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June 25, 2013

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
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SUBJECT: **SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long to Direct the County Executive Office to Allocate \$300,000 in the 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget from Assigned for Homeless Programs to the CEO-Special Accounts and Contributions for the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura's Castillo del Sol project and Authorize the Auditor-Controller to Process the Necessary Accounting Transactions (Requires 4/5ths Vote).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Direct the County Executive Office to allocate \$300,000 from the 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget from Assigned - Homeless Programs to the CEO-Special Accounts and Contributions for the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura's Castillo del Sol project.
2. To authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions in Fiscal Year 2013/14 to appropriate \$300,000 from Fund Balance - Assigned for Homeless Programs to Budget Unit 1010 - CEO Special Accounts and Contributions.

DISCUSSION:

The Update of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Ventura County was adopted by our Board on February 5, 2013. The Updated Plan includes an increased emphasis on Rapid Re-housing and Housing First, in particular Permanent Supportive Housing. Permanent Supportive Housing provides housing to persons with disabilities who have low incomes and need support in order to maintain housing and not become homeless or institutionalized.

The cities of Oxnard and Ventura continue to account for 2/3 of the County's homeless population (36.4 % and 29.3 %, respectively). There were 1,774 homeless adults and children counted during the Ventura County 2013 Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Subpopulation Survey. This represents an 8% decrease when compared to the number of homeless persons counted in 2012 and the lowest total count since its inception in 2007.

We are making progress. However, we have much work ahead if we are to help those with extremely low incomes avoid homelessness by gaining access to permanent housing they can afford. Seniors, veterans and adults with disabilities cannot afford the average \$974 per month rent for a studio apartment in Ventura on an average disability payment of \$1,000 per month. Ventura has a significant need for additional permanent supportive housing.

The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura's (HACSB) Castillo del Sol project will provide 39 studio/efficiency apartments of less than 500 square feet and one manager's unit. A 2,500 square foot space will be available for counseling and management offices. The project will serve the senior and disabled population. The HACSB has committed to setting aside three of the units to serve currently homeless individuals. They will work with the County of Ventura Homeless Services staff to identify and provide the needed long-term supports for a successful transition to housing for three senior and/or disabled homeless persons.

The HACSB is applying for available tax credits to allow for funding of the project. The application is due by July 3, 2013. In May 2013 the City of San Buenaventura provided financial support for the project by including Castillo del Sol in their overall CDBG allocation to the HACSB. Financial support from the County will make the tax credit application much more competitive.

On April 6, 2010, our Board allocated funding to address specific components of the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness that had not moved forward. To date, no organizations or cities have come forward with a request to use the \$2 million in matching funds for the development of a year-round emergency shelter. \$1.25 million remains in the Contingency – Homeless Designation to the CEO-Special Accounts and Contributions. We recommend that \$300,000 in the 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget from Assigned for Homeless Programs to the CEO-Special Accounts and Contributions for the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura's Castillo del Sol project. Further, as the funds need to be committed, but not transferred until a later date, we recommend that our Board authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions in Fiscal Year 2013/14 to appropriate \$300,000 from Fund Balance - Assigned for Homeless Programs to Budget Unit 1010 - CEO Special Accounts and Contributions.

Board of Supervisors
June 25, 2013
Page 3

This is a unique opportunity to partner with the City of San Buenaventura Housing Authority, the City of San Buenaventura and other community partners to provide exactly the type of housing that is so badly needed. We appreciate the actions of HACSB to set aside dedicated units for those who are currently homeless and encourage more housing organizations to do the same.

We hope you will join us in this effort to move one step closer to ending homelessness in Ventura County. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Cordially,



Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District



Kathy I. Long
Supervisor, Third District