



April 20, 2022

Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Philip Ting
Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: SUPPORT FOR BUDGET ALLOCATION OF \$100,000,000 IN GENERAL FUNDS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGIONAL HOUSING TRUST

Dear Senator Skinner & Assemblyman Ting:

The City of Azusa strongly supports the one-time FY 2022-23 budget allocation request submitted by Senator Susan Rubio seeking \$100,000,000 from the General Fund to fund the planning and construction of affordable and homeless housing in the San Gabriel Valley. This funding would be instrumental in addressing the affordable housing shortage and homeless crisis in our region of 31 cities located in eastern Los Angeles County.

The San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) is a joint powers authority established in February 2020 by legislation authored by Senator Susan Rubio. In its first two years, the SGVRHT has successfully leveraged local resources to secure two state matching grants, developed the first tiny home bridge housing site in the San Gabriel Valley, and funded 552 affordable and permanent supportive housing units in 8 cities. The SGVRHT aims to provide a turnkey approach for project development, supporting projects from inception to completion with predevelopment technical assistance, acquisition and construction loans, and permanent financing. With an average investment of \$21,204 per unit, every dollar invested by the SGVRHT leverages \$22 in additional investment.

In just two years, the SGVRHT has already demonstrated how it can successfully leverage other funds to help finance and construct affordable housing units. An investment of this magnitude would serve as a catalyst to attract private capital and additional investment in housing development for at-risk residents of the San Gabriel Valley. We urge that this robust state investment be provided to support the cooperative, proactive efforts by the communities of the San Gabriel Valley to address the need for affordable and homeless housing.



Thank you in advance for your consideration of this budget allocation request in response to the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in our region. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to Sergio Gonzalez, Azusa City Manager. He can be reached by phone at (626) 812-5238 or via email at sergio.gonzalez@azusaca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gonzales'.

Robert Gonzales
Mayor
City of Azusa

Cc: Senator Susan Rubio