



City of Salinas

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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FARMWORKER HOUSING STUDY AND ACTION PLAN FOR SALINAS VALLEY AND PAJARO VALLEY

Project Purpose:

- Develop a collective **Action Plan** to address farmworker housing shortages so employers can rely on trained stable workforce.
- Foster **regional collaboration** so that the supply of farmworker accommodations matches needs of specific types of farmworkers (e.g. seasonal unaccompanied vs. year-round family) and improves farmworker family health through safe living conditions.
- Provide current **data** to support advocacy for resources and resource allocation, e.g. supporting project financing by affordable housing developers.

Background: During the 2015-2023 Housing Element Update process, the City of Salinas was asked to conduct a needs assessment of farmworker housing. Meanwhile, south Salinas Valley mayors were travelling to Napa County to learn about their pioneering solutions for funding farmworker housing. The City of Salinas agreed to coordinate a regional survey and study of farmworker housing and the development of an Action Plan to address the needs. Solutions may include site identification, evaluation of best practices, recommendations for new sources of financing, and proposed regulatory changes.

A Request for Proposals was issued in July 2016 and a contract with the California Institute for Rural Studies (CIRS) and California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) executed in December 2016. CIRS and CCRH are experienced with conducting agricultural workforce surveys and analyzing best practice projects throughout California, most recently in the Coachella Valley and San Mateo County.

Schedule: The twelve-month study is getting underway in January 2016. A survey of farmworkers and agricultural businesses will be conducted in the spring. There will be community meetings throughout the process, concluding with a regional “Summit” meeting to review the results of the data analysis and potential solutions.

Community Collaboration: There is an Oversight Committee comprised of twenty five representatives of funding partners (Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, the Monterey Bay Association of Governments (AMBAG), and the cities of King, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and

Salinas) and stakeholders such as Central Coast Growers and Shippers, CHISPA, California Strawberry Commission, MidPen Housing, Center for Community Advocacy, Health in All Policies-Salinas Workgroup, homeless service providers, Eden Housing, Building Healthy Communities-East Salinas, and United Way Monterey County.

For more information: Please visit the City of Salinas website at www.cityofsalinas.org.