

April 8, 2016

The Honorable William Monning  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District, State of California  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian  
Assemblyman, 35<sup>th</sup> District, State of California  
State Capitol, Room 4098  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Senator Monning and Assemblyman Achadjian,

We the undersigned, all Mayors of cities in the County of San Luis Obispo, are striving to address the immediate and long-term issues affecting those suffering from homelessness in our jurisdictions. Each of us is concerned with those who are struggling to rebound from economic set-backs as well as those whose serious physical and mental challenges cripple their efforts to be self-sustaining. Our concerns have prompted us to open or facilitate warming centers and various other strategies involving public and private agencies.

Much is being done. Much more remains to be done.

It has come to our attention that the former California Youth Authority facility near Paso Robles remains in a “warm shutdown” condition which costs California taxpayers considerable funds each year to maintain. We cannot help but wonder if there is not a better use for this property; a use that would tear down the chain link fence and razor wire and create a “Beyond Homelessness Campus.” The subject property includes a medical facility, classrooms, and food service area. Existing buildings could be modified for emergency shelters and empty acreage could be used for clean transitional housing.

Doubtless, such a proposition would encounter a variety of obstacles including, but not limited to, funding, programming, staffing, and maintenance. Before those obstacles can be identified fully and addressed we must know the State’s intent regarding the disposition of this property. Knowledge of that intent is the basis for this letter.

We respectfully request information regarding the plans for the vacant California Youth Authority facility near Paso Robles and also inquire regarding your interest in exploring this proposition further.

Thank you for your time, attention and service to our communities.

Sincerely,

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Steven W. Martin  
Mayor, Paso Robles

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Tom O’Malley  
Mayor, Atascadero

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Jan Marx  
Mayor, San Luis Obispo

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Jamie Irons  
Mayor, Morro Bay

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Jim Hill  
Mayor, Arroyo Grande

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Shelly Higginbotham  
Mayor, Pismo Beach

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John Shoals  
Mayor, Grover Beach