

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Kristen Tippelt [KristenT@pshhc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 1:58 PM

To: SupervisorCarbajal

Cc: sbcob

Subject: Critical Budget Issues

Supervisor Carbajal,

First, I want to thank you for your support of the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and Restorative Courts. I believe you realize the importance of moving people from the streets into permanent supportive housing not only from a human rights perspective but also from a financial perspective. It is for this reason that I am writing you regarding several cuts that are proposed in the new budget. Unfortunately budget cuts often affect those who are the most vulnerable and I feel that it would be no different if the follow funding and programs are eliminated:

- 1) Propay
- 2) The social worker at the public defender's office
- 3) The \$1.2 million in cuts to the Human Service Commission Funding

I will address each of these issues separately.

- 1) Propay is a critical program that serves ADMHS clients who cannot manage their own funds due to severe and persistent mental illness. When I say it is critical, I mean that it saves lives. It keeps people off the streets and allows them to learn budgeting skills and save money. I am a social worker with Peoples' Self-Help Housing, and I have had several clients who would have lost their housing had it not been for Propay. Certain mental illnesses wreak havoc on people's finances causing them to live beyond their means, go on spending sprees, and become addicted to alcohol or drugs. On Propay, this is much less likely, because their necessary bills are paid for them, and then they receive a weekly amount for living expenses. Without this assistance many of these individuals would be homeless, most likely with chemical addictions, and not receiving the proper mental/medical treatment needed. I am seriously concerned about what will happen to these individuals if this program is cut. I fear that despite all the efforts this community has taken to resolving the issue of homelessness, this will only perpetuate the problem and destabilize the 300 people who are living healthy, stable lives at this time. For the sake of these individuals and for the sake of our already strapped social service, city, and county resources I ask that you save Propay.
- 2) Save the social worker at the Public Defender's office. Again this is not only an issue for the individuals assisted, but also for the city and county who bear the financial burden of cycling individuals through the criminal justice system rather than appropriate programs that could help facilitate recovery. Due to the lack of mental health services and affordable treatment programs in the area, all too often individuals with severe mental illness and/or chemical addictions end up in jail only to be released and re-arrested. The social worker in one step in breaking this cycle. The social worker finds appropriate resources for these individuals to get them the help they need to return to healthy, stable members of society. There is no other person playing this role that is so closely linked to the legal issues at hand, so the position is a critical resource in getting people out of jail, into positive programs, and on the way to recovery.
- 3) The agencies that would lose funding by cutting 1.2 million of Human Service Commission Funding are those that are serving the most vulnerable in our community. These agencies have been working above and beyond their capacity so that they do not have to refuse services to

anyone looking for help. What will happen if this funding is lost? Where will these individuals turn for help? I appreciate that you are fighting to restore Human Services funding and urge you to continue to do so. I believe that you know the critical importance of this funding to the individuals that need the assistance.

I thank you for all the work that you do on behalf of vulnerable individuals and families in our community and appreciate the time you have taken to review my comments.

Sincerely,

Kristen Tippelt, MSW

Peoples' Self-Help Housing
Supportive Housing Program
26 E. Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 962-5152 x232
Cell: (805) 451-9338 Fax: (805) 962-8152

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgk936>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PSHHC>

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Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Pat Hardy [avppat@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 5:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: County budget

Dear Clerk of the Board:

Please let the supervisors know that we support Propay, it will save us money in the not too long haul including payments to landlords.

Please save the social worker at the Public Defender's office... reward the motivated.

Give more time to hear from the 50 non-profits destined to be cut from Human Services Commission Funding. At least cover the basic survival needs or we will end up paying for this in other ways which are more expensive.

thank you

*Pat Hardy Jo Ann Bell
1924 Bath St. Unit D., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Please change my email to: AVPpat@gmail.com
Home phone: 805/682-3277
Cell phone: 805/886-9773*

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do and liking how you do it. --Maya Angelou

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Paulina Abustan [abustanpaulina@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 12:26 PM

To: sbcob; SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve

Subject: Save Propay, Social Work & Human Services

Hello Board of Supervisors,

Please consider the following items in your next meeting and how they are vital to our community:

#1. Save Propay For Vulnerable Santa Barbara County Residents

Propay is expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, June 15 (Sometimes there are changes to the agenda so please check: www.countyofsb.org).

The Propay program serves Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) clients who can't manage their funds due to mental illness. Propay receives the client's benefit funds and uses it to pay for essentials for living, such as shelter, food, clothing, utilities, medical care and insurance, dental care, personal hygiene, education, rehabilitation expenses, and personal needs.

Unless the Board of Supervisors decides at budget hearings to reinstate Propay, the program will no longer exist. Except for clients under conservatorship, the County will no longer be the payee for all Propay clients as of July 1. There are approximately 300 clients currently served. If anything, this program should be expanded.

If not restored, many in this most vulnerable population will likely show up on our streets, in emergency rooms, in our already overflowing Psychiatric Health Facility and may end up with their rights taken away through conservatorship. This will add to the County's large financial burden and take a significant emotional toll on clients, their families and other County residents.

#2. Save the Social Worker in the Public Defender's Office.

READ THE REPORT "Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism: This Recycling Is Not Good for The County" at

<http://www.sbcqj.org/2011/HomelessMentallyIll.pdf>

Let the Supervisors Know: WE NEED THE SOCIAL WORKER IN THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE!

#3. \$1.2 million in Human Services Commission Funding

From the Santa Barbara Independent "County Deep-Sixes Funding for 75 Nonprofit Programs. \$1.2 Million in Human Services Commission Grants on Chopping Block"

"In Andy Warhol's imaginary universe, every American is guaranteed no less than 15 minutes of fame. But in County CEO Chandra Wallar's grand plans, 50 Santa Barbara nonprofit agencies will be given a total of three minutes each to make their case to the Board of Supervisors on why county funding for their programs should not be completely deep-sixed, as Wallar has proposed. Wallar, the county's new chief executive, finds herself grappling with a \$72-million budget shortfall and has proposed — among other things — all but eliminating the Human Services Commission outright and totally cutting the \$1.2 million in funding the commission recommended for a host of programs designed to help the poorest and most vulnerable, mostly with such basics as food and shelter..."

Sincerely,

--

Paulina Abustan
abustanpaulina@gmail.com
[\(909\) 908-1454](tel:(909)908-1454)

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: roslynjean@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 5:03 PM

Subject: Please Don't Cut Propay From the County Budget!

I work as a case manager with WillBridge of Santa Barbara, a non-profit agency serving vulnerable, chronically homeless and mentally ill individuals. We currently have at least 5 residents at two of our locations who depend on Propay to meet their basic cost of living needs.

Propay has been such a blessing by making sure that they keep a roof over their head, have enough food to eat, obtain medical and mental health assistance, and access other services so that they can live as normal of a life as possible.

If this program is cut, it will be an extremely devastating blow to these individuals who don't have anyone else who can help them budget their money or manage their finances. I know firsthand that none of these individuals can take care of themselves without Propay. They can't manage paying their rent and pharmaceutical co-pays, purchasing personal items, or handling any of their financial obligations on their own, which is why their monthly Social Security payment is handled very efficiently and effectively by Propay.

Without Propay, all of the hard work we've done as a community to get these people off the streets and stabilized in our transitional housing programs would be nullified. Please reinstate funding for Propay!

Sincerely,
Roslyn Scheuerman,
Case Manager on behalf of the residents of WillBridge of Santa Barbara, Inc.
Office#: 805-564-1911
Cell#: 805-218-1199

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Allen, Michael (COB)
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 11:04 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: Addus Healthcare Services
Importance: High

From: Joe Armendariz [mailto:joe@armendarizpartners.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 9:31 AM
To: Gray, Joni; Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: seniors@slonet.org; Wallar, Chandra; kGallagher@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; Allen, Michael (COB); Marshall, Dennis; Geis, Bob (Auditor-Controller)
Subject: Addus Healthcare Services
Importance: High

✕ Description: sbctalogoorg (2)

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Thursday, June 02, 2011

Honorable Joni Gray, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
511 East Lakeside Parkway, Suite 47
Santa Maria, California 93455

Re: Addus Healthcare Services (Hardcopies being sent via U.S. Mail)

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

At our May 26 meeting, the board of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association voted to go on record strongly opposing the proposal by the Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services to cancel the contract with Addus Healthcare Services to provide IHSS services effective July 1, 2011. I have attached a spreadsheet showing the costs to the county for county employees providing this same service vs. Addus who employ union labor. You can see the contrast is significant...over \$5 more per hour for county employees. And the cost is actually far greater as county employees have a defined benefit pension vs. Addus employees

6/8/2011

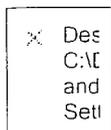
who have a defined contribution plan and contribute far more into their pension plan.

We bring this up because the County has made this proposal without doing an economic benefit analysis. If the county were to do such an analysis, you would clearly ascertain that the county can NOT save money under any scenario, unless at least 30 or more of the existing 186 clients being served were to opt out of the program. The Taxpayers Association is very concerned about this concept as this is a very fragile at-risk population and many of the clients have no family to advocate for their needs. Indeed, some of the closest friendships these seniors have developed is with the Addus employees providing the IHSS service. The County needs to take special note of this fact as the IHSS service being provided via contract by Addus is a state mandated program that the county must continue to offer. Ironically, notwithstanding the Department of Social Services making this proposal to not renew the contract -without an economic benefit analysis- the department has not even put together a proposal for a county run IHSS service program. We find that astounding given the Addus contract will terminate, if not renewed, on June 30, 2011.

Moreover, we want to bring to your attention one final and very troubling fact. Addus was notified by an email sent by Delfino Neira on May 10, 2011, that the County had made the decision not to renew the Addus contract. The Taxpayers Association strongly believes this decision is a decision that staff does not have the discretion to make, and indeed all prior decisions of this kind have always been made by the Board of Supervisors. There have been no Board of Supervisor meetings regarding this matter, and this raises the following question: why did county staff believe the decision had already been made? If the determination was made by county staff talking one on one with board members and 3 board members in individual meetings expressed support for not renewing the contract, that would be a clear violation of California's Open Meeting Law. Indeed the reason decisions of this nature must be made in a publicly noticed meeting, that the public can participate in, is to assure questions and facts, like the ones we have raised in this correspondence, can be openly discussed and addressed.

For the sake of a very fragile and at-risk population that deserve the county's support and respect, we ask that you renew the Addus contract for an additional year. During this time period the state of California will be making many decisions regarding re-alignment and determining what level of government is mandated in order to provide which level of services. During this time period the county, if you seriously want to take over IHSS services, if still mandated to do so by the State of California, can put together a well thought out proposal with an economic benefit analysis supporting the county's proposal and should do so with plenty of time for interested stakeholders to be involved in order to assure seniors who are in need of IHSS services will not fall through the cracks, and be neglected and forgotten.

Sincerely,



x Des
C:\
and
Setl

Joe Armendariz
Executive Director

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Ariela Gottschalk [AGottschalk@t-mha.org]

Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 1:02 PM

To: SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob

Subject: Human Services Commission funding

Dear Board of Supervisors -

Please include the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations in full in next year's County 2012 Fiscal Budget. Currently these dollars are not budgeted for the next year which would have a major negative impact on the services provided by local area non-profits. While these funds are a drop in the bucket compared to the County's overall budget, the funds will help to provide key services to citizens throughout the county with special needs. These are services the community has been counting on since the Human Services Commission was first formed in 1987. Please do not try to balance the budget on the backs of the poor and needy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariela Gottschalk
Program Manager
Growing Grounds Farm
820 W. Foster Rd.
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805)934-2182

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Heidi Holly [heidi@friendshipcentersb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 6:23 PM
To: Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; Salud Carbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen
Cc: Madsen, Nancy; sbcob
Subject: SB County Humans Services Funding

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

On behalf of the Friendship Center we strongly encourage you to keep the \$1.2 million Human Services funding intact.

Non-profit agencies provide an array of prevention and early intervention services that ensure vulnerable populations to be nurtured within a veritable safety net of services. In many instances, the provision of such services by community agencies means that the County does not have to provide a mandated service, thus saving the County substantial dollars.

In Friendship Center's case, nursing home placement of dependent elders is postponed or eliminated altogether for our members. Results of our 2010 Client Satisfaction Survey reflects that 100% of respondents indicated Friendship Center helped to deter placement of their loved one in a long-term care facility.

Non-profit agencies leverage substantial support from individuals, corporations, and private foundations. This leverage involves many faces in the community and builds community support for resolving community problems.

We hope that you will agree that the public/private partnership in SB County is one worth sustaining. It is likely that if funding is eliminated, County services will be impacted. Thank you for your past support... Your decision will save the County money now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Holly

Heidi Holly
Executive Director

Friendship Center
89 Eucalyptus Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Telephone: 805 969-0859
Fax: 805 565-3828

www.friendshipcentersb.org

Remembering Friendship Center in your will or estate plan is a gift that lasts forever.

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Giulia Brofferio [giulia.brofferio@cox.net]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 11:00 AM
Subject: SB County Human Services funding

Greetings:

Speaking as a seventeen year volunteer at one of the County's non- profits that has been historically partially funded by the SB Human Services Commission, I request that the Board of Supervisors fully fund the Human Services recommended level of support. As you are no doubt well aware, non-profits leverage private and public funds in conjunction with volunteers to provide a great deal of public service to the community. Service that results in helping this community's citizens both directly and indirectly. Those receiving services benefit and contribute to the community which in turn benefits from a better workforce, smaller prison population, less public assistance.

Thank you for your time,
Giulia Brofferio

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Arthur Kennedy [artkennedy1@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 10:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: SB County Human Services funding

Greetings:

Speaking as a forty year volunteer at one of the County's non-profits that has been historically partially funded by the SB Human Services Commission, I request that the Board of Supervisors fully fund the Human Services recommended level of support. As you are no doubt well aware, non-profits leverage private and public funds in conjunction with volunteers to provide a great deal of public service to the community.

thank you
Arthur Kennedy

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Auralee Bunch [sbandsun@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 1:31 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Funding

Please include funding for Human Services in the budget of 2011. This is very much needed in our community.

Thank you
Auralee Bunch
Pacific Pride Foundation
Board Member

Sent from my iPhone

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: heather@heatherstevenson.com
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 10:57 AM
o: SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob
Subject: Human Services Funding

Hello SB County Supervisors,

I am writing as an employee and board member in the non-profit sector to urge you to include the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations in full in next year's County 2012 Fiscal Budget. So many lives are positively affected by this funding and I hope it will continue to be a priority for our County.

Sincerely,
Heather Stevenson

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Gina Fischer [gfischer@foodbanksbc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 1:46 PM

To: Gina Fischer

Subject: Re: Human Services Commission funding

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to out of concern of the County's 2012 Fiscal Budget proposal. The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County touches the lives of 165,000 members in Santa Barbara County every year. The \$30,000 we receive each year from the Human Services committee goes a long way to help feed those most in need in our community. As housing prices continue to tumble across the nation, we are preparing to provide food for more families who are struggling to stay in their homes or transition during this difficult time.

We know that budget negotiations during this tough economic time are difficult, but we also know that eliminating the Human Services Funding will wreck havoc on the daily operations of many efficient and professionally run non-profits in our County. Budgets are moral documents, we ask that you vote to restore the funding for Human Services in the 2012 budget.

Gina Fischer
Development Officer
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
805-967-5741 x 108
Foodbanksbc.org

---\$10 provides 40 nutritious meals to children & families in need. **Text FOOD10 to 85944** and reply 'yes' to contribute \$10---



Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Cath Webb [cathwebb2@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2011 12:52 PM

To: sbcob

Subject: Supervisors: Please save Propay

Dear Supervisors,

For over ten years I have co-hosted a fortnightly lunch meeting for a variety of homeless service providers, activists and interested community members. In all that time I haven't seen as much outpouring of concern, no, horror, at the thought of a program closing down. I speak about Propay, which is slated to be terminated on July 1st without restoration by the Board.

This program is extremely cost effective. For \$200,000 per year Propay ensures that approximately 300 clients get help managing their funds which really means, get help staying in housing. As you know, many of these ADMHS clients would simply not pay rent if their government checks went straight to them. Many would end up on the streets and I don't need to tell you what a large increase of people on the street would mean to other services paid for by the county (police, hospital, jail).

I appreciate the difficult task you face in working out this year's County budget and I am very grateful for your service to our community. I just hope that reason prevails in the case of the Propay program.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Cath Webb
101 Mesa Lane.
Santa Barbara, CA 93109.

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Frank Ricceri [FRicceri@t-mha.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 12:39 PM
To: Gray, Joni
Cc: sbcob
Subject: HSC and Propay Funding

Dear Supervisor Gray,

My name is Frank Ricceri, Associate Director for Transitions - Mental Health Association. I have worked in Lompoc and environs since 2007; helping children and adults with mental illness to live, work , and grow in the community.

Please consider restoring funding for next Fiscal Year for both the Human Services Commission's \$1.2 Million dollar allocation as well as restoring/creating a financing mechanism to keep the Propay office operational.

On behalf of the 1,000 unduplicated individuals served in Northern Santa Barbara County last FY that access these vital resources, I thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Frank Ricceri
(805) 720-2655

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Frank Ricceri [FRicceri@t-mha.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: sbcob
Subject: HSC and Propay Funding

Dear Supervisor Lavagnino,

My name is Frank Ricceri, Associate Director for Transitions - Mental Health Association. I have worked in Santa Maria and environs since 2001; helping children and adults with mental illness to live, work , and grow in the community.

Please consider restoring funding for next Fiscal Year for both the Human Services Commission's \$1.2 Million dollar allocation as well as restoring/creating a financing mechanism to keep the Propay office operational.

On behalf of the 1,000 unduplicated individuals served last FY that access these vital resources, I thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Frank Ricceri
(805) 720-2655

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Patricia Clarke [pcphotog@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 3:39 PM

To: sbcob

Subject: PROPAY PROGRAM

Please do NOT cut funding for the Propay program to the mentally ill. This service is of vital importance for keeping them safely housed and fed. The \$200,000 that will be saved will be far outweighed by the cost in resources and human misery.

Patricia Clarke

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Ernesto Paredes [ernesto@easylift.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2011 11:51 AM

To: SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob

Subject: Please Save Human Service Funding

Good Morning Board,

Please reallocate Human Services funding to the County's 2012 Fiscal Budget. I know many of you have met or are meeting with some of my colleagues to continue educating and advocating for the urgency these dollars provide. I, too, will continue to participate in the process. My simple message for now is simply: Please reallocate Human Services funding for the fully recommend amounts.

Thank You for your understanding.

Ernesto Paredes
Executive Director
Easy Lift Transportation
(805) 681-1410

www.easylift.org

Check out our video:

<http://vimeo.com/7313187>

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Grant, Becky
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Brennan, Kaitlin
Cc: Lavagnino, Steve; Bantilan, Cory
Subject: Opinion Letter - Pro Pay Program/Mental Health

Kaitlin, As I often receive copies of emails from citizens on matters which are presented to the Board (for the public bucket), I am sending this message that I just received. Please distribute as appropriate.
Thank you, Becky

Caller: Cindy Hart
Phone #: 805.259.6038

"I have been an advocate of Mental Health for 13 years and have a family member with a mental illness. I am encouraging the supervisor to vote "yes" for the funding for the Pro Pay Program in Mental Health.

This program helps 300 clients in handling their Social Security funds. To lose this program they are going to see a decline in their ability to care for themselves; someone helps them to pay for their rent. If they lose their housing then we are going to see an increase in homelessness, in the jails, and in our PHF facilities, which will cost our county more dollars than the Pro Pay Program."

If there are any questions, she welcomes calls at the above listed phone number.

Thank you, Becky

Becky Grant, Administrative Assistant to
5th District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
Santa Barbara County
805.346.8400
805.346.8404 (fax)

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Cantillano, Shannon
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2011 11:12 AM
To: SupervisorCarbajal
Subject: Saving Pro-pay

Dear County Supervisor,

My name is Shannon Cantillano. I work as a Clinician for Lompoc Assertive Community Treatment Team, a program operated by Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) together with Santa Barbara County Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS). Our program is located on H Street in Lompoc and serves 100 people that need intensive support to remain successful in our community.

The reason for this letter is to ask you to please review and consider the effects that closing down the payee service known as Pro-Pay would have on the community and on low income, disabled people who live in our community and rely on Pro-Pay for their financial stability, which for people with mental illness, is directly correlated to their stability.

Pro-Pay manages the disability checks for clients that Santa Barbara County ADMHS psychiatrists have determined are unable to manage their own funds. Eliminating the Pro-Pay services outright will leave these clients without a payee, which is a service not easily replaceable. This leaves people at risk for homelessness, drug overdose, hospitalizations, becoming victims of theft, and abandoning their mental health treatments, just to name a few of the negative outcomes. These negative outcomes would create a bigger expense for the county in terms of jail time, more intensive psychiatric interventions and additional crisis intervention services.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our services and the impact of eliminating Pro-Pay, please call me at my personal number (805) 458-9449 any time of day. Or feel welcome to contact TMHA's main offices at (805) 540-6500.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our community and I look forward to cooperating with you in any way that I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cantillano, ASW
721 Woodhaven Court
Santa Maria, CA 93455