



August 4, 2020

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CITY MANAGER

Michelle Greene

California Department of
Housing and Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA HOMEKEY
PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION LETTER OF
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Goleta (City) has a history of regional partnership with the County of Santa Barbara and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara. The City also recognizes the regional impacts of homelessness and has worked over the past several years to address homelessness within Goleta and the surrounding region. Because of this, the City is participating in a working group to successfully acquire and convert local motel/hotel space into transitional and permanent supportive housing through the State of California's Homekey Program.

The City understands that the most appropriate project to serve the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County is the conversion of the Super 8 Motel located in the city of Goleta. This property fulfills many critical requirements of the Homekey Program, including but not limited to excellent access to public transportation and elevator access.

Important to the City is the fact that this conversion would support a navigation center and access to wrap-around support services such as mental health appointments, minor healthcare, and counseling sessions. The City has completed a draft of its first Homelessness Strategic Plan, which identifies the need for services for people experiencing homelessness in and around Goleta. This Plan also establishes a goal for a navigation center and permanent supportive housing in Goleta. This project would help fulfill those goals.

The property is located in an area that has been zoned as suitable for an emergency shelter with only a minor conditional use permit.

However, prior to recent State of California legislation in order to convert the property into single residence occupancy housing it would typically require a General Plan Amendment, rezoning, and a conditional use permit. However, the City understands that acquisitions and conversions undertaken as part of Homekey will be subject to new legislation that the Governor signed on June 29, 2020, **providing a CEQA exemption** and automatic zoning compliance to new homeless housing utilizing newly available state and federal funding. City of Goleta Planning and Environmental Review Department and Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Department staff are working to ensure all requirements are met in order for zoning conformity to occur. The included enclosures describe this process in detail.

While there are fiscal impacts to the City's General Fund budget, the additional services for the region's homeless population exceed the financial costs to the City and, as such, the City of Goleta would support this project moving forward and is prepared to partner with the regional applicants and service providers.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Michelle Greene
City Manager

Enclosures

Certifications from Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara
Verification of Zoning
Approvals Necessary to Begin Construction