



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**County Executive Office**  
Housing & Intergovernmental Affairs

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**Nancy Watt**  
County Executive Officer

July 24, 2012

Calistoga City Council  
City of Calistoga  
1232 Washington St.  
Calistoga, CA 94515

Re: City contribution for the Napa County Housing Authority Farm Worker Program

Dear Council Members,

The Napa County Housing Commission and Napa County Housing Authority appreciate this opportunity to discuss operations at the three migrant farm worker centers. This has been a banner year at the centers, which achieved 100% occupancy at the end of April and are still at capacity (180 beds) today. The challenge again this year, is ever rising food costs. While it is amazing that the centers can provide three meals per day (two hot meals and a packed lunch) for \$4.65 per person, multiplied out by over 57,000 bed nights the number is rather large (\$267,282). The Napa Valley Farm Worker Committee in St. Helena contributed \$45,000 in FY 2011/2012 to cover the unexpected increase in food costs.

There are limited opportunities for revenue to run the centers, which include the County Service Area No. 4 assessment (CSA 4) that was recently renewed for another five years, rents from the lodgers, contributions from the incorporated cities and town, and annual grants from Auction Napa Valley. In the past, the ANV has been funding the centers at an average of \$100,000 per year. This is the first year a new giving plan is being instituted and housing is no longer included. The Housing Authority applied for a "close out" grant for projects that are not eligible for funding in the future, to help transition away from ANV funding over the next two years.

The farm worker centers are a benefit to the entire county and provide a stable workforce for the agricultural industry that is the essence of the Napa Valley. The three centers address a need not answered by any other housing program in the valley. By providing housing to migrant workers, the centers help to keep agricultural workers out of undesirable, overcrowded or illegal housing when they are in the valley for a specific task such as suckering, grafting or harvest. The Housing Authority's program allows for nightly rent charges and requires no security deposit or credit check. To accommodate workers who travel with few resources, the centers also provide meal service and dorm style accommodations with hot showers and laundry facilities in a safe and secure environment.

The County contributes \$190,000 annually to cover the cost of program administration and has contributed money from the Affordable Housing Fund to pay for capital improvements at all three centers.

The centers provide safe and clean housing to the migrant population and we hope the City Council will find it is in the public interest of Calistoga to continue to contribute to the operating expenses and ensure the continued success of the centers.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Johnson*

Nancy Johnson  
Housing and Community Development Program Manager

## NC FW HSNB CENTERS FOOD COST ANALYSIS

