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Fresno County supervisors put support behind 88-unit Sanger project

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A vote by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors Tuesday will direct millions in state grant funding to an affordable housing project in Sanger that will include supportive mental health services.

Supervisors voted to transfer funds that in 2022 were tentatively granted by the California Department of Housing and Community Development to the <u>Libre Commons housing project near</u> <u>Shaw and Blackstone avenues</u>. It was due to "funding concerns and the withdrawal of key project sponsors" that the board withdrew support for Libre Commons in August 2024. The move jeopardized the \$11.9 million in state funds under the No Place Like Home Program.

Libre Commons was proposed by developers UPHoldings and Self-Help Enterprises with a total price tag of \$56 million, but was withdrawn in January after receiving extensions to secure funding, according to the county staff report.

The board last month approved a final memorandum of understanding with RH Community Builders, LP, as co-applicants to develop the Sanger Modular project under the state's Homekey+ project for permanent housing. The project is located at the corner of Cherry and DeWitt avenues in Sanger, and will consist of 88 units. Of those, 22 will be reserved for veterans with mental health or substance use disorder challenges.

According to a county staff report, Libre Commons would've included 51 units, including 12 for veterans.

Dylan McCully with the County of Fresno told supervisors the Sanger project would cost about \$37.9 million.