

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Date of Notice: December 8, 2020

Name of Responsible Entity County of Orange, OC Housing & Community Development

Address: 1501 E. St. Andrew Place

City, State, Zip Code: Santa Ana, CA 92705

Telephone Number: (714) 480-2991

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Orange.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about December 24, 2020, County of Orange, Housing & Community Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a development known as Villa St. Joseph. A request will also be submitted to HUD, Office of Public and Indian Housing for the release of 18 Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs) as authorized under Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA).

The Development is the conversion and rehabilitation of a catholic convent known as the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse located at 480 S. Batavia Street in the City of Orange, CA, into 50 affordable rental units. The Development will provide rental housing opportunities for extremely low and very low-income seniors earning 30% to 50% of Area Median Income (AMI). The 18 units utilizing the PBVs will serve senior individuals experiencing homelessness and meeting the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) eligibility criteria earning 30% AMI or below.

Mercy Housing California, the developer, has requested 18 OCHA PBVs and \$1,020,600 HOME, Housing Successor Agency and/or OC Housing Authority Operating Reserve funding under the County of Orange 2020 Supportive Housing Notice of Funding Availability.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The County of Orange, Housing & Community Development has determined that the development will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to OC Housing & Community Development, Attention: Julia Bidwell, 1501 E. St. Andrew Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92705 or by email to [jaclyn.canzone@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:jaclyn.canzone@occr.ocgov.com). The ERR can be accessed online at the following website <https://www.occr.ocgov.com/hcd/community>.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Notice is hereby further given to provide the public a 15-day review period beginning December 8, 2020 to December 23, 2020. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments

on the ERR to the OC Housing & Community Development, Attention: Julia Bidwell, 1501 E. St. Andrew Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Santa Ana, CA 92705. All comments received by December 23, 2020 will be considered by the County of Orange prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The County of Orange certifies to HUD that Julia Bidwell in her capacity as Director of OC Housing & Community Development, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County of Orange to use Program funds.

### **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Orange certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Orange; (b) the County of Orange has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at [CPDLA@hud.gov](mailto:CPDLA@hud.gov) or to HUD Los Angeles Office of Public Housing at [HUDLOSANGELESOPH@hud.gov](mailto:HUDLOSANGELESOPH@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD or HUD Los Angeles Office of Public Housing via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Julia Bidwell, Director  
OC Housing & Community Development