



# MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 24, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Safe Sleeping Cabin Site in Lemon Grove, California**

Dear Governor Newsom,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to address homelessness in California. Under your leadership, significant strides have been made to tackle this complex issue. From your advocacy on Proposition 1 establishing \$6.4 billion for behavioral healthcare and housing for our most vulnerable residents to your work helping secure an additional \$1 billion in grant funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program in the most recent State Budget, your tireless dedication to confront homelessness is deeply appreciated.

But you can not do it alone. At all levels of government, we must all do more to address homelessness. I understand your frustration regarding the County of San Diego's struggle to take advantage of the \$10 million in state funding that you allocated for the development of 150 Safe Sleeping Cabins at the Jamacha Sleepings Cabins site in Spring Valley, California.

I respectfully ask that you preserve the state funding to be allocated towards Safe Sleeping Cabins at an alternative site in Lemon Grove, California. This site, located on Troy Street, was previously considered by the State of California and the County of San Diego. Elected leaders in Lemon Grove also support this location being used to provide Safe Sleeping Cabins.

The Lemon Grove site presents an opportunity for our region to live up to the vision of the Safe Sleeping Cabin Program. It will provide private and secure spaces that foster a sense of community and stability for individuals and families who have experienced the trauma of homelessness. The site can also provide vital wraparound services, including the following:

- Case Management;
- Housing Placement and Support Services;
- Medical Care;
- Behavioral Healthcare for Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder;
- Referrals for Cal-Fresh, Cal-Works, and other County Self-Sufficiency Service Programs;
- Transportation Services; and
- Employment Placement and Support Services.

As you are aware, the homelessness crisis in California has reached unprecedented levels, with over 150,000 Californians left without shelter on any given night. With every day that a resident goes unhoused, their suffering compounds and the efforts we must undertake to help them out of these devastating circumstances grows more challenging. The County of San Diego must do its part to address the homelessness crisis, and I assure you that you can rely on me as a committed partner in this work. With your support, the County of San Diego can pursue the development of a Safe Sleeping Cabins site in Lemon Grove and state resources will be directed towards helping individuals and families out of homelessness.

Best regards,



Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe  
County of San Diego Board of Supervisors, Fourth District