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**From:** Kelly Hadley  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 22, 2024 9:05 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** 030-191-008 echo

Hello id like to say i approve of this project . I live right around the corner from echo . I think this is a terrific thing for our community and for so many experiencing homelessness here. 2 years ago i came to echo for help , i was unable to find affordable housing and the deposits . I was 53 and not an addict nor had i ever been incarcerated. They housed me, i brought my credit score up from well under par to even get into a rental ...to good . I was able to pay off my debts and find a more stable job and today i am an inventory manager making well over minimum wage . I have a nice apartment and they secured the deposits for me . They helped me in every way. This is a much - needed organization and ANYONE that wants help and is willing to work with them will succeed at finding a stable home . Thank you kelly hadley

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RECEIVED  
SEP 23 2024  
AMND 24-0060  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DISTRIBUTED

PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

THE  
**Balay Ko**  
FOUNDATION

September 16, 2024

Wendy Lewis, President and CEO  
El Camino Homeless Organization  
6370 Atascadero Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422




**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

**RE: Funding Support for ECHO Family Shelter Expansion**

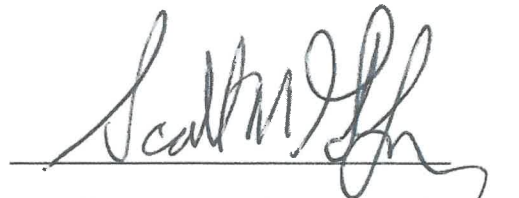
Dear Ms. Lewis,

This letter certifies that The Balay Ko Foundation is committing \$2,800,000 for the two story expansion building located near the street at ECHO's main facility in Atascadero, CA. This is a financing commitment for the design, permitting, and construction costs of the Project. The funding will be available as periodic grants to the ECHO for the Project upon request against monthly costs through grant request letters with back up spending information for that period.

Sincerely,



Amie Godfrey, President



Scott M. Godfrey AIA, Development Director





**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
John Peschong *District One Supervisor*

**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., KG, X-F.



September 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project in Atascadero. This critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless families to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability.

ECHO has been an integral part of North San Luis Obispo County for years, evolving from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

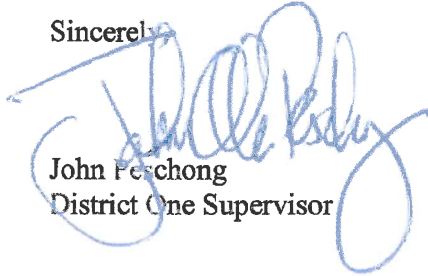
As a North County Supervisor, I have witnessed the number of families experiencing homelessness in our region growing. Contributing factors such as a lack of affordable housing, rising inflation, and economic instability have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there are few local resources tailored to the specific needs of families, who require not only safe shelter but also privacy, job training, and a stable environment for children. The Family Wing will provide all of this, adding 20 new beds and creating a family-friendly, supportive space that fosters stability and growth.

ECHO has a proven track record of success, helping 60% of individuals and families who secure housing and remain housed long-term. In 2024 alone, the organization assisted 252 individuals and families in securing stable housing. The Family Wing will expand ECHO's ability to serve more families, offering them the resources they need to rebuild their lives and contribute to our community.

This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. By supporting ECHO's Family Wing, the city will be helping to create a safer, more compassionate, and inclusive community for everyone.

I respectfully urge you to support this important project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,



John Ferchong  
District One Supervisor

September 25, 2024

City Council  
City of Atascadero  
6500 Palma Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422



**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a past Board Member of ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) and a neighbor of the Atascadero facility. I became involved with the organization soon after we moved here in 2015 after walking by the Atascadero campus numerous times while out enjoying the neighborhood on daily walks. And my passion for the organization's purpose grew the more involved I got.

I am writing to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) newest endeavor: the Family Wing project in Atascadero. This critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless *families* to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability. Imagine a family who needs these services; they will now have rooms dedicated to their family for their stay and access to a case manager to assist them in finding their way back to a home of their own as well as other needs they may have to get back on their feet.

ECHO has been an integral part of North San Luis Obispo County for years, evolving from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

As you may know, the number of families experiencing homelessness in our region is growing. Contributing factors such as a lack of affordable housing, rising inflation, and economic instability have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there are few local resources tailored to the specific needs of families, who require not only safe shelter but also privacy, job training, and a stable environment for their children. The Family Wing will provide all of this, adding 20 new beds and creating a family-friendly, supportive space that fosters stability and growth.

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This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. By supporting ECHO's Family Wing, the city will be helping to create a safer, more compassionate, and inclusive community for everyone.

As a neighbor of the facility and supporter of the organization, I respectfully urge you to support this important project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Kandy Noel  
Prior Board Chair of ECHO

cc: Wendy Lewis



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**John Peschong** *District One Supervisor*

**Bruce Gibson** *District Two Supervisor*

**Dawn Ortiz-Legg** *Vice-Chairperson, District Three Supervisor*

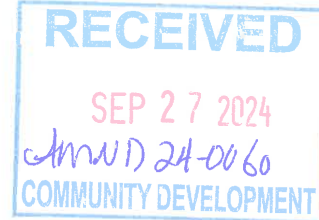
**Jimmy Paulding** *District Four Supervisor*

**Debbie Arnold** *Chairperson, District Five Supervisor*

September 26, 2024

City Council  
City of Atascadero  
6500 Palma Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422

**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.



Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project in Atascadero. This critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless families to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability.

ECHO has been an integral part of North San Luis Obispo County for years, evolving from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

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This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. By supporting ECHO's Family Wing, the city will be helping to create a safer, more compassionate, and inclusive community for everyone.

**Katcho Achadjian Government Center County of San Luis Obispo**

1055 Monterey Street | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 | (P) 805-781-5450 | (F) 805-781-1350  
info@slocounty.ca.gov | slocounty.ca.gov

I respectfully urge you to support this important project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,



Debbie Arnold  
5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Board Chairperson

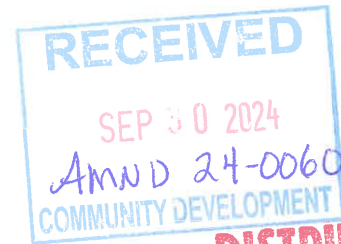


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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 28, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #2 ECHO Expansion Project

September 28, 2024

Planning Commission  
City of Atascadero  
6500 Palma Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422



**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project in Atascadero. This critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless families to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability.

I have been a resident of Atascadero for 52 years and have watched ECHO evolve from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

As you may know, the number of families experiencing homelessness in our region is growing. Contributing factors such as a lack of affordable housing, rising inflation, and economic instability have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there are few local resources tailored to the specific needs of families, who require not only safe shelter but also privacy, job training, and a stable environment for children. The Family Wing will provide all of this, adding 20 new beds and creating a family-friendly, supportive space that fosters stability and growth.

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This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. By supporting ECHO's Family Wing, the city will be helping to create a safer, more compassionate, and inclusive community for everyone.

I respectfully urge you to support this important project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and

with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Grenda Ernst

Atascadero

**ATTENTION:**

This email originated from outside the City's network. Use caution when opening links and attachments.

**From:** Bruce Van Housen  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 12:56 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** APN 030-341-013 (Echo Homeless Shelter)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the 2 story 7600 square foot addition on the existing property of Echo. I have lived at \_\_\_\_\_ Ave, just a few hundred feet from Echo and my apartment is located on the street side, across from ABC (Atascadero Bible Church).

You plan to increase the number of clients serving beds from 60 to 90, occupancy from 80 to 100 and shower operations to 15 hours per week.

I have lived at my location for over 10 plus years. The following reasons of why I am opposed to the Echo building project:

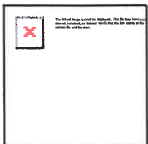
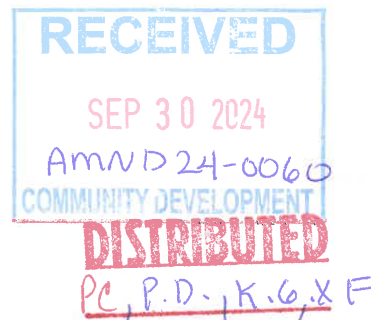
- (1) Echo has limited parking on their premises and this results in an overflow of homeless cars and persons camping on the median (historical landmark).
- (2) The Atascadero Police as a result of (# 1) above has had to spend time in removing the homeless campers (camping gear and trash).
- (3) I have also seen the homeless camping on the River bank near Atascadero Avenue and El Camino Real with tents and trash.
- (4) On Atascadero Ave there is limited parking as it relates to ABC Church, North County Christian School, Atascadero High School, and the general public.

Allowing the project to move forward would increase the homeless problem as outlined above. If the National Guard Armoury (mentioned this to Ryan Hayes 1 1/2 years ago) is still vacant you should move the homeless shelter to those premises.

Finally, the proposed project drawing does not address the construction of additional parking on the Echo Homeless Shelter premises, this should be addressed and included in the plans and at the very least taken seriously at your upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Bruce Van Housen



**Message blocked**

September 30, 2024

Planning Commission  
City of Atascadero  
6500 Palma Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422



**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am an Atascadero resident, a mother, and a small business owner, and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project. I urge you to do the same. This much-needed initiative will provide a dedicated space where families experiencing homelessness can access life-saving services, safe shelter, and a pathway toward stability and independence.

For years, ECHO has been a crucial resource for North County, evolving from a volunteer-driven effort into a comprehensive provider of homeless services—they are a truly community-based organization. Today, ECHO stands as a lifeline for both individuals and families, offering not only emergency shelter but also long-term solutions that empower people to regain self-sufficiency and secure permanent housing. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's ongoing efforts, specifically designed to address the unique challenges unhoused families face.

As someone who works in homeless services, I understand just how complex this issue is. ECHO, however, is uniquely equipped to navigate these complexities. Their compassionate, low barrier service model makes them incredibly effective at what they do. In 2024 alone, ECHO helped 252 individuals and families move into stable housing. The addition of the Family Wing will further expand their capacity, allowing them to serve even more families in need and helping them rebuild their lives with the necessary support.

This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to improving the well-being of all its residents. THIS is the kind of community I want to raise my children in – one that prioritizes supporting other families in need, that leads with compassion and kindness and works together to uplift *everyone*. By supporting ECHO's Family Wing, the city will take an important and symbolic step toward creating a more compassionate, inclusive, and safer community for everyone.

Once again, I respectfully urge you to support this project. It will have a profound and lasting impact on families in Atascadero, providing them with the hope, stability, and opportunity they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Tess Davis Cheek  
Atascadero Resident

Atascadero, CA 93422

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**From:** Lara Christensen on behalf of City Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 10:46 AM  
**To:** Planning Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** Fw: Planning Commission hearing this week - ECHO expansion letter of support

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**From:** Max Zappas <max@zvillages.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <cityclerk@atascadero.org>  
**Subject:** Planning Commission hearing this week - ECHO expansion letter of support

Hello,

My name is Max Zappas, I am a third generation developer in Atascadero and have lived here my whole life. I am the president of the Homebuilder's Association of the Central Coast(a non profit that supports the homebuilding industry), I serve on the board of the Paso Robles Housing Authority(a non profit that manages and develops deed restricted low income housing), and I am the president and CEO of Z Villages Real Estate(a real estate management and development company). I am heavily interested in, and deeply concerned with the housing/homelessness situation we have found ourselves in in California. I live two blocks from the ECHO facility and have seen their consistent improvement over the years so I have no worries in my mind about the neighborhood or level to which they operate that facility in the neighborhood. I have reviewed the proposed plans, they will greatly improve their ability to serve the unhoused community and will reduce the number of unhoused people on the streets of Atascadero. I am writing to you in support of the ECHO expansion project.

ECHO has a proven track record and their statistics speak for themselves. They are fulfilling a massive need in our community by providing one of the lower rungs to the "housing ladder". They see hundreds of people each year graduate from their shelter to permanent housing. As a management company of over 500 rental units, we too see people moving up the housing ladder and into homeownership. About 50% of our move outs are because the residents have purchased a home for the first time. We need as much housing at each level of the housing ladder as possible and this expansion will greatly improve the housing situations for all of the folks who utilize ECHO. Their waitlists are extremely long and they need to meet this demand by expanding. ECHO gets folks off the streets and helps them improve their lives. With so many unhoused in our downtown, creeks, and in front of our businesses, we owe it to ourselves to approve this project as quickly as possible for the betterment of the economy AND the environment. I ask that you vote to unanimously approve it this week with little to no changes, suggestions, or further requirements/costs for the project/applicant team to bear. Thank you for your time and consideration.



**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., K.F.

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Thank you,

Max Zappas  
Z Villages Management & Development  
6100 El Camino Real Suite B  
[max@zvillages.com](mailto:max@zvillages.com)  
805-674-4743  
RE Lic # 01997012

**CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION**

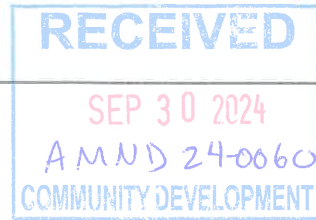
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**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Bruce Gibson *District Two Supervisor*



September 27, 2024

**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project in Atascadero. This critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless families to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability.

ECHO has been an integral part of North San Luis Obispo County for years, evolving from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

As you may know, the number of families experiencing homelessness in our region is growing. Contributing factors such as a lack of affordable housing, rising inflation, and economic instability have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there are few local resources tailored to the specific needs of families, who require not only safe shelter but also privacy, job training, and a stable environment for children. The Family Wing will provide all of this, adding 20 new beds and creating a family-friendly, supportive space that fosters stability and growth.

ECHO has a proven track record of success, helping 60% of individuals and families who secure housing and remain housed long-term. In 2024 alone, the organization assisted 252 individuals and families in securing stable housing. The Family Wing will expand ECHO's ability to serve more families, offering them the resources they need to rebuild their lives and contribute to our community.

This project aligns with the City of Atascadero's commitment to providing essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. By supporting ECHO's

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**County of San Luis Obispo Government Center**

1055 Monterey Street | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 | (P) 805-781-5450 | (F) 805-781-1350  
info@slocounty.ca.gov | slocounty.ca.gov

Family Wing, the city will be helping to create a safer, more compassionate, and inclusive community for everyone.

I urge your support of this important project, as it will have a great positive impact on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

BRUCE GIBSON  
Supervisor, District Two  
San Luis Obispo County



CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET SUITE 8720  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4017  
FAX (916) 651 4917

MONTEREY DISTRICT OFFICE  
99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 575-F  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
TEL (831) 657-6315  
FAX (831) 657-6320

SAN LUIS OBISPO DISTRICT OFFICE  
1026 PALM STREET SUITE 201  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
TEL (805) 549 3784  
FAX (805) 549-3779

SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT OFFICE  
701 OCEAN STREET SUITE 318A  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
TEL (831) 425-0401  
FAX (831) 425 5124

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE  
TEL (408) 847-6101

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
JOHN LAIRD  
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1  
(EDUCATION)  
CHAIR  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES  
VICE CHAIR  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE  
AUDIT COMMITTEE  
VICE CHAIR  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
& RETIREMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
RULES

September 30, 2024

City of Atascadero  
Planning Commission  
via email: [pc-comments@atascadero.org](mailto:pc-comments@atascadero.org)

Subject: Support for ECHO's Family Wing – October 1, 2024 Meeting, Agenda Item No. 2

Dear Commissioners:

As the Senator representing the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District, including the City of Atascadero, I urge your support of Item No. 2 on your October 1, 2024 agenda, in support of the new Family Wing project at the El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO)'s Atascadero campus. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a dedicated space for local families who are homeless, so that they can access safe shelter and supportive services, with the purpose of finding permanent housing.

As you know, ECHO has been a critical part of the North San Luis Obispo County community for many years. What began as an all-volunteer facility and has evolved with executive leadership to a comprehensive provider of homeless services. This year alone, ECHO has provided a pathway for 252 people to obtain stable housing.

Development of ECHO's Family Wing on the Atascadero campus is the next, big step in ECHO's evolution. It has been specifically designed and located to address the unique challenges that families with children face in experiencing homelessness. The Family Wing comes at a critical time, as the number of families experiencing homelessness in the region is growing due to the lack of affordable housing, inflation, economic instability, and other barriers to entry. The new Family Wing will add 20 new beds specifically for families – to provide shelter, job training, and a stable, safe, and comfortable environment for children. In short, the project will provide a supportive space to foster stability and growth for all ages.

I respectfully urge your support of Agenda Item No. 2, to enable the development of the Family Wing and the positive impact it will have on the community and families of San Luis Obispo County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird".

John Laird  
State Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District



**DISTRIBUTED**

PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

September 30, 2024

Planning Commission  
City of Atascadero  
6500 Palma Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422



**DISTRIBUTED**  
PC, P.D., K.G., X.F.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization) Family Wing project in Atascadero. As a North County resident, and advocate for more housing for the less fortunate in our community, this critical initiative addresses a growing need in our community by providing a dedicated space for homeless families to access safe shelter, supportive services, and a pathway to stability.

ECHO has been an integral part of North San Luis Obispo County for years, evolving from a volunteer-run organization providing meals to a comprehensive homeless services provider. Today, ECHO serves as a cornerstone of support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not just emergency shelter, but long-term solutions that foster self-sufficiency and housing stability. The Family Wing is the next step in ECHO's evolution, specifically designed to address the unique challenges that families experiencing homelessness face.

As you may know, the number of families experiencing homelessness in our region is growing. Contributing factors such as a lack of affordable housing, rising inflation, and economic instability have left many families struggling to make ends meet. Currently, there are few local resources tailored to the specific needs of families, who require not only safe shelter but also privacy, job training, and a stable environment for children. The Family Wing will provide all of this, adding 20 new beds and creating a family-friendly, supportive space that fosters stability and growth.

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I respectfully urge you to support this important project and recognize the positive impact it will have on the families of Atascadero and beyond. ECHO has always been a community-centered organization, and with the City's support, the Family Wing can become a reality that helps countless families find hope, stability, and a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Eric Yun

ECHO Board Member & SLO North County Resident