

August 15, 2019  
Napa Planning Commission

Dear Planning Commission Members:

As a nearby resident of the **Heritage House** project on Valle Verde Drive that has been repositioned to qualify for funding under the new State “**No Place Like Home**” program, I am very concerned that the City of Napa will travel down the same dead-end road that San Francisco and many other cities have mistakenly traveled. San Francisco and their associated non-profits spend well over \$500 million every year on the homeless and they now admit their program is a failure as far as getting people off the street. So they throw more money at the problem, but the solution lies elsewhere. Please [visit the link below](https://sfmag.com/2018/09/29/interesting-article-about-homeless-crisis-from-marina-times/) to read about the **San Diego program that is 93% effective!**

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The following sections of the State program (that the City Council approved earlier this year) will create the same immoral and ineffective conditions here in Napa. It is exactly the wrong approach. It’s unbelievable that our elected officials have such little understanding of such a serious problem. *The State program targets seriously mentally ill and chronic drug users and states:*

Section 211. Tenant Selection:

“Sponsors shall accept tenants regardless of sobriety, participation in services or treatment, history of incarceration, credit, or history of Eviction”.

Section 212. Rental Agreements and Grievance Procedures:

“Tenants shall not be required to maintain sobriety, be tested for substances, or participate in services or treatment.”

Unfortunately, our Sacramento representatives jumped without understanding the real problems with chronic homelessness. As this link points out, this State funding program will only make things worse, generating many ineffective shelters that “churn” homeless addicts for the benefit of the “Homeless industry.” Is this what you want for Napa? This is just the wrong kind of program that will breed homeless encampments in the area around the Gasser proposed project on Valle Verde. There is a park and stream bank close by which will make a perfect encampment area that will be dangerous for residents and walkers who live nearby and use that park area.

Please don’t just rubber stamp this project. To do so would be grossly negligent of your duty to our city. The Napa City council can correct their mistake and you can help them by calling for a better analysis of the project and reviewing what other experts have to say about homelessness.

1. The former proposed use of the Sunrise Assisted Living Facility as 33 affordable housing units on this site should be pursued. It could be supported by the neighborhood, if properly designed.
2. Require the seriously mentally ill to be treated at proper state facilities.

Sincerely,

Geoff Wood  
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