

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Mario Gallardo – Phone call, May 10, 2019 2:35 PM

This process is wasting people's time, it is wasting paper, print, postage, my time. It should be about efficiency but you are making it about job security. You are just wasting people's time and you are being paid to talk on the phone, you are probably paid to sit there right now. A status of "active" doesn't mean anything after waiting 6 or 7 years. Things are not moving at all. Maybe I will come on the 22nd and maybe they will cut staff and you won't have a job anymore.

Anonymous – Phone call, May 8, 2019 11:00 AM

I don't agree with this at all. Where is this fair where someone has been on the list for 6 years and you are proposing to cut everybody off who has been on the list, they have to reapply and there is a lottery? Someone that's a lotto winner that just got on a list when there are people who have been on the list for 6 years and has been struggling? That's not fair, no. Ridiculous, no, I am not going to agree, no.

Julie Price – Phone call, May 8, 2019 10:26 AM

I have been on the waitlist for quite some time. I live in Sonoma County and I really worry that my name will be taken off the waiting list that I have been on for so long. I have disabilities.

Joan Dow – Phone call, May 8, 2019 9:11 AM

Son has been on list for 5 years, he lives with me but can live alone. I am 90 and afraid that I will pass before he gets a chance to have a place in which case he will be homeless. Please vote against this possibility, I feel that it is not equitable for those of us who have waited so long. I have lived in Sonoma County for 40 years and think he should remain on the list.

Lana Laughlin – Phone call, May 7, 2019 5:45 PM

On the list for over 5 years now, I came up and I was not able to access the voucher. I am a family of 3 and I was hoping to get a voucher. I am hoping our names can come up before this changes so that we don't have to start over again.

Walter Young – Phone call, May 7, 2019 3:28 PM

I have been an applicant for close to two years now. I think it is kind of ridiculous and doesn't make any sense with so many who have signed up for housing and then you propose to cancel

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

the current list and have people sign up yet again and wait as long as it may take to get on the lottery. I would advise that you do not close it down and give those people that already signed up a chance to get housing first or first dibs at getting on the lottery.

Rebecca Diaz – Phone call, May 7, 2019 9:43 AM

Mother of 3, I have been on the list since 2014. We live in one room right now, I have been struggling to find a place. I don't think it's fair to start the list over. I want to put my vote on not closing the wait list. I am alone in Sonoma County, I am only here because my job is here. I have been checking in regularly. I am so desperate to find a house for me and my kids.

Courtney Dickens – Phone call, May 10, 2019 9:35 AM

If you are already on the list, once you start the new list, everyone on the list should have the chance to get on that list and get housing.

People who were on that list had hope to get a voucher, it's not right for the list to be completely washed away. It's a gamble there's no guarantee.

Louisa- Phone call, May 06/2019 7:16 PM

I have been on the list for a long time and I need housing desperately and now I get a letter saying its going to be deleted. I need housing badly, please do not delete me. Whatever you do, lottery or whatever please put me on it. I am really nervous now, it is so disrespectful and I feel so mistreated. Please do not delete me. Thank you.

Anonymous caller – Phone call, May 6, 2019 3:03 PM

I was very shocked to get this letter as I imagine a lot of applicants are – to me it seems -- -- far more appropriate -- for residents of Sonoma County to have a preference -- for people who live and work your then people who may be live in Minnesota who are seeking an open wait list or anywhere in the country. I understand there's a long wait list -- and something about canceling your current waitlist with people who have been on the waiting list so long does not feel right, I imagine most people in Sonoma County who are on the waitlist feel this way -- and I absolutely hope that these current proposed changes are absolutely not made.

Jeanine Onofre(?) – Phone call, May 06/2019 4:57 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

On the list for several years, 81 years old. Very upset about this plan to purge the list. It is ridiculous, will be talking to a lawyer to see how this can be stopped. This is totally unfair to those who have been playing by the rules and waiting, waiting, waiting. And then just to wipe it out is totally unacceptable.

Kim – Phone call, May 8, 2019 12:04 PM

I just got your blessed letter. I am livid, disabled, all but homeless. On wait list for over 6 years with a promise of an 8-10 wait time that I put in for. I am coming up on 55 years of age, how the heck dare you even consider this. I had put 6 or 7 years of my life waiting for an opening and now to maybe get a chance of one in 500. This is not fair, this is not acceptable. Do not do this. I have been screwed over by enough housing authorities and will not take one more.

I am mad, I am livid. Do not do this. Thank you

Anonymous caller – Phone call, May 8, 2019 9:12 PM

That would not be fair to us because we have waited for 5 years, so it is not possible that you can do this. How is this done, it's totally unfair for us. I don't think that is right, how are you going repay for those five years, are you doing it because of ...

Kevina Woodson – Phone call, May 7, 2019 2:58 PM

I'm on the current waiting list. I've been waiting for a whole year I've been looking forward to moving out there with me and my family -- I think in very unfair for you guys to close the waiting list and open a new one because if I apply what if I don't get picked.

Heather Reed – Phone call, May 08, 2019 1:37 PM

My name is Heather Reed I'm at Old Redwood Highway. And I am then on the list for a long time -- and I'm getting this message about the lottery – etc. I'm a little confused about what's going on here -- but again so my name and it's Heather Reed– Little confused about this message.

Cynthia Rose- Phone call, May 08, 2019 1:11 PM

Hi my name is Cynthia Rose and I'm opposed to the upcoming changes to your waiting list because I've been on a waiting list for four years and I don't think its fair I have to start all over.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

thank you.

Ray Grabner – Phone call, May 08, 2019 12:46 PM

This new lottery that you are proposing is not fair to the people that are currently on the list. If you do a lottery you should do a lottery with the people that are on the list currently and not add new people, don't you think? That's pretty simple, geniuses! I have been on the list for over 6 years.

Carla Harsh – Phone call May 7, 2019, 9:01 AM

I have been on the list for 13 years and I really don't understand, I don't feel this is right. Why should I have to start over from the bottom?

Email Comment, Louisa Malaspina, May 6, 2019, 8:20 PM

My name is Louisa Malaspina, and I have been waiting a long time for housing and have been on the wait list, I received a letter today that wants to end the wait list and make a lottery, I have heard of these lotteries, and which it really is a selective preference made by the county, and usually leaves those in need who have been waiting for years out to the streets.

I am very disappointed, and feel so humiliated, and mistreated, that i will be bumped and turned away, and turned away for many who have not waited .

what has the governor said about this ?

I want to remain on the list, i do not want to be forgotten and dumped like a piece of garbage. please do not delete me.

I need housing , and it us unfair to take a preference over those who have patiently waited so long,and are in need, its just wrong and inhumane.Have a heart, be fair , and just.

thank you Louisa malaspina

Email Comment, Elizabeth, May 6, 2019, 3:14 PM

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth.

I am the parent of a 25 yr. daughter.

She has a 56 IQ. She is Autistic.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Her name as been on the list for years now.
I thought to myself, wow...She must be getting close to the top.
I wonder if this letter is to notify us it's finally her turn to get help.

No, it was to be notified that after years of waiting we're told it was all in vain.

That SOMEBODY, decided their system wasn't working.
That SOMEBODY, decided to PENALIZE those who have been waiting YEARS!
That SOMEBODY, who probably doesnt know what waiting those years entails...
Who probably isnt homeless, who doesnt have a clue whats it like to eat or pay your rent...

Do you think its fair to NOW have a lottery?
So those who just got in line, can cut the line ahead of someone who as been waiting years!
Now you impose a local preference?
You should have thought about that a LONG TIME AGO!!!
If you have to do anything, and it would still be bad, have a lottery of the existing applicants.

Not some random person who snuck in like a thief...

Its is absolutely disgusting... What if it was one of your kids?

Would you be so understanding?

I am floored by such callousness, by your oh well attitude...
I understand you cannot help everyone ok, but dont do an about face because of your failure to control a situation you knew was uncontrollable.

Close the list until you help those who have waited all these years.

A random lottery now is unfair, and very disappointing.

I have never been so disgusted in my life.
Sonoma is a place I love...Your commission should be ashamed of yourselves.
Like I said, if it was your kid, I doubt you would be so understanding.

I don't know you could sleep at night.

Karma...

Email Comment, Tammy Jackson, May 6, 2019, 4:21 PM

Hello. I received your letter today. My name is Tammy Jackson. If I am understand this letter right everyone who has been on this waitlist for sometime, will be taken off and the have to re apply between July 1st-31th? That seems so unfair to me. Because then you go into a lottery

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

pool of 500. If you have been on the list already for 6-7 years you might not ever get on the list. So, if this takes place, do you call in or write in to be put on the new wait list application period? Very unclear. I hope it doesn't change.

Tammy Jackson

Email Comment, Angie Bryant, May 4, 2019, 9:02 AM

I am currently homeless and a disabled senior. I will be 67 years old on June 7th. I have been on the waiting list for 4 1/2 years. It doesn't seem fair to me that people who have been waiting for a voucher should have to re-apply again for the lottery. I am not young and I am in desperate need of a place to live. Thanks

Email Comment, Brenda Saetern, May 6, 2019, 4:04 PM

Attention: Martha Cheever,

On behalf of myself and my family, I feel that it is unfair to erase everyone from the waitlist to start a new lottery list. Everyone has been waiting years to be a part of housing, many are even homeless now and are still waiting. It would break a lot of people's hearts who were hoping to get a place of their own soon. It's even more devastating for those who were next in line. Everyone has been waiting for as long a time. Please don't do this to everyone who has been waiting for a long time.

Best regards,

Brenda Saetern

Email Comment, Mark Connely, May 6, 2019, 11:10 PM

Sonoma County Community Development Commission

Sonoma County Housing Authority

ATTN: Martha Cheever

Dear Ms. Cheever:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 1, 2019 concerning the hearing scheduled for May 22 to discuss proposed changes to the Sonoma County Housing Authority waitlist.

I have to say that I am surprised and confused by the content of that letter. I am a Santa Rosa resident since 1995, and have been on the waitlist for housing since 2011. When I first applied, I was told I could expect a wait of 3 to 5 years. Later that changed to 7 - 8 years. I have now been waiting 9 years, and I'm shocked and dismayed to hear that you want to cancel the waitlist

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

altogether. And while I understand there is to be a hearing to discuss various possibilities, it's clear from the tone and wording of your letter that what you want is to cancel the waitlist.

I find it daring of you to talk of subjecting people's lives to a frivolous gamble, a lottery of chance, so that they might win "an expectation of service".

How brazen! Make no mistake, Ms. Cheever, that an expectation of service *is already mine*, was already given me 9 years ago when my name was applied to the waiting list. I have and retain just such an expectation! I've struggled these past nine years to stave off homelessness, to maintain a rented room in a friend's home against even his wishes. It has cost me our friendship, and has been a source of great stress and hardship for both parties. The anxiety engendered by such a housing situation has contributed to the deterioration of my mental and physical health. XXXXX and XXXXX render me increasingly debilitated, without the strength and resilience needed to find another way. I have waited in good faith and full confidence that my name will eventually come up on the waitlist, so don't presume to tell me that cancelling the waitlist and having "staff" draw names from a hat is now considered a fine way to provide service to me or anyone. While I realize the matter doesn't rise to the level of contract law, you nonetheless have a legal obligation to provide the service you are charged with providing, which is your job and responsibility to provide, and for the provision of which you draw a regular paycheck.

I will attend the hearing, disheartening as I fear it may be. I remain,

Your client,

Mark H. Connely

Email Comment, Drew Bassignani, May 6, 2019, 3:39 PM

Ludicrous, "an expectation of service" you say....how about the next 300 applicants now on the list....they should be served next. They and we have been waiting over 7years, the same 27,000 apps will still look need help and there will still be only 300 people helped. So why after waiting for so long shall it now be upended and changed...so that someone whom has just recently been homeless get service right away because they got lucky???...NOT COOL AT ALL....

ITS LIKE WAITING IN LINE FOR ANYTHING SHOULD YOU STAND THERE THEN HAVE THOSE IN POWER TELL YOU...OK WELL YOUR NOT NEXT WEVE DECIDED TO JUST PULL STRAWS NOW YOUVE WAITED OVER 7 YEARS!!!

GUESS AGAIN,DONT DO IT!!!

Email Comment, Drew Bassignani, May 6, 2019, 3:52 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

You will still have 27,000 needing housing....you STILL will only to be able to help 300 why would you now upend the 900 now about to relieve housing after waiting over 10years NOTHING FAIR ABOUT THAT!!! WHY CHANGE IT....OBVIOUSLY THERES MONEY TO BE MADE OTHERWISE THEY WOULDNT SUGGEST TO CHANGE IT

Email Comment, Louisa Malaspina, May 6, 2019, 8:20 PM

My name is Louisa Malaspina, and I have been waiting a long time for housing and have been on the wait list, I received a letter today that wants to end the wait list and make a lottery, I have heard of these lotteries, and which it really is a selective preference made by the county, and usually leaves those in need who have been waiting for years out to the streets.

I am very disappointed, and feel so humiliated, and mistreated, that i will be bumped and turned away, and turned away for many who have not waited .

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thank you Louisa malaspina

Email Comment, Shula Zuckerman, Applicant, May 5, 2019, 6:13 PM

I, for one, have measured the years in terms how much longer it will be before I will be able to have a Section 8 Housing voucher to help defray the cost of renting my apartment in Sebastopol. I am grateful for having an apartment – for there are many who do not have a roof over their heads – but as a low-income senior, I could certainly use some assistance in the amount of rent I pay so that I can enjoy getting older without worry about my economic survival. I will have been on the Section 8 Waiting List for 6 years this coming June 2019, and I respectfully ask you to continue to fund this program. Thank you.

Shula Zuckerman

Email Comment, Stephane Krieshok, May 6, 2019, 5:15 PM

Hello Martha Cheever,

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

This is Stephane M. Krieshok. I have been on the wait list for Sonoma County Sec 8 housing for 8 years. I was told 8 years ago that it would be 6-8 years before my name would come up on the list. That most likely means I am *somewhere* near the **top of the list?**

If the proposed changes were to be voted in, the current list would be '**cancelled**'??!!

I am now also a senior and partially disabled. For me to have the current list cancelled, and a random lottery happen would **probably not be beneficial**.

I can not attend the public hearing on May 22nd at 10 a.m.

I would like to register my **strong disagreement** with this new proposal.

Unless you can tell me that my name is nowhere near the top of the list?

But, apparently that is against the rules.

I am in danger of becoming homeless very soon, so this new proposal is not good news for me.

I would also like to *strongly* suggest hat Sonoma County ban AirBnB.

I have no doubt that many home-owners who would otherwise be glad to list an in-law unit or extra room as 'available for Sec 8 occupants' are now instead opting to make more money 'renting' their extra unit or extra room to lovers of online convenience and cheaters of hotel/motel taxes.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Stephane M. Krieshok

Email Comment, Cathleen Springer, Applicant, May 7, 2019, 12:30 PM

I am a 70-year-old grandma whose patience just flew out the window after reading the May 1 SCCDC letter regarding housing vouchers in Sonoma County. Are you kidding me? A friggin' lottery system open to ALL? I can't begin to tell you how negatively this will impact my world. Such a update (scha.update), indeed. This is disastrous for many who have need and who are patiently awaiting their rise to the top of the voucher list. I vote for the first-come, first-served approach.

While on the surface, it looks as though this lottery system may be advantageous, as it opens the field up to those who do not currently live in Sonoma County, nor who have been waiting on the current list the balance of fairness is out the window.

It just feels gutting. It feels bad. At least first serve those who are awaiting good news for a housing voucher. Close your list, but keep those of us who have applied in the last, say 3 to 5 years, as is. Then after these people have received a voucher, lottery away, if you must.

Sincerely,
Cathleen Springer

Email Comment, Michelle Lutz, Applicant, May 6, 2019, 4:01 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Dear to whom it may concern,

I can't make it to the housing hearing.

My comment is I have been on your waitlist voucher list since March 2014 and If the new program gets approved will that automatically kick me off the list that i have already been on since 2014. My concern is what affects it will have on me for being on list for so long.

Thank you Michelle Spencer /AKA Michelle Lutz application # 14010100

Email Comment, Mary Anne Heffernan, Applicant, May 6, 2019, 3:56 PM

I would like to include my comments regarding the possibility of changing the current waiting list.

I understand your need to close the list so that no more names are added but those of us who have been on the list for years should still be preferentially in line for the upcoming spaces.

The idea that we are going to have to start over and may not even make it onto the waiting list after we've been waiting for years is just wrong!

The idea that there will be no preferences for people with disabilities, seniors or people with children doesn't seem right either.

About nine months ago you sent a letter asking us to let you know whether the location we are currently living accepts housing and I understood that meant we would be moved to the top of the list. Now that would be going away too!

I think something that might make more sense would be to try to send out a notification to the 26,000 households that are on your list and give everybody 30 days to respond and let you know if they are still interested in being on the list. I would guess that a lot of those people don't even live in the county anymore or don't need the housing anymore or may not qualify. At least that would pair down the list so that you weren't working with so many names and maybe can come up with another plan to help those of us who have been waiting for years instead of kicking us off and we start over. By doing this you would be opening a new list that people who may not have ever been on it at all could suddenly become number one or number 10 while those of us who have been on the list for years won't get on in the list at all. That just seems like the wrong way to serve the people of Sonoma who have been waiting so patiently.

I hope that you are able to come up with a better solution.

Sincerely ,

Mary Anne Heffernan

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Ellie Madden, Applicant, May 6, 2019, 8:42 PM

To whom it may concern,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ellie Madden and I have been on the waitlist for a voucher for five years now. I have two children and I am disabled receiving Social Security benefits. In this tough economy with a horrible housing market in Sonoma County, this new plan to eliminate the waitlist is scaring me.

I really need to get a voucher so that we can find and maintain affordable housing in Sonoma County where I am born and raised. I do feel like there should be some changes to the HUD program, like stopping taking people from other states or counties and focus on housing the people that live in Sonoma County.

I'm not sure eliminating the waitlist and starting over is the right answer. Would there still be preference to seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and people with children under 18? To me those are really important populations to serve.

Thank you for inviting comments and concerns. I can't make it to the meeting but those are my comments.

Respectfully,

Ellie Marie Madden

Email Comment, Rickey Carthon, May 7, 2019, 7:10 PM

ATTENTION: MARTHA CHEEVER

MY NAME IS RICHARD CARTHON HERE IS MY INPUT ON CANCELING THE CURRENT WAITLIST IS NOT FAIR FOR THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HAS BEEN ON THE CURRENT WAITLIST FIVE PLUS YEARS ANTICIPATING A FEDERAL HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WHEN CURRENT TIMES IS HARD TO PAY RENT EXTREMELY HARD FOR A SINGLE PARENT LIKE MYSELF WORKING TWO JOBS ONE THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AND RICHMOND JUST TO PAY BILLS AND TAKE CARE OF MY SON HERE'S A SUGGESTION MY OPINION ONLY THE APPLICANTS WHO IS CURRENTLY WAITING FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING LIKE MYSELF AND MY FAMILY SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHOICE VOUCHER BEFORE SONOMA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY DO AWAY WITH THE CURRENT WAITLIST THIS IS JUST MY OPINION

YOURS TRULY,

RICHARD CARTHON

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Dana Britomaris, May 6, 2019 7:19 PM

Dear Development Commissioners:

The proposed change from a first come, first served waitlist system to a lottery system would only exacerbate a problem that is already doing great harm to a significant percentage of Sonoma County's population. The proposed change would establish a system in which it doesn't matter how quick one is to apply, once a person has lost their housing, nor how diligent one is in keeping the Commission up to date on mailing address, etc., the outcome is random. This would only increase the sense of futility and the despair of people who, like me, have lost their housing through deceit (as when the county auctions off properties it knows it will never allow the buyers to use) and not through being bad tenants. It will still take 90 years to serve 26,000 households; the only difference is that there would be no rhyme or reason to when a household got served. Please keep the first come, first served system and reject the lottery system; please also retire tax-defaulted properties that the county government wants people not to use.

As to changing the order of preference in which a household is served, the most reasonable priority--after households with minor children--is households in which the only paid worker has a job in Sonoma County but must commute from a home in another county. This would save on gasoline use and air pollution; traffic regulation, congestion and accidents; road building and maintenance; and people's wasted time.

Dana Bellwether

Santa Rosa

Email Comment, Cheri Tomlinson, May 7, 2019, 12:30 PM

Sonoma Country Community Development Commission:

This is so unfair what you are proposing! In December 2016, I was told I was eligible for a voucher. Eligibility requirements for the voucher excluded me from finding housing within the City of Santa Rosa limits where I now live. I was told I would have to try and find approved housing outside the city in areas like Wikiup, Larkfield, Sebastopol, Glen Ellen, Windsor, etc. I was unable to find voucher-approved housing outside the city limits of Santa Rosa but within Sonoma Country, basically, because there isn't much of anything available is there? I called and spoke to someone at 707-565-7500. I explained that I was unable to use the voucher because I was unable to find housing in those areas and that I was limited in having the time to look because I work full time and no housing complex office is open on the weekends. I was told not to worry, that I would remain eligible and would not be dropped from the voucher list and to keep looking for approved housing. Now I find out via your letter of May 1, that if these

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

proposed changes are approved I will have lost my eligibility for a voucher and have to start the process ALL OVER AGAIN?

I'm 65 years old and work full time for low wages. I'm a caregiver. I receive no sick or vacation time. I don't work, I don't get paid. After paying my Medicare and supplemental Medicare coverage I'm left with \$300 a month after rent on Social Security alone. Obviously, this means I cannot retire, I must work to support myself. But under the rules of Social Security, I'm capped at a low amount of wages I can earn without being taxed to death (tax = \$1 for every \$2 I earn over the capped amount). How long do you think I can work while I wait AGAIN, likely for YEARS until I'm reselected? I have medical issues which are not improving with age. Now, with these proposed changes, I've lost the only hope I have of retiring at a reasonable age with affordable housing. Under these proposed changes, by the time I'm reselected, I will likely be dead after living on the streets, which is simply a fact, not drama nor exaggeration.

I am alone with no family to help me. These proposed changes are cruel and inhumane and are devastating to me personally. What do I do? Start over at age 65 and move to another state far from here where the rents are more reasonable but leave behind the only people I have in my life, a few friends? Can I even afford to move? Would my 22-year-old car even get me there?

The least that could have been done in this proposal is to propose grandfathering in those people who have already been approved for a voucher but cannot utilize it because they have been unable to find approved/eligible housing. Without that, the proposed changes, should they be implemented, impact me so negatively I feel completely and utterly hopeless.

Cheri A. Tomlinson

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Phone Call, Harriet Oden, May 8, 2019, 4:05 PM

Is opposed to the removal of the residency preference and opposed to the cancellation of the waitlist. She feels like this is a broken promise. There should be a grandmother clause to allow people who have been on the waitlist for more than five years to remain on the waitlist. That feels like a broken promise on Mother's Day. She is desperate need of assistance and feels as though she was getting close to beyond the top of the waitlist and this is unfair. She is pleading for a grandmother clause.

Voicemail Comment, Janeen Audiffred, May 6, 2019, 4:57 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Totally opposed to purging the waitlist after all this time. It is ridiculous. It is unfair to the people who have been playing by the rules and waiting and waiting. To just wipe it out is totally unacceptable.

Voicemail Comment, Mohammed Qawasmeh, May 7, 2019, 3:03 PM

He applied in 2015, is disabled and having trouble supporting his family.

Voicemail Comment, Ray Grabner, May 10, 2019, 10:31 AM

New lottery that is proposed is not fair to those currently on the list. If you are going to do a lottery, you should do it with the people who are currently on the list and not add new people. He has been on the list for over six years.

Phone Call, Zakariah Shabazz, May 10, 2019, 11:47 AM

I opposed to the change. With a waitlist of only 500 people, he may never get on a waitlist. He respects that we are trying to make the system better, but people who have been on the current waitlist for four or five years already should be served first.

Voicemail, Wanda Walker, May 6, 2019, 2:22 PM

She is very concerned about the lottery based system as there is no guarantee that she will be selected for the waitlist. She has applied to waitlist lotteries in other Counties and not made it onto the waitlist.

Voicemail, May 6, 2019

Opposed to cancellation of the current list. She has been on the waitlist for a very long time. It would not be fair to just eliminate the list and she won't have a chance to get on the waitlist. Right now she lives in the City of Oakland living house to house so she doesn't know if she will be able to make it. It is hard trying to get your own place and her only hope is to get a voucher. She is not for cancelling the current list and going to a lottery based system. She waited her time and should be able to get her voucher. If this happens then she doesn't have any chance of getting her own home as rent prices in the Bay Area are so high.

Phone Comment, Tonia Foley, May 11, 2019, 9:24 AM

Why did you continue to take people onto waitlist if there are so many people on the waitlist that they can't be served? It seems very unfair to all of the people who made it onto the waitlist and then to cancel it. This change will be very difficult for people.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Ann Finney, May 10, 2019, 11:19 AM

Imagine how crestfallen I felt when I opened this letter expecting that my long-awaited voucher had finally arrived, and instead it contained only more options for delay.

I feel it is deeply unfair to exclude me because I currently (and very miserably) lived in Redding where I was forced to move 1 1/2 years ago due to the sale of my mother's house. Until then I lived in Sonoma for over 50 years and consider it my true home. Now I have to be shunted aside?

Okay, I can see how the lottery would work better, and this choice is definitely more equitable than the second choice. That said, should the lottery option be chosen. why does one have to reapply? And if this is the case, people who have been excluded from the first lottery must be quickly informed that it is time to reapply.

Better yet, why not just let the folks who have been waiting the longest receive their vouchers; then you could proceed with the lottery.

Sincerely,

Ann Finney.

Email Comment, Leosha Cregget, May 9, 2019

To who this may concern,

My name is Leosha Creggett and I've been on the wait list for a while to receive a housing voucher. I understand that some proposed changes may be made, but I feel that it is unfair for families such as myself I work in Sonoma county and I'm currently living house to house with my children. Being on the wait list gave me hope that one day we can find stable housing. I think converting to a lottery pick is unfair for those such as myself who are anticipating and awaiting to be placed. Especially when I have been responding to the update letters of me still needing assistance. I know that you guys have remained open for 20 plus years on a first come first serve basis. For that you guys are greatly appreciated because I know that many families have been placed & helped, but I think that upon those years the wait list should have gotten closed periodically to accommodate everyone instead of just now proposing that action be taking .I do not think it's fair for me and others to have to hope that our name is picked and that if not picked that we have to start all over again. I understand that it is a lot to deal with and overwhelming especially with everyone on the list and it been calculated that it can take up to 90 years to service everyone. I think that placement of people on the waiting should remain if the person live, or work in the Sonoma county. I received the letter and these are my thoughts I'm very great full for being on the list I am one of many who does need housing

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

assistance I have four children under the age of 18. Thank you for taking the time out to hear my thoughts. May God bless

Best Regards,

L.c

Email Comment, Brenda Tong, May 10, 2019, 5:49 PM

Hi,

I am totally against the mailed proposals to turn the Housing Authority wait list into a lottery! I am disabled and have been waiting for over 3 years on the list (since Sept 2016). I am also living in a shabby cabin home in violation of many of the health guidelines for housing (just this winter found fungus and mold growing on my ceiling!) and am desperate to vacate as soon as I am granted my HUD housing status! Please keep the wait list as it is now... at least I am guaranteed that my turn will come up! As a former tax payer for over 48 years... I feel it is my right to have my turn in this program. Turning it into a lottery is something left for gamblers, not the government!

Sincerely,

Brenda Tong

Email Comment, Cathleen Springer, May 9, 2019, 7:39 AM

Sorry.....but are you crazy? Do NOT do this. My patience (and my years on the planet) are wearing thin. At 72 years of age I "patiently" await word of my voucher coming available. The lottery was bad enough, but as a senior who was born and raised in California and enjoys her so-called Golden Years (two decades) in Sonoma County, I am deeply opposed to having the local preference removed.....as well as the idea of a lottery.

Cathleen Springer
Petaluma, CA

Email Comment, Cherry Gonzalez, May 9, 2019, 9:47 AM
May 9, 2019

To whom it may concern,

This is Luis and Cherry Gonzalez, we had an application for SCHA for over 3 years now and currently active on the waitlist and we are and still will patiently waiting for us to have the opportunity to be approved for the benefit that will help us through scha.

We found it unfairly on our behalf if scha will remove and cancel the current waitlists which we are in. And if the new applicants that will get the benefit instead of us that has been waiting for a long time is not equal.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Although I'm speaking for us and hoping scha would hear my small voice i would like to recommend a suggestion that maybe every year scha will do the updates and send letter to each applicant that is in active on the waitlist and if they're interested they have to return the letter and those who didn't response with the certain amount of time will be out on the waitlist.I am aware that scha are doing their best for our county and help each and every families that is in need.

Sincerely,
Cherry Gonzalez

Email Comment, Conway Burns, May 9, 2019, 12:44 PM

Good afternoon,

What happens to us registered applicants that have been on the list for many years and are still waiting? Will we be removed and added to this lottery system as if we are completely new applicants? If this is the case, this is very unfair.

Please let me know what happens to current registered applicants if the new lottery system is approved.

Thank you,

Conway Burns

Email Comment, Linda Beavers, May 8, 2019, 10:15 AM

We feel that changing to a lottery system will consistently exclude some who have already been waiting for years for the ability to live in a home.

We had been on Section 8 until deceived into giving it up to move to a senior complex owned by the same company but on a different subsidy program. We immediately reapplied and have been waiting for over 3 years already.

Due to the 90 day requirement to find an appropriately subsidized apartment, once approved, and due to the housing crisis, it would be impossible for most to obtain living quarters on the voucher program anyway.

I don't think either option would work for us.

Linda Beavers

Email Comment, Mary Caponio, May 8, 2019, 5:35 PM

Hello,

I have been the payee on my brother's SSI for many years. Recently, with landlord problems, he signed up to get on the waitlist. The landlord sent him a 60-day notice 58 days ago. He is very anxious right now because, affordable housing is almost non existent in Sonoma County. His monthly fixed income is hardly sufficient to cover all his expenses. If he moves tomorrow to the

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

place he was offered, his rent will be doubled and it is far from everything and everybody he knows. Bottom line is, this is not good news for him.

We received your letter notifying us of your proposed changes. I work and cannot attend. He doesn't drive so he won't be in attendance as well. Here are the comments I hope you will include along with all the others you are bound to receive.

1. The lottery system in my view, what could possibly happen is some unfortunate person's name never comes up year after year.
2. I think cancelling everyone on the current waitlist is totally unfair! All those people in need have been patiently waiting and hoping their name would come up soon. Now all that time has been wasted and they waited in vain!

How will we hear whether the changes have gone through or not? Because you've said, if they do, the application period is from July 1-31, 2019. We can contact you to reapply as we did before?

Sincerely,

Mary Caponio, older sister of Sam Caponio, who is on the current waitlist

Email Comment, Alicia Campos, May 9, 2019, 11:48 AM

To the Housing Authority and anyone it may concern,

My name is Alicia Campos and I have been on the waitlist for 5 years now and am currently retired. I do not agree with the proposed changes removing the waitlist and using a lottery system.

Although, providing services for Sonoma County families sounds nice I believe on a lottery system I would have less probability of ever getting on the list to receive services. I need these services and have been patiently waiting and would not want to have to start from scratch and now never know if I will even get picked.

Thank you for your time to take my opinion into consideration.

-Alicia Campos

Email Comment, Shirley Tierney, May 9, 2019, 12:06 PM

Good afternoon,

Im writing in regards to the proposed waitlist change. I am a single mother of a 10 year old and I have been on the list since my child was 4. Six years we have been waiting and talking about finally getting our own place without roommates. I have had to move an hour away to

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Fairfield a year and a half ago. I kept my job in Sonoma county to stay on this list. Committing 2 hours a day . I moved back a year ago because my daughter missed her school and friends. I cannot afford a place here in Sonoma county by myself without the help of the section 8 program. We are coming down the wire and I believe my voucher will come up soon. I have been purchasing used furniture to decorate our new apartment in belief that we will get our voucher this year. We talk about it on a weekly basis. Im devastated that all this waiting and preparing for the voucher will be in vain. I understand the system is full and we all have to wait. But that's how it's always been. I really don't want to move back to Fairfield. My daughter's school here in Cotati is amazing. She can go to this school till she's in 8th grade. She is in 4th going on 5th and has been at this school since kindergarten. Minus the 6 months we were in Fairfield. Please don't do a lottery. Im so looking forwards to the voucher. I've been waiting a long time. I don't feel it's fair to those of us that have been patiently waiting on this list. Im able to furnish our own apartment with the help of marketplace on Facebook. Something I've been dreaming about for 6 years. I have a deposit ready to go. Please again I ask you not to change this for it will shatter our dream of a home of our own.

Sincerely

Shirley Tierney

Still waiting. Thank you.

Email Comment, Linda Bryan, May 9, 2019, 12:34 PM

To whom it may concern,

I think the idea of a voucher lottery is ridiculous. Not only is it completely unfair to those that have been waiting, but it does nothing to create more available housing, so what's the point.

Please just leave things the way they are or you are going to have a lot of very unhappy people to deal with.

Thank you,

Linda Bryan

Email Comment, Michelle Csitos, May 9, 2019, 2:23 PM

Dear Martha,

I am very upset about this change. I have been borrowing money from friends and relatives to pay my rent expenses. I have been working 2 to 3 jobs and no one will give more than 20 to 30 hours of work due to benefits, etc.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I have been on the list for 3 years and have a landlord that is willing to take section 8 assistance. Please don't make me start over.

Sincerely,

Michelle Csitos

Email Comment, Kristina Garland, May 9, 2019, 3:43 PM

Hello there,

I imagine many people will have the same outlook on this as myself. I have been on the waitlist going on 5 years. I have waited with my husband and our 2 boys 9 and 12 one of which has ASD, in a travel trailer hoping to one day be able to live in more than our 300 sqft abode. It is a very tight squeeze and to be honest sometimes the only thing that helps me keep it together is knowing I have reached my 4-6 year wait period and one day soon I may be able to receive help with housing.

An idea I had,

Perhaps close the list until a time when everyone who has been waiting half a decade has been placed? Then start over by opening as a lottery? It just seems unfair for those who have been waiting for so long to be told, oh too bad for you, reapply and pray. Anyhow, thank you for reading this far.

Best Regards,

Kristina Garland

Email Comment, Michelle Morgan, May 9, 2019, 4:30 PM

I'm not clear on how service would be improved to the many people, such as myself, who would be dumped from the current wait list that we have been on for four years or more.

While evaluation for forward progress constantly needs analysis for potential improvements, the fact that the county would cancel those faithfully waiting for years is absurd.

Perhaps the county could require the 26,000 families to complete a mandatory update of their situation and status to see if that's even an accurate number. And why not a yearly online update on the waitlist families to see if they wish to remain on the waitlist and still qualify. At the very least, allow those on the current list to be the pool in which you choose the lottery participants from.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

With the magnitude of people displaced from Sonoma County due to fires and cost, why would the county remove a local preference?

I returned to Sonoma County, where I was born and raised, after the death of my husband in 2014. I applied for assistance as I had four children under 18. I am fortunate that I have been able to remain here. However, as life changes, my situation has changed as well and it may not be financially viable to remain. My hopes that my approximate four years on the waiting list would potentially come to light with assistance where I am residing have diminished upon reading this letter that my family will potentially be dropped from the waitlist to start all over.

Again, while I support the efforts for efficiency and change; I ask that you please consider those that have been waiting a long time; and those who are already in the county and wanting to remain.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Much luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,
Michelle Morgan

Email Comment, Maureen Colliss, May 9, 2019, 4:59 PM
Dear Ms. Cheever

I am writing on behalf of my disabled brother, Raymond Bouchard, who resides at 6351 Country Club Dr, Apt F52, Rohnert Park, CA.

Ray is on the current waitlist that your letter indicates will be eliminated for a lottery system. Ray has been on this list for about five years and has high hopes that he will soon receive assistance with housing costs. His rent has increased from \$950 per month to approximately \$1700 per month (including fees charged by the landlord) since moving into this complex several years ago. For a disabled person receiving only \$2047 per month from Social Security, this causes substantial burden to cover his living expenses and food each month. Affordable housing in Sonoma County for people like Ray is impossible to find. I have been praying that any day now, he will be notified he is at the top of the list.

Ray suffered a traumatic brain injury on his way to work one day in Sonoma County. He is now deaf, has short term memory loss, gets dizzy walking up and down stairs, but insists on living on his own. We've not been able to move him because we can't find affordable housing and his memory loss causes him to become lost if he is not on familiar turf. How will your lottery help people like him....people who are disabled and have been waiting patiently for years to get to the top of your list, struggling to make ends meet??? Will he be given extra consideration??? Or will he now be in a pool of thousands, all sharing the same odds of "getting a lucky number"?

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

It is morally unfair to just toss out people who have been waiting SO long, giving no consideration to them and their time on the list. Why not help them first and begin a new list for your lottery system after they have been served?

Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Colliss on behalf of Raymond Bouchard

Email Comment, Steph, May 9, 2019, 5:18 PM

Martha,

If it is true that: *"Presently there are roughly 8,000 applicants who would theoretically be served before you."*

Then how many people were ahead of me 8 years ago when I was told the wait would be 6 to 8 years?

Were there different policies in place back then about priority for Sonoma Co residents?

I understand that the fire victims were given priority, but the numbers still seem off.

What number was I when I first applied?

Thanks, Steph

Email Comment, Shirley Tierney, May 10, 2019, 12:09 PM

I'd also like to add that if you do decide to do away with the waitlist. Maybe you should take the first 500 on the list that way nobody gets screwed over. Then next year start the lottery. It would be more fair that way. Thank you

Good afternoon,

Im writing in regards to the proposed waitlist change. I am a single mother of a 10 year old and I have been on the list since my child was 4. Six years we have been waiting and talking about finally getting our own place without roommates. I have had to move an hour away to Fairfield a year and a half ago. I kept my job in Sonoma county to stay on this list. Committing 2 hours a day . I moved back a year ago because my daughter missed her school and friends. I cannot afford a place here in Sonoma county by myself without the help of the section 8 program. We are coming down the wire and I believe my voucher will come up soon. I have been purchasing used furniture to decorate our new apartment in belief that we will get our voucher this year. We talk about it on a weekly basis. Im devastated that all this waiting and preparing for the voucher will be in vain. I understand the system is full and we all have to

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

wait. But that's how it's always been. I really don't want to move back to Fairfield. My daughter's school here in Cotati is amazing. She can go to this school till she's in 8th grade. She is in 4th going on 5th and has been at this school since kindergarten. Minus the 6 months we were in Fairfield. Please don't do a lottery. Im so looking forwards to the voucher. I've been waiting a long time. I don't feel it's fair to those of us that have been patiently waiting on this list. Im able to furnish our own apartment with the help of marketplace on Facebook. Something I've been dreaming about for 6 years. I have a deposit ready to go. Please again I ask you not to change this for it will shatter our dream of a home of our own.

Sincerely

Shirley Tierney

Email Comment, Nyame Davis, May 10, 2019, 7:19 PM

Hello my name is Nyame Davis and I think it's unfortunate to start a new waiting list after I been on waiting for over six years . However, if waiting list has to start over after the hearing, and I get a the new application sent to my email so I can make sure I stay signed up?

Email Comment, Naita Saelee, May 10, 2019, 8:16 PM

Hi my name is Naita Saelee. I'm sending this email as a response to the current waitlist might be canceled. I feel like this is a unnecessary proposal due to the fact that there were many applicants already applied and got place on the waitlist. It is unfair to the people that is already placed on the waitlist. Having us re-apply would affect those who were already placed on the waitlist already. This proposal should not take affect at all. Please contact me by email or phone at (510)570-6939 for anymore comments.

Email Comment, Angelique Payton, May 8, 2019 1:08 PM

I don't agree with the changes I been on the wait list for 5 years I am still homeless and have a disability I think the whole preference thing with living are working in that county should go but too cancel a in tire list and do a raffle and make peo... (note: email cut off)

Email Comment, Shayla Vaughn, May 10, 2019, 9:04 PM

Whatever way is the quickest most efficient way to get people housed on the list would be the best decision.

I do not agree with people being exited off of the list but maybe categorize the lists in something like a alphabetical order.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

- People in shelters should come first
 - domestic violence survivors would come before others
 - single mothers - categorize by how many children present
 - persons with disabilities
 - vets
- Whatever you all do I trust that you will put your best foot forward in getting us housed.

Email Comment, Jamie Gheza, May 11, 2019, 9:45 PM

Hello my name is Jamie and my family has been on the waitlist since July of 2017. I feel these changes would be unfair to the many families like mine that have been on the WL for a couple of years already. I feel that the lottery would be a good idea in theory but with the current applicants. My idea if I were on the decision committee would be to close the current waitlist. With the current waitlist being closed I would set a team of few employees maybe even volunteers to go through the list and weed out the applications that do not have current contact information i.e. phone numbers being first criteria and then send out a letter giving x amount of days to respond either via email or phone call. I can promise your WL will have a dramatic change from being around 26,000 to way less. From there I would see how many applicants are homeless families with small children under a certain age, despite people saying it is not against the law to be homeless with children CPS does remove children from homes because of shitty situations. In Sonoma County that would probably be around your 300 vouchers for the year. Or instead of checking applications to see if any of the families are homeless then just give the verified contact applications a lottery number and go from there, because like I stated it would be extremely unfair to the applicants that have maintained and/or updated their contact info that has already been on the list for a year or more like me who has 3 small children 5, 4 and 7.5 months I am homeless my children are in foster care and can not be reunited with myself or fiancée until we can provide them an actual home since CPS feels that it is detrimental to my family living in a motel. I truly want to keep my family in Sonoma County I feel this is the best place to raise my children and applied the first week we moved out here because I knew if something happened to my fiancée job which provided us a home we would not be able to afford to stay out here which saddens me especially because my fiancée lost his job in January we lost our home in February. He obtained a new job March 22 and then we lost our children less than a week after he got his job and then lost his new job less than a week after losing our family. I am only telling you this to support my unfairness to canceling the current waitlist I'm sure we are not the only family that cannot reunify with their babies until there is stable housing provided that are currently on the list and to have us start all over again could be extremely detrimental to the families especially the innocent children that just want to be with their mommies and daddies.

Email Comment, Ron Brown, May 11, 2019, 11:45 AM

I understand your need to update the voucher system but I feel it isn't right to drop everyone that has been on the waiting list for a long time.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

You should keep the people that are already on the list and put them in the new lottery system that you are proposing.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Thanks

Lawrence Kramer – Phone call, May 07, 2019 10:22 AM

I just received your letter stating how you were going from first come first served to a lottery, are you kidding? I have been waiting 6 years on this list, and you are just going to throw it up to whoever you pull out of a hat. That's absolutely ridiculous. First come first served is the only way to be fair, period. There is no fairness in a lottery and it's ripe for misconduct, it's ripe for people to decide maybe this person needs it more or maybe they know somebody on the panel or whoever is doing this lottery, it's scammy on every level, you should be ashamed of yourselves for leading people on for years only to pull some kind of crap like this. I don't know what's wrong with you other than you're screwing a lot of people who have been waiting a very, very long time. I could care less about the back log, I have had to wait for the back log so can everyone else in line, in order, it's the way the world works. You do things in order, you don't get to jump the line because of some scam-lottery thing. You know how that's going to go, nobody on the face of the planet will find a lottery anything but gambling. You are gambling on people's lives and existence. I am being priced out of existence. The next time I get a rent increase where I am at, I will have to either live on the street or shoot myself in the head. Those are the only options I've got so stop taking options away from me. How dare you, how dare you, how dare you.

Linda Hardy – Phone call, May 08, 2019 11:18 AM

I applied back in 2002 and I received information that I am still on the waiting list for almost 20 years and I am going to be homeless if I have to restart this whole process play the luck of the lottery. This seems highly unfair, I am 62 years old, still working, in the same home that I rent since 2002, on the list for almost 20 years and I expect to retire soon and if I don't have this voucher in the next 5 years or so I am going to wind up homeless. I would really appreciate some answers. I have been very patient. I cannot start at ground zero again at my age. Please explain to me how this is going to work.

Louis Sapien – Phone call, May 14, 2019 9:57 AM

On the waiting list, not sure where. If I understand the letter correctly, I hope that I will be able to stay on the list where I am at. Right now I am homeless and disabled, so I hope that the changes don't kick me off and I have to start the process all over from the beginning again. Thank you.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Gregory Graham – Phone call, May 13, 2019 12:35 PM

I am calling to speak to Martha Cheever. I will be at the meeting on the 22nd. I object after waiting for 5 years. I have been waiting for Section 8 since I was 60 years old and now I am turning 65. I was supposed to get it last year and they told me that I have to wait another year and now I am at 5 years and I don't think a lottery is that right thing to go by. I will be at the meeting.

Harriet Odin – Phone call, May 8, 2019 3:34 PM

I have been on the list for over 5 years. After having been told the wait would be 4 – 6 years, I am just stunned by receiving notice that my application after 5 ½ years of waiting is about to be canceled and I am being told that I should reapply to the waiting list. I am an elderly person having lived in Sonoma for all of this time over 5 years and I just cannot understand how the whole list could be canceled without any kind of grandmother clause for people who have been waiting as I have for over 5 years., It is just appalling to me to be disregarded as part of the thousands of people not all of whom have been looking in the mail for the kind of letter which came today telling me that my voucher at last had been approved but instead the whole list is being canceled. Please speak to my breaking heart.

Email Comment, Sarah Pertz, May 11, 2019, 5:10 PM

To whom it may concern:

I have been on the Voucher list for about 5 years. It doesn't feel fair to possibly be bumped off the wait list after all this time. I feel very frustrated that I might not even be on the list at all, or put down further on the list! I don't see anything wrong with the way it is set up now. Changing it after I have been on the list this long isn't fair. I would appreciate it if you would NOT change the system.

Thank you very much,

Sarah Pertz

Email Comment, Davis Lomax, May 12, 2019, 11:34 AM

To Whom I t may Concern:

I am very upset that you are even considering canceling the current wait list. I have been waiting for affordable housing and have been on the list for about 10 years now. I am disabled and trying to live off the income I get from SSI and a part time job. I have been homeless at

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

times and am currently living in a tiny travel trailer that my mother bought so that I wouldn't be homeless again. The trailer is only 19 feet long and really only meant for weekend trips. I have been unable to find affordable housing in this area. Please don't cancel the wait list. It is unfair to me and the other people who have been waiting so long.

Thank you,
Davis Lomax

Email Comment, Ari Silva, May 12, 2019, 6:36 PM

I am Ari Silva, disabled and living off of Social Security disability (only) I am on the waiting list for a number of years.

I want this opportunity to express my opinion and frustration of this new idea of proposing a lottery housing opportunity. Are you kidding me? are you serious? is this some type of non-sense joke?

How dare can you or you feel as God to play with people feelings and life? How dare you?

This new proposal is with no doubt to only fulfill your personal interest. It is ridiculous that you take advantage of a disabled people like me whos only hope is to wait for the listing opportunity and now you want to change it only with the purpose to cause harm and promote yourself.

How dare you make me wait for all of these years and now you think this is a casino that you can bingo with people.

I oppose, I was under the impression and hope that your division had people with integrity that were doing their jobs and updating the list making sure that we all would be giving the rights of opportunity.

Please do not take away our hopes and opportunities that obviously is only to fulfill your non-sense ego.

I do hope that I am wrong with my opinion and that you would honor the existent waiting list.

Sincerely,

Ari Silva

a person with a disability.

Email Comment, Shula Zuckerman, May 10, 2019, 2:14 PM

I received a letter from the Sonoma County Housing Authority stating that it intends to "cancel" the current Section 8 wait list - for which I applied almost 6 years ago, in June 2013 - and

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

initiate a lottery system. I am both shocked and dismayed that the Housing Authority has the authority to do this and/or would choose to do this in an effort to handle the housing crisis in Sonoma County. If they do in time change over to the lottery system, it is only fair that they do so by starting with those names on the wait list that have been filed less than 4-5 years ago .At age 86 I consider myself a low-income senior and will rely on this assistance to survive in my old age which is just about upon me, thankfully.

Shula Zuckerman

Email Comment, Catherine Carpenter, May 14, 2019, 7:29 PM

Dear Martha Cheever,

I was distressed to receive your letter regarding the changes to the housing voucher program in Sonoma County. I have been on the waiting list for five and half years. All the time I have been waiting for my number to come up and to have a home. Claiming that it is a first come first come system, per your letter, this is false. I know of people that stayed in a shelter and within a few months received a housing voucher. I don't think that is first come first served.

Since applying for the housing assistance program I also registered at Catholic Charities for the sleep in my car parking permit. I was denied the Coordinated Entry List because I had arranged housing for the next few weeks. I belong to a church community and arrange temporary housing within the needs of the congregation. I find it is stressful, but works better for me than staying in a shelter or sleeping in my car. This also leaves beds in the shelter for others.

So, no, I do not think the county should go to this lottery system after I have been waiting for five and half years. It may be something you can begin at another date. To be denied my housing now is most devastating.

When can I expect to receive my housing voucher?

Regards,

Catherine Carpenter

Email comment, Diana Storm, May 14, 2019 11:57 AM

I received the letter regarding the housing choice voucher and am deeply upset. I have been on the waiting list for three years; MediCal tells me. I make too much money and I have to pay

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

\$742. a month cost of share; I cannot afford to pay my \$400. Pg&E bill, and soon I will be a 70 year old disabled homeless woman and I am not looking forward to that. If I need to be put on another waiting list, I will probably die before it hits my name. I would love to get on to Section 8 and thereby being able to pay bills and buy groceries,

Email comment, Corinna Reyes, May 14, 2019 12:00 PM

Public Hearing May 22, 2019 @ 10am-11:30am

1. Don't convert to a lottery until 3 years from hearing date.
2. Those that have been waiting on the current waitlist for 3 years only have 2 years more to go and have been waiting patiently to come up on the top of the list for SCHA S8 Housing Voucher.
3. DO remove specific preferences in 2 years from now.
4. Don't cancel current waitlist bc it would be detrimental to the health and safety of those already waiting for years.

Best,

Corinna Reyes

Wait listed for a long 3 years!!!!!!

Email comment, Erin Kline, Tue 5/14/2019 12:56 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a XXXXX person that joined the section 8 waiting list just about a year ago. It may be my only chance to be able to live independently. I collect federal disability and work part time. I need the federal disability medicare coverage to cover my (doctors), (care team) and medication. I also am on medi-cal for extra medical coverage. Without having preferences for in county and disabled people, my chances of winning a lottery spot are very small. I live with my parents currently because a one bedroom rent got too expensive for me to pay.

I hope you will choose not to do away with preferences and that you will not go to a lottery system for section 8. I know it may be a three year wait for me still the way it is, but a lottery would take even longer for me to get a spot I am sure of it. Without a program like section 8 having a spot for me on a waiting list, there is nothing else to help me get a place of my own in the future. I desperately want to get into independent housing and all my hopes were with section 8. I am very depressed about the possible changes and do not know what kind of future living accomodations I will have now.

Please do not remove preferences for disabled people or the preference for in the county coming first.

Sincerely,

Erin Kline

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Kathy Lawrence, 5/14/2019 9:29 PM

I received a letter dated May 1, 2019 from Sonoma County community development commission regarding a proposition of changes to the Federal housing choice voucher program. Where are you are proposing the change of canceling the current program of the waitlist for federal housing that your program and you are submitting or would like to submit a new waitlist that's going to become a lottery application.

I deeply do not agree with your request for a proposition to have a lottery random computer software to select 500 applications for the new wait list to get into the housing program.

This is completely unfair to those of us who are elderly with low income have been on the waitlist for six years and now you like just to toss that waitlist out and create a lottery program meaning someone who's been on the waitlist for one week could randomly get pulled by the lottery system and get federal housing whereas someone who is been on the waitlist for six years has to apply again and what were their odds are the chances be of actually being polled as an applicant.

I do not wish to have to wait again by chance pick up a random computer software of the 500 people to be placed and once they are for the lottery to go through again.

I've been waiting my turn patiently and struggling financially in the meantime I think it's fair to leave the waitlist alone the way it has been rather than your proposed change of the house in about your program to be.

My vote is No on the new changes you are looking into.

Thankyou

Kathy Lawrence

(A 5 1/2 year waiting Participate)

Email Comment, Jennifer Williams, 5/15/2019 9:29 AM

Dear Martha,

I am unable to come speak at the May 22 hearing, and wish very much to add my voice to your effort. I hope I can hear your response to my voice via email.

I greatly appreciate the Housing Authority's need to address the current system which does grossly underserve the need for lower income housing in Sonoma County, for the 26,000 eligible people of our county. The problem appears to originate from: 1) The basic necessity of living space is allowed to be sold to highest bidders, effectively bidding out low income families. There is no real estate profit cap. 2) The enforcement of enough affordable units to build in planning was not provided. 3) huge wealth gaps (ownership of living space) necessitated rent control to equalize basic needs resources, but was not provided.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

The solution being tabled for hearing May 22, is to my mind, terribly unfair. It does not address the problem of serving the basic needs of people who cannot compete with higher wages.

I, for one, would feel terrible getting a place before someone else who is also disabled and waited longer.

Changing to lottery wipes out the fairness of first come first serve with preference for disabled.

It is luck alone, gambling with people's necessity.

Though common sense, it must be fought for; a disabled person has far fewer options than a person who can share rent anywhere. Just having XXXX means I cannot rent a room with anyone using any scented products, with job options extremely rare.

My argument:

If there is no minimum wage set in our County that will afford local housing, and there is no Rent Control, then we are obligated as a decent citizenry to provide non-toxic land/buildings for working and retired and disabled folks to live here.

I can only see one way to give you the power to serve as you ask to do.

A Plan to Create low income housing. We must give you the power and means to do so.

Suggestion:

- 1) A County Commission staff to coordinate data from the City Managers, and Rural land owner data, to find obtainable buildings that can be repurposed as housing units.
- 2) Obtain or use County owned pieces of land for Tiny Home and Trailer Parks that are well regulated just as all Section 8 housing is. Note some County/City revenue can be generated.
- 3) Contact owners with large tracts of land who will rent space that can be used for mobile home FEMA type housing, and Tiny House parks, where County sewer lines and electric/solar can be hooked to. Change zoning regs to allow for this necessity. Make parts of land Multi-use and mandate food farming on these sites to make sustainable. Again, make those parts Section 8 rules.

A final point: Community members who have worked here for 30+ years and raised a family here but could not afford to buy here, have paid into city and landlord pockets all these years, earning a right to live here. Years of residency, being a good part of the community, should take precedence, after disabled, over someone just moved here.

Please keep first-come first-served. Please, create disabled and low income County housing.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Standing in line,

Jennifer Williams

Healdsburg, CA

Email comment – Shula Zuckerman, May 15, 2019 10:59 AM

I think your intention to dismantle the Section 8 Waiting List in order to appease HUD is “draconian” in nature, and shocking! These people (including myself) – numbering thousands – who have been following the rules and waiting on a list for years and years and years – will be told that they have waited in vain. And essentially, wasted their precious time which could have been applied elsewhere. I believe that this will prove to be illegal!

Shula Zuckerman

Tierra Bud – Phone call, May 8, 2019 10:30 AM

Hi my name is Tierra Bud (not clear) my telephone number is: XXX. I received a letter in the mail about upcoming possible changes in the waiting list. I think that it is a good idea to some extent, but it is not really fair to the people that have been on the waiting on the waiting list. I have been waiting since 2014. When I got on the waiting list, I was fleeing domestic violence with my two kids and I was homeless. So I have been waiting since 2014 for my name to come up on the list and if you cancel the whole waiting list that means that I have been waiting this whole time for nothing. And it is really unfair, because I have always kept this plan in my head to escape my situation and I have been waiting for my name to come up on the list. I call every month to make sure all of my information is up-to-date and I don't think that it is really fair to cancel the whole waiting list. Because even my kids are looking forward to this opportunity that we have been waiting for since 2014 and I have been told that the minimum wait is 4 to 6 years and it is coming up on my 5th year on the waiting list. So to cancel it when I barely have a year left to wait is really unfair. And I do not agree with the changes. I think that they should close the waiting list and then do the lottery, but everyone that is already on the waiting list should stay on the waiting list. It has been almost 5 years and now to do this when it is almost my time to come is really unfair! Like I said, I was fleeing domestic violence; my kid's father has been murdered and I have 2 kids and I just need - need this housing to come through for me and my kids and if you cancel the waiting list and go through a lottery that means that someone who just signed up yesterday can get housing before me and my kids. And it is not really fair.

Anonymous - Phone call, May 9, 2019 12:16 PM

Yes, I have been on the wait list for Sonoma County for a very long time and I am a citizen and I have had the hope and the dream of getting housing. Just because I am a citizen does not mean that you can take me off the waiting list and put whoever you want on there. We know what is going on. I deserve to be on that list and I don't think that you have the right to just delete it.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Choice and pick whoever you want for housing. I think that this is an issue that needs to go to court. You cannot treat people so inhuman and destroy our hopes and dreams. This is cruel and inhuman. You have no right to do this. It is horrible. All of us have waited a long time for housing and just because we have misfortunes and tragedies in our families and our citizens does not mean we have privileges. I have none and I don't know even what that means. I need the housing. I have been on that list for a long time and I do not want to be treated like a piece of garbage, like you want to treat me. You keep me on that waiting list. I have notified the Governor and I am going to take this to court. If you mistreat me and treat me like garbage and take me off that list. (Message ended).

Anonymous - Phone call, May 9, 2019 9:09 AM

Yes I'd like to make my comment on the upcoming proposed changes. I won't be able to make the meeting. I think it's a good idea. I think this situation is impossible. I mean, I simply can't believe that it takes 90 years to get done what you guys don't call me – when I apply is that I'll probably be dead by the time I get in. So in other words -- program is none existent. This program isn't for anybody and I did get 26,000 people it seems like 300 a year – you'd be dead before it gets done then you have to jump through this process and they are asking us if the landlord cares or whatever you can be dead honey it's just like ridiculous it's been you don't even remotely meet the needs of the community.

Jesus Christ.

Email comment – Miriam Moore, May 14, 2019 3:32 PM

Buenas tardes,

A quien corresponda Mi nombre is Miriam Moore con dirección XXXX, Le escribo para informarle que no podré estar presente en la audiencia pública el 22 de mayo de 2019 . Mi pregunta es ¿Por que los que ya tenemos años esperando ? Nos sales que tenemos que aplicar de nuevo ? No me queda realmente claro . Pero por favor espero me aclare esta duda . Y si por favor me puede informar con lo acontecido en la reunión que se llevará acabo .

Muchas gracias

Atentamente,

Miriam Moore

Translated:

Good afternoon.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

To whomever it may concern, My name is Miriam Moore with address of XXXX. I write to you to let you know I will not be able to attend the public hearing May 22, 2019.

My question is, Why us, that have been waiting for a long time? Will we need to apply again? It is not real clear to me.

But please, I hope you can answer this question.

And if you can please let me know of the outcome of the meeting that will take place.

Sincerely,

Miriam Moore

Janice Alfort – Phone Call, May 11, 2019 8:37 PM

Hi my name is Janice Alfort and my phone number is XXX. I am calling regarding a letter that I received in the mail. I feel like it's wrong that we've been waiting on the waiting list for so long and you guys to just start it all over again. How do we know that we would even be chosen? I've been homeless for going on 4 years. I have an adult son that is XXX, we are not able to live in a shelter because of his condition. I also have some XXX issues, I had a XXX, and I am disabled. And I don't understand what is taking so long for us to receive housing. I understand you guys are trying to make it better for people; but put this in mind as people who are waiting that have nowhere to go and nobody to turn to and we are really crying out for help. So please do what you guys can do to make sure that everybody that needs help gets it. Not just my family, other families. My son is going on 23 years old. He is unable to work; he does not have an income at the moment. I have a daughter that does in home care for me and another son that is not working and he has mental issues. So I hope you guys consider us and help us to get housing. Please call me back at XXX and I think that I have been very patient. Thank you, bye bye.

Anonymous – Phone call, May 10, 2019 6:26 PM

Hello I'm calling cause I wanted to let you know that I received a letter in regard to the community development commission about housing authority, and it's all in Spanish which I do not speak or read. I thought oh dear I hope they didn't do a whole mailing in the wrong language to people, this letter, to whomever with my name on it is not going to be good because I can't read it. That's number 1 is I don't speak Spanish. And number 2 is I've owned my own home here in Sonoma county for 50-60 years so I shouldn't be on the list for the people you are wanting to serve. I thought I should probably let you know so that you could just check that and see if other people are also receiving these letters that won't be helpful. Sorry for not being a carrier of good news I applaud you are working hard. I've retired and I have a house now and I have had for a long time I'm not going to look in any other direction and good luck to you bye.

Anonymous - Phone call, May 10, 2019 4:32 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Yes hi I'm calling about the proposal which I'm totally against eliminating the waiting list that I've been on for 5 or 6 years now. I'm in my 80s, I'm disabled, I have played by the rules I've been keeping up with everything I'm supposed to do to stay on the waiting list and hopefully get a decent apartment. If I do not get that soon I'm going to have to sign up for welfare I don't see any other options. This is very upsetting it's very unfair to people who have been on this list and patiently waiting as myself and I just don't know what you're thinking that just eliminating it is going to solve anything. Just give the available vouchers to the people who have been waiting the longest that only makes sense instead of people who just happen to get lucky on the lotto this is not a gamble this is a very serious issue and I hope to heck that you don't pass this, it's criminal. Thank you

Larry Jones, Written Comment – Received May 9, 2019

Larry Jones, XXX, Santa Rosa CA. I don't understand how your new policy is fair. I signed up for the Santa Rosa Housing list in May 2015. Now I'm told all that waiting and struggling was for naught. You're starting a new Santa Rosa list based on a lottery and on that someone who has only waited a few weeks or a few months could get a place whereas I've already waited 4 full years. How is that fair? Why not first come, first serve? Thank you.

Eden Berhone, Written Comment – Received May 9, 2019

To Whom May Concern. I am a single mother with a 3 year old who needed permanent housing. It's difficult for me and my child can't afford it without getting into housing authority in Sonoma County. I am under the government with a small amount and that doesn't even cover full room for rent and I am asking to review my letter especially a single mother and my child to get us permanent. It would us to build future better and career. Thank you, Eden Berhone.

Louisa Malaspina, Written Comment – Received May 9, 2019

I have been waiting a long time to get housing, and I am in need. And now I get a letter of closure. What is going on? I would like some response back, as I need housing desperately. Please do not delete me. Thank you, Louisa Malaspina, XXX Pacifica, CA.

Emily Maxwell, Written Comment – Received May 14, 2019

Emily Maxwell, Address: XXX, Sonoma CA 95476

Please keep waiting list as is.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Brandon Chai, Written Comment – Received May 9, 2019

Dear Martha, I just received notice that you intend to remove my name from your Housing Choice Voucher waitlist and replace it with a lottery. With all do respect, I have not been lucky. In fact, I have not been very lucky. In fact, I have been unlucky the last several years and converting to a lottery is almost certain doom for me.

I am desperately in need of another housing choice voucher. I had one for several years in Sacramento County. When I got engaged, I was forced to give up my voucher because my girlfriend cam into a very large inheritance. She ended up giving me half her inheritance and we bought a house together. However, the marriage only lasted 3 months because she went crazy me.

She kicked me out of our house and caused me to become homeless. I cannot work because I am disabled but yet can't collect disability because my ailment is not on their approved list of conditions...even though I haven't been able to leave my house for over 4 years now due to my condition.

I am desperate. Nobody has been willing to help me. Everyone has kicked me to the wayside including God it seems.

Please keep me on the list and give me at least hope.

Thanks,

Brandon Chai

Harriett Oden, Written Comment – Received May 14, 2019

Dear Ms. Cheever: We talked by phone last week, when I was in shock after receiving notice that the waiting list will be cancelled this Friday. I have decided to fax this written response asking for an exemption from cancellation, via my proposal of a "grandmother clause" that allows me to receive a voucher before the closing date of May 17 at 5 pm.

It is common for a "grandfather clause" to maintain service following scheduled discontinuances. I am realizing, during this week following mother's day, that being cancelled from the list I have been on for well over five years brings me face to face with imminent homelessness.

When I talked with Cynthia on February 14, 2018, she said I was in good shape after four years of waiting. She added that currently vouchers were granted after five years, and so I have held on expecting a letter any day announcing my selection. I went to our manager here at Sea Ranch Apartments, asking to have the enclosed documentation ready.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

My financial hardship is an extreme struggle to cover 5rent, utilities, and food from month to month. As a seventy-eight year old grandmother, in safe housing about to be unable to pay rent, waiting to win a lottery for placement on a future list of 500, I am convinced that losing my home here is not in the best interest of our community.

While living here in Sea Ranch apartments for six years, I have done pro bono psychotherapy, founded and facilitated a dialogue group meeting bi-weekly at The Gualala Arts Center, and walked weekly with the "Thursday Ramblers." My proposal for some kind of exemption is the most responsible input I am able to find.

Appreciatively,

Harriet Oden

ENCLOSURE: Letter from the Resident Manager of Sea Ranch Apartments on their letterhead.

August 6, 2018

To: Housing Authority

Re: Harriet Oden

Sea Ranch Apartments is part of Burbank Housing. We rent to all section 8 voucher holder. Harriet Oden has been my resident since 2013. She always pays the rent on time and is a great tenant.

I hope her name will come up on your wait list and she will be part of your wonderful program.

Sincerely,

Ann Hibner

Resident Manager

Brenda Rose De Clario, Written comment, Received May 10, 2019

Dear Martha Cheever,

After having been on the H.C.V waitlist program for 5 years I was disconcerted to ready your May 1, 2019 letter stating that a proposed "lottery" system will displace my name for yet another 2 year wait list limbo. This is just cruel.

I am confused by the logic that "converting to a lottery waitlist, removing" Sonoma County resident preference & "cancelling the current waitlist" will "improve service." Please define your meaning of service & how sophisticated will this lottery be.

I have no relations, no savings & will be 71 on my next birth date. When my rent was increased 3 times in 3 years it was imperative I find a PT job since the rent took 100% of my SS monthly benefit. The PT job is assisting in the produce dept. at the local supermarket. It requires heavy

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

lifting & a rigid schedule. My fear is to imagine just how long my stamina will prevail. It should be noted that my present landlord of 10 years allows H.C.V. therefore obviating the 1st/last/deposit & moving expenses for everyone. I am planning on attending the May 22 meeting but in the event I cannot or time will not permit my verbal input, I am sending this letter. I am not looking for your sympathy but am appealing to your sense of merit. I urge your office to not adopt a lottery which in effect will eliminate justice for those of us who have patiently waited 5 years. I thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rose De Clario

Debbie Elliot, Written comment, Received May 10, 2019

Debbie Elliot, Voucher Applicant

May 7, 2019

Dear Sonoma County Community Development Commission:

I as a voucher applicant am responding to your letter referring to cancelling the current waitlist. The first come, first-served basis is the most fair system and my biggest fear is that I will not get notified of the next lottery when not selected. I do not get emails and if I have to remember when to re-apply without being mailed an application to re-apply I will not get to re-apply. Remembering when to reapply is too complicated. I have missed enrollment due to that before and although the list is long and first-come, first-served is the fairest way and we then can have an idea of when our time is coming instead of always being in limbo on the edge of do we get to move or not.

Sincerely,

Debbie Elliot

Joan Dow, Written comment, Received May 10, 2019

Ladies & Gentlemen: attn.: Martha Cheever

I write on behalf of my disabled son who has been waiting for a voucher for 5 years. He is 65 now. My son lives with me while waiting but I am now 90 and fear I will pass & he will be homeless. I believe he must be close to the top, but if you cancel & go to the lottery, it is impossible to think of losing those 5 precious years of hope.

Please vote against this, I implore you. As a 40 year Sonoma County resident, I don't think this can be judged "fair and equitable".

Sincerely,

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Joan Dow

Kelly Klain, Written comment, Received May 13, 2019

Martha Cheever

Sonoma County Housing Authority,

I am definitely concerned about some of the changes to the Section 8 application process being considered by the Sonoma County Housing Authority. I've been on the waitlist for about 4 years (since 7/14/15) and by this time I'm sure I've moved a bit closer to finally receiving a voucher. First and foremost, for those who have already been on the list for an extended period of time, it isn't right to negate all those years essentially forcing people to start the process all over again but this time with no guarantee if getting on a list or anything. With this lottery system the 500 picked will be served (approx 1-2 years) and the rest left to reapply again with no guarantee of any sort of progress.

I know demand far exceeds supply but it will still be the 26,000 households waiting for the 300 vouchers you mention changing who gets picked is not going to change the numbers and, if the system is to be opened to all qualified applicants in the U.S. isn't this just going to increase demand even more? How is adding more people into the mix going to make it any better? Is Sonoma County the only county to be burdened with this new influx of applicants?

Secondly, some of the preference used to move people forward in the process are extremely important if not potentially lifesaving. Veterans, the disabled, single mothers, seniors on fixed incomes often lack resources financially and otherwise making the wait tune a precarious situation at best. Are you to do away with these considerations as well as the live/work locality preference? This could literally be risking lives.

I for one receive \$858 a month. If it weren't for cheap rent in a room of a family members' residence I would have nowhere. As it is it isn't a good fit, living with too much dirt and dander from pets and, a sometimes over controlling and volatile personality. Still it is a place to "lay my head" at night so I generally suck it up and try to remain patient and positive as I await Sec. 8.

Perhaps Sonoma County should have periodically closed the waitlist as other counties have done. Sure, hindsight is 20/20 but throwing it all "up in the air" to start again isn't going to make a voucher available any time sooner.

This "expectation of service" as you call it per the lottery is meaningful only to the fortunate 500. The rest are left to reapply when the time comes with no guarantee of ever moving forward to the goal of finally having a place to call one's own.

Please, think these issues thought with compassion and wisdom.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Respectfully yours,

Kelly P. Klain

Ny Van Do, Written comment, Received May 13, 2019

To whom it may concerns, Martha Cheever.

I cannot attend at the hearing. I wish to stay on the waitlist because I need housing for my disability and a home.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ny Van Do

Joann Negro-Puentes – Phone Call May 10, 2019 2:33 PM

Hi my name is Joanne Negro-Puentes and I have been on the housing list for close to 7 years now. I even went down to talk to somebody about 4 months ago in the HUD office that said I was actually getting closer, and that I might see some things coming through the mail box about communities that they are working on. I have in fact responded to some of those and recently gotten excited about it. I am 65 years old I am on disability I've worked my tail off in this county as my family did and this is where I want to live. I really think there has to be some sort of a compromise maybe the first 10,000 I don't know how we're going to fix this, but definitely wiping this clean isn't fair at least I don't feel it is. My phone number is XXX. I will attend the meeting I will also email everybody that I can and I know you're getting a million phone calls maybe in favor of this but definitely people who have worked and lived in this community for 30-40 years...You get to certain age where I can't go out and work anymore. And this was something that I was told that if I did this that housing may come. It might be a while, but I might get it. Thank you Martha and whoever is listening to this, I will see you soon bye.

Laura Bouchard – Phone Call May 10, 2019 12:32 PM

Hi my name is Laura Bouchard. I'm calling about the section 8 letter. You know I've been on this waiting list since 9/7 of 2013, which makes it very discouraging. This is not a permanent fix where I am living, and I would like to someone to call me to give me a little more information about this. Please call me at XXX I would appreciate it very much I would hate to get kicked off of this list when I have been waiting on it for so many years. Hopefully you can call me before 2 weeks, and I will try back again on Monday. Thank you. Again my name is Laura Bouchard (gives password and application ID).

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Robin K Ray – Phone Call, May 9, 2019 2:58 PM

Hi my name is Robin K Ray my phone number is (707) 364-0983 and I don't understand what this letter is about. I don't understand. I am a cancer survivor, I put in an application years ago. What the hell? Please call me back thank you.

Gina Crespo – Phone Call, May 9, 2019 1:26 PM

I believe this message is for Martha Cheever my name is Gina Crespo. I am currently on the Housing Voucher wait list. I have been on the waitlist between 4-5 years. I am currently and, have been, permanently disabled collecting social security with child who is 15 years old in high school. We are living in our car and we have been waiting for this voucher to go through. I really do not think that it's fair that people who have been waiting on the wait list that long be taken off of the waitlist they should be housed first especially considering the circumstances. I want to know what the most efficient way to have my voice be heard because it really is not fair to have to reapply. I can't wait another 5 years...I just don't understand this. I have been waiting so long, I have been so patient there's nothing more that I can do but this is ridiculous. My phone number is XXX I would appreciate a phone call back as soon as possible thank you.

Alex _____ - Phone call, May 9, 2019 12:48 PM

Hello Alex (last name?) here I apologize for calling again but I wanted to finish my message. I just wanted to give you a real life example. I lived alone apartment did not have any accommodations, my work injuries that I've had which were very serious before retriggered and I've acquired even more disabilities because of lack of accommodations. I ended up moving then with my family only to find out there is a law that prohibits families from living together. I did put that in my note but I did not put down the law. That law, I've been trying and I'm still trying to change it. It really can help, it's one of the solutions. In fact, there is a law in that that has a solution but people are not applying it. The law is 24CFR Code of Federal Regulations and this section is 982.615 between brackets the lowercase d and the number 3. The embedded law in this law is, again, 24CFR, which stands for code of regulations part 8 and particularly part 8.4 that says "denying the person benefits of section 8 assistance because they are living with their family is discrimination". I was in the process of acquiring that when the administration changed from President Obama to President Trump. I found that I'm not getting anywhere with HUD in San Francisco or in DC who flat out told me that they will not deal with me. I am the recipient, I should not be doing that; it should be the housing authority that is reaching out to them to do that. I am on the city of Santa Rosa now they've tried they showed me their application waiver and I acquired the response from Washington DC that says no flat out they told me no Washington DC is not going to accommodate a disabled person. That is very strange because disability laws in our country takes over from any other law. Laws of accommodation

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

are #1; everything else is #2 whether it's federal state or so on. If that law is changed, it can really, really make things much easier. I came with the family with the understanding that it would take me a while to recover, could be 2-3 years with the doctor evaluation of course. Within about a couple of years, I felt maybe I could live alone again provided there are accommodations in the unit that I'll be in. I was called by two people, one of them HAD the accommodation and I told them thank you I cannot accept the accommodation because my voucher has expired. So that is the timing issue that I talk about between places available, no voucher, I have the voucher, there's no place. So that is one of the solutions. Using that law somehow for acquiring a permanent waiver regardless of which housing authority the person is under whether it's Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, if we can acquire that than I have written to the white house telling the president please issue an executive decision or order to make a permanent waiver for them. It would save a lot of people from staying homeless if they can stay with their families. And, it will save HUD a lot of money on the amount of vouchers. The amount of payment by housing authority would be on shared basis which is nearly half of what is paid if the person is in a unit on their own. I prefer to be in a unit on my own of course but is important to have that kind of flexibility. I think that is all I have to say for now, and I think I have covered the subject pretty good. If we can succeed in getting the crucial items out and implemented that would be really awesome meaning: housing first, vouchers don't expire, more number of vouchers to acquire, maybe 1000 or 2 every year.

Marcus Mills, Written comment, Received May 13, 2019

Mrs. Martha:

My name is Marcus A. Mills and my wife name is Judi Mills. We have lived in Cotati, California. Our landlord has said that she would be ok with us on assistance Section 8. I just received a letter stating that the assistance I have been on a waitlist for quite a while. I would like to be on the new list if a condition will be changed.

Thank you,

Al Mills

P.S. I received the letter 4-8-19

Julie Mills– Phone Call May 7, 2019, 9:14 AM

Feels that seniors currently on the waitlist should be provided an automatic spot on the new waitlist because a lot of people who are older should be taken care of. She will sign up for the waitlist

Email Comment, Angeline Bryant, May 4, 2019, 9:07 AM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

My name is Angeline Bryant and I think that seniors should not be removed from the waiting list but automatically added to the lottery. I don't think it's fair that I should be have to wait another 2-3 years on top of the 41/2 years I have already waited for a voucher. Thanks again

Email Comment, Patricia Hammons, May 6, 2019, 3:06 PM

Hi,

I received your letter dated May 1, 2019, about a public hearing on the proposed changes to your federal Housing Choice Voucher program.

Just one note, the program is federal, and even though I am not living or working in Sonoma county, my preference being for Healdsburg, I have driven and accessed many of Santa Rosa's and Healdsburg's amenities.... gas stations and cafe's. I have often reflected on these communities for retirement as I drove through, (visiting the redwoods)... I would hope the federal government still reflects on its citizens who continue to cooperate and support its past "outlying communities".

Thank You

Patricia Lynn Hammons

Elaina Peralta – Phone call, May 14, 2019 1:26 PM

We have been homeless for about 5 months. I am on a couple lists for shelter programs. I have a new child who was born premature and having structure and stability is really important for their developmental health. I don't know how you guys do the lottery but it would mean the world to us if we got housing.

Email Comment, Natalie Harmon, May 7, 2019, 11:05 AM

Hello, my name is Natalie Harmon and I wanted to comment on the proposed waitlist changes. I am disabled and pay 70% of my income in rent, not including some utilities and laundry. Elderly people and those with disabilities should be given first preference, on the waitlist. I live in a rural area, Forestville which has very little in the way of services, and I have been trying to move to another area with bus service and to be near libraries or jobs when I can work part time. My Mother is a half hour away by car but I don't see her for several weeks sometimes.

My Mother is 68 and living on social security as well. She is living without transportation and sharing a room in Petaluma on a farm, where there are no stores, or buses. No paratransit. She has a hard time getting food or getting to Dr. appointments and she has several medical conditions. I have a car that barely runs. My Mother is sick and can't get to the Dr. because she has to pay people to take her anyplace. Nobody where she lives cares about her. Without better housing my Mother could die and she does not have resources. We are hoping to move to Santa Rosa, or Sebastopol where there are grocery stores and buses and be closer together.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Two years is a long time to wait, and if disabled people and elderly people are not given first preference, it's a horrible life. We are both on the waitlist.

Thank You, Natalie

Email Comment, Ebony Trambel, May 8, 2019, 11:37 AM

Dear Sonoma County Housing Authority:

I received the letter regarding an effort to improve service.

I have been on the current waiting list since December 16th 2012. It is unfortunate that I would have to reapply to be included into a lottery system that may or may not place my name on the new waiting list. However, I do understand why the changes need to be made.

Thank you for your time,

Ebony Tramble

Email Comment, Jazmine Gordon, May 10, 2019, 8:48 PM

I think a lottery is a good idea however, I would like to remain on the list once the public hearing happens. I am a homeless mom living at a program trying to find a place.

Email Comment, Gwendel Rodriguez. May 8, 2019, 9:35 AM

Greetings!

My name is Gwendel Rodriguez and I have been on the Sonoma County's Housing Choice Voucher waitlist for nearly 5 years.

I know that the wait can take upwards of 8 - 11 years, but I'm always looking for a miracle where there is little hope. That is why, when I saw a letter from you in the mail, I thought that perhaps my prayers to be delivered from the conditions we are currently living under had been answered.

Instead, it was about the public hearing to be held on the 22nd of this month.

Before I continue, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak. You must be inundated with responses to your proposed changes and although, I sometimes feel that my voice will not be heard, I cannot let such an important decision be made while I remain silent.

There are several ways of looking at the proposed lottery system

and it is indeed that....a total gamble.

Many have been on the waitlist much longer than I have, yet with this system, what we've been longing for and working towards will most likely be for naught. As you stated, there are over

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

26,000 waiting yet, 25,500 will be turned away. I feel as though this system would be gambling with our lives and no one should be given such power over others. Especially, those who are low-income and seeking help. With about "...300 vouchers becoming available each year..", you would only be saving approximately 4 years off of the current system according to what "...would take 90 years to serve every household that is currently on the waitlist." Four years isn't a long time when you consider the headaches, conflicts, angry households and paperwork only to have to do it all over again less than two years later. It's a colossal waste of time for everyone involved. Is it worth it?

On the other hand, the first 500 will be blessed, indeed. The question is, am I or anyone else on the list willing to take that chance? Should anyone besides ourselves have the right to make that decision for us? Our livelihood is on the line.

Lastly, the removing of the "...local preference that essentially blocks 18,000 waitlist families from receiving service" is a win-win proposal. Not just because I am one who would no longer be blocked (I live in Sacramento), but because it will take the HCV program back to what it was originally intended. As the saying goes, if it's not broke, don't fix it and locking thousands of people from a program that's suppose to be open to all qualified U.S. applicants is hypocrisy. It is a form of segregation. How can something be open and blocked at the same time? It's not possible.

Again, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have our voices heard.

Whether they are taken into account is up to you.

I wish you well!

Gwendel Rodriguez

Jeanna Olivetta - Phone call, May 9, 2019 12:16 PM

Hi my name is Jeanna Olivetta and I am on the wait list. I agree this process is good. If anyone wants to chat, so please call me at XXX. I just want to know if I am still on the wait list, because it says to apply by...what date is that...by....oh, the current wait list will close, Friday, May 17th. So, I am not sure if I am on it or I have to do it again. But I did get this letter from Sonoma County Community Development Commission. So yes, I am going to want to apply and also wanted to make sure that I am on the wait list. Thank you.

Email Comment, Shad'E Pinkins, May 10, 2019, 10:13 PM

Hi,

I agree with creating a new system of implementing a lottery pull that way it can give people like me who don't either live and/or work in Sonoma County an opportunity to receive section 8 benefits if picked. However, I wonder in order to start the new system if a lottery pull of 500

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

people were picked from the applicants who are already on the waitlist and then moving forward continue with the new system?

Thank you for giving me the platform to share my comment,

Warm,

Shad'e Pinkins

Community Services Worker
Transitional Age Youth Program
Fred Finch Youth Center

Tracy Williams– Phone Call May 7, 2019, 8:52 AM

Not really happy with being kicked off the waitlist, but is supportive of the removal of the residency preference. She wants to be on the waitlist so she will reapply, but is worried if she doesn't get on.

Alex Elshirbiny, Written Comment, Received May 9, 2019

Alex Elshirbiny, XXX, Rohnert Park CA.

RE: Changes to HCV.

The Problems:

- 1) Lack of housing for HCV recipients.
 - 1.1) Lack of housing projects that can accommodate recipients of HCV that has some funds for manufactured houses.
- 2) Vouchers expiring: [Timing]
 - 2.1) When vouchers are available, a residence is not.
 - 2.2) when residence unit is available the voucher is not.
- 3) Specific preferences.
 - 3.1) OK to remove living and working in Sonoma County but:
 - 3.2) removing homeless, senior, disabled and Veterans [Hope for Veteran Town Project] May put some in a residence before homeless and young before old.

Comments:

- 1) Santa Rosa has 17,777 on lottery, Sonoma County 26,000 is there duplication? How much?
- 2) If duplication: How many are need will it be 10,000 or 15,000!
- 3) If the 500 cannot find housing it will block others for year.
- 4) Cancelling the residing in Sonoma County (working) will add 18,000 more people to the 26000!

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

The Solution:

- 1) Questionnaire to find exact number needing HCV. Some may have moved to another state.
- 2) Build PLENTY of affordable housing the work of students under contractor supervision, and Burbank Housing.
- 3) Apply for Federal fund to provide HCV for all needing it, with no expiration of vouchers.
- 4) Find the number able to live with the families and provide permanent waiver to the Federal Law prohibiting this.
- 5) Find number of recipients able to buy manufactured home [on a project] Sonoma County HA pays only on land.
- 6) Will reduce voucher amounts, leaving more money for other HCV.

Respectfully, Alex Elshirbiny

Alex Elshirbiny - Phone call, May 7, 2019 5:32 PM

I have sent a letter in response to the mailing that I received because and the letter is quiet complicated and I wanted to explain every point and I wasn't sure if I can fit it on your telephone message. But I wanted to say again, of course, I hope you received the letter and I hope it is considered. But I wanted to quickly let you know just in case you don't receive the letter that removing specific preferences from the wait list is good with respect to the people have to be living and working in Sonoma County, but then in the correspondence you sent me it does say that could add additional 18,000 people and you also say that you have 26,000 people now. The specifically references there are existing like the person is homeless, senior, disabled, veteran and there is another one. If these are removed and the names are selected randomly it is very possibly that you could have someone who is young not homeless, not disabled, not a veteran have their name pop up and are eligible within that 500 households that are going to receive the voucher while other people homeless, senior, disabled, may not be picked up to receive vouchers. So these particular preferences are very important to maintain I think because the help needs to go to those who are really really in the worst condition possible like homeless, disabled and seniors. The veterans, I am hoping and I called some people saying it is possible to have Veteran's Town? A place where they can all live together, all veterans, that way they could handle the way of life there. It would be a lot simpler than being in society and seeing ordinary people and they get pressured with that. The second point I put in my letter is that with the vouchers expiring causes a big problem, because when the person has the voucher and they are out looking for a place and they don't find a place; is everything is occupied. Next the voucher expires and then there is a place available and we get a called and yes we have a unit available for you. So that is one problem, but I am seeing that the affordable housing is the number one problem and the expiration of vouchers is another problem and also having a limited number of vouchers the letter is saying is 300. Three hundred a year every year is not going to accommodate the 26,000 people you have waiting. Now, another point I put in my letter also is that Santa Rosa Housing Authority say they have 17,777 people on their

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

waiting list and they are on a lottery, of course. Your letter say you have 26,000 with the possibility of somehow maybe another 18,000 being added. Now what I hope that can be done can we somehow separate the fact that some people are actually on both waiting lists? I am one of these people who was on your waiting list and then moved to Santa Rosa. So it would be some kind of a duplication. The people could still be waiting on both waiting lists with Sonoma County and Santa Rosa, but for them to be counted twice is something that if you looked into figuring out the actually number that really the actual number that is not on both how much is these people. But, I am thinking and I made the comment on solution which I think it clearly starts with more affordable housing. The Burbank Housing they put really good places (complexes) and they are extremely affordable even if one doesn't have a voucher (*Message Ended*)

Alex Elshirbiny - Phone call, May 7, 2019 5:41 PM

Hello Alex Elshirbiny here just finishing my message and basically regarding the letter I received. I have covered a few points already and I sent a letter that is much easier to express my point of view. But my concern is the lack of affordable housing and I was just finishing saying that if there were somehow there were funds to give to Burbank Housing they put very good they do very good work and it is extremely affordable. So assuming a person does not have a voucher or waiting a building they put in Rohnert Park is a building called the Arbors. They were charging \$350.00 when they put the building. After several years when I was called in, I was on their waiting list, they said that the rent was about \$410.00, I believe. Now this is something that usually most people would be able to afford while they are waiting for their voucher will be approved. So that is a good point. Now Burbank Housing will do a lot of work they just need the funding and locations and so on. I understand from the person who is in charge of these affordable housing, I believe it is Mr. Ben Wickman we talked recently and he said that they are in the process of putting a map as to where these things are going to be and that was after I was contacted by the office of Assembly Member, Mark Levin, who said that they passed a law, Senate Bill 2 & 3, that is going to provide some funding for the affordable housing. So apparently, things are happening. I would believe engaging students (college or university) in co-operative programs that they could learn the construction industry working under supervision of a contractor. That could also be an excellent solution. I got my university education doing exactly that this. Being in a co-operative program where I was being paid very little money, but I was learning about the degree that I was studying to obtain. So that is one solution. But without this and the vouchers not expiring and if there is a way to apply for more Federal funding to increase the vouchers from 300 per year to the number that is actually waiting to get the help that would prevent homelessness. And the number can be figured out based on your research of who is waiting and if there is duplications between Santa Rosa and Sonoma County that does not mean there are two people waiting that means there is only one household waiting, but they are on two waiting lists. Waiting on two waiting lists needs to continue, please, because that is very important. We cannot cancel that. That is about it for now and if I think of something else I will be in contact, but I am unable to attend the meeting

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

that you have on the 22nd. Also calling me back, I apology I do not have voicemail I only have caller ID. So if for any reason you want to contact me and then I am at 575-6874. So I would only see your telephone number and that you called me but please don't spent the time saying something because I don't have voicemail. At that point, I could call you back but I believe the effort is best invested into the actual meeting and the results and further research in how to resolve this situation. But the lottery makes me apprehensive a little because I feel that some people would be picked up ahead of others that maybe don't even need the voucher. That is it for now and I thank you for listening and I apologize for having to leaving you 2 messages for that. Have a good day, bye-bye.

Alex Elshirbiny - Phone call, May 9, 2019 12:38 PM

Hello, my name is Alex Elshirbiny and I have left a message earlier regarding the letter that I received about the proposed changes. And I did mention that I also wrote a page and mailed that and I hope you received it. And I hope since I am unable to attend the meeting I am hoping that the comments I made may get a change to get introduced into the meeting together with the comments I am making here which are the same. I am leaving them here because I want to make sure you guys got all the points that I am trying to make. So now the point that I put into writing but I think that I forgot to mention in my previous message to you on this message, is that one way to because the vouchers cost money if there is any ways to reduce these amounts and the letter said that you have 300 per year which is extremely small every year, of course. If there is any ways to pay less money of course that mean we would have more money to help more people. The recommendation I put into the letter was that if there is any people that have some funds to probably own a manufactured home. I am one of these people, but I cannot find a project or an owner that has land that has connection charges and willing to take my manufactured home onto their lot. I have discussed that with my case workers and they said yes H.A. could pay on the land. Now paying rent on the land used to be, I was told, \$700.00 to \$800.00. Vouchers now for just a one bedroom that has no accommodations for the disabled person, and I am disabled, may cost up to \$1,500.00. As you can imagine we are looking nearing double the amount just rent one bedroom apartment that actually cause my disability to get worse. If I have my own manufactured home I would have all the accommodations in it that I need and the H.A. would pay less to the land owner and so everybody is benefitting. But is there a project like that? I have spoke to Burbank Housing to see if they may have a project like that and to let me know. So that is one recommendation - one solution that could help, by gathering the names of people that have some funds and I am one of them, Alex Elshirbiny, if there are more like me that is really good news. I also wanted to mention about the fact that the existing waiting list will be eliminated and we are going to start all over. It may seem that there isn't much time going to be wasted for me because I have already been waiting for 3 years this September. I was told 5 or 5 ½ so if the lottery system takes 2 years to help people then I will still be in the 5 year waiting. But what concerns me will my name come up if it is just

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

randomly drawn by the computer. I don't know what criteria the computer will have to select these names that is what is concerning to me, because someone who does not need it as much their name will come up someone desperate and homeless their name may not come up. That is the problem with the lottery that random selection. And respect to the existing system that makes people to wait for too long that is true but it is not the waiting first come first served basis that is causing this problem and the lottery is not going to make that speedy. The problem really is the lack of affordable housing. We need 20 to 30 buildings of apartments of at least 100 units each. And it has really has to be done now and we need vouchers that does not expire. (Message ended).

Alex Elshirbiny - Phone call, May 9, 2019 12:38 PM

I wanted to finish my message and I wanted to give you a real life example. I lived alone and the apartment did not have any accommodations. My work injuries that I had before which were very severe retriggered and I acquired more because of the lack of accommodations. I ended up moving with my family only to find out that there is a law that prohibits families from living together. I did put that down in my letter, but did not put down the law and that law and I have been trying and still trying to change it. The Law 24CFR 982.615 (b) (3). The Law again is 24CFR and Part 8 and partially Part 8.4 denying the person benefits of Section 8 assistance because they are living with their family is discrimination. I was in the process of acquiring that when the administration changed from President Obama to President Trump and I found I am not getting anywhere with HUD in San Francisco or DC who flat out told me that they will not deal with me. I am a recipient, I should not be doing that and it should be H.A. that is reaching out to them to do that. I am in the City of Santa Rosa now. They tried and showed me their application for waiver and I acquired the response from DC, No flat out they told to them and to me. No, Washington DC will not accommodate a disabled person. So, that is very strange and the disability laws in our country takes over from any other law. Laws of accommodations are number one and everything else is number two whether it is Federal, State or Local. That is what I came up against. If that law is changed it could really make things much easier. I came with the family with the understanding that it could take 2 or 3 years based on the doctor's evaluation, of course. Within a couple of years I felt that maybe I could live alone again if the accommodations were in the unit that I would be in. I was called by two people and one of them that they had the accommodations and I could not accept it. Why the voucher had expired. So that is the timing issue that I am taking about between places available and no voucher and

Anonymous— Phone Call May 7, 2019, 8:59 AM

Lives outside the jurisdiction. She did not understand that people who live or work in Sonoma County got served first. Had she known that she wouldn't have even applied to the waitlist. She is glad that there will be another opportunity for her to apply for the waitlist and where she lives will not be held against her.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Julie Mills– Phone Call May 7, 2019, 9:14 AM

Feels that seniors currently on the waitlist should be provided an automatic spot on the new waitlist because a lot of people who are older should be taken care of. She will sign up for the waitlist

Email Comment, Shardai Lester, May 6, 2019, 4:25 PM

I am all for the lottery. I have 3 sons and I have been on the waitlist for 7 years. I'd appreciate a change to be able to move into a bigger home that I can afford before my children move out.

Sincerely,
Shardai Lester

Email Comment, Samy Alyasiry, May 6, 2019, 3:22 PM

Hello,
My name is Samy Alyasiry, Thank you for letting me know about the new coming updates on the waitlist.
I have to travel overseas on the 10th of this month for family emergency death in the family. Therefore, I will not be able to attend the hearing on that day. We are putting our full trust in you to help us, we have had apply way too long ago and still have not heard back from you. We wish to know what is our number in the waitlist also, if you could please inform us either way through email or by regular mail.

Thank you so very much,

Kind Regard,
Samy Alyasiry

Phone Comment, Penni Webb, May 7, 2019, 9:52 AM

Sonoma is very open to affordable housing to everyone. It would be so nice if it were easier to get into affordable housing. Changes are positive because the system will be blind to barriers.

Charles Cruz – Phone call, May 10, 2019 10:11 AM

Excited about this new input on this letter you sent me. I am willing to do everything I can to hopefully help me to get out to California. Thank you.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Hattie Patterson, May 7, 2019, 9:40 PM

I'm all for the change because it would be fair and I might have a chance to receive a choice Voucher.

Gregory Johnson – Phone call, May 13, 2019 2:39 PM

On Waiting list, in Chicago, IL. Cannot make forum but wanted to say that I appreciate what you all are doing. I would appreciate that if there is a new WL I would like if you could correspond with me and let me know if I have to reapply. I appreciate all the housing everyone does. I would like to relocate to California. Thank you and have a nice day.

Andrea Collins – Phone call, May 13, 2019 11:12 AM

I support the change to have the current waitlist canceled and I support the change for the lottery.

Email Comment, Brent Kevin Jones-King, May 7, 2019, 10:26 AM

Good Morning.

My name is Brent Kevin Jones-King and I am a Housing Choice Voucher Applicant.

I just received a letter informing me of the possible new changes that can benefit my family and I.

Unfortunately, I can not attend the upcoming meeting on May 22nd, 2019, regarding the changes.

I am in 100% for the "new changes" recommended, this will strengthen me and my family's opportunity to have a place to live. Moreover, I currently have family (grandpa, aunt, and uncle living in Sonoma county but I currently don't have a residence and in dire-need a place for my family, I have a new four-month old daughter and being in Sonoma County closer to support will strengthen our chance to become established and create a life in Sonoma County.

In closing, I am a supporter of the action for the new waitlist.

Once again, I do apologies for my non-attendance but I look forward to hearing from you soon as possible.

Thank you,
Brent Kevin Jones-King

Email Comment, Ping Tam, May 13, 2019, 2:46 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

To whom it may concern,

I agree with the change that would give everyone the opportunity to be housed without only housing those that already live or work in Sonoma County,.

Thanks!

Ping Tam

Email Comment, Stacey Topaz, May 13, 2019, 10:39 AM

To whom it may concern:

Hello! Thank you for the letter I recently received regarding your possibly changing to a lottery system as opposed to having a wait list for housing.

Unfortunately I do not have transportation, and would not be able to make it to the public hearing in Santa Rosa.

I would *prefer* the lottery system, as I do not drive, and it is extremely difficult for me to be constantly following up on my different applications, and constantly making phone calls or trying to get to different locations in order to drop off/renew applications. Waiting on 2-5 year waiting lists is tedious as well.

Please take this email to mean that I am *very much for* the lottery system.

Sincerely,

Miss Stacey Uffelman

Email Comment, Genevieve Sotelo, May 10, 2019, 11:31 AM

Hi my name is Genevieve Sotelo I received the letter on what changes might accrue, I absolutely understand will I know what the changes will be when it has been decided? I wish all including self the best of luck thank you for the update my address remains the same XXXXXXXX Oakland Ca.94621...

Thank you for your time...

Genevieve Sotelo

Email Comment, Ben Wong, May 7, 2019, 4:23 PM

Hi:

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I am happy to learn of the lottery. Truth be told, I completely agree with the reasoning behind it; as I (and thousands like myself) will now at least stand a chance of getting some service, hopefully within 2 years or so.

So I am in support of this change at least.

Thanks.

Email Comment, Danielle Nelson, May 5, 2019, 11:07 AM

Good Afternoon,

I was notified by family that the section 8 housing selection has been modified effective July 1, 2019. That's great news. My father was displaced in 2015 and was on section 8 but when nothing came open he moved to my home in Arizona. He still remains on Section 8 in Sonoma County and it's been our hope to relocate him back to Sonoma County where he lived for over 70 years. That leads to my question.

Per the notice I read online section 8 application will now open up to anyone in the US. When he applies is he good to use my address in AZ?

Thank you,

Danielle Nelson

Email Comment, Isabell VanMerlin, May 7, 1092, 6:39 PM

Attn: Martha Cheever
Sonoma County Housing Authority
1440 Guerneville Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Cheever and Sonoma County Housing Authority:

Thank you for informing me of the proposed changes to the waitlist.

I would like to say that I think the lottery might be a way to deal with this issue. I have been on the list for about six years and really have no hope or expectation of reaching the top of the list. Even though I am not a "gambling person," the lottery seems like a way of POSSIBLY getting a Section 8 voucher!!

I "vote" yes on your proposal. And please keep me informed of the outcome of the meeting on May 22nd.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Again, thank you for letting me know of this possible change - and I send all best thoughts and wishes that the best solution for all will come from this meeting.

Sincerely,

Isabell VanMerlin
Dover, NH 03820

Email Comment, Ursula Samuels, May 7, 2019, 8:00 PM

Good Evening!

I just got home from work and have received your letter in tonight's mail. I cannot attend the meeting but I would like to comment. Firstly, I do believe that there needs to be a better way of being able to get into Government Housing. And, I apologize for saying #governmenthousing, it's just what we call it back in the Mid-West. I do believe that we should remove the preferences, current waitlist and add the lottery waitlist. And, I do understand that I probably won't get on the new waitlist but something else needs to make this process more streamlined and efficient. Even though I work and live here in Santa Rosa it's so hard to find affordable housing. Right now, I pay over \$2200.00 monthly. Why not add extra requirements to live housing like no convicted felons, no one with drug problems or even have applicants have at least some type of income like a PT job. I don't know, maybe the Housing Authority already have guidelines like this in place. Martha, I realize that you and your panel have a lot to think about because there are so many people like me and others' that are basically just trying to survive(work daily) and to have a comfortable/safe place to sleep at night. Thank you again for allowing me to give my input.

Sincerely,

Ursula Samuel's

Santa Rosa, ca

Phone Comment, Donna Barnette, May 7, 2019, 5:03 PM

Knows that the Housing Authority are doing the best to help people and grateful for any solution that would help the Housing Authority be able to do its job.

Phone Call, Jeff Pawlak, May 9, 2019, 11:17 AM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

There is a crisis that parents who raise severely disabled children face who will always need support. Finding housing for them is extremely difficult. He is in support of the proposed changes so that his son has a chance to get housing assistance.

Phone Call, Natesha Smith, May 10, 2019, 11:28 AM

Understands that her chances of receiving service will be better so she is in support of the changes.

Email Comment, Vicki Ferguson, May 12, 2019, 12:11 PM

Dear Housing Authority:

I applied to your waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and therefore received your letter of May 1, 2019 informing me of changes to the program and requesting comments.

I am a California native, born and raised in central and northern California in 1950. I graduated from high school and college in the Monterey Bay area. Over the course of my life I have ventured out of California to live and work for a few years at a time in Oregon, Hawaii and in Washington, but have always returned to California.

Upon receipt of your letter I read that because I currently reside in Oregon and your preference lists only those living/working in Sonoma County, I would not receive service from you. As the program is federally funded I was surprised and dismayed. However, I further read that you are in the process of attempting to change this to open your program to all qualified applicants and was encouraged.

My family lives in the Sacramento area and they have been asking me to move back to California as I approach my 70th birthday. I would love to move back to my home state as I have been missing it these past few years. I'm at the end of my traveling forays and want to come back home for whatever days I have left.

With Social Security and a part time job I have been able to just get by here. I would far prefer to get into senior housing nearer my family with access to good health care, as I have some health problems that can be treated effectively by the great doctors in California.

I fully support the changes the Sonoma County Housing Authority has proposed and believe these changes would provide a level and fair system to all those who apply for housing. I applied to the Senior Housing list and hope these changes will allow me to come back to my home state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments in this matter.

Sincerely,

Vicki E. Ferguson

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Inna Slobodnik, May 8, 2019, 5:20 PM

Dear Martha Cheever:

My name is Inna Slobodnik and I am Housing Choice Voucher Applicant. I support the proposed changes to the federal program, but I have few questions. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting held Wednesday, May 22, 2019 and I would like to ask these questions in this email:

In your letter you say that "if proposed changes are approved, the current waitlist will be canceled. A new waitlist application period will open from July 1-31, 2019 ..staff will assign each application a lottery number and use randomized computer software to select 500 applicants to place on the new waitlist."

Question 1. Does the new waitlist application process include only those who are recently on waitlist, or the new applicants from the entire USA? In other words, who may submit new application?

Question 2. New waitlist applications will be submitted online or by mail?

Sincerely,
Inna Slobodnik

Email Comment, Margarita Bulgokova, May 8, 2019, 10:49 AM

I love the upcoming changes to a lottery principle. Both approaches possible, but myself, as many other people can't live in Sonoma county without housing support, but need it very much, and there should have been more reasons considered in a former system. I, for example, need to move closer to my son, grandkids, which is important for several reasons, both heart and body - they also might come handy to help me in my older age. I also can't work in Sonoma without living close-by, I live in San Mateo county, it is too far to drive to work every day. As soon as I win this voucher and find housing, I will be able to find a job, at least part time and see my family more often.

Thank you, go ahead.

Margarita Bulgakova

Email Comment, Andrea Collins, May 13, 2019, 11:12 AM

Please note I support the change I support the current waitlist being canceled.

Sincerely,
Andrea Collins

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Email Comment, Bruce Brown, May 9, 2019, 3:42 PM

Dear Ms Cheever,

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2019 on the above subject. I am on the current wait list.

I am a USAF combat veteran and have lived in Los Angeles county for the last 30 years, where I have worked mostly as a teacher in the California public school system. Like so many Americans, in planning a place for retirement (which I am close to achieving), I envision a more idyllic lifestyle away from the big city. For me, that has meant Sonoma County. I was stationed at Mather, Castle and Travis Air Force Bases for the first five years of my Air Force service and spent a significant part of my "off time" getting to know California's wine country, including Sonoma County.

As a military veteran, I think I receive some preference under this federal program. However, I was surprised to learn from your letter that it will be impossible for me to obtain housing under this program the way that it is currently structured. I have been basically biding my time here in the L.A. area, postponing retirement until the housing situation there in Sonoma County cleared up a bit, especially considering the negative impact that the wildfires have had on the availability and affordability of housing. Your letter has provided greater clarity, and I thank you for that. I now realize that my having moved up there before this would have only increased my chances for housing under this program, as it is currently structured, from impossible to, at most, about 300 out of 6000 (5%), if I am reading your letter correctly.

I am 70 years old, and when I signed up on the wait list, I had a reasonable expectation that I would be able to obtain housing under the program when I was in my 70s, or perhaps my early 80s. It is clear from your letter that such will not be the case under the program as it is currently structured, even if I were to move up to Sonoma County tomorrow.

As a non local, it would be difficult for me to attend the hearing on this matter, so I am sending this email instead. I have no objection to it being read out loud at the hearing and would like it to be included in the record. Presumably, most who attend the hearing will be locals, and the other 70+% of us on the wait list should have our voices heard.

Much of the program applies to seniors like myself. Most of us have limited time, limited income and limited flexibility to plan and live our last years. Housing availability and costs are of primary importance to us, and the option to perhaps qualify for this federal program can make all the difference. The current program allows for "the goal posts to be continuously moved," i.e., short circuited by anyone who has some connection to a local address, meaning that my place on the wait list will likely not proceed, only recede.

The proposed changes will inject stability, practicality, and most of all, predictability into the program. Those of us seniors who are still alive at each period that the wait list is reopened would then have an objective and fair chance to obtain housing under the program within one

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

to two years. Once you have "won the housing lottery," you know that you will be "in" soon. Perhaps your letter states it best: "Converting to a lottery will create an expectation of service that does not exist under the current structure."

I therefore support the proposed changes to the current program. To do so will bring it more in line with the goals of this national program. Even if I were to move up there, I believe that it is unlikely that I would ever be able to obtain housing under the program as it currently exists. My guess is that there are people who have been on the wait list for over a decade and that some have died waiting. It would be nice if those of us who have lived a life of underpaid public service would at least have a shot at some reasonable housing for our last abode.

Respectfully,

Bruce Brown

Email Comment, Barbara Reiteback, May 14, 2019, 4:36 AM

I'm in favor of the proposed changes to the voucher program .
Thank you for the update.
Barbara Reitebach

Stephanie Kramer - Voicemail, May 15, 2019 9:45 AM

I pretty much agree with your new procedure for the vouchers. Do we have to do all of that ourselves, will we get a notice that this has been accepted so that we can move forward. Can you make that clear?

Email Comment, Alicia Cody, May 15, 2019, 11:11 AM

Please remove specific preferences.

Regards,

Alicia Cody

Andrew A. F. Worrey (sp?) – Phone call, May 13, 2019 10:12 AM

Hi, my name is Andrew A. F. Worrey and my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

I am living in a tent in the back yard of my family who had mercy on me. I have no bathroom and no toilet – just a phone and electricity. Your new program is using lotteries. I am a cancer survivor and 73 years old. I am not a pictorially a lucky person, so what if I end up being the guy in this tent for 15 years because I did not win a lottery? Is anybody considering that chance is a

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

gamble? And that this has got to be one of the most inefficient forms of leadership about this problem that you could come up with. You are putting us all in a game. But this is not a game out here. It is an inadequate leadership that comes up with such a solution. I will have to accept, of course, because I know that you are going to do it. I don't appreciate this and I cannot possibly be alone. What do you do with somebody that does not win lotteries? Thank you.

Porsha Price – Phone call, May 13, 2019 10:12 AM

Hi my name is Porsha Price and I have you a call about a week ago and I got a return call from Cynthia she was so kind to call me right back. I'm sorry I missed your call -- but if you could please give me a call at (xxx) xxx-xxxx I'm going to work at three to close today so if I do miss your call -- it's the best time for me this week would be in the morning -- if not I am -- I will just try to call back again because I do have a lot of questions. I have been on the Sonoma County waiting list for about five years and -- I was gone and that was gonna be more focused got it you know tried again and area -- so if you could please give me a call at your earliest convenience I would greatly appreciate it. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx thank you and have wonderful day bye bye.

Ann Mullin Stewart – Phone call, May 13, 2019 11:41 AM

Hi this Ann Mullin but now Stewart, my husband passed away. I have been waiting Section 8 for years. I was up in Washington State and won the lottery there. I have been waiting like I said for years. I am devastated that you can just wipe the slate clean and start over, when I had to work so hard to get to this place. I am trying to live on disability of \$739.00 a month. How can I do that? Anyway, I am really disappointed to hear that you just want to throw in the towel and start over. For all of the people who have worked so hard to get to the place that are finally eligible. I have a house lined up and I am disabled. I am just devastated that you want to make people like me to start over again. I realize that there is a high demand. Anyway again, my name is Ann Stewart and my phone number – I still have a Washington phone number (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I would love to speak to someone to find out if I can keep my place and I can't wait another 5 years. I am 63 old and sick and man, I could be dead by the time that you get around to help me. Sorry I see that you have more than 26,000 households waiting. So I know that you are inundated and doing the best that you can, but that is my 2 cents. Please help me hold my place, because I have won the lottery in Washington - I should have some priority I am 63....I don't want to be homeless and thank you.

Nina A. Clark – Email, May 15, 2019 8:39 AM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I have been trying to get my address changed but cannot access it online. Could you email me a Change of Address form for someone on the wait list? Thank you, Nina Clark

Jacqueline Lee – Phone call, May 13, 2019 11:41 AM

Hi my name is Jacqueline Lee and I was just checking on my status and No I don't like that. I have been waiting since 2015 to get a place. Senior citizens and both disabled and No I don't like that. Could you please give me a call back because I want to check my status? (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thanks – Bye.

Linda Corrido (sp?) – Phone call, May 14, 2019 11:11 AM

Hi Linda Colorado. I have been on the voucher waiting list since March of 2013 and I have never heard one word and I did get the letter.

And I'm concerned that I've been waiting all this time and now one going to be relegated to the back of the line again. I don't think that's really fair. So I just wanted to leave my input. Thank you.

Phyllis Cochran – Mother of Client: Zephyr Warfield – Phone call, May 14, 2019 12:23 PM

Hi I am Zephyr Warfield's mother, Phyllis Cochran, I am calling on her behalf. She had been on the wait list for 6 years and would find it a huge hardship to reapply and be 1 of the 500 because that does not sound like a doable thing. It sounds super competitive. I'm sure you thought this thing through but I don't think it's fair for the people that have been on this wait list for such a long time. So that is our comment and I'm sure you'll do what you've got to do. Thank you and goodbye.

Thomas Breazeale – Phone call, May 15, 2019 8:33 AM

Hi – I am Thomas Breazeale and I have been on this wait list for quite a few years. I would like to make a couple of comments on the letter that we received. I really don't think that it is fair for someone that has been on the list like me for 4 or 5 years and to have that just thrown away and restart over on this arbitrary computer selection system and so forth. But I also think that one of the biggest problems is the way that you screen your applicants to be able to get these. I don't think that it is right that you are actually not putting bonafide doctor proven disabled people right on top of the list. People who are like dying because they are on dialysis and with no chance of getting kidneys. I mean, you guys should be legally allowed to sit there and ask what these disabilities are and realize that you have people waiting on this list that are actually just dying. And yea you guys won't ask about that. Having too many kids or having whatever this and that. Is not and should not take any kind of presidents over people that are genuinely

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

disabled and have medical problems that are beyond help and so forth. Those people are the ones that should get the first crack on any of this kind of stuff. Please give me a call back (xxx) xxx-xxxx. One more comment to that, is that I am living in a place right now, all that you would have to do is to tell these people that - they will accept the government help here - they will accept it. All you have to do is tell them who I am and you are going to pay half my rent or whatever it is and you know we are all set up and ready to go right here and don't have to look for another place. We are ready to go right now. Thank you and bye-bye.

Keith Taylor – Phone call, May 15, 2019 10:59 AM

My name is Keith Taylor and I live over here at XXX. The question is Wednesday, 2019 at 10:00 to 11:30 I don't know if I can make it in on this, if it quits raining. And then there is another one here on Friday on the 17th at 5:00. I have dental appointment at that date and it is not at 2:00. So I got to figure out how I am going to work this out. If you can call me back I mean when I called you I think that there is a number on this phone here so it will probably give you the number. If you do come in could you give me a call at this number here at the XXX, if you can? I would like to talk to you more about this, okay? Because I don't want to miss out on my appointments or anything and I would like to come in and talk to you about this. Okay? Alright and you have a good day, thank you and good bye.

Mother of woman who is on the waiting list – did not give either of their names – Phone call, May 15, 2019 3:39 PM

Hi my daughter's been on this list for over five years and she has not gotten called. And I don't understand this at all. I don't really agree with it but I don't know the whole thing about the change. So, maybe I could get you later, but you can give me a call at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Have been waiting alright thank you bye.

Johnny D. Jones – Phone call, May 15, 2019 7:24 PM

Hi this is Johnny D. Jones. I'm still interested and section eight housing waiting list. My you can call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx because I wanna know more details about what's going on because the letter you sent me in the mail just give me much should go on. But I also think it's a good idea -- the way you doing the lottery because it gives people a chance -- if you're at the bottom of the list or the top of the top of the list it really doesn't matter give people a chance to get their Section 8 voucher available. So yeah, if you could give me a call back and give me more details my phone number, again is (xxx) xxx-xxxx thank you bye bye.

Camika Taylor – Email, May 15, 2019 7:34 PM

What is my application status? Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx. E-mail Address: XXX

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Kimberly Trujillo – Phone call, May 16, 2019 8:09 AM

Yes, Hi my name is Kimberly Trujillo. I tried to email you guys to the SCHA unfortunately it wasn't going through. I don't know what's going on and my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

Again my name is Kimberly Trujillo you I'm trying to leave a message on your guys' email that is in the letter, but for some reason it's not going through. I am getting a kickback notification. Can you please give me a call back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx again (xxx) xxx-xxxx that'd be greatly appreciated thank you and have a nice day.

Patrick Tobias – Phone call, May 16, 2019 10:53 AM

Hello my name is Patrick Tobias and I have currently been on the waiting list for Section 8 Sonoma County for over four years and I just got this letter saying that it's possible that it is going to change and it's not even a designated - I wonder how long do I have to wait now? Being due to this new list that I might not even be on it for another couple years that if I don't get picked for the first list and there is another list. Could you please give me a call so we can work something out or so I can see my options? At (xxx) xxx-xxxx my name is Patrick Tobias -- please give me a call ASAP please thank you. And have a great day bye.

Billy Ray Stone, Sr. – Phone call, May 16, 2019 11:07 AM

Hi this is Billy Ray Stone, Sr. at XXX. I would like to know more about what's going on with the housing. Can you give me a call back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx or (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I will be expecting and thank you and bye bye.

Laura James – Phone call, May 16, 2019 11:36 AM

Hi my name is Laura James and I would just like to know if we were all reapply on July 1 online and I have a new phone number and it is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. So could you let me know? I won't be able to attend a meeting I'm getting XXX and I wanna know who assigns the numbers when we reapply. Thank you.

Venus Shahwan – Phone call, May 16, 2019 12:05 PM

Hi. My name is Venus Shahwan and I received the letter. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I was calling - do I have to re-apply - is what my question is. I will most likely be there on the 22nd. I just wanted to say that.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Ashley Field – Phone call, May 16, 2019 12:26 PM

Good morning my name is Ashley Field and I received a letter about the Housing Choice Program and how they're going to change the waiting list into a lottery. However, I'm still interested and I still like to remain on the waiting list. Feel free to give me a call back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx once again my name is Ashley Field and I'm calling about the Housing Choice Voucher Program. I want to remain on the waiting list and I am still interested in the voucher. And however you guys do it I wish I just -- be the one who gets picked for the lottery. Feel free to give me a call back at your earliest convenience. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Tonnie White – Phone call, May 16, 2019 12:29 PM

Hi my name is Tonnie White. I am informed about your changes with the waiting list in the Sonoma County for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. I still wanna remain on the waiting list. I wanna remain on the lottery list however you guys wanna do it. I do feel it's a little confusing, but I'm still on board and still want to keep my place in line. My name is Tonnie White I'm still interested. And like I said I need assistance really really bad I'm going to chemo as we speak radiation. And yeah I'm still interested in being on the waiting list so if you guys do have a lottery waiting list I will be even better. I hope I will be one of the special applicants that could receive the lottery and this county it will be such a blessing. Feel free to give me a call back (xxx) xxx-xxxx. My name is Tonnie White thank you and have a blessed day.

Alice Gavigen – Phone call, May 16, 2019 1:00 PM

Hello this is Alice Gavigen. I am trying to understand how to get a Housing Choice Voucher. How do I apply for one? My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx I live in the City of Sonoma. I just want to understand the application process. Thank you so much.

Danielle Sullivan – Phone call, May 16, 2019 1:25 PM

I just received my letter. My name is Danielle Sullivan (xxx) xxx-xxxx. There is no reason we shouldn't be allowed on that list. That is illegal and if there is any legal action I will be right on it. That's wrong. We've been on it for years and you are just going to just throw us off. I don't think so. Believe me I have the connections if I need to I will start it myself. That's wrong. And I would gather from the fact that I just had 5 minutes of Spanish versus 30 seconds of English that's the reason. But that is wrong there is no reason that you cannot incorporate people on the wait list too. So we will see you in court. *[The woman stopped talking at 00:45 - call was not disconnected – no need to hear her after that]*

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Danny Sandoval – Phone call, May 16, 2019 1:57 PM

I got your notice about the lottery plan for this meeting coming up on the 22nd. I will try to be there but I am not sure. My question is I already have an application in will I have to fill out another application to get in on the lottery? I have already applied and put in an application about a year and half ago, I believe, it is going on 2 years. I would like to know if I will have to fill out another one or will you people automatically put my application into the draw? My name is Danny Sandoval and I live here at XXX. And I would very much like an answer on that. I am going to try to make that meeting but I don't know if I can or not, I have problems with transportation. Maybe one of the people here where I live might be going and I could catch a ride. But anyway, my main question is will my application now be put into the lottery if it is passed? I am sure that it probably will be. My phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx and my name is Danny Sandoval and Thank you.

Jeffrey Shedrick – Phone call, May 16, 2019 2:46 PM

Hi yes my name is Jeffrey Shedrick. I was calling about the new wait list to be put. The number I can be reached at is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. My current address is XXX. The letter didn't specify or not if there would be a new list to apply to just only after a meeting that was supposed to pretty much been dated. So it is very broad on what goes on after them meeting. If there is going to be a new waiting list or not. Or if they keep the same one so what number well fall into if the same one is being kept. Or if there is a new one how will everyone that's on the old one be notified? So I'm not going to make the meeting so I was trying to get someone in person to get that information from you. Alright thank you.

Gail Adams – Phone call, May 16, 2019 3:22 PM

Hi. My name is Gail Adams and I have been on the list for the Housing Voucher 8 for 2 years 3 months in Sonoma County. I am a senior – 70 something. I am defiantly opposed to the new system that is explained in the letter. It's a lottery to me that is gambling. At least as I am getting older even if I am on the list for 10 years I will be in my 80s and it would be God sent. Because that means that most of my check isn't going to my rent at least I would have some money to buy some food. I mean my income is less than \$1,500.00 and I only get \$15.00 from Food Stamps a month. So when you do something like this and you say it is substantial I mean it is more than substantial. Substantial is such a neutral word for something is devastating to some people. What about homeless and disabled? I am also disabled. And seniors in general? My memory is fairly good but to expect someone to fill out a voucher every 2 years that is a lot. I have a friend who remembers hardly anything when I talk to her and she is younger than I am. I just feel that nobody really looks into what the problems are to the people that you catering to, as they age, if they are homeless. In making something like this happen. If it does happen, I will have no sense of service. Just think how disappointed I can be every 2 years. How many

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

people will continue to fill out the application and that makes me think, is that the goal of this? So now there won't be 27,000 people who are waiting. There will be who knows how many 1,000 people discouraged and just aren't even dealing with it anymore. And if there are 27,000 people are waiting then to me something needs to be done politically. Vouchers needs to be increased and money needs to go to housing for people. I was sick for 9 years in bed and I went through all of my money. So anyway, it is disheartening it really is because as someone who is really low income I am always looking that will help me just a little bit. And this would be something that would have helped me so much. And it would be so wonderful not to just go the grocery store and buy 7 or 10 things and walk away with so many things that I could use, but I can't. I do go to the food pantry but the food isn't that healthy so I am always looking for healthy foods. So that is my dilemma and I was just kind of discouraged to have you say that households on the waiting list can expect to receive service in 1 or 2 years. Yes, that is the people who won the lottery. How many lotteries have you won? I won something once when I was in 8th grade and something when I was 45. What is the probably of me winning this lottery with 27,000 people who may apply and who knows there might be more. So anyway this is really - really discouraging and I am hoping to come to the meeting. I would like to know exactly where it is located, so I don't spend a whole lot of time looking for it. I am always trying to conserve my energy. Thank you for having the place to discuss this and to talk about it. I am just curious about as to who is the one person or the group of people who make this discussion and I really wonder - if they go hungry or if they have to count their pennies when they are at the grocery store. Maybe get a group of people who have those problems and maybe they will come up with a better solution. Thank you so much. Have a good day, bye.

Heather Wortman – Phone call, May 16, 2019 3:27 PM

Hi there my name is Heather Wortman. I'm currently on the waiting list already. I was filling out my update form and I did receive the letter in the mail about the meeting on the 22nd of May. My question I just have one question is if we are currently on the waiting list and if they decide to go forward with this and passed this do we need to then reapply as a new applicant after that date? Or does our application get carried over I believe me notified if it is going into effect and when we can apply? My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx - if someone could please give me a call I would greatly appreciate it. Thanks so much bye bye.

Cheryl Murray – Phone call, May 16, 2019 3:42 PM

My name is Cheryl Murray. I have been on the Section 8 waiting list since 2012 and I will be moving into an apartment on June 21st and they accept Section 8. I am wondering if there is any way that you can help me with Section 8 to live in this apartment complex? Could you please call me back my number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I am somewhat disabled and I really could use the help right now. The house I am living in right now, the owner is asking me to move because she

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

is going to sell the house. So like I said, I just found an apartment that accepts Section 8 and just asking if you can help me with that in any way. Please call me back. Thank you, bye bye. I have been on the waiting list since 2012. Thank you bye bye.

Kathleen Hale – Phone call, May 16, 2019 4:12 PM

My name is Kathleen Hale and I am on the wait list. I just got the letter and what I am thinking is that somebody around there has got to divide the people that are disabled from the veterans. I do not understand why? Why are you cancelling everybody? I mean we are disabled and we are getting cancelled off the list and some of us need a place to live that is cheaper. I have been on that list and I have changed residences and I need a place to live and I do not understand what you people are thinking. You need to divide up these people veterans – disabled. Some people that are applying do not have green cards. I mean what are you doing about that? Hispanic-American people young people I know have got housing and they are not disabled and they are not a veteran but they have it and getting cheap rent. So I want to understand what that is all about. I think that needs to be changed what you guys are planning on doing. It is not going to work. Some of us have been waiting a very long time for that and have become disabled. My name is Kathleen Hale, Thank you and good bye.

Man did not give his name – Phone call, May 16, 2019 4:18 PM

Hello I am trying to reach Martha Cheever it is about the Housing Choice Voucher Application the lottery. I received a letter and sent an email I hopefully it went through. I have no problem or issues about the waiting list and I do understand about the tragedies with the fires and you must tend to the locals first. I sent my comments via email my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx my email XXX I have no problem or issues with the waiting period. I understand that the locals must be attended to first. I never relied on government assistance until I got the XXX and as a result I have XXX. I don't live local and live down here in XXX County my entire life. Other than that I have no issues with the lottery pick. Thank you very much.

Emailed Comment: Cynthia Poten, May 15, 2019 4:34 PM

Re: Proposal to Abolish Current Housing Choice Voucher Waitlist and Institute a Lottery Waitlist

It was staggering to learn that your waitlist totals more than 26,000 households. With only 300 vouchers coming available each year, thousands of people will continue to struggle with unaffordable rents, face evictions and, in some cases, succumb to homelessness. You are faced with a difficult problem.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

However, I object to abolishing the current waitlist and converting to a lottery waitlist because it is a serious injustice to those of us who have been on the waitlist for years. A fair and reasonable approach would be to use the lottery system more creatively. Specifically, I suggest you:

1. **Select the 500 households that have been on the waitlist the longest and place them on the new wait list** of 500 who can expect service within 1 – 2 years.
2. **Retain the local preference when you select the 500.** The reason given in your letter of May 15 for eliminating this preference – that it will create equity and enable the program to operate as intended -- is a strange sort of equity. It ignores people's actual life circumstances. I find it hard to accept that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development intended such a disservice to residents who have lived in Sonoma County for at least as long as they've been on the waitlist, who have families, employment and community ties here, who have children in local schools, who attend local churches, who are served by local medical programs. Why should all these ties be arbitrarily ignored by eliminating the local preference? The local preference is both fair and humane.
3. **Use the lottery approach for the next 500, when you're able to serve them.**

I have been on the waitlist since August, 2013. Not knowing how far back the waitlist is dated, I have no idea if I would be impacted by the changes I suggest. If, after having waited hopefully for almost six years I should not be among the 500 households selected, I would at least know that those who have waited longer would be fairly served. And that applying for the lottery is my next best chance.

Sincerely, Cynthia Poten

Emailed Comment: Sherri Thrower, May 15, 2019 5:01 PM

Hello, My daughter has been waiting for 7 years on this "WAITING LIST" and this is NOT OK for it to be taken away from her.

Taylor has XXX and has patiently been waiting to have a chance to live on her own. I'm against this LOTTERY!!!

Why are you doing this? I would hope that S.C.H.A would have more compassion towards the disabled people that have been on this list for so many years. Very disappointed,

Sherri Thrower

Emailed Comment: Kimberly Trujillo, May 16, 2019 8:59 AM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Good evening. My name is Kimberly Trujillo, my name is currently on the Sonoma county housing choice voucher wait list.

I cannot understand how anyone could just wipe the list clean and start over (cancel). When my names been on the wait list, and me and my family has been patiently waiting to get to the top of the list.

I would just suggest that the ones on the wait list should stay and receive a lottery number...

I work and pay taxes so hopefully the city workers could maybe go thru each case to ensure that the families or persons, are up to date and wish to stay on the list.

It is only fair for the ones who have been on the list and making sure that they want to stay one the list, so they can receive services.

Your letter stated that there are 300 vouchers available yearly, but there are over 26,000 applicants.

So why not keep and ensure the top 300 applicants stay on the list and open the list to the lottery like u intended. But for the remainder of the applicants already on the list there after.

You have to understand it is only fair due to everyone who maybe had to go thru a lot to even get their application in to begin with.

I can only speak from my point of view, but I would hope you can take what I am emailing u into consideration

Thank you, Kimberly Trujillo

Emailed Comment: Diamond Mcwhorter, May 16, 2019 9:05 AM

Hello my name is Diamond, I am a single mother of 5 and have been on the section 8 waitlist since 2013. Taking away this waitlist after I have been on it for long just feels like an unjust way to punish me for waiting so long. There is no guarantee that I will be picked for the lottery and I have done what it is I am supposed to do, calling every week, making sure my name is active on the list, and keeping my address active on the wait list. Please, find it in your heart of you much change the system to give priority to the ones already on the list over 5 years, the single homeless mother's working trying to make a way. I have had to overcome so much and getting section 8 would allow me to be able to focus on more than just working so much to cover rooms. It's hard to get in a place where I can afford it, in this county. This resource is a real help to people that use it in the right way and taking away the wait list is going to hurt mothers like me that are just trying to make a way. Diamond

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Marlene Destine – Letter, May 20, 2019 Received

I received your letter regarding the changes to the federal housing voucher program, and the hearing dated on May 22, 2019. Unfortunately, I am still in NY taking care of my mother who's suffering with XXX. Therefore, I won't be able to return to California until next year when a member of my family will come to the U.S. to replace me.

If the changes are approved and the current list will be cancel please add me to the new list in July 1 – 31, 2019. If I am one of the 500 households to receive service, please let me know my number's on the new list. I will be home before 2020 if God will. I miss California so much and I want to return home. Sometimes, I cried because I miss my family and grandchildren's are still living there. There's no other place like California.

Mrs. Cheever, I will also send an email to you at this address. Scha.update@sonoma-county.org. You provided to me, to make sure you receive my decision. Although, the email is faster to receive, I make sure to also send this letter so, you will have both. I hope to be home as soon as July 2019 and to also have a place to sleep when I returned home.

Thank you kindly, Very truly, Marlene Destine

Priscilla Garcia – Letter, May 16, 2019 Received

To whom it may concern –

I, Priscilla Garcia, been on the waiting list for about 4 – 5 years already. I'm writing this comment to be sure I continue on your waiting list. To add me in the lottery draw. I work nights. I will not be able to attend the hearing.

Thank you, Priscilla Garcia

Any questions feel free to call NEW Number – (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Vasily Koblov – Letter, May 16, 2019 Received

Dear Martha Cheever, I want to be input. Thank you, Vasily Koblov

Clairie Dusek – Letter, May 17, 2019 Received

Dear Martha Cheever – Housing Authority Manager,

I am writing this letter and I've been on this waiting list since June "2017" for housing to reduce rent.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Although on this waiting list, I've been writing since the year 2002. I had a voucher in place since "2002" From Sharon Bradley whom Cynthia Meiswinkel replaced.

The Housing voucher was portable by my request and it was done incorrectly. It was supposed to go Vacaville Housing instead it ended up at Vallejo Housing Authority.

After telephoning Sharon Bradley, I found out my Housing Voucher was sent to Vallejo Housing not Vacaville Housing. Two times after work I went to Vallejo Housing Authority's office location. First time no file, second time my file was there and I was told by a worker that I only had 1 hour only to find a place out only in Vallejo.

When I called Sharon Bradley to hopefully get a copy of my Housing Voucher for proof verified by her; after trying later in date and time, I found out copies of Housing Voucher or even microfide not kept in the office.

In conclusion I'm sending my comment because I was treated unfairly for many years and need a chance to be heard and treated fairly.

I even contacted San Francisco Housing Authority.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely, Clairie Dusek

Wayne Downey – Letter, May 20, 2019 Received

Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx Address: XXX

I am concerned that as a person in a wheelchair who has been on the waiting list for 6 years will not be able to receive a voucher for a two bedroom apartment. I currently live in a 300 square foot studio with no ADA access nor the ability to take a shower. I have 24 hour care providers who are having to sleep on the floor. My concern is their comfort taking care of me in this working environment, as well as my lack of ability to have full access to the unit. I am currently sleeping on a hospital bed in the corner and am really looking at this as a way to create a safer space for me and my providers to comfortably work and provide care. Please do not dissolve the waitlist.

Dictated by Wayne written by Alex.

Maria R. Aragon - Letter, May 16, 2019 Received

It would be a great help for me, since 4 years ago, I had XXX, and it has been hard to recover. Now I am permanently disabled and besides the XXX, I am battling the XXX that provokes XXX problem and I am continuous risk of suffering another XXX accident. That is why I cannot work, I

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

am a single person and I rely only of what I receive from my pension, which is not much and I cannot pay the whole rent of an apartment.

In advance, thank you for your attention.

Maria Refugio Aragon

Tracy Marshall – Letter, May 20, 2019 Received

RE: Tracy Marshall ID: XXX

I am writing on behalf of the above-named voucher applicant. She informs me that she has been on the wait list for Section 8 for almost 8 years. She has been disabled for several years due to XXX as well as XXX and XXX. She has not family to assist her with housing or a place where she could turn when rents exceed her ability to stay in her current housing arrangement. To change the rules for selecting applicants at this stage when she is close to being selected has put her in a state of intense anxiety.

I am asking for considering of an exception in her case. I appreciate any help you could offer to this applicant.

Sincerely Yours,

Conrad Larkin, LCSW

422 Larkfield Center, Santa Rosa CA 95403 (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Alexandra Elshirbiny - Phone call, May 20, 2019 2:23 PM

Hello my name is Alexandra Elshirbiny. I apologize for calling you so close to the May 22nd meeting. I also owe you another apology that if what I am going to say is that I have already said it before in my written comments or on this voice mail. Then please forgive me I seem to have forgotten that I did make this comments or not. But before that I did believe that I did call to thank you for responding to my comments via a letter dated May 10th. I think that I left you that message. But the comment that I would like to make please that if there is anyways a permeant waiver of the following regulations can be made that would be very helpful for most of the clients that you have that have the ability to maybe share with their families that would cut the voucher amount and also help people. And in my case I am one of these people that would help me beyond that because the family place that I am in have the accommodations that I need. The apartment that I lived in with the voucher from you guys, thank you so much, did not have the accommodations so it triggered my work injuries and added more injuries and I became actually more disabled because of lack of accommodations. Now, if there is any way you can handle that law that prohibits families from living together the Law is 24 Code of

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Federation Section 982.651. Management of Sonoma County are the ones that actually informed me of this law. So they know it very well they were going to handle me, but I ended up going to my family's home that is under jurisdiction of Santa Rosa. So, if there could be a permanent waiver applied for that - that HUD in Washington DC grants that permanent waiver of that regulation then the only left for Housing Authorities either Sonoma County or Santa Rosa is to just qualify the family to make sure that they are legitimately eligible to receive that kind of help. I would have been very - very appreciative if I received that my waiver was approved and Santa Rosa did not know how to do it and so I have been told by the Manager there. If Sonoma County would have been so kind as to do it somehow and transfer it or teach them how unfortunately how to do it and I know that is a lot to ask but I would have been very happy and very settled receiving the accommodations that I need and help from my family until I am well enough to move. Because that I doubt the place that I move to will have the accommodations that I need once more and I am just going end up being repeatedly becoming more and more disabled again and again. The Part B of the Law that I mentioned also is a Federal Law it is 24 Code of Federation which is abbreviated CFR Part 8 and Part 8.4 says that when a person is disabled that help voucher help should not be denied because that becomes a form of discrimination. But nobody is applying that Part B in that law they are only applying Part 3 which just flat out saying not living with a blood line family. But the back of my voucher said yes that Housing Authority can make an exception when a person is disabled. Santa Rosa unfortunately were not able to do so because they said that HUD in Washington DC denied it and I have seen that letter myself coming from HUD in Washington DC. So there is a solution for that too that would be excellent to help speed up helping the people as you all are doing. I appreciate Sonoma County and wish I could be always under you guys because you are awesome and you do a lot of excellent work and you are very knowledgeable as well.

Kim Raisley-Collston (sp?) - Phone call, May 20, 2019 2:24 PM

Hi my name is Kim Raisley-Collston and I am a current applicant on the housing choice voucher list in Sonoma County Commission. I receive a letter regarding the public hearing that is to take place May 22nd. I am calling in to provide my opinion on behalf of this process taking place. I first and for most believe in housing fairness. In regards to the specific preferences, I do think that it is a disadvantage for people who are looking to be independent to get housing. It really does not help as many people it doesn't help it is not a helpful option to have. As far as people who work or live in Sonoma County, it helps those specific people out, but in regards to first come first serve bases you have others who would like to become a part of the community and be able to work in the community to be able to live in the community and I just think everyone should have an equal opportunity when it comes to housing in general. And I am just happy to be able to be a part of this process and being able to provide my opinion on the matter. I only look forward to being able to get this part over with so people like me who need housing who are seeking all opportunities to become independent and to be able to be stable. Because

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

stability is something that right now in this generation is lacking. I just appreciate the opportunity on behalf of Sonoma County Housing Authority being able to realize that hey that may be there is something that we can do here different here. Where it wouldn't be so much of a limitation on who get what or this and that. The thing is people who have income where the rich from the government are it's from them working. There are people like me that want to pay rent and who want to have a roof over their head and who don't want to live in shelters or with family member who deserve the opportunity to be able to have their own. I really hope that this voice message is heard loud and clear. I really hope that it is taken with the utmost respect in regards to just being able to help us all and not just a few. I get it. People have to want to help themselves and so with that I mean people who are seeking out these opportunities that have filled out the applications and have signed - on deserve to have a chance to be a part of such great opportunity. I myself would love to get this process going. I see that this here is just an over view and it's a recount of how things should go. I am rooting that those specific preferences as far as living in the county or working in the county is removed. As far as people with disability of course that is something I feel that should be taken seriously and it is important that those people have an opportunity as well to be on an equal playing field as the rest. Single mothers even married couples it doesn't matter who you are, if you are by yourself – everybody is in that box.....<time/message ended>

Kim Raisley-Collston (sp?) - Phone call, May 20, 2019 2:31 PM

Kim continued her message and asked for a call back @ (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

I would like to speak on behalf on what is taking place in this matter. In my own opinion that there are specific purposes should be removed and that everyone deserves equality opportunity in being housed and be able to have their own and be independent and stability which is what matters. Please I would like a call back as soon as things are figured out or whatever the next step will be. Like I said, I am activate in this situation and advocate for fair housing and I believe that this is a great opportunity. I like that fact that you guys are doing an overview and you guys are taking another route that could benefit many others more than a few. Please for anything further that needs to be provided - I would like to be informed please. And again my name is Kim Raisley-Collston I really appreciate you guys and you have a good one. I hope to hear from someone soon. Bye.

Ann Mullin Stewart - Phone call, May 20, 2019 3:47 PM

I moved back to California back to my home town in October. I had won the lottery. Washington already has the lottery system. I won that months ago and I should be on the list. It really feels unfair that I won the lottery for housing. My phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I am sure that you are getting a lot of calls from people like me. I was on the list. I can't believe that

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

you could just cancel this list and make me start all over. I feel I should remain on your list of applicants that already won the lottery for housing vouchers. It is terribly unfair terribly unfair. I have waited years I waited years to get on that list. I now that you are swamped but please call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx and I hope you will tell me that I am still on the list because I got accepted years ago. I don't remember how many years I have been waiting it has been so long. Thank you.

Judy Poncetta - Phone call, May 20, 2019 4:59 PM [CLIENT'S LAST NAME IN SYSYTEM IS: PONCEETADUNCAN]

My name is Judy P-o-n-c-e-t-t-a and I just now received a letter from you guys - Sonoma County Community Development Commission. Today is May 20th and it looks like you – I am trying to understand it but it looks like there is a meeting on the 22nd which I have a doctor's appoint so I don't know maybe I will cancel the doctor's appointment I don't know I have to figure this out. But any way the current wait list will close on Friday, May 17' 2019. Does that mean that I need to reapply all over again? My name is Judy Poncetta my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx that is (xxx) xxx-xxxx because I am confused with this and I am concerned if I need reapply again and end up on another spot on the waiting list. So if there is any chance could I get a call back or leave a message for me and I would appreciate it so much. Thank you so much. Bye bye.

Joanna Gonzalez – Phone call, May 20, 2019 10:35 AM [CLIENT'S NAME IN SYSYTEM IS: JOANNA M. ALATORRE GONZALES]

Hi my name is Joanna Gonzalez and I just got your letter and last week and will be up there for a meeting on the 22nd, but I think that I made a mistake and didn't do the application because I received a letter late. And I was hoping that's a problem otherwise I can do that application with you on the 22nd, if that is possible. Anyways please just give me a call at (xxx) xxx-xxxx again that number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx and I will be at the meeting on the 22nd. Okay thank you bye.

Sheryl Boucher – Phone call, May 21, 2019 9:23 AM

Hi hello my name is Sheryl Boucher and my number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I'm calling to comment on the proposal for the housing and I have been signed up and I think this new idea of a lottery is a good idea and I look forward to being able to apply again. My understanding is it's from July 1 – 31st and presume I'm going to get an application and so it's Sheryl Boucher at XXX, XXX. So I think it's it makes a lot of sense the lottery situation and that's my comment. Thank you.

Unknown – Phone call, May 21, 2019 10:44 AM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

8 seconds of gibberish.

Patrice Hammond – Phone call, May 21, 2019 10:58 AM

Hi my name is Patrice Hammond and I received this letter saying that this wait list was gonna be basically you guys are gonna get rid of this wait list and start over again, which doesn't make any sense for the people who've been on the wait list for about 10 years and that's me. I've been on this wait list since my son was born and he'll be 12 on June 11th so the fact that I would have to be taken off and start all over again does not make any sense to me. I think you guys should take that into consideration to the people who maybe getting close to the top of the list. I don't know but it just doesn't make any sense. So I need a little more clarification and what do you gonna do for the people who've been on the list for almost 12 years. So please call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx thank you bye bye.

Yolanda Lopez – Phone call, May 21, 2019 11:06 AM

Good morning my name is Yolanda Lopez, I am calling to see if I can change my appointment with you guys at 11:30 AM. My phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Can you please call me back to see what the letter is for. My phone is (xxx) xxx-xxxx.

Yolanda Lopez – Phone call, May 21, 2019 11:28 AM

Good morning my name is Yolanda Lopez, I am calling about the appointment I have tomorrow at 11:30, the thing is that I have a dentist appointment in Healdsburg at 10:30. If you can please call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx to see if you can change the appointment for tomorrow to another day.

Thank you.

Aisha Harp – Phone call, May 21, 2019 12:14 PM

Hi my name is Aisha Harp. I got the paper that you sent in the mail. I am basically on the waiting list but it says that I would get removed on May 17th. But, I can't make it to the meeting tomorrow because I have to work. Can someone call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx? So, if I can reschedule to go another day? Thank you.

Edgar I. Figueroa – Phone call, May 21, 2019 1:32 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Yes, hello my name is Edgar Figueroa. You can contact me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I have been currently been on the waiting list for a few years now and I'm not sure if the notice and the message said that the people are on the waiting list right now are going to be bumped off and we have to reply. Please contact me back at the number I left and well basically the only question I have. Up alright thank you.

Written Comment – Alicia Carrasco-Aldoney, Received May 16, 2019 11:34 AM

Dear Sirs,

As soon as my house was devastated by the fires on October 2017, I put and application in your office. This is about a year and a half ago. When I went to inquire in your office about my status, at the beginning the person I talked to, could not find my name. After a while, I was found. The answer was, you have to wait. I think that the new lottery system will add uncertainty to the hope of getting help. I may turn it out to be a non-ending system.

If you are not a winner the first time, you are supposed to wait 2 more years, and apply again. My question is, for how long we, low income people, will have to wait. Is there a limit?

Sincerely, Alicia Carrasco-Aldoney

Written Comment – Ariana Owens, Received May 16, 2019 1:15 PM

I will not be able to attend, but would like to be a participant of the changes and think it's a good idea the new system.

Ariana Owens

Written Comment – Leah Bankston, Received May 16, 2019 2:34 PM

Make no mistake:

The United States has an Affordable Housing Emergency. And it is especially dire in California, including Sonoma County. Some studies show 1 in 4 Americans live in poverty... and for many, it is not of their own making.

It is a societal issue, caused by systemic exploitation of the labor force, wreaking havoc on millions of lives.

The answer to poverty cannot be found in demanding the poorest of the poor work harder.

And it won't be found by ignoring the societal decisions that created this emergency in the first place.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

How many of the 26,000 households on Sonoma County's Housing Waitlist are service workers in unfairly low wage, dead end jobs, doing physically demanding work for the people of Sonoma... for large corporations the county blessed to be here, but fail to pay a living wage? How many have suffered from domestic violence or crime? How many have been exploited? How many are officially disabled? How many more are struggling with physical limitations that prevent them from working longer hours, or taking second and third jobs?

However Sonoma County chooses to run its Affordable Housing Waitlist, the message poor people like me receive everyday from the lack of housing support is clear: Sonoma County doesn't want you here. It doesn't value your time, labor, needs, contributions, dreams or potential.

The nation and county were too slow to take affordable housing needs seriously for decades, with policies pushing the homeless and perpetually poor out of sight and out of mind, instead of addressing the societal woes that led to the crisis.

It wouldn't take a year to build enough affordable housing for Sonoma and the nation if leaders had the long-term community vision, humanitarian values, will and compassion for others to make it happen.

There is much to love about Sonoma. But how can 26,000 households survive in a county that doesn't love them back by prioritizing affordable housing for all?

Thank you for doing what you can to address the Affordable Housing Emergency.

Leah

Written Comment – Debbie Oertel, Received May 16, 2019 3:04 PM

I'm a disabled senior I've been on the list for 6 years waiting my turn which never came. I should be close to the top, my health is getting worse by the day and I have no place to live I need need help now, what can I do to survive?

There are no rentals that will take someone with 1005.00 mo income, even bedroom rentals are 800.00 a month.

I feel like my life is disposable, if you all pass a bill making suicide acceptable for those that just can't make it in our society without help that would solve the housing crises.

I don't want to die homeless and sick by Santa Rosa creek like others have, however it looks like that's where I'm heading. Please help,

Debbie Oertel

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Written Comment – Richard Sepulveda, Received May 16, 2019 4:15 PM

Hello my name is Richard Sepulveda and have been living in the county of XXX for my entire 52 as of tomorrow! I have never been one to rely on government assistance and was able to use my own personal needs to make the effort towards my accomplishments and needs. But back in 2001 I was struck down with a rare case of xxx. This is just one of the forms of the virus that complicated my health which gave me xxx that followed by xxx. As a result the high fever made me have more than one xxx per hour that created XXX and now have XXX. I don't want too much in return but my health and a quality life and this opportunity is a great opportunity! But I'm also aware of the tragedy of the huge amount of damage and how it impacted the locals so I find myself in a better position than those effected by the damaged it caused. So I can't put myself in a selfish mindset and feel sorry for myself and others in comparison to those who are dealing with life changing events because I have learned from my experiences. I wish them the best and hopefully they can become the priority for the available support your county has to offer and may have the quality of life returned as soon as possible. I have no problem getting in line even if it's the last in line just as I know that those in desperate need are tended to first. Thank you very much Martha Cheever and I hope you have a great day. Richard Sepulveda.

Written Comment – Patrick Hamilton, Received May 17, 2019 8:01 AM

Dear Housing Authority:

My name is Patrick Hamilton. I am on your waiting list. I think the lottery rather than the waiting list would be great. Looking forward to the lottery.

My contact info. is: E-Mail is XXX

Written Comment – Donna Lee, Received May 17, 2019 1:15 PM

To Whom It May Concern.

I just received this letter the other day. I am hopeful that my input will still count. I think it is unfair to remove people from the waiting list that have already been waiting for 2 years. The proposed changes are also unfair. I feel that if you close the current waitlist everyone on it should be included in the lottery randomized drawings until each person has been issued a voucher. So selected in groups of 500 of people already on the list instead of them having to reapply, and once everyone who has been waiting gets a voucher then moving forward use the 500 randomized drawing for new applicants.

Regards, Donna Lee

Written Comment – Michael Arthur, Received May 17, 2019 4:26 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I am not happy with the changes you are wanting to make and no longer do the waitlist...I have been on the list since March 2014...I am on SSDI...I am 62 years old with health issues and I am still homeless...I had high hopes on getting a place on Section 8 but now I am not so sure...not sure if a Lottery will get me into housing any sooner...since I won't be able to make meeting I hope this is what you are wanting...anything else let me know

Sincerely, Michael Arthur

Written Comment – Janice Crawford, Received May 18, 2019 2:26 AM

My name is Janice Crawford. I have been on the wait list since 2017. I am homeless, a senior citizen and have disabilities. I am in Hayward at the moment. I applied for housing and was rejected in the lottery quota. When you get rejected from these lotteries, you've taken that last thread of Hope that we hang on to. It's devastating not knowing where you're going to sleep. Your family can't help you, your friends can't help you and you have to beg. You constantly look up other Housing Authority Offices and grasp at any location that's open. Your whole life is in boxes in storage and storage fees keep rising. To do away with the wait list and impose a lottery system is horrible and unfair to everyone who has been waiting. Close the list and when you reopen the list, that's when you should make your changes. Be Fair and Honest.

Written Comment – Alexis Gates, Received May 20, 2019 9:00 AM

Hello my name is Alexis Gates. I have been on the waiting list for 4 years now. I also update every year. I cannot attend the meeting because I work in Sacramento. But I am concerned that I will be put back to the bottom if the housing list is changed.

Written Comment – Ronnetta Thomas, Received May 20, 2019 9:11 AM

Hello,

My name is Ronnetta Thomas. I have been on the waitlist for several years patiently waiting to be selected for housing assistance. I do not agree with the new changes that may be put into place. I don't think it's fair to remove everyone on the current waitlist. However in order to compromise, I suggest that you do an additional lottery on the people who are already on the current wait list. Allow each person to receive a lottery number. Whoever lottery number comes up as a winner, allow them to STAY on the waitlist. Then eliminate those who did not receive the range of winning lottery numbers. This is the most fair thing I can suggest as a compromise to the new plan. Please consider those who have already been waiting for years like myself. We deserve to stay on the list. Thank you, my contact information below.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Ronnetta Thomas

Written Comment – Marlane Spillinger, Received May 20, 2019 10:10 AM

Hello Martha, Thanks for the opportunity to reply to your letter stating proposed changes to the housing choice voucher program.

I've been on the Burbank list for several years. To think that I might have to apply again and again each year seems a waste of your staff's time. Already they seem stressed. Perhaps with the yearly re-application, fewer people will apply so that list of 26,000 will shrink, but will that serve people better to have a short period (July 1-31) to apply. I don't think so. Perhaps it would be a good idea every few years to survey the list for who are still alive and interested in applying?

I look forward to your determinations. Marlane Spillinger

Written Comment – Marlane Spillinger, Received May 20, 2019 8:23 PM

Hello Martha, In my earlier email, I forgot to mention other concerns of mine about the proposed changes to federal housing choice voucher program.

**It seems unfair to those many who have been on the list for years already to start a new system.

**Applying yearly seems to be additional work for staff and for applicants.

**Please consider building more housing units that are affordable.

Thank you, Marlane

Written Comment – Jeff Mulanix, Received May 20, 2019 10:40 AM

Maybe I just don't understand this right, but it just sounds to me like youre taking away my preferences.

Take care of the people who have been waiting for years and years and then you can make an open lottery.

And to take away a preference for residents simply runs contrary to every common sense instinct in my body; I can't think of a more stupid idea.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Written Comment – Wendi Emmert, Received May 20, 2019 11:27 AM

Martha,

I am writing due to the letter I received about the upcoming proposed changes to the voucher program. I wanted to voice my heartbreak in hearing about these changes. If you believe this list is too long and you in fact do want to delete it and start over. I would first ask instead, send a letter to everyone requiring they must respond or be removed seeing if they still would like to be on the list. That could potentially eliminate people then if you still decide the list isn't feasible and you want to delete it I ask you take the top 500 on the list and use that as your first 500 instead of deleting the list and then doing a random lottery for the first 500 spots. Just deleting the list is taking people that have been on this list for numerous years and virtually having them start over. Giving no seniority whatsoever to people that have been on this list for years. That just doesn't seem right :(I have a unique situation with the list. I myself have been on it since 2010. My name though was called 2015 but due to medical issues we were unable to take advantage of the program at that time. I did later talk with your office and decided to apply for a reinstatement due to medical issues. I was told if approved we would be moved back around to the top of the list because my name was already called in the past. I was granted a reinstatement in April 2019. So you can see when I received this letter in May with the proposed changes how truly heartbreaking it would be for my family and I. I clearly understand the current list and the way the program is isn't not feasible and something has to change. I just ask that you give some sort of seniority to the top people on this list we've been on it for so many years, checking in with current address and updating information when needed. This is something that I really need for my family and it was something I knew at one point I would have to help us. Knowing if this goes through it's virtually starting over is just devastating. Please consider my proposed idea at least taking the top 500 people on the current list and making them the first group you work off. Thank you for your time in reading this email.

Wendi Emmert

Written Comment – Laura Davis, Received May 20, 2019 1:13 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing concerning the HUD Section 8 change from waiting list to lottery. I am strongly opposed to the change from the waiting list to the lottery. I feel it is unfair to those like me who have been on the waiting list for years.

I have been on the waiting list for five years and was recently informed that I would be getting Section 8 this year. With the lottery I wouldn't know when I would be eligible for an apartment. In addition I would have to reapply for Section 8 again having been on the waiting list for so long.
Laura Davis

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Written Comment – Sylvia Martin, Received May 20, 2019 2:13 PM

I am on your wait list. I would like to remain on it. If offered a voucher I will accept it & move forward. I currently work as a Crossing Guard. I'm 63. Please don't forget me. Sylvia Martin

Written Comment – Mark Alboher, Received May 20, 2019 2:36 PM

Thank You for your kind update. Would you kindly forward this email to Attn: Martha Cheever if possible too? I do believe that this would give me a Non Native Californian a considerably better chance at being chosen. Quite the coincidence as I will be at my brothers residence in Sebastopol 6/4-6/11. There is indeed a need for me to somehow settle close by to my brother. I will soon need to be a Care Giver for him. Well to close, I hope that I'm one of the Lucky 500 to be chosen for the New Waitlist. Kind regards, Mark Alboher

Written Comment – Karen Tamborski, Received May 20, 2019 3:23 PM

I understand the upcoming proposed changes to the voucher system. My daughter having been on the waiting list for at least 15 years might benefit from the lottery process. We are disappointed to know that once again we are starting all over again, in hopes we may secure a "golden ticket" lottery number. This is very frustrating especially when some folks already have Section 8 and benefit greatly from it, while others have been waiting for years. Obviously, the current Section 8 clients will remain in place (?).

I am assuming clients will be notified of the changes, if any, and will be notified as to the application process and applicable timelines.

If the proposals are excepted will Section 8 be offered to those through the lottery process immediately and how many offerings will be made and then how often will the offerings occur?

Thank you for your time and attention. Best regards, Karen Tamborski

Written Comment – Ashleigh Araque, Received May 20, 2019 5:30 PM

To whom it may concern;

In the beginning of this month I received a letter in the mail from the housing development commission informing me of the proposed changes to the federal housing voucher list. My immediate reaction was a feeling of deflation and worry.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I've been on the wait list since 2013. I am a disabled student of the Santa Rosa Junior College and a Sonoma county native. I have been fighting tooth and nail to survive in my native county while being limited by physical disability and the subsequent lack of monetary resources. Without the help of family I wouldn't be able to remain near my doctors, school, friends and loved ones. Social security income is barely enough to pay utilities, food and shared housing at the best of times.

Our beloved Sonoma County is and has been one of the highest priced areas in the state. Understandably so. It's beautiful here. We boast impressive redwoods, spectacular coastlines, bustling river resorts, stellar wineries, agriculture, restaurants and a culture of inclusive diversity. What is not to love? Cost of living. That is what is not to love. More and more I hear neighbors and friends bemoan the rising costs and I commiserate with them as they plan to move away where they can raise their children without accruing debt at every turn.

I am lucky enough to have an amazing partner in life to battle the hardships with. Our longtime rental home was sold last year. The hunt for a new house lasted 2 grueling years. To say we were stressed, discouraged and frightened for our future is to speak flippantly. The cost of rentals in Santa Rosa and surrounding areas all but priced us out of anything beyond a glorified TuffShed. We faced the real possibility of having to breakup because I couldn't bring enough to the table to allow us to find a place large enough for 2. He has worked full time at the same company for over 7 years. His retirement plan, vacation and sick time and insurance has been a point of pride he's worked extremely hard for. How could I ask him to leave that so we could move to some place far away where I might not be the burden to him as I am now.

Disgustingly, we're not alone in this scenario. My social security income and his paychecks should be ample enough to allow us to remain in our county in a home of reasonable size for 2 adults. We should be able to continue to work, classes, pay bills and even enjoy some of the leisure opportunities that draw so many to our area. The ideals of living standards aside, I realize this is an unattainable dream for many if not most Sonoma county renters.

We all fight to survive. The recent fires and floods have exacerbated the struggle to the breaking point. No one is saying that these survivors have not been dealt the most serious of blows. The devastation that followed the disasters is incomprehensible to all who were not affected by it. However, that being said I feel it is just one reason altering the current system would be mistake. The influx is overwhelming. The county and state needs to extend programs and assistance for disaster survivors and it should not force change of a system so many have been long clinging to.

I have been patiently waiting, fighting, and doing all I can to stay rooted to my home county since I first applied for housing assistance 6 years ago. I was told as a disabled resident I'd receive preference, yet it could still be 5 or more years. Now as my wait should be theoretically nearing its end I find that I am again facing a lease end date with no hope of help. There are no additional programs for someone like me. No one is especially fighting for the average disabled person who just wants to remain in her relationship, close to her support system, healthcare

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

and community she loves to volunteer for. Instead most people like me are derided and looked down on labeled as “Lazy, a drain on the system, and looking for a handout.” This is just not true but as we all look down the road to harder and harder times ahead it is only natural to feel protective of one’s own wellbeing. But, and remember no matter how hard it gets it is NOT us vs them. By pulling together is how we lift all of us up. Please do not think I am advocating for division.

We have a system that is flawed and shouldn't be so hard to navigate. No one should have to wait for years and years for a chance to have a safe stable home. No one should be shunted to the side either. But there it is, that’s life. We do not live in a dream. But as we all work together to and rebuild after the disasters and make our home state a better place to live and work we should not penalize those who have been waiting the longest. We’re not long term drains, we aren’t habitual sappers of resources. We’re just trying to get along and unfortunately we’ve had to wait a very long time for that to happen.

I ask that stories such as mine are considered before the policy is changed. Thank you for your time.

- A concerned resident

Written Comment – William Goodwin, Received May 21, 2019 9:06 AM

Hello Ms. Cheever.

My name is William Goodwin. I am a Disabled Single Father, raising a disabled 15 year old daughter. We have been on the Sonoma County Housing Authority’s wait list for almost 10 years.

I have always felt that the Sonoma County Housing Authority’s waitlist was discriminatory in nature. The “Local Preference” Guidelines (which ironically were mentioned only in the last paragraph of the May 1, 2019 Notice) were devised to exclude citizens from neighboring counties from ever being allowed living space in Sonoma County. No doubt this is the reasoning behind the sudden proposed changes to the Sonoma County Housing Choice program.

I submit to you that the proposed changes to the Sonoma County Housing Choice program skirts the main issue by eliminating the wait list altogether. And by doing so eliminates the evidence of discrimination on the part of Sonoma County.

The “Local Preference” agenda is the reason there are 26,000 households on the Sonoma County Housing Authority’s waitlist, with 18,000 of them being blocked families.

Converting to a lottery may create an expectation of service that does not exist under the current structure, but it creates an undue burden on the 26,000 applicants (already on the waitlist) who will be required to reapply. And will simply erase our status and position on the

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

waitlist, after years of waiting to be accepted. Then after such disparaging treatment, Sonoma County Housing Authority proposes to force the 26,000 households, already on the waitlist, in a pool of several thousands of other **First Time Applicants**. That is UNFAIR. Federal laws prohibits unfair housing.

A more fair and equitable way of Converting to a lottery, would be to close the current waitlist. Then select 500 households for vouchers, from the current waitlist of 26,000 applicants. After all 500 households selected have received service, then create a new waitlist application period.

Otherwise this is blatant discrimination, compounded with an attempt to sweep he evidence under the rug.

Thank You.

William Goodwin, waitlist applicant, on behalf of my daughter Evelyn Buckner.....waiting for a better life.

Written Comment – Diane Paschke, Received May 21, 2019 11:09 AM

Attn: Martha Cheever

Housing Authority Manager, Sonoma County Community Development Commission

Hello Martha:

I am in receipt of your most recent notification to all waiting list recipients of dramatic proposed changes to the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. If these changes are approved, it appears many people, such as myself, will be adversely affected by these changes in the program.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the May 22nd meeting to discuss these changes, but certainly want my opportunity to register my disapproval of such dramatic and unfair changes to the existing program.

While I have many questions to ask, I would like the answer to one very pertinent question that affects the majority of us. I'm an older person (73) who has patiently been on the waiting list for a Section 8 voucher for many years now. If the new lottery system is initiated and someone who has just recently registered on the waiting list is able to obtain Section 8 housing through "random computer software selection", how unfair would this be to the individuals who have put in their time on the waiting list? It simply is not an equitable solution and does the individuals who have paid their dues a huge disservice!

Why don't you initiate a lottery that enables individuals who have been on the Section 8 waiting list for a certain number of years, an opportunity to receive a well-deserved Section 8

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

voucher? It strikes me as the only fair thing to do for those individuals who have paid their dues.

I expect we individuals who have been on this waiting list for so many years will be treated fairly in this process and will be kept updated on the many changes to the program in the upcoming months.

Thank you. Diane G. Paschke

Written Comment – Linda Griswold, Received May 21, 2019 3:02 PM

Hello, I was wondering why you couldn't just use the lottery system you suggest for the 26,000 people on the current wait list. It would be more fair to those who have already waited so long, like myself, since 2014.

Pick the 500 from the 26,000 currently on the waiting list. When you have served 500 then pick another five hundred using the lottery system from the old list.

It doesn't seem fair to make those who have waited so long already, to start from scratch again.

Since 300 vouchers per year is what you've been doing, doing 500 per year or two would only decrease the number of years to wait by around 50 plus years instead of the 90 plus years. That is still a very long time for people to wait.

Some people will die and some people will move on and that will make the list smaller in time. Just saying that this might be a more fair solution for those who have already waited so long on the current list.

Thank you, Sincerely, Linda Griswold

Erica Azimov – Email, May 21, 2019 3:33 PM

Hi Martha,

I will be attending the public hearing tomorrow but wanted to email you in case I didn't have a chance to share my thoughts. I am concerned about the folks that have been on the HUD list for the past 5 to 6 years who are now going to be bumped off and may not get into the lottery. I am wondering if it is possible to maybe take people who had been on the list for the past 5-6 years and have them be the first ones in the lottery for the first year and then start the actual lottery afterwards?

I am also wondering why the local preference would be removed, since it makes sense that folks who live or work in Sonoma County would get preference over people from outside this

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

area. Perhaps I am misunderstanding this preference, which I am hoping to find out more about tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing more about all of the new proposed changes.

Erica Azimov, Rapid Rehousing Case Manager

Lisa Walton - Phone call, May 21, 2019 2:09 PM

Hi good afternoon I am looking at the letter that you referenced and I am deeply alarmed by this information. Last time that I spoke to someone in your office I was informed that I was due to have my hearing about a voucher in December and that means that I was fairly near having this happen for me. I have been on the list for a very long time. I did personally go into the office and that was what I was told. And I had a guy double check it so this really is a kick in the teeth for me and it will really mean that I will be homeless, most likely. That said, if you could give me a call back to day I would very much appreciate that. Have you abolished the wait list already? Or are we just dead in the water, or what? I am sorry for being dramatic. My name is Lisa Walton and my birthdate is XXX and my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I know that you are extremely busy with this and I am just a little freaked out and thank you for your time.

Carmen Gonzalez - Phone call, May 21, 2019 10:54 AM

Good morning, my name is Carmen Gonzalez and I have an application for the waiting list for housing, I am always checking on the status to see how it is going, I received a letter, but unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting, I would like to, but I am bed ridden, a year ago I xxx and xxx, therefore I can't go, but if I can talk to someone to re-do the application, with pleasure, I am in need of housing. That's why I am aware of what's going on, my name is Carmen Gonzalez, my # is (xxx) xxx-xxxx, thank you very much, I hope you hear this message and return my call.

Have a good morning.

Lisa Walton – Phone call May 21, 2019 2:21 PM

Hi good afternoon. These are my comments and concerns. My voucher hearing I have been told by someone physically in your office is within a few months it's like the end of this year. I have been waiting and waiting. I know that you can work miracles, but if you change up the system now it is just completely horrifying to me. It would probably detrimental. It does not sound like a good thing for me to have you guys to just suddenly decide oh we will just scrap this old

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

system and start fresh. I understand that it is a flawed system and you are always good about it and I am not blaming you personally. It is just that I am truly freaked out. My name is Lisa Walton (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I did leave a message a few minutes ago and as I said I was told I am due to have my hearing in December and that's meaningful to me that's really meaningful that means that I can have a life. Thanks for your time.

Walter Persson – Phone call May 21, 2019 2:47 PM

Hello. I will try to make this brief I am sure that you have an amazing amount of calls coming in. I have been on your list HUD list for five years since December 2014. I came into the Gureneville office personally and the gentleman there was very nice and checked and said that I have been on it that long and would have a hearing and would be sent to me what day in December this year, 2019. Where I would go in a hearing and see if I get my voucher then. I have physical problems now, I have XXX etc. etc. and I am sure that there are millions or thousands of people with similar worries, but I just don't know how to deal with my life right now if this is going to change completely. My name is Walter Persson my birthdate is XXX and my phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. And I was hoping that was what is going to happen so if this wait list that you closed on May 17th and I am still on and supposed to go in in December, if that takes effect from this meeting that you are having tomorrow etc. I just lose all of that time that I have been counting on and waiting so I don't end up on the street and end up homeless. So if all this changed and you have this July applications on the lottery and I was a part of that too or something but if that just erases all my waiting and planning to be able to be alive here. I would just really need to know. I am going to try to make the meeting tomorrow my transportation chances are not really great. But I appreciate what you people are trying to do I just hate to feel like I have lost that 5 – 6 years of being on a wait list just to be in a tumble lottery in July and then just maybe never get anything. I am holding on to that hearing hopeful that the hearing in December that they are going to notify me of is still on the board for me personally. I appreciate very much whoever has to hear all of these. Thank you very much. Give me a ring please if there is anything that you can tell me or even if there is not. Thank you very much, bye bye.

Linda Griswold – Phone call May 21, 2019 3:13 PM

My name is Linda Griswold. Just wondering why maybe you couldn't just use the lottery system you suggest for the 26,000 people on the current wait list. It would be more fair to the people that have already waited so long like myself, since 2014, maybe you could pick the 500 from the 26,000 currently on the wait list and when you have served that 500 you could then pick another 500 using the lottery system from the same old list. It does not seem fair to make those that have waited so long already to start from scratch again. However, you said you use 300 vouchers per year is what you have been currently doing, so doing 500 per year or two would

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

only decrease the number of years to wait by around 50 plus years instead of the 90 plus that you say in your letter. That still is a very long time for people to wait. Some people will die and some would move on and that will make the list smaller in time, but I am just saying that this might be a more fair solution for those that have already waited such a very long time on the current list. Thank you. My number (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Have a nice day.

Pilar Fontenot – Phone call May 21, 2019 3:38 PM

Hi this Pilar Fontenot and I received the letter about the Housing Choice Voucher for maybe on the applicant. I am not able to attend the public hearing on the propose changes I will be held May 22, so and comments left over the phone would be that I don't agree with this but if there's any information that can be given after -- May 22 my number is My number (xxx) xxx-xxxx and my address is...They do have my address which they did mailed this to me my mailing address and so again the numbers xxx) xxx-xxxx Thank you.

Susan McIvor - Written Comment, Received May 21, 2019

I am writing per your request on the upcoming proposed changes meeting to be held May 22nd, 2019 at 10-11:30 AM, and of your waitlist close, you wanted my input as I am an applicant. I have been an applicant for, god, I don't know how long. Honestly, I am originally from Newton, Mass, all my life, grew up there, my family are all passed on, even my dogs. I am left with no one. I need to mention, I am not your typical applicant, or, maybe I am, I do not know. I am an only child, put myself through school, medicine all my life, had homes, but due to becoming disabled in 2005, married the wrong man back then took me for all my money. Well to make a long story short, I am homeless. I collect SS disability, and also, instead of sitting doing nothing, I like to help people (which is why probably I'm in this mess) I also do ins. Exams online, to be productive and contribute to society. It's not much, a few hundred a month, I still make under 2,000 a month. Sometimes 1,400 a month. So your idea of a change might be best is my opinion, any change that helps move people is always for the best. Like you stated it would take many years to service all the people in need. I hope one day I can take my voucher and get back to Massachusetts as that is where my family is buried and I have a burial plot there at least I own something, and wish to be near them. I'm also not your typical almost 62 in July age applicant, though disabled, trouble with XXX waking. I am young in mind, and probably looking, some think I'm in my 40s which is why they question my age, all I'm asking for is help, which I don't normally do, I'm a giver, and used to helping others. I am homeless, disabled, trying to hold onto my pride. It's a shame this world, country has so much trouble with housing issues. I would had still had my home if I was not taken advantage of and Dec'd, not put on Deed! People can be so consumed with money, it's not till they have none, they will realize one day. The most important thing in life is love. So, my opinion on your proposal is in favor sorry to go

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

on about my issues. It's not just about me, but thought you should know how I got to the point of bothering you for help. Sincerely, Susan McIvor

Linda Richardson - Written Comment, Received May 21, 2019 4:17 PM

I am responding back to the letter sent out for the court date set for 05/22/19 regarding changing to the lottery system. I do not agree to this new change to the lottery system! I have been waiting for 3 - 4 years on the waitlist for the voucher. And now I could possibly be waiting longer if we start this Lottery system that the Housing Authority is proposing. This is just unfair for the people that have been waiting for so long. What if I don't get on the lottery and get back to the bottom of the waitlist, that would be totally unfair!!!! I do not agree and wish I could be there tomorrow for the court date but unfortunately I can not make it to see what the outcome will be.

Anonymous - Written Comment, Received May 21, 2019 5:24 PM

Just a quick note stating that it is a shame that we have been waiting over 8 years on the list and now we have to re-apply.

Rachelle Steele - Written Comment, Received May 22, 2019 12:04 AM

Opposed

If the proposed changes are approved, the current waitlist will be canceled. A new waitlist application period will open from July 1-31, 2019. Once the application period closes, staff will assign each application a lottery number and use randomized computer software to select 500 applications to place on the new waitlist. Households on the waitlist can expect to receive service within one to two years. The waitlist will remain closed until all 500 households receive service, at which time the lottery will repeat. Applicants not selected in the lottery may reapply for the next one.

Response: It is highly unethical to "cancel" the current housing voucher list that people have been on for YEARS, and essentially give preferential status to 500 randomly selected people. My 81 year old Mother has been on the existing waiting list for several years. Our family has made financial decisions based on the expectation that she will at some point receive a section 8 voucher. She receives \$690 a month in social security, is disabled, and well into her senior years. She recently moved into a one bedroom apartment, (paying market rate with the help of family), specifically because that complex will accept section 8 housing vouchers once she is a

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

resident. It is extremely unfair to the current waitlist members to just decide to "change the rules" and give preference to 500 randomly selected people who may not have ever been on the list at all. This is especially disadvantageous to seniors who often have trouble updating their status with county programs, many of whom do not use computers etc.

While many public housing authorities conduct waitlist lotteries, Sonoma County's waitlist has remained open for almost 20 years, operating on a first-come, first-served basis. The list currently has more than 26,000 households. With about 300 vouchers becoming available each year, it would take 90 years to serve every household that is currently on the waitlist. Converting to a lottery will create an expectation of service that does not exist under the current structure.

*Response: Converting to a lottery system will certainly create an expectation of service that does not exist under the current structure. One can expect to 1/52 chance of "winning the lottery" and then a 3/5 chance of actually receiving a voucher before it starts all over again and again, or at least until you decide to "change the rules" again. **A lottery system is only appropriate when all applicants have equal chances of finding housing on their own.** Regardless of the type of "new system", lottery or otherwise, cancelling the current list is an unacceptable solution. How is it fair for a younger, able bodied person to gain preference, through a "lottery", over an 81 year old, disabled woman on a fixed income who has been waiting for years already?*

The lottery system waitlist is one of several changes proposed to improve the current program. Another noteworthy change would remove a local preference that essentially blocks 18,000 waitlist families from receiving service by moving households that live, or work, in the Sonoma County service area ahead of those that do not – regardless of when they applied.

*Response: If I read this wording correctly, this change would effectively allow 18,000 people who **do not** currently live in Sonoma County, to **move ahead** of residents who are already living in the county and currently on the waiting list? Do not give preference to 18,000 out of county families - Keep local residential preference - we need it!*

While administered locally, the Housing Choice Voucher program is open to all qualified applicants in the United States, regardless of location. The combination of a continuously open waitlist and the local preference effectively mean that only households already living, or working, in Sonoma County receive service – despite the program's national reach. Removing this preference will create equity and allow the program to operate as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development intended.

*Response: This seems to allow people from all over the country to apply to our "open" local county list and then **move into Sonoma County**, which already has a serious housing crisis.*

In Favor:

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

(Purging of the current list) "Applicants who are notified must complete a new preliminary application providing all information needed for placement on the waiting list, such as address and phone number, household composition, income, preferences claimed, and minority race and ethnicity designation of the head of household. Any notices to the applicant which require a response will have a clear and reasonable response deadline and state that failure to respond by the deadline will result in the applicant's name being dropped removed from the waiting list.

*Response: **With the exception of applicants being required to provide their race or ethnicity,** I agree with updating (purging) the waiting list, as thoroughly and vigorously as possible.*

Please define your intended "reasonable response deadline" and ensure that it allows senior citizens who only use the US Postal Service ample time to respond.

Proposed Solutions: *Clearly, funding is the major issue impeding the processing and availability of vouchers. 300 housing vouchers available for Sonoma County families every 2-3 years is woefully inadequate.*

1) Aggressively pursue funds allocated to combat homelessness in California and issue as many housing vouchers as possible to applicants who can receive "in-place housing vouchers", which does not displace anyone currently looking for housing.

2) Require people to send preliminary documents, verifying their current income, as part of the process of updating the current list.

3) Aggressively pursue funds to find a way to keep the current list active and updated. Seek State funds to employ our local residents to process applications

Sincerely,

Rachelle Steele and her lovely 81 year old Mom, Janeen, who is patiently waiting, waiting, waiting her turn.

Asa Rossoff - Written Comment, Received May 22, 2019 8:02 AM

May 22, 2019, 7:00 a.m.

Asa Rossoff

**Attention: MARTHA CHEEVER Sonoma County Community Development Commission
Sonoma County Housing Authority**

Email: scha.update@sonoma-county.org

Fax: (707) 565-7583

RE: Proposed changes to the Housing Choice Voucher program

To Sonoma County Housing Authority, the Community Development Commission, and concerned parties:

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I have a number of concerns about the proposed drastic changes to the waitlist and specific preferences, and the cancellation of the current waitlist.

I have been on the wait list since March 29, 2014, and qualify for both preference categories (I reside in the county and am disabled). At that time, Sonoma County Housing Authority (SCHA) informed me that for people with both preferences, wait times were running between 4 and 6 years. On January 3, 2017, SCHA informed me that the current estimated wait time "starts at 4 years from application date", and that SCHA was currently issuing vouchers to waitlist applicants who applied in 2012. I have now been on the waitlist for 6 years and 2 months (since March 2014) without receiving a voucher. Prior to getting on the waitlist, it took me an additional more than 3 years during a period of homelessness to get assistance in applying for a housing voucher, and the total time I have tried to get on the waiting list or been on the waiting list is now approximately 9 years and 6 months (since December 2009). Based on the aforementioned past SCHA estimates for when a voucher would be issued, I would expect to have already been issued a voucher. Since I have not been, I would expect that I am among the next people who would be issued a voucher based on the current waitlist. If it were not for my disabilities interfering with getting onto the waitlist as long ago as 9 years and 6 months, I would expect to have been issued a voucher years ago.

I am on no other housing assistance waiting list because of the implied promise by SCHA when I finally got on the SCHA voucher waitlist that I would eventually be issued a voucher in accordance with SCHA's priority category-application date system.

In your May 1, 2019 letter to voucher applicants (received here May 6), the primary motivation to reforming the waitlist system appears to be expressed best by the words "Converting to a lottery will create an expectation of service that does not exist under the current structure". Some misleading statements about current wait time were stated just prior to that sentence (suggesting that current wait time was 90 years, based on a hypothetical system where everyone on the current waitlist would be served). I strongly debate that an expectation of service does not already exist. It is clear who will be served, and within a number of years, and it is clear who will not be served unless the preferences they qualify for change (such as them moving into the SCHA geographical service area, which might immediately make the next voucher available to them if they have been on the waiting list long enough). Regardless of your view on current expectations, it is very clear that the expectation set for people on the waiting listing who are in both preference categories was that they would all be issued a voucher as long as they continued to meet qualifications, and not in 90 years, but in -- in all likelihood -- 4 to 6 years. Given your apparent goal of meeting the expectations that you set for people on your waiting list, it is utter sabotage of that objective to forgo the promise you made to those people. You neglected to mention in your letter how many people are in both priority categories -- which are the only people who have had the clearest expectation of being issued a voucher, but you did state that about 300 vouchers are being issued annually. That might imply, with a 4-6 year wait time, that there are between 1200 and 1800 such individuals that will actually accept vouchers when offered. The other 24,000-25,000 people on your waiting list (you mentioned 27,000 total) have been given no expectation of service unless their circumstances change in the future. It's probably true that some of those people know that their circumstances will change, and thus have a clear expectation, although you would not be able to guess that except on a statistical basis based on your waitlist history. In any case, a promise

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

WAS made. You describe in your letter wanting to create an expectation of service. In other words, a promise you can keep. You have already made promises you can keep. If those promises are not kept, it's not because no one expected you to keep them; it is because you decide to break those promises.

I propose that you alter your plan in such a way that you keep your promise to those on the waitlist you just closed and also create an equal opportunity for potential future applicants with disabilities. One way to do that would be to:

1. Switch to a lottery system much like you described in your letter.
2. Do a trial where you make accommodations for those with disabilities. Some with disabilities have an unequal opportunity compared to others even to manage to apply for an open waiting list. The main idea of the lottery system is to make your waitlist smaller by creating additional impediments to getting on the list, and even more so to being on the list during each consecutive lottery. I suggest that a minimum accommodation to allow those with a medical impediment to accessing the lottery system as readily as (with equal opportunity to) the general public might be for those individuals to:
 - a. be placed on the current waitlist whenever the waitlist is presently open to all (just like everyone else; this part is not exceptional)
 - b. be placed on what will be the next waitlist if the waitlist is currently closed (advance application)
 - c. notify these applicants that it is a trial program that could be discontinued or altered if it proves unfeasible
 - d. if it proves unfeasible, alter the accommodation offered as soon as possible to a feasible and equitable one
3. For those on your current waitlist (the pool of applicants you have prior commitments to);
 - a. Keep the entire current waitlist, but do not add anyone else to it. It will be a separate grandfathered waitlist.
 - b. Reserve a set proportion of vouchers for these applicants, such as perhaps 2/3 at first, since you have competing interests of prior commitments and of creating fresh opportunity to new motivated applicants. The proportion reserved for the grandfathered waitlist should be reduced periodically, such as each year, as people on this waitlist are served. The proportion might be weighted on the number of people on this waitlist with both priority categories times some factor, weighed against the number of applicants trying for the current lottery. The formula should be designed to give people on the grandfathered waitlist a total waiting time not excessively longer than it would have been. People without the preference priority categories need not be issued vouchers, as before, but they should remain on the list, and should their circumstances change in the future, they would become eligible for these vouchers.
 - c. Alter the existing/grandfathered rules only to remove the in-place preference introduced last year. That was a recent experiment that altered the promise made to people long on the waiting list and that is not in keeping with the vision for the future system either, and as such, it seems most equitable to abandon it.
 - d. Create lottery opportunities for people on the grandfathered waiting list as well. This could be done either of these ways, for example:

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

- i. Automatically enter everyone on the grandfathered list in every lottery for the new waiting list each time it opens in order to ensure that people on the grandfathered waiting list, especially if they are not in the preference priority categories, get the same opportunity as others to be shortlisted for a housing choice voucher.
 - ii. Alternatively, simply permit them to apply for each lottery the same as everyone else. Make sure to communicate to them that they can and should do so if this option is instituted.
4. Maintain a waitlist opening notification list, so that when the waitlist is closed, people can subscribe to be notified when the list opens. Otherwise, even having the opportunity to apply to the waiting list becomes overly dependent on chance (of seeing the rare notice) and opportunity (those with less access to notification venues have less access to notification and consequently of accessing the waiting list at all). Depending on SCHA resources, but always with the aim to inform as many people as possible, the following notification list contact methods come to mind:
- a. Email notification. This is very inexpensive to provide.
 - b. Postal notification. A bulkmailed postcard seems sufficient.
 - c. Text message. A good option to provide, but might be less reliable.
 - d. Telephone. A possible option, but could be less reliable than text messages if automated.
5. Place flyers and notices at places like homeless shelters, food banks, food pantries, health clinics, Sonoma County Human Services offices, Social Security offices. This is in addition to places I believe you already plan to, such as post offices and libraries.
6. Notify all organizations that request notification and provide them with flyers or with downloadable flyers they can print. Organizations could be service nonprofits, employers, clubs, or any organization or group at all.

I think it would be harmful to neglect these concerns.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Asa Rossoff

Liz Waldner - Written Comment, Received May 22, 2019 8:08 AM

Dear Martha Cheever and Commissioners,

I am on your waitlist and have been for years. I'm 62, disabled by a rare illness, and am desperate to get back to CA where I can get the medical care I need. I've been on waitlists since 2011 and have lost my place on several, including yours, because once transient, meeting requirements for updating is sometimes simply not possible.

Although I had, in fact, lived in Sonoma County, did not claim the preference because did not have the required documents, so I wouldn't be sorry to see residency go, out of self-interest. However, to simply dump everyone who's managed, despite odds and with difficulty, to stay on the list, seems unfair: the internet now makes it easier--if living in a camper, even that is a struggle, at times.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Could you do a double lottery? Make sure some percentage of those who've been on the list the longest get a place in the final lottery? Choose the top 100 of the top 500 on the old list and put them in at random?

I've had 2 places simply tell me I was not on the waitlist; because my docs were in a storage bin 300 miles away. When I got them and faxed and called, no response at all, for months. I'd been on the lists for 4 years and was not near the top; the lists are closed.

Sometimes I could not reply in writing every 6 months, with no reminders, and lost my place. At first I took long term housesits out of state; eventually, after 4 years of treading water, I've had to move in with a friend across the country, where I know no one and I cannot receive medical care I need.

Please do not boot me off the list!

Sincerely,

Liz Waldner

Sheba Marscal – Phone call, May 21, 2019 3:55 PM

Hello Good Afternoon. This is Seniora Sheba Marscal how are you today? I am on the waiting list over there in Gureneville since 2012. And I understand you are trying to start a new waiting list. What sense does that make. First of all, you have me on the waiting list and I have gotten nothing out of it at all. You haven't even issued me a Section 8 voucher. You have 4 available spaces for Section 8 vouchers and you need to submit me one. Another thing, is not law abiding to have someone on the list since 2012 and not give them at least a voucher. I have never heard such a thing. Okay, if you are going to start one at least put me on the new one also and issue me a Section 8 voucher. That makes more sense to me, okay? Then to sit there and harass someone not you but whoever is harassing and taking me off the waiting list. That is against the law. I don't have to support nobody except for myself and two kids. I have one kid in UC Berkeley, thank God. Whether she married incorrectly or not. She knows how I am and I don't have to sit here and tell everybody every intricate think I do. I think that you know that woman over there in Austin ___ target, her daughter has to remind me. Could you please understand that whatever she was born with is her problem and not mine. Okay and whatever else. Now, another thing, I don't have to peek through her stuff and no one else's and I would appreciate it if you wouldn't do that to me, okay. So the thing of it is that I called up Alex periodically and I called the other offices to make certain that he knows that I am interested in the Section 8. Initially when I applied, I applied for housing and Section 8 and then you said that you didn't have the housing part. So I asked him – I mean the gentleman that works in the office if they have housing – address for housing that work with Section 8 voucher in that area. He gave me names of a few apartments and so I got on the waiting list of one. Now someone keeps creeping up behind me and trying to mess things up. Don't do that. That is not how you do that

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

with me. Okay? You see my name and you see that list going up and you don't trade my space with nobody. Okay? Cause can't nobody have those spaces. Now hold on, what I am asking is at least you can go ahead and give me a Section 8 voucher. Now, that doesn't cost you nothing neither does it to house me, because the Section 8 voucher pays for most of the housing. Now I have always been in the private sector, okay so this public housing thing, I have been on the waiting list is like a nightmare, okay. And I am on 8 waiting lists. And I was on San Francisco, as well as, Rodel and San Joaquin County that is 11. And I have not gotten one housing out of it or one voucher. So can you see what you can do on your end? Once again I am on your Section 8 waiting list because he said that you don't have apartments to go with it. And I am on a waiting list for an apartment over in that area in the Santa Rosa area, okay? Amario Rosa something like that. So could you see what you can do? And another thing that is wrong. Whoever thinks that they can be impeached and hold office is I don't know, just audited. Because I have never heard such a thing. I know with the Oliver North stuff that was one thing they didn't bother me at all. But this man said that he is going to get impeached he is trying to blame it is on me and my kids something is wrong with people like that. And I am glad that I don't abuse my kids no form or fashion. And they are Mexican and were born here. Thank you.

Sheba Marscal – Phone call, May 22, 2019 8:04 AM

I am calling to see if – I sent one of you one of the people in the Housing Department, could you send this message on to the Manager or the Corporate person? I have been on the waiting list since 2012. The situation with that is that I applied for housing and Section 8. He tells me that I am on the Section 8 list Section 8 waiting list. So I finding out asked if they had a list or if they knew any apartments that is compatible with the Section 8 that I am on – waiting list that I am on. He gave me a number and I called and I got on the waiting list there right away. So someone wants to make problems and go and tell him to go ahead and start a new waiting list and I am on the waiting list there since 2012. Now I asked him well do I get credit or do I get put on and then you go on and document that I have been on the waiting list since 2012. In other words, I get credit for all those years that I have been on the waiting list and he says, no. So, I think that whoever the Manager is needs to be talked to because that is not fair to me or any of the other applicants. And I am asked to on my behalf. So could you see what you can do? You have my number and my name is Sheba Marscal. And I have been on the waiting list for quite a number of years. Thank you. Actually since 2012 October 17 to be exact. I look forward to speaking with you. Good bye.

Tammy Christensen – Phone call, May 22, 2019 9:17 AM

Hi it's Tammy Christensen and I have been on the wait list for a while now. Today is May 22nd I guess there is a hearing today. I cannot go to the hearing I have phenomena and have been sick for a while. I am currently on a coordinated entry and looking for some housing. I have been on

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

the wait list. I do want to re-apply to get on the new wait list and possibly move my opportunities quicker. My social security is XXX. It's Tammy Christensen and if someone could give me a call back or put my input down that I do approve of the new application system where it possibly make it go quicker, that is for Tammy Christensen address XXXX. I can be reached at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you.

Cathleen Caffre – Phone call, May 22, 2019 9:17 AM

Yes, my name is Cathleen Caffre and I am a resident of Sonoma County. I am calling in response to the letter that I received about the change in the waiting list procedure – housing waiting list procedure. First off I just want to say that it is appalling. There are people on that list that have been on it for years and years and years and if you just discard that list and assume that they have heard anything about this what you are doing is condemning a lot of people to the streets eventually. The other thing that I would like to say is that your pdf file online that explains your agenda and the proposal. As far as I can see it says absolutely nothing about getting rid of the existing list. All it talks about is how a list will be picked. So anybody reading it that isn't a lawyer or who doesn't read things pretty carefully and who doesn't have a great deal of education and understanding is not going to know what it means. If they can even figure out how to get to it. It took me and I have had 50 years of computer experience 10 minutes or more to even find the place where the agenda was listed. The other thing I wanted to say is that I am going to try to get to the meeting this morning, but your message is insane. You should have just said at the very beginning of the message press star to leave a message about the proposal before you provided a 10 minutes message that you are forcing people to wait through. Again my name is Cathleen Caffre and I am truly appalled at this. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx if anybody on the Commission wishes to discuss this with me, but I have no interest in getting just a voice mail response or clerical response. You should be ashamed of yourselves for even to be considering this. I understand the reasons statically but it takes no account of all the old people who have been waiting for years and years and years. It's just crazy. Thank you.

Andrea Henry – Phone call, May 22, 2019 9:41 AM

We thank you so much for your letter and the hearing that is taking place in one half hour. We wish we contacted you earlier to support and express gratitude for the proposed changes. My name is Andrea Henry my husband is Charles. We are on that Section 8 wait list. I applied in Petaluma in 2015 and now we are in Portland Oregon. So if it all goes through and you have a chance in weeks ahead to contact us at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. We are wondering if we could apply and if we could even receive the processing if we do get onto the wait list and come up on it up here in Portland can we or do we need to be back in Sonoma which at times we are thinking about getting back, but not just now. So thank you so much for all your work and taking our

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

comments in support and best of wishes in the good process such an excellent well thought out plan and letter. Have a good day. Bye bye.

Lev Reyzis – Phone call, May 22, 2019 10:57 AM

Hello my name is Lev Reyzis. I received your letter about changes that held today May 22nd. My question is you are planning on making a new waiting place application and the period started from July 1 until 31. My question is it possible that you can take my application that I gave you 3 years ago when I applied for this new waiting place application? Is it possible to do this? Because I am so far away from you and it will be really and English is not so good. And it is like very very hard to do re-applied again. But I would like to be in the lottery that you planning to do and I would really appreciate it. If it's possible, could you call me back? My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you very much.

Griselda Ramirez – Phone call, May 22, 2019 11:00 AM

Yes good morning, my name is Griselda Ramirez, I received the letter you sent regarding the changes, I have been on the waiting list for a long time. The only thing I would like to know is why the waitlist will change since I applied more than 2 or 3 years ago and until now, there has been no response. I know there will be a meeting May 22 but for me, I will not be able to attend. My phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Please give me a call. Thank you for your help.

Cynthia Haagens – Phone call, May 22, 2019 12:16 PM

Hi my name is Cynthia Haagens. I applied for the current wait list and I fit 3 preferences: I am a senior, I am low income and live in West County and I have a landlord who is willing to accommodate me. Your changing the rules is unfair. I signed the wait list with the hope that I would fit those 3 categories and be able to get a rental soon. I am running out of money and people in West County are poorer – quite a lot of people in West County are poorer and the housing is less expensive in many instances than other parts of Santa Rosa and I feel it is unfair to change the wait list and the way that candidates are chosen. I think it's fair to choose in the order that we applied. It's possible that some of the people on wait list who are ahead of me are much older than I am. I am 64 years old that maybe some of the people who applied are even older and I just don't think it's fair. I think lottery will not give them a chance to get a place. And I think that you have to take in concertation that even though I know many people were displaced by the fires and perhaps they deserve the same degree of concertation as the elder do. Some of the elderly people will not be around long enough to get the housing that they are looking for. So I really think you should maintain the current wait list it would be fair to do it in the order that people signed up and I really think the lottery is unfair and I am going to

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

protest it given the chance. You can reach me at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I say keep the wait list the way it is and give the people who signed up first the deciding chance to get a place. Thank you so much for listening to me and bye for now.

Bernice Watkins – Phone call, May 22, 2019 12:20 PM

Hi my name is Bernice Watkins. I'm calling about the letter and today's meeting. I was not able to make it because of my son's appointment. Can you please call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you.

Washington – Phone call, May 22, 2019 12:44 PM

Hi my name is _____ Washington and I got a letter and I apologize for not making it to the meeting today, because I had issues with my phone and GPS. I am still interested and I don't want you to think that I am not. Could you please call me back at (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you.

Semmie Varner – Phone call, May 22, 2019 1:08 PM

Hello. My name is Semmie Varner and I applied for housing more than 5 years ago. I don't understand what you guys are doing. Are you saying that I have reapply and then wait another 2 years for housing? I am disabled – I am 64 years old and I have been waiting a while just for housing. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx I am just not understanding why I have to reapply and why if you are doing a new wait list you cannot apply my name to the new wait list? I have been waiting for 5 years. I don't know if I have 2 or 3 more years to wait because of this change. I am against it. Because it is very unfair to us who have been waiting for years just to get on this list. Again, my number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. My name is Semmie Varner. To me this is ridiculous and it is unfair to us.

Pamela Ferrante – Phone call, May 22, 2019 1:53 PM

My name is Pamela Ferrante. I am calling about the meeting and I missed the meeting. And I am wondering I am reading the letter and it is said that the proposal are substantial and they insure that they will change the way the waiting list works now and that it will have a new waiting list. I was just wondered do I apply for the new waiting list and how does it work? My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you.

Mary Dalgado (sp?) – Phone call, May 22, 2019 2:41 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Yes, I would like a call back. Mary Dalgado (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I just need some information on application. I am a senior and also disabled. I just need information because my husband is in a rest home and we are on Medi-Care / Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal just started taking his salary from Social Security which leaves me with \$785.00 left and I can't pay rent and live on that. So I just need information on how I can do an application. Name again is Mary Dalgado the phone (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you and good bye now.

Christine Waters – Phone call, May 22, 2019 3:21 PM

Hi. My name is Christine Waters and I am calling about the letter that you sent me. I have been on the wait list since 2014. I was told that I would not be on I would get a voucher within 4 to 5 years because I am on Social Security. I have also disabilities and I was told I would be on the short list because of those disabilities and because I am Social Security. And now I am getting this letter saying that you guys are changing from vouchers to – you are going to no longer possibly giving out vouchers and doing from a draw system of some sort like a number system. Then I talked to this lady on the phone and she is saying the systems is broken. And I said yes it is probably because of the fires in 2017. She said oh yea that is probably what it is. And I am like they are getting houses before us. It's not fair. It's really is not fair. I have been on the wait list since the beginning of 2014 it is 2019. I can't even afford where I live right now. I came to checked in with you guys last year and all you did was gave me envelope and said send us information if you move. That is what I was given - an envelope and something to fill out if I move. Saying it is my responsibility to find a place to live that is more affordable. I have tried. You guys that work there are obviously not poor like us. So call me back. (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Trisha Shanda – Phone call, May 22, 2019 3:28 PM

Good Afternoon. My name is Trisha Shanda my phone number (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I was calling in regarding to 2 letters I got. One letter stated that I am in some lottery and the second letter stated that I may be getting removed from the housing list and I will have to reply. I was just wondering if I can receive a call back and I wanted to know if I am still in the lottery or if that was a mistake letter sent out. I have been on the housing list for over 7 years. Thank you so much for your call back. I appreciate it.

SPANISH – Phone call, May 22, 2019 3:28 PM

Patricia Moser – Phone call, May 22, 2019 3:32 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Hi my name is Patricia Moser. I am living in Napa and I signed up for Sonoma County. I was looking for a place in Sonoma or Santa Rosa or any Sonoma County that area. Calistoga called me. So now I need to switch over, but I still want to stay open for Sonoma County in case a place comes up Sonoma. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you.

Cindy Corriveau – Phone call, May 22, 2019 3:36 PM

Hi my name is Cindy Corriveau and I was calling in regards about the meeting today. I fully intended on being there but I had no transportation. I do have a couple of questions about the list and how it is going to work. I don't know how it went today, but I know I've been on the list almost 10 years now. My main question was how you think it's going to help those who have been waiting so many years. And then all a sudden change it and do random. I don't understand it and I was hoping to get an answer how you think that it would be fair to randomly pick 500 people? I know that you are probably swamped with calls but please give me a call back and my number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. Thank you bye bye.

Sarah Sweet – Phone call, May 23, 2019 2:34 PM

Hi. My name is Sarah Sweet. I missed the hearing on the 22nd. I am disabled and I have been on that waiting list for the last 6 years. I was on the top of that waiting list. I was desperately waiting and hoping that I would be able to get housing in Sonoma County and this ruins my chances of having to have the same horrible list that Marin County has which is absolutely close to no chance of getting on the Section 8 waiting list. If someone could call me back at some point – I would appreciate that, but I am hoping that it is not too late for me to give my comments. I am disabled and have been disabled for a number of years and I'm on a fixed income and like I said I have been on the waiting list for over 6 years. I was on the top of that waiting list. This will ruin any chances that I ever hoped of having more independence and having a home and I hope your take these comments seriously. Thank you.

Debra Hegardt – Phone call, May 23, 2019 2:48 PM

Yes, I am Derbra Hegardt. And I did receive notice in the mail and I was going to show up for that meeting and I ended up having to work. I am retired but I do take on extra work to supplement my income. So I wasn't able to get there. I hope that doesn't mess up my chances. I am not real good at paperwork - I'm not real smart with what things mean, but I'm thinking that it is telling me I've been on the wait list for like 6 years or something and I have been waiting all of this time. And I am going to have to start all over again or something. I don't think that's fair. I don't know and I need someone to explain this to me better. My number is (xxx)

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

xxx-xxxx this is Debra Hegardt. I just really need someone to call me back please so I understand better. Thank you.

Laurie Schroeder – Phone call, May 23, 2019 2:55 PM

Hi my name is Laurie Schroeder and my number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. This is Debra Hegardt. I am on a waiting list for a 1 bedroom apartment. I just wanted to know where my name is standing on that waiting list, but since you are changing over to something else. Too bad that they just leave it alone the way it is and continue with it. Because I am a special needs person and need housing with senior disabled people and I am trying to find it in Sonoma County and I don't know if you have any up in Santa Rosa or any place else. Actually I find places out of town and I am having a hard time dealing with everything right now and I am getting worse. I do need a place and more better with and stuff. Could you please let me know if you could leave the waiting list the way it is instead of transferring it over to a lottery system? I guess that is the way it goes. Please call me back and let me know. Thank you.

Sylvia Deidra Gregory – Phone call, May 23, 2019 3:20 PM

Hello. My name is Sylvia Deidra Gregory. I have been on the wait list for a couple of years I think and what I am not clear about is how I would re-open or get on the wait list again if it's going to close. It says it is going to be open from July 1 to July 31st, but what I don't understand is how I would re-apply. And everything in any way of communicating that I understand, but I might just not understanding, is about comments and not about re-upping or how I would re-up. So please I would so much appreciate your letting me how I would get back on the wait list. My number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx. And you can leave any message you want it is a private line - I am the only one who hears it. So I most appreciate you explaining how I would get back on the wait list. Thank you what I need to do. Thank you very much.

Kevin Green – Phone call, May 23, 2019 4:30 PM

Hi. My name is Kevin Green and I'm just following up on this thing in regards to being on the list which I have been on for numerous years. My name is Kevin Green and number (xxx) xxx-xxxx. I am actually trying to get into housing right now as well but it seems like everything is turning for me. Just checking in to see how thing went and for me to remain on the list if you guys are keeping the list or the lottery. Feel free to get back to me if I don't answer just leave a message. Once again this is Kevin Green and phone number is (xxx) xxx-xxxx aright. Bye.

Karen – Phone call, May 24, 2019 12:15 PM

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

<Could not understand message due to poor connection.>

Dolores Salazar - Written Comment, Received May 22, 2019

To: Sonoma County Community Development Commission
Sonoma County Housing Authority
1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-4107
Attn: Martha Cheever

My name is Dolores Salazar and I am a single low income mother of a beautiful five-year-old boy named, Max. When I was five months pregnant, I escaped from a physically abusive relationship. My son does not receive child support and we have had to live with family and friends his entire life. I have had to raise him in other people's households where he does not know what it feels like to have his own room or space of his own. I applied (June 18, 2014) for Section 8 housing assistance when my son was less than one year old. This was when the projected wait list was between 4 – 6 years. Soon approaching the fourth year, about a month away, I received another notice stating that the wait list had changed to five years or more. Then on, June 22, 2018, already being on the wait list for over four years, I received another notice stating "First" and "Second" preferences. My son and I qualify for both preferences. The first, "Live in the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Housing Authority", and the second, "Families with minor children (under 18 years of age)". As of June 2019 I will no longer qualify for cash assistance which is the income my son and I depend on to pay rent. We are now at serious risk of becoming homeless. Please help. Please do not continue to move the goal post every time we get close winning the war on extreme poverty. We can't gamble with our lives. Thank you.

Eden Berhane - Written Comment, Received May 9, 2019

To Whom May Concern,

I am a single mother with a 3 year old whom needed permanent housing. It's difficult for me and my child can't afford it without getting into housing authority in Sonoma County. I am under the government with a small amount that doesn't even cover full room for rent money. I am asking to review my letter especially a single mother and my child to get us permanent. It would us to build future better and career.

Thank you, Eden Berhane

Larry Jones - Written Comment, Received May 9, 2019

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

I don't understand how your new policy is fair. I signed up for the Santa Rosa Housing list in May 2015. Now I'm told all that waiting and struggling was for naught.

You're starting a new Santa Rosa list based on a lottery and on that someone who has only waited a few weeks or a few months could get a place whereas I've already waited 4 full years.

How is that fair? Why not first come, first serve? Thank you.

Public Comment received at Public Hearing on May 22, 2019

Debra Edmondson -

Opposed to changes. Homeless because of the fires. Wants to know if they will be grandfathered in.

Cleo Apece –

Has 7 children, has been waiting on the list for 6 years. Can those who have already waited be grandfathered in? She had to leave Sonoma County for Lake County but wants to come back for better job opportunities. This is heartbreaking. Opposed to changes. The list being cancelled is heartbreaking to her. Wants to know if they will be grandfathered in.

Tracy Marshall –

This is detrimental and opposed to changes. This will further burden the homeless condition. Veterans (negative action). Propose that those with disabilities and seniors maintain their current place on the list. She likes the idea of removing the jurisdiction preference and thinks it is beneficial. Someone should be looking at how landlords are raising rents and what can be done about the interest that can be made on Security Deposits. Feels that we should propose sanctions, provide tax breaks and discounts to developers.

Talia Bariarly from DSLC –

It is wrong to cancel the entire waitlist. Many have waited more than 8 years and they will be back at square one. The disabled and low income individuals have no options. Can there be a preference for those already waiting? Can they get on the lottery first? What will they do about those who are disabled?

Judy Johnson from DSLC–

She has been disabled for more than 20 years and was on the waitlist for 5 years and never got a voucher. She is now an advocate for people with disabilities, no longer receives SSDI. Clients are extremely low income. More than 7 years is unconscionable. There has to be an adjustment for those with disabilities. How will they give 500 vouchers in the next 2 years? Why aren't we doing that now. Consider those who have already waited.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Carmina –

Has been on HUD before. Struggled with addiction and lost the voucher. Was homeless. Has been on the waitlist since 2014. With a lottery how will she get picked again? Currently cannot afford rent and has been forced to rent a room to a stranger. What happens when she doesn't get picked?

Carol Sherman – Chair of Senior Advisory Commission in Rohnert Park

This is saddening and opposed to changes. Doesn't understand the urgency. Curious about the bureaucracy. What about the homeless? Rapid Rehousing? Not enough HUD housing. Concerns that voucher holders are only given a few months to use it. There are homeless seniors. We need to step up.

Ronald Rainville –

On the list for over 6 years. Disabled. Struggling to keep head afloat. Friends and relations helped and he has worked small jobs. All the time knowing at least his name was on the list. In chronic pain, cannot take pain medication. Has to work and hurts every day. Hope has disappeared. Feels like his legs have been chopped from under him.

Lisa Golden –

Has been on the list for more than 7 years. Disabled and elderly. Has a lot of concerns. Wonders why there wasn't more notification and why newspapers and radio stations were crossed off. Need to use radio and TV, cannot just rely on the web to notify people. Should post fliers at Senior Centers and grocery stores. Any kind of notification to make it more public. People will be disenchanted and will give up. The process will be more streamlined only because you will lose a lot of people. Thinks there should be more public outreach when the application period opens again, including flyers in senior centers, libraries, etc.

Charlyn Stetson –

Has been on the list, not longer than a year. Didn't know she could be on it so she didn't apply earlier. Does her name disappear? Why don't people have numbers on the waitlist? Lives in a senior community. If you take her name off of the list when will she be able to get back on? System is not efficient.

Joan Dow -

Opposed to changes. Feels vouchers should be given to seniors first.

Alia Zuniga –

Kept her information current and now this is the 5th time her name will be removed from a waitlist. She is only still on the lists for Sonoma County & San Luis Obispo County. All of the HUD housing/vouchers are going to fire victims or flood victims and I keep getting passed up. She followed all our requirements and protocols and feels it is unfair

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

to remove her name. Wants to know how long we are going to continue supporting fire victims.

Terrie Thomas –

I am a 23 year old single mother of a 2 year old daughter and we are homeless. Where is Hope for the Community going to come?

Marjorie Graff –

Did not know about “porting” and lost her spot on the waiting list when she left area to care for father. She wants to re-apply and/or be re-instated.

Brenda –

Frustrated with the lottery, because if someone just arrives to Sonoma County and applies and they win the voucher over her and other citizens that have done their due diligence. A lottery or computer can be “fixed” or manipulated.

Mary Palmer –

Amazed by the variety of strong voices that have come to the meeting and spoke up. She has been on the waiting list for 4 years. Rent keeps on going up. She thanked the committee for being there.

Ken –

He agreed with the woman who said that the lottery could be “fixed”.

Gail Adams –

Against changes. The changes that are proposed seem that they are not going to help the people here. It is like a “crap shoot”. How are you going to help the seniors and homeless? This is not fair to those individuals who have been on the list for years. Asked how people with challenges will keep up with reapplying to the wait list. Who is the lottery really going to help?

Rebecca Diaz –

Single mother of 3 children and has been on the waiting list since 2015. She works all that she can, but can't to afford the childcare. She and her children are currently living with strangers and the children have “seen a lot of things”. She would like a home of their own and to feel safe.

Andrea Sanders –

She is disabled senior and does not have a home of her own. She would like to get some hope as to when she can have her own place. She is living with her son, but she cannot do that for much longer. Would like to know where on the waiting list she is so that she can have hope.

Public Comments in Response to Proposed Waitlist Cancellation and Changes to Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan

Gerald Chaddick –

He has played the lottery every year since he arrived in California and has never won. You say that you have 3,000 vouchers total and only 300 vouchers a year to issue. He currently has his own home and is on SSI. Three quarters of his income goes to rent. Is there any way to provide minimal assistance to people without a full voucher?

Rosa Diversi from West County Community Services –

How will changes affect the Coordinated Entry System?

Erica Azimov from West County Community Services –

Will help with housing searches and deposits be provided to voucher holders?

Jo –

On wait list for 7 years. She has fallen through the cracks too many times and wants this to change. We live in one of the wealthiest areas and Sonoma County should “be the example”. Wants a compromise.