



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO PLANNING AND BUILDING

Steve Monowitz
Director of Community Development

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SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Heather Forshey, MS, REHS
Director

Environmental Health Services
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 372-6200
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Dear San Mateo County agricultural/ranch operator and/or landowner:

The County of San Mateo is conducting an evaluation of all employee housing provided on lands being used for agricultural or ranching purposes. The goal of this effort is to ensure that any such housing complies with essential health and safety standards, and to work with operators and landowners to improve employee housing conditions in situations where these standards are not being met.

Your operation and/or property has been identified as one that may have employee housing as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 17008. The survey may be returned by either (1) emailing an image of the completed form to FarmWorkerHousingSupport@smcgov.org, or (2) mailing the completed form to San Mateo County Farmworker Housing Taskforce, 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100, San Mateo, CA 94403. Alternatively, you may complete the brief survey online using the URL, www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q2T6D62, or the QR Code:



Note that your survey responses are subject to verification by subsequent inspection. Operators and/or property owners who fail to return a completed survey will also be subject to inspection.

For all employee housing located on your property, inspections will be performed to evaluate whether minimum habitability standards are met (e.g., safe construction, water, power, basic heating and plumbing, waste disposal for each unit). In addition, inspectors will evaluate whether the location of temporary structures and waste disposal meet appropriate setbacks from water bodies and whether all required permits from both the Planning and Building Department and County Environmental Health Services have been obtained. The County will be following up with you or your designee to schedule an inspection.

By submitting a survey response and cooperating with these efforts, you will limit the need for the County to seek other remedies and take further enforcement action needed to address this important health and safety

issue. Cooperating landowners and operators with unpermitted employee housing on their property will be eligible to receive technical assistance from the County to determine if and how any necessary permits can be obtained. If housing that has not been properly permitted meets essential habitability standards, or can be reasonably improved to meet such standards, it will be allowed to remain in operation during the period that the necessary permit applications are being processed, provided that the agricultural landowner and/or operator cooperates with these efforts and diligently pursues the required permits. Planning and Building permit fees for the construction or legalization of employee housing will be waived.

To the extent you may be interested in financial assistance for any repairs or improvements needed to meet habitability standards and permitting requirements, you may qualify for a low-interest farm labor housing loan administered by the Department of Housing. For more information, please visit www.smcgov.org/housing/farm-labor-housing-agricultural-workforce-housing. In addition, the County plans to use information gathered during this evaluation process to inform efforts to revise and update County assistance programs for the development of employee housing on agricultural and ranch lands.

Please note that if employees are required to vacate housing provided by you due to substandard conditions, you may be responsible for relocation payments pursuant to County Ordinance 3.108, et seq. and applicable State law. Further, if you fail to remedy any identified violations, you may be subject to fines and other enforcement remedies authorized by law. Our intent, however, is to work collaboratively with you in a nonpunitive manner to make sure all housed farmworkers, ranch hands, and their families are provided with safe and reliable places to live.

For questions regarding the site visits or general farmworker housing requirements, please email FarmWorkerHousingSupport@smcgov.org, leave a message at 650-363-4404, or visit www.smcgov.org/planning/farm-labor-housing-project.

Sincerely,

Steve Monowitz
Director of Community Development
Planning and Building Department

Heather Forshey
Director
Environmental Health Services

Enclosure