

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 16**

**SUBJECT: FULFILLING COUNTY HOMELESSNESS COMMITMENTS BY AMENDING THE CASA MARIPOSA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER AGREEMENT AND CLEARING THE CITY'S PATH TO KEEP THE ROSECRANS HOMELESS SHELTER OPEN AND WAIVE BOARD POLICY A-72 (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Since 2021, the County of San Diego has strategically invested its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to expand shelter capacity, protect vulnerable residents, and support regional partnerships to address homelessness. This item continues that approach by sustaining operations at the 160-bed Casa Mariposa Domestic Violence (DV) shelter and advancing a time-sensitive solution to preserve operations at the 150-bed Rosecrans Shelter, which now faces potential closure following the City of San Diego's withdrawal of future operational funding.

On April 4, 2023 (Item 27), the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a \$6.2 million ARPA subrecipient agreement with the City of San Diego to fund capital improvements and up to two years of operations at the Casa Mariposa DV shelter. The agreement was structured as a one-time County investment to help the City launch the shelter, with the agreement that the City would identify ongoing operational funding after the two-year period.

The full grant amount was disbursed to the City on January 29, 2024, and the shelter opened in April 2024. Based on expenditure information submitted by the City, the Casa Mariposa DV shelter is currently operating at a cost of approximately \$200,000 per month. Based on actual operations costs, it is estimated that the City will spend about \$4.7 million on operations and \$263,000 on capital improvements, leaving approximately \$1.2 million in unspent ARPA funds after the two-year County funds commitment for operations.

This item proposes to extend the grant term through June 30, 2026 - providing the full two years of operations while also adding two additional months of County support beyond the original commitment. This brief extension is intended to smooth the City's transition to long-term operational funding and support stability during its FY 2026 budget process. After this period, the City would be expected to fund ongoing operations as agreed.

As outlined in the original grant agreement, any unspent funds at the end of the two-year term is to be returned to the County. With this extension, the projected unspent balance is reduced to approximately \$800,000.

This item proposes to repurpose those funds to help fund utility infrastructure improvements at the 150-bed Rosecrans Shelter, located on County-owned land in the Midway area. Since its launch in March 2022, the shelter has been supported through a three-way partnership between the County, the City of San Diego, and the Lucky Duck Foundation. The County provided the land, site preparation, behavioral health support services, and ongoing utilities services; the City committed to shelter operations; and Lucky Duck contributed the shelter structure.

The original agreement anticipated that the adjacent County Health Services Complex (HSC) would be demolished - a project now moving forward. Because the shelter currently relies on the HSC utility system, new utility infrastructure must be established for Rosecrans to remain operational. The total cost is estimated between \$1 million and \$2 million, with further analysis required by City engineers in partnership with the County Department of General Services. The County is continuing to cover ongoing utility costs, currently estimated at \$9,500 per month.

The County has offered to amend and extend its partnership at Rosecrans for up to four additional years, including continued use of the land and behavioral health support services. However, in April 2025, the City notified the County it would be withdrawing from the agreement, citing concerns about infrastructure and future operating costs. Funding for shelter operations has since been removed from the City's draft FY 2026 budget, and the shelter provider has been instructed to stop new intakes.

The proposed infrastructure investment is contingent on a new agreement with the City of San Diego committing to continue Rosecrans operations for at least four additional years. Repurposing the projected \$800,000 in unspent ARPA funds would ensure those dollars are used to support continued shelter operations. It is best to shift these funds now in order not to risk any underspending of federal ARPA dollars.

Together, these actions reflect the County's continued commitment to responsible ARPA stewardship, regional shelter partnerships, and preservation of critical housing and services at two key sites within the City of San Diego.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii., which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.
2. Extend the operations funding and timeline for the City of San Diego's 160-bed Casa Mariposa Domestic Violence Shelter to fulfill the County's original commitment and provide additional runway through the City's fiscal year, by authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to amend the existing subrecipient grant agreement with the City to a maximum amount of \$5.4 million and extend the grant agreement term through June 30, 2026. This extension shall be conditioned on the City providing a report detailing progress toward securing long-term operational funding, as originally intended.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board with key outcomes and lessons learned from the County's two-year operational funding model at the Casa Mariposa DV shelter site.
4. Reaffirm the County's commitment to the joint City-County 150-bed Rosecrans Shelter by contributing to the utility infrastructure construction and ongoing utility costs needed to ensure continued utility access during adjacent construction. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to reallocate up to \$800,000 in projected excess ARPA Framework funds from the balance initially allocated for the Casa Mariposa DV shelter agreement - funds that must be expended under federal deadlines or returned - to create local funds capacity in the ARPA Framework to partially fund the one-time infrastructure improvements required to relocate utility connections at the Rosecrans Shelter site. The total cost is currently estimated to be

between \$1-\$2 million and will require further analysis by City engineers in coordination with the County’s Department of General Services. This action is contingent upon the execution of an amendment to the existing Memorandum of Agreement with the City of San Diego that includes a commitment by the City to continue funding operations at the Rosecrans Shelter for a minimum of four additional years.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommended actions support County efforts to reduce disparities in access to shelter and safety for populations at heightened risk of homelessness and violence. The Casa Mariposa DV shelter serves survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault - communities disproportionately impacted by systemic barriers to housing, healthcare, and legal protections. The Rosecrans Shelter provides critical stabilization for individuals experiencing homelessness, many of whom face compounding behavioral health and economic challenges. Sustaining operations at both sites helps advance the County’s equity goals by preserving services for vulnerable residents and ensuring continued access to supportive care.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommended actions support the continued use of existing infrastructure to provide emergency shelter services without the need for new development or construction. Repurposing unspent ARPA funds to upgrade utility access at the Rosecrans Shelter promotes resource efficiency and helps avoid disruption of services. In addition, demolition of the Health Services Complex will allow for future redevelopment of the site to expand behavioral health care, consistent with long-term County sustainability and health infrastructure goals.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendations 1 and 3.

Funds for Recommendation 2 were previously included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and previously disbursed to the City. If approved, this action will extend the expenditure period for the existing subrecipient agreement with the City of San Diego for the Casa Mariposa DV Shelter through June 30, 2026, resulting in an estimated total spending of \$5.4 million for the Casa Mariposa Domestic Violence Shelter under the ARPA Framework and no additional costs to the County. The revenue source would be federal funding allocated through the ARPA Framework with a projected remaining balance of \$800,000 of the \$6.2 million initially allocated under the Framework. There would be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 4 would be provided by redirecting the projected remaining amount of \$800,000 from the Casa Mariposa DV shelter to free up local funds in the County’s ARPA framework. If approved this request would result in costs and revenue of up to \$800,000 to partially support one-time utility infrastructure costs at the Rosecrans Shelter. The revenue source would be existing General Purpose Revenue redirected through the ARPA Framework. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. Total costs are estimated at \$1-2 million, the balance of which would be identified through joint efforts by the City and County to explore philanthropy and other outside funding sources.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed  
by Andrew Potter