DATE: May 18, 2016
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Ky Le, Director, Office of Supportive Housing
SUBJECT: Support for Families Displaced by the Twin Pines Manor Fire

Under advisement from the April 26, 2016, (Item #17) Board of Supervisors meeting, this report summarizes the work being done to support the families displaced by the Twin Pines Manor fire that occurred on Friday, April 15, 2016 and the types of services funded by the County’s commitment of $150,000. The staff of the Office of Supportive Housing is in regular contact with the staff of Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) and the Downtown Streets Team (DST), who are providing the direct services to all the families affected by this tragic fire.

Status of the Displaced Families
At the time of the fire, there were 71 occupied units (170 individuals), not counting the resident manager. Sunnyvale Community Services has been in touch with someone from all those units and continues to work with 69 households. 56 households have secured or actually moved into a new unit. These families were assisted by SCS, Community Service Agency of Mountain View/Los Altos, and West Valley Community Services.

Move-In Costs
The average hotel stays were about $1088 per family through the first 5 weeks of assistance and SCS has so far distributed $102,880 in direct financial assistance for deposits, first months’ rent payments, furniture, and other basic needs for the displaced families. Projected future assistance for the families in hotels, THUs, and staying with family (31) are expected to be around $6000-$7500 per family.

Hotel Room Stays
The status and projection of hotel room usage for the families is as follows—based on the family/staff’s expectations on the families’ moving out dates:
• April 17th .................54 rooms were used......this was reduced to 29 rooms on May 8th, when long-term rates with the Vagabond Hotel were negotiated.
• May 15th .................17 rooms were used.
• May 22nd .................14 rooms are projected to be needed....this is expected to be gradually reduced each week until the week of June 26th, when between 5 and 10 rooms are projected to be needed. These families will need intensive help because they are the most vulnerable of the 71 displaced families and they have fewer support systems in place to help them.
There are 8 families who are in transitional housing units and 7 families are being housed in other places. SCS staff continue to assess the housing needs of all these families and expects to complete this by June 2nd.

As of May 18th Sunnyvale Community Services will partner with Abode Services to rent 13 hotel rooms for a period of up to 28 days. This partnership will allow SCS to continue providing supportive services and hotel rooms for the remaining families.

County Funding
The County’s $150,000 started to be utilized on May 23rd to pay for the hotel stays and other direct service costs. It is estimated that the County’s funding will be fully spent by June 30th. As of May 18th the average cost of a motel stay is $100/day. SCS is coordinating this work and will be reimbursed by the County for these families’ hotel stays and other direct services costs allowed by the contract. SCS is providing the documentation required for the invoices.

By May 20th, 28 families – those who were receiving services from SCS but had not yet secured permanent housing – will have been assessed through the VI-SPDAT.

Other Funding Sources
Currently, approximately $635,000 has been contributed to this emergency effort by the following entities:

- City of Sunnyvale..............................$150,000
- County of Santa Clara..........................$150,000
- Private corporations............................$115,000
- Community based organizations...........$180,000
- Private individuals..............................$40,000

Next Steps
OSH staff will provide additional information to the Board on a quarterly basis, until this situation is totally resolved.

Cc: Jeff Smith, County Executive
Gary Graves, Chief Operating Officer