



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368  
FAX (707) 263-2207

*Moke Simon – District 1*

*Jeff Smith – District 2*

*Jim Steele – District 3*

*Tina Scott – District 4*

*Rob Brown – District 5*

April 11, 2017

Veterans Housing Development Corporation  
Burt Chesney  
P O Box 378  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors would like to express its strong support for the permanent supportive housing project being developed by Veterans Housing Development Corporations that will serve the needs of very low income veterans and their families in Lake County. We are convinced that this development provides a unique opportunity to meet the needs of Lake County's Veterans, particularly homeless Veterans, and underserved Veteran populations such as female Veterans, aging Veterans, and those who are physically or mentally disabled.

Lake County is a rural county with close proximity to Sacramento and the Bay Area. Its strategic location, along with a relatively low cost of living, means that Lake County is a magnet for low income individuals, especially low income Veterans. Lake County is the poorest county in California with a poverty rate of 25% versus a national rate of 15.4% (2009-2013). Additionally, according to the Census Bureau, Lake County's Veteran population is more than double the rate in all of California (12.6% vs 5.5%). Although the total number of Veterans is relatively small compared to more urban areas, Lake County's low cost of living means that the cost per capita of delivering Veteran housing services is also less.

The County's housing resources have been also been challenged by the massive wildfires of fire of 2015 and 2016, scorched 22% of the County's land mass and destroying over 1500 homes. The resulting displacement of people has decimated the County's remaining housing stock, leaving virtually no rental housing, especially no low income housing, available for the surging Veteran population.

Recognizing the profound need of the County's Veteran population and the unique opportunity provided by this development, this Board has agreed to contribute approximately 23 acres of prime real estate located immediately adjacent to a hospital. Although previously earmarked for other County purposes, the board believes that the most effective use of this strategically located real estate is to meet the permanent supportive housing needs of very low income Veterans.

In light of Lake County's unique demographic and economic profile which attracts a relative large Veteran population and our ability to serve those Veterans at a lower cost than other areas, this Board enthusiastically supports the efforts of Veterans Housing Development Corporation to develop affordable housing for very low income Veterans and their families in Lake County.

Sincerely,

**LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Jeff Smith, Chair  
District 2

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Moke Simon  
District 1

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Jim Steele  
District 3

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Tina Scott  
District 4

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Rob Brown  
District 5