



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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AGENDA: 6/26/01

June 20, 2001

Board of Directors
County of Santa Cruz Redevelopment
Agency
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: SPONSORSHIP OF FARMWORKER HOUSING SUMMIT

Dear Members of the Board:

Although farmworkers play a significant role in the County's economy, the recent release of the Farmworker Housing and Health Assessment Study revealed that farmworkers are experiencing dismal housing conditions. Most farmworkers paid a disproportionate percentage of their income for housing which is often substandard, unhealthy, unsafe and overcrowded. Although much has been done to provide housing for farmworkers, much still remains to be done. Because of language barriers, isolation in rural areas and distrust of government, farmworkers have had little opportunity to participate in shaping the types of housing which would better fulfill their needs.

Action Pajaro Valley is planning to conduct a Farmworker Housing Summit, tentatively scheduled for July 12, to get feedback and input from farmworkers on their needs and desires regarding model farmworker housing. The Summit will discuss with farmworkers issues related to design of housing, the type of support services desired, and how to best integrate farmworker housing into the larger community. The purpose of the Summit is to develop farmworker housing prototypes which can be used by housing developers in this and other communities.

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Action Pajaro Valley has requested that the County, through the Redevelopment Agency's housing fund, help financially sponsor the event. Co-sponsoring this important event will place the Agency in partnership with the City of Watsonville and Monterey County (the other co-sponsors) and broadcast Santa Cruz County's strong interest in encouraging pro-active steps to create not just more but better housing for farmworker families.

I, therefore, recommend that the Board, as the Board of Directors for the Redevelopment Agency, authorize a \$5,000 contribution to help sponsor the Pajaro Valley Farmworker Housing Summit.

Sincerely yours,



TONY CAMPOS, Supervisor
Fourth District

TC:ted

cc: Redevelopment Agency
Action Pajaro Valley

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