

# C1.03 - Affordable Housing Alternative

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## Introduction and Background

The affordable housing crisis has been escalating at an alarming rate over the past couple of decades. Affordable housing is defined by the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP) as housing that is affordable to residents relative to Area Median Family Income (AMFI).

According to the San Marcos Housing Authority, there are over 550 extremely low-income families in the area with only 283 units currently available.

Our team set out to create the most beneficial alternative to help alleviate the lack of affordable housing in this area. After analyzing four alternatives, our team decided a four-story multifamily apartment complex will accommodate the San Marcos area in the most efficient manner.

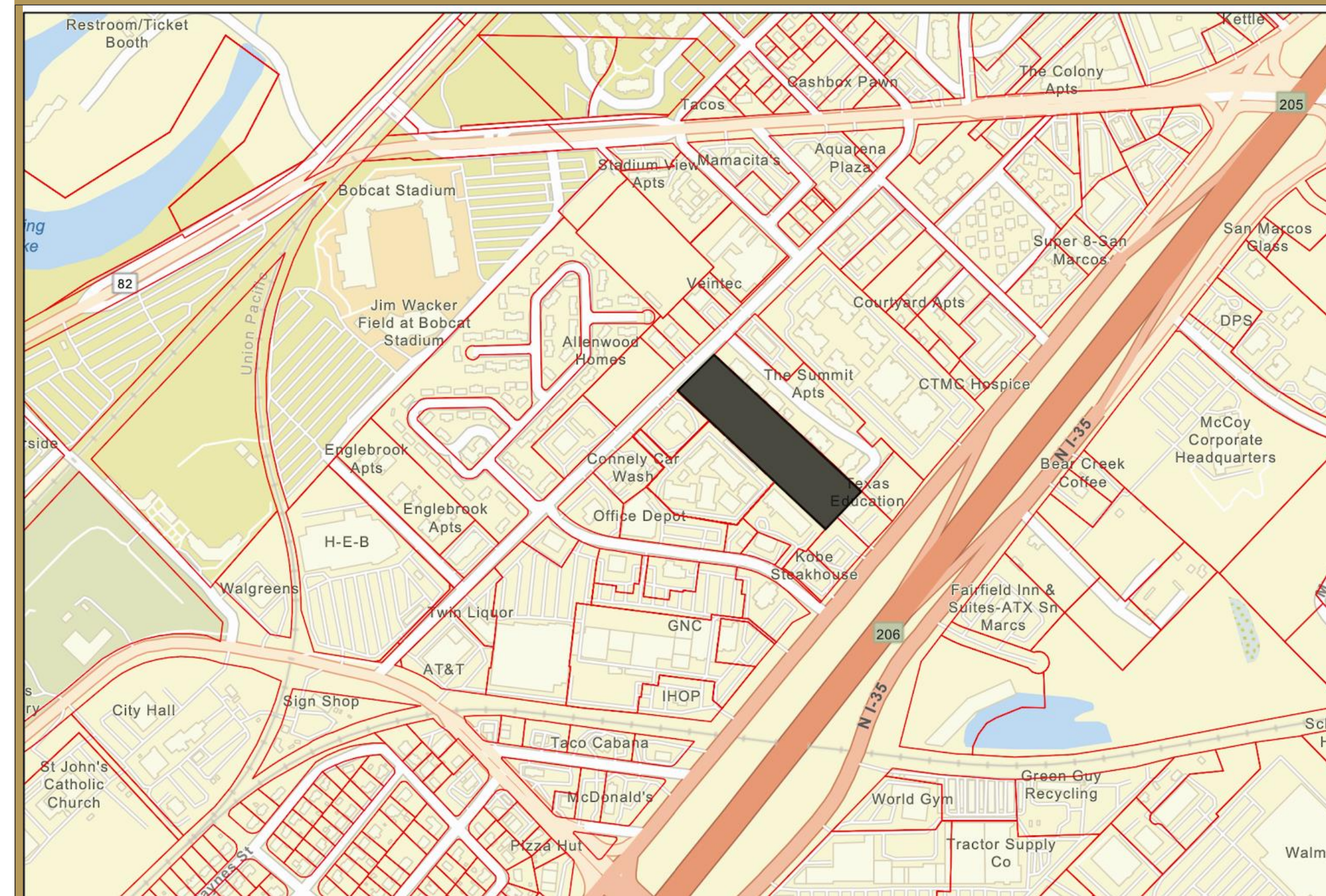
## Criteria

Our team has a vision of an affordable housing development that doesn't sacrifice comfortability in order to cut costs. The following design criteria was established for our project:

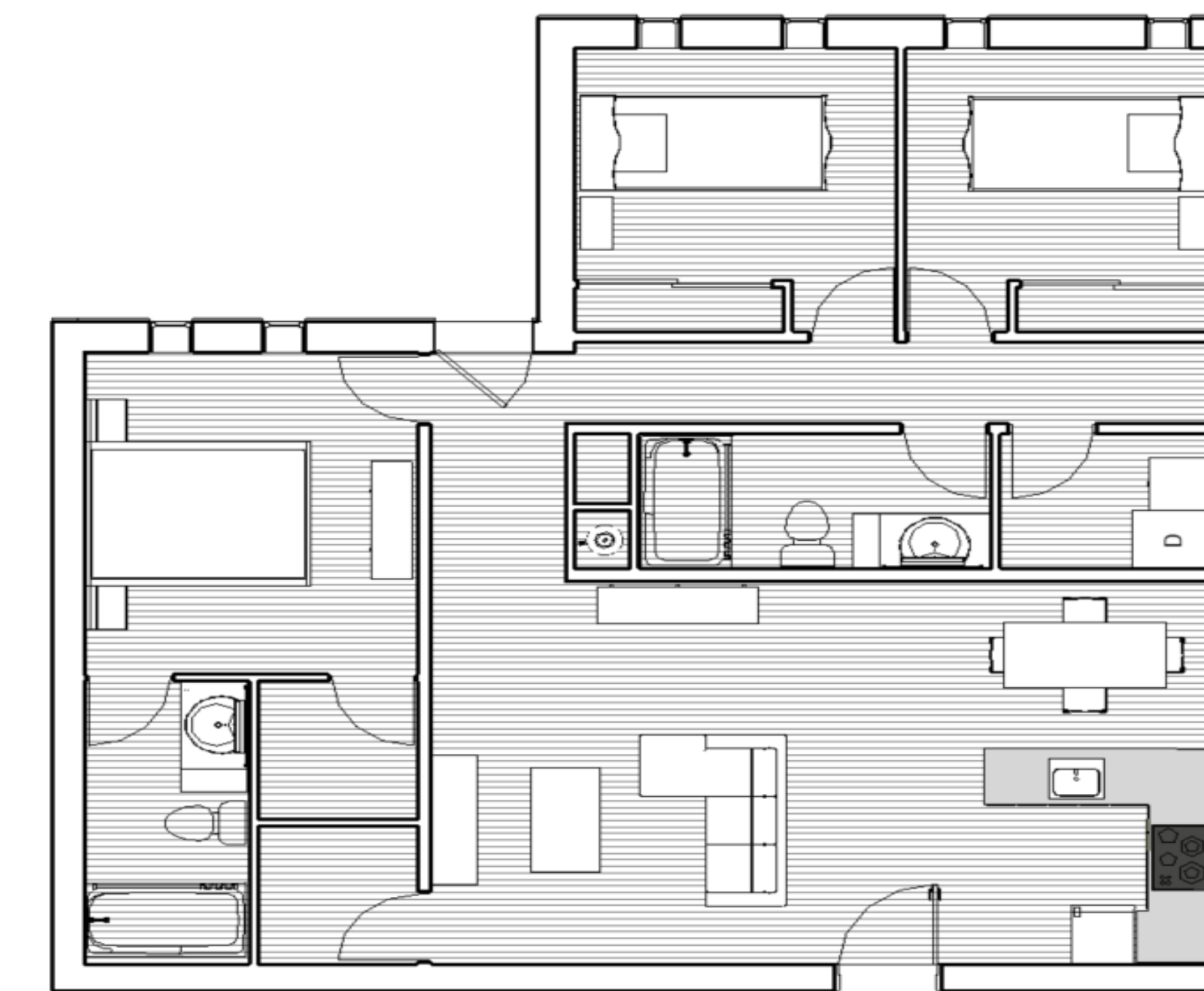
- Our project must be able to provide affordable housing for 100 families\*
- Each unit must be designed with a 3-bedroom two-bathroom floor plan
- Each unit must be a minimum 1300 square feet in size
- Each unit must have in-unit utilities (washer/dryer, dishwasher, etc...)

\* A family is defined as four or more legally bound persons

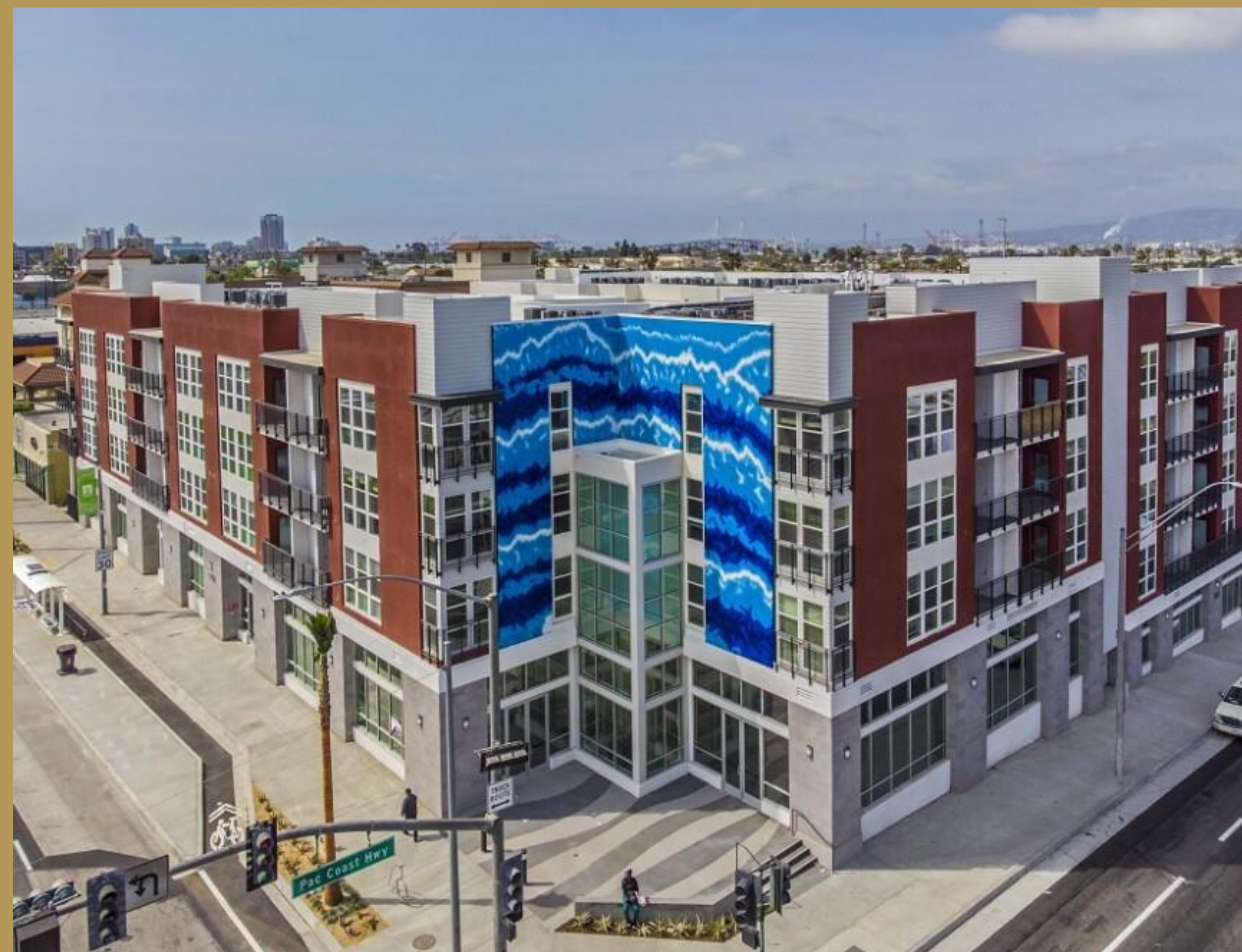
## Design



**Figure 1:** Proposed Site Location



**Figure 2:** Proposed Floor Plan



**Figure 3:** Las Ventanas, a 102-unit affordable housing project in Long Beach, California

## LEED Certification

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the most widely used green building certification program worldwide. LEED certified buildings are designed to reduce emissions and promote a more sustainable environment.

By placing a strong focus on optimizing our building's energy, water, and indoor environmental quality, we hope to receive a platinum building certification. This level of certification is the highest level obtainable and shows a building's commitment to creating a greener future.



## References

Texas Housing Facts. TAAHP. (2021, November 18). <https://taahp.org/texashousingfacts/>

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