

Date: March 6th, 2025

To: Watsonville City Council

City of Watsonville
275 Main Street, Suite 400
Watsonville, CA 95076

Subject: Letter of Support for Recurso de Fuerza - The Tiny Homes Village and Low Barrier Navigation Center

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the **Recurso de Fuerza** project, also known as the Tiny Homes Village and Low Barrier Navigation Center, and to encourage your consideration and approval for this important initiative aimed at addressing homelessness in our community. This **“housing-first” project** is a critical step forward in providing those experiencing homelessness in our community a much-needed alternative to living in the streets.

The Tiny Homes Village will be operated by the Community Action Board (CAB) of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) and will consist of 34 beds in **a secure and supportive** environment, allowing residents to have access to basic needs and an opportunity to move forward in their journey toward permanent housing. The low-barrier navigation center will provide **shelter to individuals for roughly six months**, with staff dedicated to helping residents overcome barriers such as substance use disorders, behavioral health challenges, and other obstacles that might otherwise prevent them from obtaining housing.

One of the key strengths of this approach is its housing-first model, which does not require individuals to meet preconditions like sobriety or therapy to access a bed. Residents will have a safe, dignified place to stay in a Tiny Home they can lock, offering privacy and security that traditional shelters may not provide. The CAB team will work with residents on-site to **connect them with the necessary services and resources**, such as behavioral health and medical care, as well as assist with increasing their income to afford permanent housing.

The center will be supported by a **well-trained team**, including an Operations/Program Manager, case managers, housing navigators, advocates (many with lived experience), and healthcare professionals. There will also be security measures in place, including a security guard and 24/7 video surveillance **to ensure safety** for both residents and the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, regular neighborhood clean-up events will be conducted in partnership with CAB's Watsonville Works and residents, fostering community engagement.



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MENTAL HEALTH
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HOUSING
SUPPORT



SUBSTANCE USE
RECOVERY

We understand that concerns have been raised by the neighborhood, and we completely trust that CAB is committed to actively engaging with neighbors. CAB has been providing services in our community for 60 years and is a **trusted messenger** and partner. As part of this commitment, CAB is conducting a **door-to-door outreach campaign to listen to concerns, answer questions, and explore opportunities for collaboration in creating a safe and healthy community.**

We appreciate your support for this vital project, and we believe that this project, led by CAB, is extremely meaningful and will strengthen our community as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Linda Alves, LCSW, MPP
Chief Operations Officer



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MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES



HOUSING
SUPPORT



SUBSTANCE USE
RECOVERY

From: [Meg Clark](#)
To: [Vanessa Quiroz](#); [cityclerk](#); [Eduardo Montesino](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Recurso de Fuerza - The Tiny Homes Village and Low Barrier Navigation Center
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 2:43:23 PM

To: Watsonville City Council
City of Watsonville
275 Main Street, Suite 400
Watsonville, CA 95076

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Recurso de Fuerza project, also known as the Tiny Homes Village and Low Barrier Navigation Center, and to encourage your consideration and approval for this important initiative aimed at addressing homelessness in our community. This “housing-first” project is a critical step forward in providing those experiencing homelessness in our community a much needed alternative to living in the streets. The Tiny Homes Village, will be operated by the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) and will consist of 34 beds in a secure and supportive environment, allowing residents to have access to basic needs and an opportunity to move forward in their journey toward permanent housing. The low barrier navigation center will provide shelter to individuals for roughly six months, with staff dedicated to helping residents overcome barriers such as substance use disorders, behavioral health challenges, and other obstacles that might otherwise prevent them from obtaining housing.

One of the key strengths of this approach is its housing-first model, which does not require individuals to meet preconditions like sobriety or therapy to access a bed. Residents will have a safe, dignified place to stay in a Tiny Home they can lock, offering privacy and security that traditional shelters may not provide. The CAB team will work with residents on-site to connect them with the necessary services and resources, such as behavioral health and medical care, as well as assist with increasing their income to afford permanent housing. The center will be supported by a well-trained team, including an Operations/Program Manager, case managers, housing navigators, advocates (many with lived experience), and healthcare professionals. There will also be security measures in place, including a security guard and 24/7 video surveillance to ensure safety for both residents and the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, regular neighborhood clean-up events will be conducted in partnership with CAB’s Watsonville Works and residents, fostering community engagement.

We understand that some concerns have been raised by the neighborhood and we know that CAB is committed to actively engaging with neighbors. CAB has been providing services in our community for 60 years and is a trusted messenger and partner. As part of this commitment, they are conducting a door-to-door outreach campaign to listen to concerns, answer questions, and explore opportunities for collaboration in creating a safe and healthy community.

We appreciate your support for this vital project, and we believe that this project, led by CAB, is extremely meaningful and will strengthen our community as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

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Meg Clark

From: [City Council](#)
To: [Eduardo Montesino](#); [Vanessa Quiroz](#); [Maria Orozco](#); [Kristal Salcido](#); [Casey Clark](#); [Jimmy Dutra](#); [Ari Parker](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:43:37 PM

From: Flora Lu <floralu@ucsc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 3:43:22 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: City Council <citycouncil@watsonville.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to item number (#PP2024-8380) project title "Tiny Homes Project Appeal". I am writing to express my support for the Low Barrier Navigation Center at the Tiny Homes Village, which would provide temporary shelter for people experiencing housing insecurity. This resource is much needed as a stepping stone towards providing people with permanent housing and long-term stability. This is a "housing first approach" with low barriers to entry that provides access to a variety of supportive services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Flora

Flora Lu
she/her/hers
Professor, Environmental Studies
UC Santa Cruz

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(Fax) 831-459-4015

From: [City Council](#)
To: [Eduardo Montesino](#); [Vanessa Quiroz](#); [Maria Orozco](#); [Kristal Salcido](#); [Casey Clark](#); [Jimmy Dutra](#); [Ari Parker](#); [cityclerk](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:54:43 AM

From: Jeanne Sears <jeannes119@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:54:22 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: City Council <citycouncil@watsonville.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

I am writing to support the Tiny Homes Project Appeal (#PP2024-8380). We very much need creative housing solutions in and around Watsonville. As a nurse and public health researcher, I have read important research showing that low-barrier housing is associated with positive outcomes, and can be an important first step in the journey toward more stable housing. I urge you to support this appeal.

Thank you,
Jeanne Sears, PhD, RN