May XX, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
Office of Senator Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Marin Housing Authority’s $1,300,000 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Marin City’s Golden Gate Village Public Housing Revitalization – Predevelopment**

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of [[organization’s name]], I would like to express our support for the Marin Housing Authority’s project request of $1.3 million to fund comprehensive predevelopment costs associated with the revitalization and rehabilitation of Golden Gate Village, a public housing complex in Marin City.

[[insert paragraph with several sentences describing organization]]

We understand that the project was included in your final list of Transportation Housing and Urban Development Congressionally Directed Spending Requests, dated April 6, 2023. Importantly, Golden Gate Village predevelopment was the only Housing and Urban Development (HUD) project in Marin County in the final project list. We thank you for recognizing the critical importance of this project to our community.

Golden Gate Village in Marin City and its designated low-income 296 living units serve a vital housing need for more than 650 residents since its construction in 1960: the complex is the only family public housing property in Marin County. As such, there are significant income and racial disparities between Marin City and Marin County as a whole. More than half of Golden Gate Village residents are Black/African American, compared with their representation in Marin County as a whole, of less than 2 percent. The Census Tract encompassing Marin City has a median household income of $47,098; just 38 percent of the countywide median household income of $121,671.

However, this 60+ year-old federally funded complex is in need of serious reconstruction and renovation work if it will provide housing for another 60 years to some of Marin’s most vulnerable residents. After decades of underfunding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Golden Gate Village’s buildings and living units are in need of full rehabilitation.

The planned $331 million major rehabilitation and revitalization project for the entire complex would encompass major exterior and interior improvements for all 296 units and deep greening initiatives for the property. This $1.3 million Congressionally Directed Spending Request would critically fill the funding gap needed for the necessary $4.3 million predevelopment for the full project. The predevelopment process would involve residents, the community and other stakeholders in the planning and final design of the large-scale project. Most importantly, completion of predevelopment would put the Housing Authority and residents in the best possible position to secure a strong affordable housing developer partner; with design, engineering, permits and environmental work already completed.

We support this project and the $1.3 million in federal funds requested to fill its funding gap, and we hope to convey to your office and the full Senate Committee on Appropriations its importance to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,