

COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
Board of Supervisors

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LORI PARLIN  
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT IV

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March 29, 2024

Patrick Prado  
Native Directions Inc. And HomeCA  
13505 Union Road  
Manteca, CA 95336

Sent Via Email to [patrickprado1@homeca.org](mailto:patrickprado1@homeca.org)

Re: Request for Letter of Support for Native Directions/HomeCA Initiatives

Dear Mr. Prado,

I am in receipt of your March 21, 2024 email requesting a letter of support for the Native Directions/HomeCA initiatives in El Dorado County.

The unsigned letter that is attached to your email speaks of collaboration, transparency, and accountability. However, this is the first time that anyone from Native Directions/HomeCA has reached out to my office regarding these initiatives, which appear to have been in the works for several years now. In fact, nobody from Native Directions/HomeCA reached out to any department within El Dorado County regarding these projects at all. The first communication with the County regarding these projects was in November of 2023, when the County reached out to HomeCA after hearing about the projects from a resident. In my opinion, this is the opposite of what collaboration, transparency, and accountability look like.

Furthermore, the Fact Sheet that is attached to your email appears to be a list of supportive statements about the projects rather than verified facts. Several of the statements are the type of information that would normally be explored in our Planning Department's environmental process, which would include an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this type of high-intensity project on low-density, residential land use parcels.

It is very unfortunate that Native Directions/HomeCA did not reach out to El Dorado County early in the process to truly collaborate with us. I'm sure that we would have determined locations for your projects that are more conducive to the services that are being proposed. As such, I cannot provide the letter of support that you have requested.

Respectfully,

Lori Parlin  
Supervisor, District IV  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

March 29, 2024  
Patrick Prado

cc: with Native Directions/HomeCA letter and Fact Sheet  
Tiffany Schmid  
El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer

Olivia Bryon-Cooper  
El Dorado County Director Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Garner  
El Dorado County Planning and Building Department Director

Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil  
VIA Email

Assemblyman Joe Patterson  
VIA Email

Ms. Michelle Baass  
Director California Department of Health Care Services  
Mail Stop 4100  
P.O. Box 997413  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Ms. Kim Johnson  
Director California Department of Social Services  
744 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Supervisor Lori Parlin  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane, Building A  
Placerville, CA 95667

Sent Via Email

Dear Supervisor Lori Parlin,

On behalf of Native Directions, Inc. and HomeCA Inc., we seek your support and partnership as we embark on crucially important initiatives, authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 172, within El Dorado County. Your collaboration is instrumental in addressing the urgent needs of California's Native American population, providing services that are essential and, in many cases, lifesaving. We look forward to sharing more about our organizations and the planned projects.

Native Directions Inc. provides culturally relevant and client-centered treatment services for Native Americans and others experiencing chemical dependency. Native Directions strives to support self-worth, balance, independence and spiritual healing. HomeCA operates at the frontline of the homelessness crisis in California, assisting individuals in securing transitional and permanent housing in the least restrictive environment. Together, under AB 172, Native Directions and HomeCA are working toward opening facilities in El Dorado County to serve homeless and at-risk Native Americans from throughout California.

We are committed to upholding the principles of transparency and accountability throughout all stages of these projects. To this end, we pledge to deliver comprehensive quarterly reports detailing the progress of each initiative, including the adult assisted living facility and the youth perinatal residential facility in Rescue. These reports will offer insights into our achievements, challenges encountered, and steps taken to mitigate any issues, ensuring we remain aligned with our shared goals and regulatory commitments.

We deeply appreciate your collaboration and support, which empower us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Native American Californians in need. Together, we are building more than facilities; we are creating havens of hope, healing and opportunity.

For your reference, attached is a fact sheet to provide an overview of the adult assisted living facility and youth perinatal residential facility, which will be constructed in Rescue.

We look forward to the positive impact our collective efforts will have on the community and its most vulnerable members.

Sincerely,

Native Directions Inc. and HomeCA

## **Rescue, California Community Facilities**

AB 172 (2021) established two key programs: the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) and the Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program. Both programs represent significant investments toward addressing historically unmet needs of vulnerable Californians, including seniors, those with disabilities and marginalized groups, ensuring care in the least restrictive setting.

Native Directions and HomeCA, tribal and nonprofit organizations located in San Joaquin and El Dorado counties, respectively, have received state grants through AB 172. These funds are being used to build facilities to serve unhoused and vulnerable Native Americans from throughout California, enhancing the well-being of these populations.

These facilities offer services that are person-centered and culturally competent to facilitate healing. The facilities are residential, **not** commercial, and **not** designed for providing medical treatment.

### **Project #1: Assisted Living Facility**

*3480 Deer Valley Court, Rescue, CA*

This facility will offer assisted living for Native American women ages 18-59, as well as to individuals aged 60 and older who have comparable needs. This facility is tailored to provide a living environment for people who require assistance with daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, walking or mobility and eating, but do not need the intensive medical care provided in nursing homes or hospitals. The facility will prioritize serving vulnerable Native American women who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The facility will consist of a single-story home that will fit seamlessly into the community's existing infrastructure. The house will have 15 bedrooms and 30 beds.

### **Project #2: Youth Residential Perinatal Facility**

*3335 Deer Valley Court, Rescue, CA*

This non-medical, residential facility will serve up to 16 pregnant youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and may have substance use disorder or may be escaping from a violent environment. If the mothers have children, they may join them at the facility for the healing process.

This facility is a single-story home with 16 bedrooms and is located on 18.9 acres.

These projects embody a holistic approach to supporting Native American communities, balancing the need for essential services with environmental stewardship and community well-being. Through thoughtful planning and implementation, these initiatives are poised to make significant, positive impacts on the lives of many.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Are these facilities only serving individuals from San Joaquin County?**

A: No. Because these facilities are part of a statewide initiative, they will serve Native American individuals from counties throughout California.

**Q: Are these commercial medical facilities?**

A: No and no! No, these are not commercial facilities and no, these are not medical facilities. These are strictly residential facilities that will provide a variety of daily care to its residents. Any need for medical care, above and beyond administration of prescribed treatments, will be provided outside of these facilities. At the youth perinatal facility, the individuals will not receive prenatal medical care or give birth onsite.

**Q: Are these drug rehab facilities?**

A: No. A drug rehab facility is designed to offer treatment and support for individuals struggling with substance abuse, including *detoxification*, therapy and recovery planning. Rehab facilities focus on helping individuals overcome addiction and may provide both inpatient and outpatient services. **Neither of these facilities fit that description.**

**Q: Why was Rescue chosen as the site for these facilities?**

A: Choosing Rescue as a location for these facilities serving young native women was a thoughtful and purposeful decision. Rescue was chosen for its rural, peaceful surroundings and the secure environment it offers, all of which are conducive to healing and growth.

**Q: Will these facilities impact traffic in the area?**

A: No, these facilities will not create traffic concerns. There is very minimal impact, if any, anticipated due to the permanent residency of individuals and on-site accommodations for staff.

**Q: Are steps being taken to minimize fire risk?**

A: Yes, fire safety is a top priority and the buildings have been designed to comply with all safety regulations. They feature sprinkler systems and the required safety features. We will ensure that regular drills are conducted to maintain adequate emergency preparedness.

**Q: How will these facilities impact local water supply?**

A: The assisted living facility has a well with 45 GPM on a 10-acre parcel. The perinatal facility has an abundant supply of 80 GPM to support residents and staff.

**Q: Will these facilities place a strain on local resources?**

A: No, these facilities receive funding from the state and will not impinge on or compete for local resources.