

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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March 8, 2022

Ms. Jennifer LaForce, Co-Chair
Ms. Margaret Lewis, Co-Chair
El Dorado Opportunity Knocks
3047 Briw Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. LaForce and Ms. Lewis,

Thank you for the informative presentation to the Board of Supervisors on February 22nd. El Dorado Opportunity Knocks' draft Strategic Plan is a remarkable document exhibiting not only a great deal of work by your leadership and member agencies but also their obvious passion for tackling one of the most pressing challenges facing El Dorado County.

Among the many opinions and concerns expressed during your presentation to my Board, the one perhaps easiest to address is your plan's name. As we heard, there is worry among some people that "El Dorado" could be taken to mean only the unincorporated community by that name and not the entire county. For this reason, we believe that the insertion of "County" in the title and throughout the plan would eliminate any uncertainty about the geographic scope of your work. We recognize that "El Dorado County" is used correctly in many parts of the plan, however, there are over 100 places that "El Dorado" should be referenced as "El Dorado County". If we can be of any assistance in identifying these changes, we are happy to help.

Perhaps the most important component of the Board's discussion was the recognition that the Board of Supervisors' highest single priority is for an emergency shelter to be in place and operational by the beginning of this year's fire season, meaning late summer or early fall. We are interested in a variety of emergency shelter solutions, including safe

parking, tiny homes/pallet homes, or a navigation center that includes shelter beds, with expediency being a primary factor. The community is clear that there is an urgency to get people off the streets, out of fire prone areas and into emergency shelter solutions as identified in Goal 3.1.f in the draft Strategic Plan. Among the ideas we also find encouraging are the leveraging of library community hubs and our 2-1-1 service to provide navigation services for an immediate solution, as well as developing partnerships with landlords, who will be key to permanent housing solutions. Finally, as we work to cultivate collaborative partnerships with landlords, we do oppose Strategy 2.2.d which would explore the concept of a vacancy tax which would seek to create local policies that incentivize absent landlords to sell or develop properties. We feel this would undermine a respectful and productive relationship with landlords who will be key partners in potential permanent housing solutions.

Many county departments and offices have been engaged and stand ready to play an active role in the development and implementation of urgent solutions prior to fire season. And where longer term solutions are proposed, intensive public outreach needs to occur so the community understands what is being implemented. A key component to the success of any plan will be investment by all stakeholders and the general public, and outreach will help ensure maximum public participation. Attached to this memo are comments received from the public regarding the Strategic Plan discussion at the February 22 Board of Supervisors meeting.

I ask that you keep the Board of Supervisors apprised of your progress, with plans to return in approximately three months with a detailed update. We are looking forward to working together to implement the Strategic Plan in order to collectively prevent and end homelessness in El Dorado County.

Sincerely,

Lori Parlin
Chair, Board of Supervisors