



News Release

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Largest Tiny Home Village Opens In San Gabriel Valley

Montebello, CA – The City of Montebello, in partnership with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT), is excited to announce the grand opening of Operation Stay Safe, a 30-unit tiny home village, the largest in San Gabriel Valley and the first to be led by a municipal fire department in the state.

“I am exceedingly proud to see this project come to fruition,” said Mayor Kimberly Ann Cobos-Cawthorne. “Giving a person the basic essentials for a home not only provides a feeling of safety and privacy that we all deserve, but it also gives individuals the chance to focus on what steps they can take to continue their journey to permanent housing.”

The site consists of 30 heated and air-conditioned tiny homes located at 2000 Flotilla Street in Montebello. The 64-square-foot units, which include a bed, desk, shelves and other basic living amenities, are intended to provide bridge-housing to unhoused individuals for approximately three months before they are placed in permanent housing, allowing up to 120 people to be served a year.

SGVRHT Board Chair, Claremont Mayor, Jed Leano shared, “It is incredibly rewarding to open a second tiny home site in our region within the past six months. Both sites now provide 55 beds of essential interim housing to clients experiencing homelessness as the SGVRHT and its partners work to finance and develop additional affordable housing.”

The SGVRHT, together with the SGVCOG, provided approximately \$750,000 in grant funding for Montebello’s site preparation and the acquisition of prefabricated homes and communal facilities and another \$900,000 for first year operations, with options to fund additional years of operation.

In a historic first for a homeless program of this type, the Montebello Fire Department (MFD) coordinated the implementation and development of the Operation Stay Safe Project (Tiny Homes) through its Montebello Community Assistance Program, and will work closely with the Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOLA), who will provide on-site supportive services including case management, three daily delivered meals, secured site access, 24-hour security, and connections to health and mental health services.

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"We are incredibly grateful to the City of Montebello for its partnership and unwavering leadership in finding common-sense, compassionate solutions that address homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley," said Monrovia Councilmember Becky Shevlin, President of the SGVCOG. "This new site will serve as the largest of its kind in the San Gabriel Valley and offer shelter, basic living amenities, and a suite of wrap-around services aimed at positively transforming the lives of people without homes."

In addition to basic living amenities, this tiny home village features communal restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, security staff and a common dining area offering participants increased access to hygiene and a sense of community.

"Operation Stay Safe's goal is to save lives by providing a stable environment with supportive wrap-around services that prioritize the safety, well-being, and health needs of people experiencing homelessness," said Fernando Pelaéz, Fire Chief. "With this innovative housing model and the partnerships we've created, Montebello will be able to provide life-changing opportunities to some of our most vulnerable population."

The City of Montebello was founded in 1920 and is located eight miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. Its history dates back to the days of the Franciscan missionaries and today boasts a full array of services including police, fire and one of the region's largest public transportation systems, [Montebello Bus Lines](#). The city's multi-cultural resident population is approximately 65,000 covering a footprint of approximately four square miles. For more information visit www.cityofmontebello.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is a regional government planning agency that aims to maximize the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG operates as a joint powers authority that is consisted of 31 incorporated cities, unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 1, 4, and 5, and three San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Districts (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District). The SGVCOG is the largest and most diverse sub-regional council of governments in Los Angeles County. It encompasses more than 374 square miles and has more than 2 million residents.

The San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) is a joint powers authority that allows communities within the jurisdiction of the SGVCOG to coordinate and fund affordable housing initiatives to address homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley region. A nine-member Board of Directors governs the SGVRHT, seven of whom are representatives from jurisdictions that are members of the SGVRHT and two of whom are experts in housing and homelessness. The members are appointed by the Governing Board of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.



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