

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 107
Martinez, California 94553-1293

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Contra Costa County



David J. Twa
Clerk of the Board
And
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

May 7, 2019

Joseph Villarreal
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa
3133 Estudillo Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Subject: Demolition and Disposition Letter of Support - Las Deltas and Las Deltas Annex I

Dear Mr. Villarreal:

I write to express the County of Contra Costa's enthusiastic support for the Demolition and Disposition Application for Las Deltas and Las Deltas Annex I. This application would permit the Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa (HACCC) to partially demolish and completely dispose of the units located at 1601 N. Jade Street, Richmond, CA.

I understand that HACCC is seeking HUD's approval for demolition of part of the units that rest on contiguous parcels at Las Deltas that are vacant and are attracting criminal elements and squatters who are inviting further complications for the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, HACCC seeks approval for complete disposition of the property so that existing units scattered throughout the surrounding neighborhood can be sold to interested buyers.

As I understand it, HACCC met with the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Committee on December 4, 2019 to discuss the progress with the relocation of the families from Las Deltas and the planned demolition and disposition of the property. My staff was also in attendance at this meeting. In addition, HACCC has been actively working with the Las Deltas Steering Committee and the North Richmond Planning Committee over the past six months to devise a comprehensive strategy for transformation of Las Deltas and the surrounding community. HACCC and my staff met with community and resident leaders two to four times a month, for six months, to finalize a Quality of Life plan that was rolled out at a public forum on March 30, 2019.

It is expected that the contiguous property will be proposed for development in partnership with non-profit housing developers, the County and perhaps HACCC to replace the existing dilapidated and blighted units with a new mixed use and mixed income community. It is hoped that the partnership will foster the restoration of a vacant property, and increase the value of the community to both the neighborhood and the County. Proceeds from sales would be re-directed to additional needs of HACCC's public housing portfolio and future redevelopment plans for the public housing portfolio.

The first step would be approval of the demolition and disposition applications. Demolition and disposition of Las Deltas would further assist the County of Contra Costa with our goal to rejuvenate communities where housing has been vacant and is in need of rehabilitation. It also could lead to critical public/private partnerships in the future development of the property site. This action would be in the best interest of all involved.

Sincerely,

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors