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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 1, 2022

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

Re: Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara's Santa Maria State Homekey Application

Dear Mr. Havlicek:

On February 1, 2022, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved and ratified the reservation of County funds as the required match for the Housing Authority's Homekey application for the property located at 1007 Main Street in the City of Santa Maria.

The County's 2020 Phase II Regional Action Plan to Address Homelessness identified an estimated gap of 835 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units in the County; 157 of those PSH units are needed in the City of Santa Maria. The State's Homekey program provides local communities a unique opportunity to repurpose existing buildings, in this case hotels, and create much needed housing. The project site is close to many community amenities and services.

The County Housing Authority has long been an active participant in the Continuum of Care, instrumental in strategic planning – including development of the 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. It is an invaluable and very highly-esteemed member of the 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 Santa Maria had a homeless count in 2020 of 382 persons. This Homekey project will therefore help meet a significant need.

Joan Hartmann, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors