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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 10, 2020

Bob Havlicek, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara
815 West Ocean Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436

Re: The Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County's application for State Housing and Community Development Department's Homekey Program funds

Dear Mr. Havlicek:

On September 22, 2020 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, will consider the sale of a County owned building to the County Housing Authority for the below market value of \$1,600,000 for conversion to 15 units of permanent affordable housing for persons who are homeless. The Board will also consider the approval of \$1,467,330 in federal CARES Act funds as the required match for the Housing Authority's Homekey match.

The County's 2020 Phase II Regional Action Plan to Address Homelessness identified an estimated gap of 835 permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds in the County, 76 of those PSH beds needed in mid-county, which includes the City of Lompoc. The State's Homekey program provides local communities a unique opportunity to repurpose existing buildings, in this case a County office building, and create much needed housing. The County further pledges to work with the County Housing Authority in providing on-going supportive services to residents. The project site is in a highly desirable area of the City, and close to many community amenities and services.

The County Housing Authority has long been an active participant in our Continuum of Care, instrumental in strategic planning – including development of our Phase I Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness in Santa Barbara County and the Phase II Regional Action Plan – and as a provider of affordable housing. They are an invaluable and very highly esteemed member of our continuum. The 2020 Santa Barbara County Homeless Count found

1,897 homeless persons in the county, including 1,223 unsheltered persons, with a 45% increase in chronic homeless (from 423 persons in 2019 to 613 persons in 2020). Among communities in Santa Barbara County, the City of Lompoc had a homeless count in 2020 of 211 persons. The Homekey project will help meet a significant need.

Sincerely,

Gregg Hart
Second District Supervisors
Board of Supervisors, Chair