

# EAST BAY DAILY NEWS

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## Berkeley bails out fired employees

### City dissolved 14-employee housing department after investigation into abuses

BY DOUG OAKLEY  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Even though they'll lose their jobs at the Berkeley housing authority because they allegedly misspent federal rent subsidies, 14 full-time employees will be offered positions in other city departments, officials acknowledged Tuesday.

The officials blamed previous

managers for fostering an atmosphere that permitted numerous violations of federal rules — including the payment of Section 8 rent subsidies to landlords for 15 tenants who were dead.

They also said union contracts prevent housing authority employees from being dismissed as long as there are vacancies in other departments or

workers with less experience to bump out of jobs.

However, eight part-time housing authority employees will lose their jobs after June 30 and will not return, officials said.

"We don't know who did what, and you can't fire anyone without that information," city spokeswoman Mary Kay Clunies-Ross said. "Just

because failures happened there, it doesn't indict the entire group. We've also had four managers in four years, and that doesn't present great opportunities for success."

City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque, who ordered one of two investigations of the housing authority, took a similar position. "This kind of conduct was going on a long time,

so the question is, why wasn't action being taken? There were no evaluations, no disciplinary actions, nothing. The employees have engaged in this conduct, and their supervisor is supposed to take action on them to make it clear that there will be public accountability," she said.

The department has been labeled  
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## Tennis time

Hannah Mauseth, 12, foreground, winds up for a serve Tuesday in Berkeley during a city tennis class taught by Jim Edwards, at left. In the background, Lara Trost, 7, far right, and Amalie Oringgaard, 11, center, watch.



## 15 goats butchered

### Herd shot dead while grazing in Oakland hills

BY ANGELA HILL  
MEDIANEWS

Fifteen young goats, part of a herd of several hundred goats grazing for weed-control purposes near King Estates recreation area in the Oakland hills, were found shot to death Tuesday morning.

One of the goats had been decapitated, and the bodies of two others were mutilated. But it's not clear if the mutilations were caused by the shooter or later by wild animals such as raccoons, said Sgt. Dave Cronin, head of Oakland Animal Services.

"The shooting — it's a baffler," he said. "Quite a few companies place goats on that hillside every year and we always have a couple of cases of stray dogs attacking goats. But