

County of Santa Clara

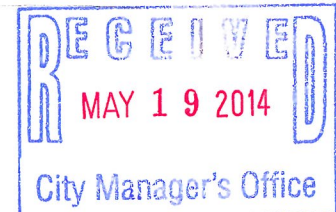
Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-5105



May 15, 2014

Mr. Robert Walker
Interim City Manager
City of Sunnyvale
456 W. Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086



SUBJECT: Replacement Facilities for the North County Cold Weather Shelter Program

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am writing to request your assistance. On April 15, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors directed the County Administration to identify a replacement facility and funding options for the Cold Weather Shelter Program (CWSP) in North County (Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Palo Alto areas). The County hopes to identify one facility in the North County that could provide emergency shelter to at least 125 homeless individuals on a nightly basis from December through March. This facility would replace the Sunnyvale Armory, which will be the site of 115 new permanent affordable housing units. While one facility is ideal, we would also be interested in knowing if there are smaller facilities that could operate as an emergency shelter. Your consideration and responses to the following questions would be greatly appreciated.

1. Cold Weather Shelter Program.

- a. Does your city own, lease or operate any facilities – regardless of capacity – that could be used as emergency shelter during the cold weather months? For example, could any of the facilities at the Sunnyvale Community Center be used as emergency shelter?
- b. Does your city own or lease any land that could accommodate temporary or modular structures that could be used for emergency shelter during the cold weather months?

- c. Does your city have any funding that could be used to establish and/or support the operation of an emergency shelter during the cold weather months?

2. **Inclement Weather Program.** If your city is unable to support a cold weather shelter program, would you please consider the questions that are stated above as they relate to warming shelters. The County is considering ways to prevent cold weather injuries and death for unsheltered populations. While the CWSP operates during a specified season, during extremely severe weather (e.g., near-freezing temperatures) certain shelters could be activated.

3. Finally, are there any opportunities to establish new **housing programs to serve homeless individuals and families**? Ending and preventing homelessness are still priorities for the County. Increasing the supply of permanent supportive, transitional, rapid re-housing or homelessness prevention programs are important components of a comprehensive response to homelessness in North County.

Please be advised that the County (through its contractor) is also exploring the possibility of leasing or purchasing property for use as emergency shelter during the cold weather season. We are focusing on areas where the zoning allows for emergency shelter by right or through a conditional use permit. Any assistance or guidance that you can provide to us as we pursue this approach would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would greatly appreciate hearing your ideas, questions or concerns by May 31, 2014. We hope to respond to the Board with some options in June. You may reach me at Ky.Le@hhs.sccgov.org or 408-885-7543.

Sincerely,



Ky G. Le
Director of Homeless Systems
County of Santa Clara

Cc:

Gary Graves, Chief Operating Officer, County of Santa Clara
Hanson Hom, Community Development Director, City of Sunnyvale
Suzanne Ise, Housing Officer, City of Sunnyvale