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BUSINESS

522 more homes planned for Esencia: Sales of South County properties to begin in the fall

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An artist's rendering shows the Hilltop Club being developed in Phase 2 of Esencia. It includes a clubhouse with fitness centers, pools and spa, and a special event bar.

COURTESY OF RANCHO MISSION VIEJO

By **JEFF COLLINS / STAFF WRITER**

South County developer Rancho Mission Viejo is building model homes for its new Hilltop Neighborhoods project, the second phase of Esencia located east of San Juan Capistrano.

With 522 homes constructed by six homebuilders, Hilltop Neighborhoods will go on sale in the fall, the company said last week.

It will be the third unveiling in Rancho Mission Viejo's 14,000-home project on the final developable portions of the ranch.

The company's 1,200-home Sendero project sold out. Sales and construction still are underway in the first Esencia project, the 840-home Canyon House Neighborhoods. Prices for the newest phase will range from just under \$500,000 to over \$1 million, the company said.

Del Webb Homes and CalAtlantic Homes will build the new Gavilan age 55-plus homes. Four other builders – Meritage Homes, MBK Homes, Warmington Residential and William Lyon Homes – will construct the all-age neighborhoods.

The project will be built on terraced hillsides on the ranch's highest elevations, the company said. Amenities will include a community center called the Hilltop Club with pools, barbecues and event space.

A company statement said Esencia will have 2,537 homes when finished, with 1,175 homes planned for future phases.