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Staff Report

ITEM NO. SS-1

To: Lemoore City Council 
From: Brooke Austin, Executive Secretary/Housing Specialist
Date: April 28, 2015 **Meeting Date:** May 5, 2015
Subject: Meyer Ranch House Lease Proposal

Discussion:

The Meyer Ranch House located at 558 West "D" Street was originally used as part of the Transitional Housing Program for aged-out foster youth. The multi-agency Transitional Housing Committee officially ended the Transitional Housing Program December 31, 2009. At that point, the City of Lemoore and the Lemoore Redevelopment Agency entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of Kings County to continue to manage the property. The purpose was for the house to remain available to low-moderate income young adults between the ages of 18-21 attending or planning to become students at a local community college or in a vocational training program. The home is a three-bedroom, which can house up to six occupants at one time. The last tenant moved out of the Transitional Home in January of 2014 and the home has been vacant since that time.

There are some restrictions on the use of the home because of the land where it is located and the source of funds used to purchase the home. In 1987, the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce conveyed the property at 558 West "D" Street to the City of Lemoore with the restriction that the property only be used for a park or museum. In August of 2000, the City Council designated the Meyer Ranch House, originally built in 1898 and which was then located at 290 E. Hanford-Armona Road, as a local historical landmark. In November of 2000, the Redevelopment Agency Board agreed to use Low-Moderate Income Housing Funds to purchase the Meyer Ranch House, relocate it to 558 West "D" Street and rehabilitate it for use as a museum and transitional housing. At this same time, Council approved the relocation of the house to the "D" Street location to become a local historic landmark, museum and transitional house to be used, in part, for the temporary housing of young women in transition. The resolution also stated that it would be a site where the public may view and observe and learn of the furnishings, traditions, architecture and habits of Lemoore society in and about 1898 and that certain areas of the house would be perpetually operated and maintained as open to the public, at least seasonally, for such purposes.

Before entering into the current MOU with the Housing Authority, staff discussed various possible uses with different community organizations (including the Sarah Mooney Museum) and Council ultimately decided to maintain the current use. One of the reasons

for making this decision was due to the fact that the home itself was purchased and rehabilitated with Low-Moderate Income Housing Funds, which required it to be used to house low-moderate income persons for fifteen years. This restriction will expire December 13, 2015.

With this date on the horizon, staff has once again been approached by a representative from the Sarah Mooney Museum. They would like the Council to consider entering into a long-term lease of the Meyer Ranch House to expand the scope of the Museum to create The Lower Kings River Cultural Heritage Center. Lynda Lahodny, President of the Sarah Mooney Museum Board of Directors, will be in attendance on Tuesday evening to make a presentation.

Budget Impact:

None at this time.

Recommendation:

For Discussion Only.