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May 6, 2019

Bernard Tyson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Kaiser Permanente
Ordway Building, 1 Kaiser Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Tyson,

On March 12th, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to partner with the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin to create **Victory Gardens**, a permanent supportive housing project for homeless Veterans and their families. The idea behind this innovative partnership is simple: *stable housing is essential to stable health*.

As the Department of Veteran Affairs moves forward with bringing the new **Community Based Outpatient Clinic** to the County, creating nearby housing for homeless Veterans is the best way to improve health outcomes for these local heroes.

The goal of this partnership is also simple: to reduce the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in our region. The Board of Supervisors **has committed 4.57 acres of land** and an **additional \$1 million** in funds to support Victory Gardens. The Housing Authority has committed over **\$6.7 million** in rental subsidies to the development, and in combination with the support from the County, will use those commitments as leverage to secure additional competitive **Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention** and **Low Income Housing Tax Credits** awards from the State of California. We want to give the Housing Authority the best possible chance to secure these essential funding sources. Leveraging support from local governments and private philanthropy to win these highly competitive State and Federal funds is the only way San Joaquin County can compete with the larger and, frankly, wealthier regions like Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Victory Gardens will create **approximately 50 new units of permanent supportive housing** specifically for homeless Veterans and their families. The project will include comprehensive wraparound services and is located directly adjacent to an already existing VA clinic and within steps of the planned VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, designed to expand essential healthcare services to San Joaquin County Veterans who currently must travel to Palo Alto for these services. Without stable housing, it can be virtually impossible to achieve stable health. Providing desperately needed housing and support services to homeless Veterans within close proximity to the largest expansion of Veteran healthcare in San Joaquin County history will **dramatically improve outcomes** for this vulnerable group and have a **profound impact on reducing Veteran homelessness** in San Joaquin County.

On any given night, there are approximately 40,000 homeless Veterans living in the US. Nearly a quarter of those are Californians.

On **July 4th, 2018, there were 154 Veterans** living in shelters and on the streets of San Joaquin County. Last year, 690 homeless Veterans and their families were served through programs in San Joaquin County.

No one who has served and sacrificed for our country should have to live without a home. That is why ending homelessness for our servicemen and women has been a top priority for federal, state and local governments for over a decade.

California is in the midst of a housing crisis. The State estimates that 3.5 million new units of housing must be created just to meet current demand. Of those, nearly 25,000 units are needed in San Joaquin County. The greatest barrier to new construction in California is the high cost. All of these factors show why the Housing Authority needs support to compete Statewide for these funds. Even with these funding sources in place, **there still remains an approximately \$2 million funding gap**. When Victory Gardens opens, it will be the only permanent supportive housing project exclusively for homeless Veterans in San Joaquin County. That is why I am reaching out to you and Kaiser Permanente for your support in helping San Joaquin County's homeless Veterans find stable housing, stable health and a brighter future for themselves and their families.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about Victory Gardens, please do not hesitate to contact Project Lead Adam Cheshire, San Joaquin County Program Administrator – Homeless Initiatives, at (209) 468-3399 or acheshire@sjgov.org.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request,



The Honorable Miguel Villapudua
Chair, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

c: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, San Joaquin County Administrator
Peter Ragsdale, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin
Corwin Harper, Senior Vice President/Area Manager, Kaiser Permanente