

*Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California*

Resolution No.: 24-432

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF)
MONTEREY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,)
WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,)
DECLARING A SHELTER CRISIS)
PURSUANT TO SB 850 (CHAPTER 48,)
STATUTES OF 2018 AND GOVERNMENT)
CODE § 8698.2).....)
)
)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2017, the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring a shelter crisis in response to California Senate Bill 850 (CHAPTER 48, STATUTES OF 2018 AND GOVERNMENT CODE § 8698.2) with an end date of December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Government Code sections 8698 through 8698.2 permit the Board of Supervisors to declare a shelter crisis upon a finding that a significant number of persons within the County are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons; and

WHEREAS, upon a Declaration of Shelter Crisis by the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, the foregoing statutes allow suspension “of any state or local regulatory statute, regulation or ordinance prescribing standards of housing, health, or safety to the extent strict compliance would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the shelter crisis,”; and

WHEREAS, although the County of Monterey has taken significant steps in addressing homelessness, the affordable housing shortage continues to affect Monterey County residents’ ability to identify and maintain safe, stable housing; and

WHEREAS, the biennial Homeless Point-in-Time Count (PIT) mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and conducted by the local Continuum of Care lead agency, revealed that in 2024, 2,436 people are experiencing homelessness on any given night, representing a 19% increase from 2022; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 PIT identified 820 individuals who were experiencing chronic homelessness, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, a 20% increase from 2022; and

WHEREAS, survey respondents of the 2024 PIT reported that 50% suffer from depression; 31% has a physical disability; 17% have a chronic health condition; and 52% have at least one disabling condition; and

WHEREAS, 81% of the survey respondents of the PIT claim to be living in Monterey County prior to falling into their current episode of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, while the PIT serves as threshold marker, it is inconsistent with the 5,801 individuals waiting to access homeless programs through the Coordinated Assessment and Referral System (CARS), Monterey County's local coordinated entry system; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Monterey County Homeless Housing Inventory Count identified 795 transitional housing and emergency shelter beds available within the county; and

WHEREAS, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council reported the life expectancy of an unsheltered individual is 42 to 52 years, approximately 25 to 30 years earlier than a person who is housed; and

WHEREAS, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are often high-utilizers of hospital emergency rooms and face challenges in managing their health after being discharged, exposing them to a higher risk of complications, infections, or readmission; and

WHEREAS, recuperative care programs, also known as medical respite care, are critical specialized shelters, that provide short-term care for people who are recovering from an illness or injury but are not sick enough to be in a hospital, while also lacking a safe place to recover; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey finds that the health and safety of unsheltered individuals in Monterey County are threatened by a lack of emergency shelters, including but not limited to low-barrier navigation centers, recuperative care centers, and post-hospitalization beds; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has demonstrated its commitment to addressing homelessness by streamlining permitting processes, providing unprecedented investments, and removing barriers to access through sweeping changes to legislation; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has demonstrated its urgency to immediately addressing unsheltered homelessness by adhering tight expenditure deadlines on aforementioned funding investments; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Shelter Crisis is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15269(c) of the CEQA Guidelines because it is a specific action necessary to mitigate the emergency caused by the prevalence of homelessness in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors affirms the County of Monterey's commitment to combatting homelessness and creating or augmenting a continuum of shelter and service options for those living without shelter in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors in and for the County of Monterey, that:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that the foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board finds that a significant number of persons within Monterey County who are without the ability to obtain shelter and that the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons.
3. The Board finds that individuals experiencing homelessness urgently need a variety of shelter options, including but not limited to, low-barrier navigation centers, recuperative care centers, and post-hospitalization beds.
3. The Board finds that the Declaration of Shelter Crisis is statutorily exempt under CEQA; and
4. The Board hereby declares pursuant to Government Code sections 8698 through 8698.2 that a shelter crisis exists, and will continue to exist, throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Monterey County until December 31, 2034

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 12th day of November 2024, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Askew, and Adams

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting November 12, 2024.

Dated: December 10, 2024

File ID: 24-711

Agenda Item No.: 73

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California



Vicente Ramirez, Deputy