

**From:** [Pease, Kathy](#)  
**To:** [Ferrell, Lark](#); [Morris, Erin](#); [Natalie Noyes](#)  
**Cc:** [cass walker](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Heritage House/Valle Verde Project Comment  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2019 7:36:41 AM

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**From:** Doug Hawker <doughawker07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** Pease, Kathy <kpease@cityofnapa.org>  
**Subject:** Heritage House/Valle Verde Project Comment

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Kathy:

I have reviewed the Draft EIR for the Heritage House/Valle Verde Project as well as the program requirements for the No Place Like Home funding. I live on Summerbrooke Circle - about a three minute walk to the project location - and I am glad to see this weedy, neglected parcel being developed in this manner.

As someone with 30+ years of public service in the mental health field and someone who has been directly involved in both the start-up and operation of multiple state and federally funded programs serving the homeless mentally ill, I am a strong proponent of this project. This project is the right project, serving the right needs in the right location at the right time.

The Valle Verde project will serve a vital need for housing for low and very low income individuals and families, some with significant mental illness and other disabilities. These individuals have been priced out of housing in the Napa Valley, and some will need a hand up into housing paired with supportive services in order to break the cycle of homelessness. Some number of these individuals are currently living in tenuous housing situations or commuting in from other cities in order to work in our hospitality oriented industry.

Some of my neighbors are concerned with the 33 Heritage House SRO units that will be operated as permanent supported housing with a significant level of onsite support services. These neighbors say they think this project meets a strong need but they just don't think it fits in our neighborhood. This is a common "not in my backyard" theme. They are worried that having individuals with a mental illness or a history of chronic homelessness living in the neighborhood will make it unsafe. Unfortunately this misunderstanding, fear, and distrust of individuals with a mental illness is all too common in our society. However, mentally ill individuals are 5 times more likely to victims of personal assault and other crimes; and statistically they are very unlikely to be perpetrators of those crimes.

The draft EIR indicates no hazards that cannot and will not be mitigated in the design, construction, and operation of this project. Permanent housing is a fundamental community need and the foundation for a healthy and vibrant community. It is my hope that the Napa City Planning Commission and the Napa City Council will strongly support the Heritage House/Valle Verde.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this matter!

Sincerely,  
Doug Hawker