

September 8, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair

Measure X Community Advisory Committee

Contra Costa County

c/o Lisa Driscoll – Ldriscoll@cao.cccounty.us

Dear Ms, Moore,

Resources for Community Development (RCD) urges the Measure X Committee to fund affordable housing through Measure X via the Housing Trust Fund proposal made by County staff at the June 30th Committee meeting. The Trust Fund proposal would allow for the broadest array of housing programs to be funded. It would allow for the flexibility to fund the highest priority needs to create needed affordable homes and prevent and end homelessness.

RCD is a non-profit development company that has built and operates hundreds of affordable apartments throughout Contra Costa. We house a wide range of families and individuals in those homes, including people coming from homelessness, frail elders, households living with disabilities, and working individuals and families. We work closely with community agencies such as the County Department of Conservation and Development, the Housing Authority of Contra Costa, and cities throughout the County. RCD is also an active member of the County's Continuum of Care.

The County and local cities have been incredibly resourceful in advancing affordable housing development in Contra Costa. However, since the end of California Redevelopment in 2011, the County's affordable housing resources have been largely limited to Federal funding through the HOME and Community Development Block Grant programs. This is not nearly enough local funding to leverage the state and federal funding required to build the affordable housing the County needs, and in fact the lack of affordable homes has become more pronounced during the recent expansion of the housing and homelessness crisis in the County. The use of up to \$12 million of Measure X funds could more than double the local resources for affordable housing in the County, which would be a huge win for the County and its residents.

As mentioned above, we hope you will support the Housing Trust Fund concept presented by County staff. This would allow for the most flexibility to fund the widest range of housing programs, and the County could decide its priorities for spending the funds based on future opportunities and needs. The funds generated by Measure X would be a huge boost to efforts to reduce homelessness and create more needed affordable units in Contra Costa County.

Thank you for all you do and for your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Dan Sawislak

Executive Director