise from the traditional compressors. Every home will also be equipped with high-performance Bosch home appliances.

“We partnered with the best companies in the world to design, create and invest in Whisper Valley’s technology and infrastructure upfront,” said **Lorenz Reibling**, chairman and founding partner of Taurus Investment Holdings. “Families will love how we’ve placed these zero-energy ready homes in a beautiful setting of rolling hills, forests and beautiful meadows. It really is the best of both worlds.”

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