

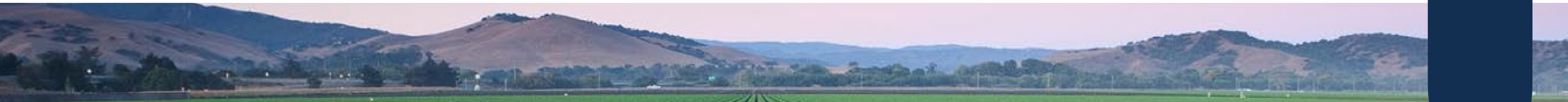
POTENTIAL RENAMING OF LOW BARRIER NAVIGATION CENTER IN WATSONVILLE

RESPONSE TO BOARD REFERRAL NO.
2024.13



Presented by
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County of Monterey

- **August 2022** – County of Monterey (County) staff met with Santa Cruz County’s (SCC) staff to discuss a potential partnership to pursue Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) to develop a low-barrier navigation center with the intention of serving people living along the Pajaro River.
- **February 2023** – Homeless Services Director requested a County-funded outreach team to work with people living at the encampment to identify a name for the proposed Low-Barrier Navigation Center.
- **February 2023** – Board of Supervisors authorized the County Administrative Office to apply on behalf of both counties.
- **June 2023** - County was awarded \$7,986,354 to build a Low-Barrier Navigation Center in Watsonville, CA.
- **February 2024** - County and SCC executed a Memorandum of Understanding that assigned roles and responsibilities of each jurisdiction.
- **July 2025** – The City of Watsonville issued a building permit.





The Low-Barrier Navigation Center is being developed at 118 First Street in Watsonville, California.



32 non-congregate sleeping units, eating facility/community area, pet area, showers and restroom units, and outdoor living space.



Will shelter approximately 34 individuals at any point in time.



Onsite services that include wrap-around intensive case management, housing navigation, and medical service linkages.

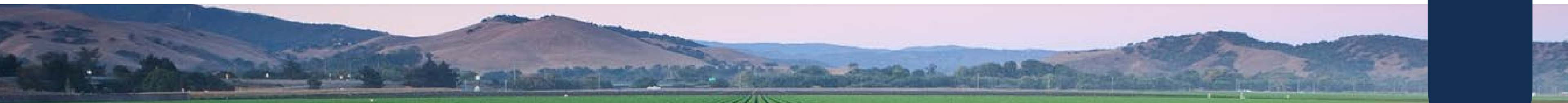


Community Action Board been identified through coordinated efforts between the partner jurisdiction and the local CoC lead agency.

Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program application requires applicants to demonstrate that meaningful input was received by people with lived experience.

Question 24: “How were persons with lived experience meaningfully incorporated into the planning and proposed implementation of this proposal? Please identify whether any perspectives were incorporated from persons who are currently unsheltered and/or formerly or currently residing within the prioritized encampment”

Response: “...The CHE outreach team and members of Westview Presbyterian have provided services and consulted with more than 40 occupants of the Pajaro River encampment to understand their needs and desires. The residents indicated they would prefer to move to interim housing, provided it is non-congregate and low barrier. **The proposed project will meet this need through the new interim housing project – Recurso de Fuerza - to be funded through this grant. Encampment residents proposed this name for the project.**”



Confusion
Within
Community

Increased
Administrative
Workload

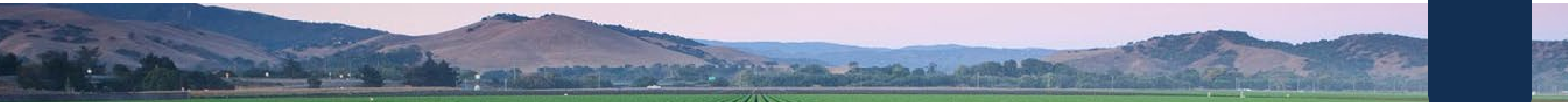
State
Engagement

Community
Engagement
Coordination

Modification
of
Agreements

Funder
Coordination

POTENTIAL IMPACTS



SUGGESTED THROUGH REFERRAL

HOPE Village (Housing, Opportunity, Programs and Employment)

- Benefit(s): Easy to pronounce, empowering, memorable
- Disadvantage(s): The County has invested over \$11 million into developing a program called HOPE Housing in the City of Marina. Could add confusion on what program is referenced.

Casitas de Esperanza

- Benefit(s): Inclusive, inspirational, memorable
- Disadvantage(s): The County is a main partner on Casa de Esperanza, also known as the King City Homekey. Could add confusion on what program is referenced.

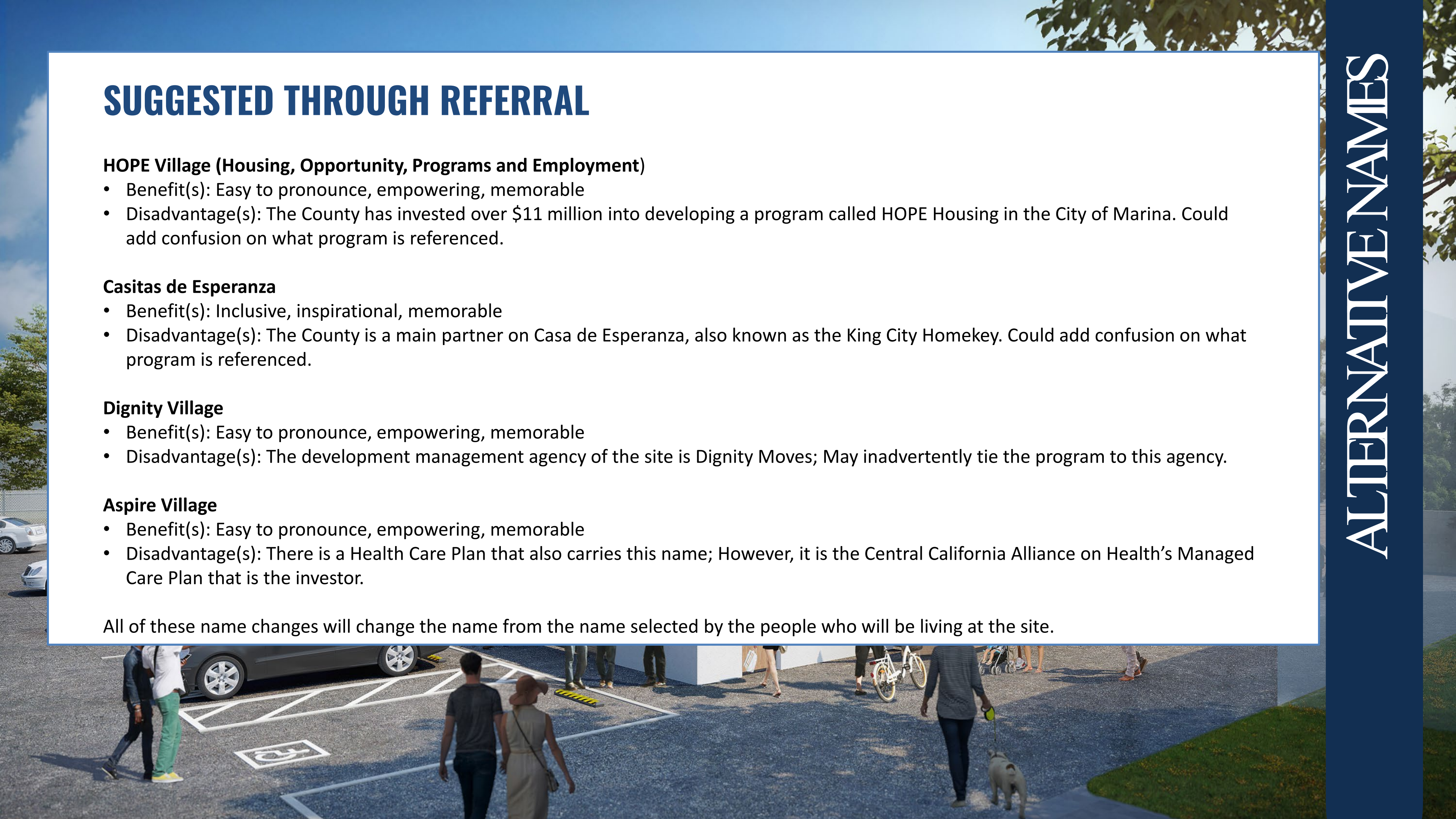
Dignity Village

- Benefit(s): Easy to pronounce, empowering, memorable
- Disadvantage(s): The development management agency of the site is Dignity Moves; May inadvertently tie the program to this agency.

Aspire Village

- Benefit(s): Easy to pronounce, empowering, memorable
- Disadvantage(s): There is a Health Care Plan that also carries this name; However, it is the Central California Alliance on Health's Managed Care Plan that is the investor.

All of these name changes will change the name from the name selected by the people who will be living at the site.



ALTERNATIVE OPTION FOR CONSIDERATION

Casitas de Fuerza (Translation: Little houses of strength)

- Benefit(s): Inclusive, empowering, aligns with the recommended name offered by those who will benefit from this program.

ALTERNATIVE NAME



IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Consider the following options for renaming Recurso de Fuerza:

1. Retain the name *Recurso de Fuerza*;
2. Rename the program *Casitas de Fuerza*; or
3. Direct staff to rename the project through a public engagement process.

