

Item 9 - Public Comment #2

EMAIL RECEIVED

March 24, 2021

Transportation Authority of Marin
Board of Commissioners
900 5th Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Public Comment for Item 9: MTC Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike Program; Support for Casa Buena Complete Streets Grant Application

Dear TAM Commissioners:

Thank you for your consideration of our support for the Town of Corte Madera's grant application for \$600,000 pursuant to the MTC Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike Program.

The Casa Buena Project Homekey Working Group ("Working Group") was formed in the Fall of 2020 to support the successful integration of 18 units of interim and permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness at 1591 Casa Buena Drive ("The Casa Buena"), into the Corte Madera Community. Through a unique partnership consisting of four (4) Corte Madera community residents, the Corte Madera Town Council, Town of Corte Madera staff, Supervisor Denis Rodoni's office, the County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services, Catholic Charities, and Opening Doors Marin, the Working Group is committed to ensuring that The Casa Buena, occupied since February 2021, becomes a model for subsequent permanent supportive housing projects.

Since day one, our Working Group has recognized that physical improvements to the project site and to Casa Buena Drive are critical to creating the foundation for success for both residents of The Casa Buena and for the surrounding Casa Buena/Meadowsweet community. Our Exterior Site Improvement team has begun to consider how to reimagine the site's parking area and street frontage to make the site more residential in character, inviting and safe, through relatively small interventions such as privacy and sound-attenuating fencing, landscaping, bicycle parking, and outdoor seating areas. Some right-of-way improvements at the sidewalk may also benefit the new residential use. These improvements, which benefit both residents of the project and the broader community, may be able to be implemented as part of the County's transition of the property into permanent supportive housing later this year or, for right-of-way improvements, as part of the Casa Buena Drive Complete Streets Project.

The Casa Buena Drive Complete Streets Project will similarly benefit residents of The Casa Buena, who will disproportionately utilize improved bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities to access basic needs, and the broader Corte Madera community, most of whom live further south along Casa Buena Drive where access to sidewalks and safe bicycle lanes currently don't exist.

Based on public comments the Town received at well-attended workshops related to Project Homekey in the Fall and our own assessment of needed exterior site improvements, however, the addition of new street lighting to the Town's Complete Streets project is critical to realizing the integration goals the County, Town, and Corte Madera residents, are working toward with the The Casa Buena. Street lighting will improve the safety of the pedestrian facilities along Casa Buena Drive during evenings and

Item 9 - Public Comment #2

nights, increasing their utilization by all Casa Buena residents, including those living at The Casa Buena, and address a long-standing concern of the broader business and residential community.

We strongly urge you to support the Town of Corte Madera's grant application for \$600,000 toward the Casa Buena Complete Streets project and believe the project qualifies for any "partnership points" that may be used in TAM's evaluation criteria, given the ongoing partnership between the County of Marin and Town of Corte Madera to successfully integrate housing for homeless individuals into the Corte Madera community.

Respectfully,

The Casa Buena Working Group

Fred Casissa, Councilmember, Town of Corte Madera
Leila Mongan, Corte Madera Resident (Councilmember Appointee)
Barbara Snyder, Corte Madera Resident
Scott Garland, Corte Madera Resident
Glen Barras, Corte Madera Resident
Ellen Hammerle, VP Client Services, Catholic Charities
Adam Wolff, Planning and Building Director, Town of Corte Madera
Andrew Hening, Opening Doors Marin