



county of Santa Cruz

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HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY

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October 26, 2000

Agenda: November 7, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

LAST RESORT RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Dear Members of the Board:

On March 21, 2000, your Board directed HRA to execute an agreement with the Red Cross to provide last resort emergency housing assistance to income-eligible residents of the unincorporated County who have been displaced by fire or other unforeseen circumstance, and to report back on November 7, 2000, with a status report on the program.

As you know, HRA began the program as a six-month pilot project with the Red Cross. We are pleased to report that the program is working successfully, and no additional funding is needed. While the occurrence of emergencies is unpredictable, fortunately during the past six months there were very few occasions that met program requirements. During this period, the Red Cross helped three families, including seven adults and three children, who were displaced due to fire. After exhausting all other resources, the Red Cross was able to use program funds to relocate these very low income families (whose incomes averaged from \$15,000-24,000 per year) to emergency temporary lodging. The families included a retired couple who are raising their granddaughter; a family in which the parents were self-employed and lost their business equipment in the fire; and an employed couple and their child.

Because the Red Cross receives discounted rates from local hotels and motels, ranging from \$25 to \$75 a night, the program is cost-effective. Currently, program expenditures total less than \$500. Red Cross staff state that because of the program, families have been able to avoid relocating to unsafe or uncomfortable temporary lodging while they seek permanent housing or wait for repairs to their existing homes. The program provides an important safeguard for very

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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November 7, 2000

Last Resort Relocation Assistance Program Update

low income families in the County's unincorporated area. HRA will continue to monitor the program and keep your Board apprised as appropriate.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report.

Very truly yours,

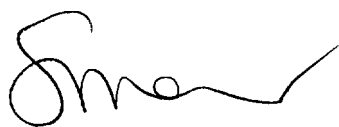


CECILIA ESPINOLA

Human Resources Agency Administrator

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RECOMMENDED



Susan A. Mauriello

County Administrative Officer

cc: American Red Cross