



April 20, 2017

Alejandro Chavez
Chair, TAMC Board of Directors
55-B Plaza Circle
Salinas CA 93901

Re: Opposition to Possible Leasing of TAMC Property for Warming Shelter

Dear TAMC Board of Directors,

The Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce comprises about 650 member organizations, representing thousands of local employees and citizens. We request that the TAMC Board not enter into any agreements to continue providing a warming shelter at the TAMC-owned property at 20 West Market Street in Salinas.

While we are sympathetic to the needs of homeless in our community, we are concerned about possible considerations to continue utilizing this property for a warming shelter for several reasons:

1. When the City of Salinas and the County of Monterey collaborated to provide a warming shelter at this location, it was intended to be a **temporary** shelter. Continuing to allow its use for this purpose will make it harder for TAMC to make changes to the property later, specifically to prepare it for the transportation purposes for which TAMC acquired the property.
2. The City of Salinas budgeted to contribute toward the costs of operating the warming shelter for six months, specifically during the cold winter months. It was not budgeted to be a year-round shelter and would represent a significant unbudgeted expense.
3. This warming shelter, if continued, would be a temporary bandage and not a long-term solution to address the problem. We encourage the City of Salinas and the County of Monterey to work together to identify longer-term solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul J. Farmer".

Paul J. Farmer
President & CEO, Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce
Phone (831) 751-7725 www.SalinasChamber.com

CC: TAMC Board of Directors, Debbie Hale, Mike Zeller