

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JIM BEALL

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



December 13, 2018

San José City Hall  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I respectfully urge the City Council to quickly approve the Emergency Bridge Housing on Caltrans and VTA properties and continue to assess all public properties for their potential to alleviate San José's homelessness crisis. The Emergency Bridge Housing Community model will provide life-saving shelter, safety, security, and supportive mental health services for people who are homeless.

The Legislature and local governments must act in concert as partners if California is to find a solution to the dilemma of homelessness. Legislators recognize the severity of this grave crisis and have taken recent actions to assist local governments, including a \$10.6 billion commitment through 2022 to create more affordable housing and fund emergency housing grants. Among the steps taken include placing on the ballot Proposition 1, a \$4 billion housing bond measure, and Proposition 2, a \$2 billion funding proposal to provide housing for chronically homeless people who have a mental illness. By a wide majority, voters approved both propositions.

By moving forward with the two selected Emergency Bridge Housing sites, the city will be taking firm steps toward turning the tide of homelessness. Just as important, the nascent sites will lay down the foundations for more bridge housing. In addition, when Senate Bill 519 goes into effect Jan. 1, San José will have the option to lease unused Caltrans parcels at the rate of \$1 per month as sites for emergency shelters and feeding stations. I look forward to working with the city to find additional suitable locations.

I am asking the council to accept the department's recommendation because we cannot let families languish on our streets. We must take immediate action now. Our city's homeless people cannot wait any longer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Beall".

Jim Beall  
Senator, District 15