

# FRESNOLAND

## Fresno park residents celebrate after years long fight

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It started with a deadly fire in 2021. And it ended, this fall, with community residents – in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises – finally getting control of their beleaguered mobile home park.

Residents of the La Hacienda Mobile Home Park in Pinedale – formerly known as Trails' End – celebrated a nearly five year battle for community ownership of the park on Friday evening.

Last November, a federal bankruptcy judge slammed former park owners, Harmony Communities, for bad-faith tactics, which involved attempts to evict residents and significantly raise rents in order to clear tenants out, minimizing their financial liabilities.

In October, the state officially awarded \$5 million dollars for the City of Fresno and Self-Help Enterprises, a Visalia-based nonprofit, to acquire and rehabilitate the park. They also plan to add 17 new mobile homes for veterans.

Attorney Mariah Thompson, of California Rural Legal Assistance: "The resilience of this community over the last four years of fighting against incredible odds and incredibly powerful wealthy people is so inspiring. I knew we would win."

-Danielle Bergstrom