

Affordable Housing NOW! (760-935-4892)

Every Unit Counts!

March 10, 2025

RE: 118 1s Street-Support for Housing Navigation Center

Dear City Council,

Affordable Housing NOW enthusiastically supports the Tiny Village project which would provide much needed transitional housing and support for members of the Watsonville community in need of affordable housing. The California Housing and Community Development Department has provided a letter stating that the City acted appropriately in approving the project ministerially. Therefore, we urge you to deny the appeal of the zoning administrator's approval for the low barrier navigation center and allow this important project to move forward.

Sincerely, Willowythy

Tim Willoughby, AHN Chair



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March 10, 2025

Watsonville City Council 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 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,

Erica Padille-Chang

Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO

From:	Isaí Ambrosio
То:	Ari Parker; cityclerk
Cc:	<u>Paz Padilla; Mike Kittredge</u>
Subject:	Support for Recurso de Fuerza - Tiny Homes Village and Navigation Center
Date:	Monday, March 10, 2025 3:14:33 PM
Attachments:	Outlook-euges203.png Outlook-fdvabdnx.png Outlook-Ing1da4e.png Outlook-nimztdi3.png Outlook-Stvohymv.png Outlook-Ihdv1eb1.png

Dear Ari,

My name is Isaí and I live on Glemar Street; I have been a Watsonville resident since 1997 and my wife, a teacher at PVUSD, are proud parents of a son and proud residents of Glemar Street since our son's birth in 2008, *he was born in that house*.

I strongly support the Recurso de Fuerza project, also known as the Tiny Homes Village and Low Barrier Navigation Center and urge your approval. This "housing-first" initiative is crucial for providing an alternative to street living for our homeless community.

Operated by the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB), the Tiny Homes Village will offer 34 beds in a secure environment, helping residents move towards permanent housing. The navigation center will provide six months of shelter, assisting residents with overcoming barriers like substance use and behavioral health challenges.

This housing-first model does not require preconditions like sobriety, offering residents a safe, private place to stay. CAB will connect residents with necessary services and resources, including health care and income assistance.

The center will be supported by a dedicated team and security measures, including a guard and 24/7 surveillance. Regular neighborhood clean-up events will also foster community engagement.

CAB, a trusted community partner for 60 years, is committed to addressing neighborhood concerns through active engagement and outreach.

We appreciate your support for this vital project, which will strengthen our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

--Isaí

Isaí Ambrosio



Program Director Email: isaia@cabinc.org | Office: 831-425-8115 Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. 406 Main St., Suite #, Watsonville, CA 95076

