

# **The Boomtown Chronicles: Reflections On a Changing California**

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**Transcript: Interview with Sabino Lopez, Deputy  
Directory, Center For Community Advocacy, Salinas,  
California**

Notes from audio from their video doc: (might be used in raw form straight from video) Luis Valdez is narrator **RACHEL GOODMAN:** (might want to have him narrate some of this story) Salinas/Pajaro Valley's home to 3 billion agriculture industry, This is a story of how CCA is helping farm workers help themselves... Steinbeck immortalized helps feed millions of people. 50% of lettuce, broccoli, artichokes and strawberries. Safe homes, yields harvest of despair. Caves, lean-to's dub into Northern Monterey County. 1992 dozens were discovered living in squalid conditions, used nearby irrigation ditches to bath. Tents, caves, unhealthy

Lydia Villareal, attorney, and founder of CCA: Watching news, inspired by explosion of

hc use and mother died, struck by the tragedy of mom, and she sat with her son, felt badly about what that woman went through, and that she had to go through that. She wanted to help, C.C.A. was born. Started working with Sabino Lopez. Went out and educated people about their rights, take responsibility for problem, and how you're going to deal with it. Converted barns for shelter, Pajaro, illegal camp, hundreds of fire and code violations.

Sabino Lopez tours farm worker housing sites, discovers dangerous situations. Right now families face the problem that these camps might be closed, right now they can organize is look for a solution.

Camps are home to thousands of farm worker men, women, children,. Legal camps can be as dangerous as the illegal ones. Some were built in the 1930's for the Bracero program for single men, and now are being used by large families.

At the Compora camp in Soledad, the landlord failed to pay the utility bills in spite of charging 500 dollars a month, and the power was cut off. No power, no water, they were using the fields and irrigation ditches for washing and cooking.

Mercado camp all utilities were shut down, families were paying \$600 a month.

Substandard housing is a public health issue.

On July 5" 1991, 6 families living in the Kent's court camp were left homeless when a fire destroyed their homes. CCA filed suit and each family received compensation. Isabel Moreno was one woman who relocated to a new home, but then died in a fire caused by faulty wiring.

Most are immigrants from Mexico seeking a better life, to harvest food. The average client only earns from 8K-12K a year. Median income in Mo. Co. of 49K, S.C. Co of 61K, it's one of the most expensive places to live for farm workers.

Most farm workers are unaware that they have any rights at all. Educating them is a challenging task.

7:39: Labor camp committees. CCA has worked with 42, representing over 5000 people. If they ask for help, they encourage them to form a tenants rights committee. Tenemos derechos, pelear for nosotros mismos. Family's who thought they had no voice, are standing up for their rights.

Vanessa Vallarta, C.C.A. board, attorney. Changes in attitude, I don't have to take it any more, that's the message that C.C.A. brings to folks. (she would be good)

Jesus Fernandez: Committee at Pinto Lake: Since C.C.A. started working with us, the management is paying more attention to us, now when they call, they come...

Tres Palmas Trailer park, sewage built up, garbage, the landlord would do nothing, farm workers withheld their rent, landlord agreed to sell to them, comite is now the governing body, things have dramatically improved. C.C.A. made it possible for us to buy this property.

Our goal is to make our committees bigger, so that we can speak out and defend ourselves against discrimination.

Mike Fletcher is a private developer and one of the founding members of CCA's board of directors. There was no one who could look at this and not say we have a problem.

Sam Far

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** The role CCA plays is critical. Because you have the conflict of the land, and the need for workers, and to mediate, to build the housing, manage housing, once you're in it.

CCA's approach works, it provides people who are motivated and want to do something about their poor housing conditions, as a result people are able to get the housing they deserve at a price they can afford.

Committees have formed an organization called VIVA, valley-housing alliance.

We are not alone, we are not just one tenant committee working for our homes, VIVA and CCA have also worked together to help the construction of new affordable housing in Monterey and S.C. Counties.

With the help of .. Marta and Samuel Rodriguez were able to make much needed repairs to their home, however, they dreamed of owning their own home. Here we are building our own home, our dreams have come true. Today the Rodriguez's dream is coming a reality at Moro Coho, a worker built development (Castroville) We didn't know a thing about construction, but the supervisor is teaching us about construction. VIVA mobilized over 300 families to demand that the development be approved. This is our neighborhood, not just something we bought into...

14:59: Pastor blessing these homes, into community, blessing to others, (find original tape of this service?)

Those who work the rich soil and help to feed millions desire and deserve to raise their families in safe living conditions, and CCA is proving that farm workers can feed themselves.

Sabino Lopez: 16:30: Golden torch and Pinto Lake are living in the same community. Hopefully it will be ready in June. The lake is a wonderful place to live, only rich people can afford, it's gonna be great. Jesus Fernandez is the leader of the group at Pinto Lake, he can give you contacts with Pinto Lake residents, because he's helping and working, Jesus can give you a tour of where the people live, Golden Torch is a good place, of how they live now, and how

they will live later. It's going to be a huge change. Jesus can tour you to Las Tres Palmas co-op.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Tell me how you got into this, your personal story.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** It's a long story. I can to Salinas in 1966 from Mexico. My father brought me here to work in the Fields, Jalisco, close to Guadalajara. My father got my visa in 1966, he got his legal residency in 1960, he applied for my visa, and I was going to elementary school in Mexico, while my father was here, I used to raise corn in Mexico, to raise calabasas and beans. I'm the second oldest son, and I came first with him in 1966 to work in the fields to help the family. I lived many years in labor camps, and I'm really familiar with that lifestyle.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** What did you think when you first came here?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** My first home when I came was labor camp number 17, in south Salinas. It was only men, I was the youngest man. I recall when the supervisor came to pick us up at the Greyhound station, he gave a ride to us to the labor camp, he said this is going to be your room. And I was sharing a room with my father, and I saw all the people there, I was the youngest, and I was not accustomed to that. My first impression was I felt very isolated, I \*\*\*21:48 don't see young people, only older people. The first morning when I woke up I saw people who were cooking and washing dishes and doing everything like a woman in Mexico. It was a big change. I said, what is this? I remember the first lesson my father gave me, I cooked some eggs, and I ate it, and I left my plate on the table, and went to do something else. My father told me, now here in the United States, you have to wash your dish, you have to cook your food, and nobody else will do for you. I'm cooking for you, but you have to cook for you. You have to do it because nobody else will do it. Yes, we had only eggs to eat and jelly and bread before we got the first check. Other people were cooking meat, and chicken, and nobody offered any piece of meat, God I was hungry, but we didn't have enough money to buy any meat. I said why they don't invite a piece of taco meat. We were accustomed in Mexico when you visit everyone offers you something to eat. Then it was worse when I went to work in the fields with the short handled hoe, eight hours and my whole body hurt. I was seventeen years old. Then later we moved to the irrigation system, then I started working eleven, twelve, thirteen, sometimes fourteen hours a day, seven days a week. I spent one night on night shift, I was close to the river, by my self, with the open fields, the water, I recall nights crying myself alone. Somebody told me be careful at night because sometimes black people come to the field, and they steal the money of farm workers. If you see a car, don't go close. Man, I was looking at every car, and I run to the middle of the field...It was really hard.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Were you still living in labor camp 17?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** I spent a whole year living there.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Conditions?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Single rooms, everything was old. It's not like a nice home, it's really a shed and a place to live, you have a kitchen and everything.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** How does it make you feel to see whole families living in these camps?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** That's reason why CCA was founded because in 1984-87 I met Lydia Villareal and Juan Urranga also, and I worked with them on a project actually helping the farm workers living in Prunedale in holes and caves. We helped them win their case. At that time we wanted to help them, but we couldn't do many things. We told them it was needed to have an organization to deal with the problems of farm workers. Because a lot of needs of farm workers for housing, and there's a lot of needs people have to know their rights. They're afraid for everything. They come to work, in that case the grower took advantage of them, the grower told them to dig a hole, and find a place to live, in the day they worked in the strawberry fields.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** So let's back up and tell the whole story.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** When they reported to work, the owner gave them a shovel and told them to dig a hole where they're gonna live. Find the best place for you. They were living in caves in the hills. There were about 200 people.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Who finally spoke up about it?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Actually Villareal was the attorney was leading California Rural Legal Assistance and she hired me in 1984 after I lost my job in the fields. I had a long history in organizing, I started in 1970 when Cezar Chavez came to Salinas Valley. I developed skills to organize farm workers, I grew up with UFW, so when I lost my job, I decided to go to school to learn English, and I met Lydia and Juan there. At that point, after that case, we found many obstacles under that organization, we decided to found a new organization to help farm workers in housing issues. Gov. Reagan cut funds for CRLA. So I moved to San Diego and organized the justice for janitors campaign. Before that, we had lunch at First Awakening breakfast, Lydia and I were talking and she asked me, "Sabino, I'm gonna make a deal with you. I'm gonna found an organization to help farm workers, and you're gonna come run it." Three years later in San Diego, Lydia called me and asked me to come back. Remember I told you?" I already founded the organization I promised, I got the money to hire you, so I need to know when you're going to come back to Salinas." I couldn't believe it. I had a really good job, I recently bought my condominium in S.D. My family was really happy, finally for the first time we had our own home. I had to talk to them. I was making good money there, she said how much do you need? She wanted me to interview as soon as possible.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** They wanted you.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** I was hired immediately. My family really suffered a lot. It was my commitment to come back and do the job. It was hard for me to move again my family, and CCA was just a name and a lot of big hopes.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** It looks like you've done what you set out to do.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Well, I'm really proud, and now we have a big and credible organization.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Do you ever feel like Salinas is your home?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Yes, because my father used to say, that people who come to Salinas and drink the water, you cannot leave Salinas. Once you drink the water you cannot leave. I feel like I met Salinas when it was small, and we used to walk from labor camp 17 to downtown Salinas on the railroad track, so we followed the track to downtown Salinas.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Could you talk about the changes?

37:28

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Well, I been seeing many changes in Salinas and many areas since I came here in 1966, Salinas was small, and we were a lot of farm workers, crowded working people in the fields, and we were a lot of people, but really I felt like we were nothing. Because we didn't have any voice, any power, we only were hard working people that's it, we didn't have any role in the community. We were seen as hardworking guys, we were stereotyped as nice guys, hard working guys, cute guys. Sometimes I felt like it was without brains. That made me feel too bad like we were nothing. Latinos we didn't account for nothing, everything for whites. Every parade, I recall standing by the side, Mexicano workers, the parade was only whites. Cowboys, and no one Latino, no Mexicano, we didn't have any representation. I felt that we were allowed but still we were nothing, only working people that's all. It made me feel too bad, but that also made me strong. I saw it as a challenge. We had to tell the people, we're not only here because we want to live better, we are here and we have a voice. We mean a lot to this country, not only as farm workers, as hardworking people, but we are here for more than that. That's the reason I decided to join the union. I would like to learn the skills to change things in my life and in other people's life, to translate it into action. In 1970 10,000 farm workers were on strike in Salinas Valley. Lot of people were surprised. My father and I we went on strike. We weren't invited to do the strike. But we were hungry to do something different to get attention. We walked out of the fields and started a picket line and nothing happened. We lost our jobs. We were fired. Then I spoke to the union, and that's the way I finally got a job under a union contract with better wages.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** How has the vision of Cesar Chavez helped what you're doing?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** I don't think Cezar came and told us how we were going to act. It was our own decision to strike. They treated us fairly, but for me, it was a need to do something different to show our power and show the people in the U.S. that we are here and we have a power and a voice, and we mean a lot. We are here because we are important. Because if we don't work, your farm will stop. You're not making business. My reason to join the movement, because working in the fields, I felt like I didn't have any hope. No future for \*\*\*\*42'52e. I recall when I used to watch the students walking to school when I was working in the rows, they would pass all well dressed and clean, and I'd look at myself all full of mud from the fields, you know, I had no future. Sometimes I cry too, because I saw no opportunity for me, I will live and die like my father in the fields. When Cezar came here, it gave me an opportunity to do something else. I had my own ambitions and my own goals to change things in my self and my coworkers. It was a thing you wanted to do it. You use the tools to see where you go to do better. I liked to do it too.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** The concept of withholding rent comes out of the concept of withholding work.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** These are the skills I learned in the movement. But the first decision to change my life was my own. Nobody can get you to change if you don't want to do it. When I started at CCA in 1990. I was knocking doors, introducing CCA, and people didn't know what we wanted to do, but after the people met CCA, and we developed leaders, the people started referring leaders to us. Now people refer people to us. We sometimes have to tell people to wait. We have a model. We give them a task first. Do you want us to help you? Yes. People are waiting also. We are accustomed to people who are used to solving their problems all the time. When I see leaders, I laugh to myself, because they say we are here to help, we know your problems, we can solve them, the people say o.k., they're here to help us. But no, we develop the model that people have to help themselves. When they call me know, I say if you really want us to come there, you have to start helping us. Talk to your neighbors, get their names and phone numbers and call us back. We have to work with groups of families. Not a single case. When they do that task, they call back. We go back to them and give them an orientation about tenants rights and responsibilities. They discover they know their rights, they have protection against retaliation.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Are there landlords that threaten to turn people in to immigration?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** There are some places like that and people are afraid of those threats. Some people aren't.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Economics of housing markets. In your video you described people paying 500-600 dollars a month. You have the highest rents and the lowest income. What have you seen where a landlord is charging high rent for nothing?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** There are different ways to describe that. People were living in holes. Do they pay to the landlord to live there? Apparently not, because they

don't charge rent, and in one way he was taking advantage of them, sometimes he paid them anything he wants, he deducted something. When they're working for you, living in your ranch, you pay anything you want. Still the people pay a lot. The other example is the labor camps. Labor camps in Monterey county, they are the more affordable places to live, because they have? We've been working in the labor camps in Mo.Co. and in every case the landlords were raising the rents. In the past farm workers lived in labor camps, now they live everywhere. In the cities, it's amazing how much rent they pay, and they can't afford it. Here in Salinas, they pay, for a two bedroom apartment they pay \$800 a month, when they're unemployed in the winter, how they gonna pay the rent? So they invite other families to live with them, so you get overcrowded situations. Also, the rent increases you know. We get a lot of complaints from people that they increase the rents 40-50%. They've been paying \$650 and they raise it to \$900. How they gonna live?

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** They're competing with other people from outside the region.

**\*\*\*SABINO LOPEZ:** For example in Salinas, there were about 100 families that complained against rent increases in Salinas. Those groups were leaders who organized. They got together and started demonstrating and started picket lines against the landlord, they got together to protest. They wanted to say, this is market rate, it's the cheapest in the area, it's under market rate, it's fair. They go to see the rent paid by people from San Jose and Silicon Valley; they can't afford to pay that. It's really disappointed. If you go to Santa Cruz, it's the worst.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** \$1,800 for an apartment in S.C?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** We started working in the Santa Cruz area. Farm workers in Watsonville are more afraid than in Salinas Valley. When we went to Santa Cruz, it felt like 10 years ago in Salinas Valley. People are afraid. We started knocking on doors; it's a new area for us. People say we're o.k. this house is really nice, I don't have any problems, come on in and see. We went inside, and said oh, my god, no problems? Once you start asking questions, I said, do you have any roof leaks? Oh, the landlord will fix it. Do you have roaches? Yes, roaches and mice. Electric? Oh, well, shorts and everything. Leaks? Yes, the plumbing leaks, The people didn't want to... What is the reason they say this is o.k. The main fear is to lose the one unit they have. We're afraid the owner will retaliate and we're going to end up on the street. This is the most affordable place we have. They value a lot because, at least they have a roof, a bathroom, and they call it their home. And they can survive with that. They don't have hope, because they see outside worse, the rents skyrocketing, there's no other place to rent. They say we'll stay here quietly.

So we changed our strategy. We started the health promoters program. Instead of organizing housing issues, we're going to start talking about health first. Do you want to know about this information, yes, they know us, seeing other leaders from other places? Once they trust you, they feel secure, they know you're not going to cause them more problems. We wait until they ask us to jump to housing issues. That's how we worked with Pinto Lake. A lot of people decided to speak up, because finally they felt that we're helping people, and we don't want to cause

problems for them. Once we made the presentation, at that point they decide if they want to keep going or wait. We don't push them to do it. If you push them, and something goes wrong, they're going to blame you. We don't want to be in the position where we pushed them. So no, one of the reasons we've been successful we work with the people, every time it's their decision, their risk, and their choice. However you want to call.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** How are housing issues connected with other problems?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Since I've been here at CCA, I immediately connected that the housing problem was connected with health. I recall myself living in a house that was full of mice. I clean, my wife clean, and they came back. You want to disinfect your area. You do your best, but if the unit isn't well maintained by the owner, it effects your health. When I go to people's apartments. They say, everything's o.k. You go and you smell gas. You say everything's o.k. I smell gas, it's very risky. They say see, my windows are open. I say, what happens at night? You sleep with your windows open? No. Where's the gas, your breathing it. That's why CCA was founded. We wanted to prevent these situations. You have to do something. At that point we gave themselves some direction, we called PG and E. At least do that. Then you have to decide, is it your life, or your fear of being evicted. I'm upset with them too. Look you prefer to avoid to report to the owner from fear of being evicted, then do you want to risk your family? Call this phone number. You can not leave it like that.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** If you could say anything about California's future about housing the poorest people? What do we have to do? Are some avenues for hope?

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**SABINO LOPEZ:** The future in affordable housing for farm workers is really dark. I don't see good future because every day we see that it's more difficult to build. Santa Cruz basically they don't build. They don't build affordable housing. If they do, people start jumping up in arms about any projects. Using the environment or whatever. People love farm workers, but once they know they have to build a home for them, they say not in my backyard? I ask them where? You don't want them here, you don't want them there? Where do want them? They're nice, good guys, nice guys, that's it, but don't come close to my neighborhood. So Santa Cruz is the model for that. Monterey County is facing the same challenge too. Now Monterey is getting no growth. I learned one good strategy they use, the people that are against farm workers' housing, they say, we want that too, but it has to be 100% affordable. What they mean when they say 100% affordable? They are saying no growth. You translate, or 50% affordable, they're saying no growth, because nobody will build, they won't spend their money, in affordable housing only.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Do you think what Sam Farr did at Fort Orde?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** We lose an opportunity to build affordable housing. The land was donated. There's no place to build. Fort Orde was a promise. Sam Farr was saying we have to take advantage of that. What happened is that some people

said 100% affordable. 50% is good. It's fine to move your percentage down, it's less opportunity to build. It happened in Watsonville. We were discussing why they didn't build in Watsonville. I was on that committee. The percentage was too high. The builders say we cannot build it. They try to build and the people say, no, not here, it's ugly, it's not possible. What happened in Watsonville, they went down with the numbers, and got 15-20% and got different numbers. This is one way to do it. You can do a combination to make the percentage high. There are some non-profits that can do it. CHISPA build self-help housing. They can't build enough. So I don't see a lot of future for farm worker housing, there's a lot of opposition, they're using a lot of different words to confuse people. They go and talk to farm workers about housing and say, we want 100% affordable housing, and get people up in arms.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** Who are they?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Land watch. Gary Patton. That is the master of Santa Cruz coming to Monterey County to do it. They tell the people we are for affordable housing, but it has to be a certain question. Farm workers support it, but they don't know what it means?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** My father came in the 1940's and 50's in the Bracero programs that brought too many farm-workers from Mexico to California. My father came to work in California, Nevada. He ended here working with the Dearigo Brothers Company in the fields. In 1966 he got my visa so I came here to work in Salinas in the fields. I recall when I was working with him in the fields. He taught me how to work in irrigation and harvest other vegetables. I recall them saying once you drink the Salinas water you cannot stop coming to this valley.

**Rachel Goodman:** Has that been true for you?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** Well, yes, I've been back and forth. In those years Salinas was colder than now. We never stopped working in six months, and in that time we never saw the sun.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** What kind of hours did you work ?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** I started working 10 hours a day for six days, and on Sundays six hours. My hours went from 12 to 13 hours every day, seven days a week. It's really hard, and I was really disappointed. I thought that el Norte, when you go to el Norte everything is nice everything is great, everything is great, and everything is money. When you come and work like that and you don't see other people and working back and forth to the fields and living in a labor camp. You're not in contact with the people, driving in the highway.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** There wasn't that community.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** The first day that my father wake up and start cooking the breakfast, I saw many older guys, compared to my age. I saw everyone cooking with everything, and my fighter did the same, and I sat down at the table, my father did everything, serve, and cook. When I finished, my father said, son, in

this country, you have to cook your food, do your dishes, you're not with your mom, and you have to do by yourself. This is the United States. I said, o.k. When I came here to Salinas, we were too isolated. And we thousands of farm-workers living and working in the fields, but we didn't have any, it was no opportunities for us, we were so isolated, we didn't have any voice, I felt like the people here, saw us as good guys, nice guys, hardworking people, but with no brains. I recall coming to the Salinas Rodeo parades, there used to be parades on Main Street. I recall coming at night, the Filipino co-workers they come at night, it was full of farm-workers lining the street. I didn't see any brown faces, no one brown face was there. I felt too bad, because I expected to see somebody to represent us, I felt like no representation absolutely. We were filling the supermarket store, everyday, the Sears the J.C Penny, I saw people buying everywhere, but no representation in Salinas for nothing. I felt so powerless. I ask myself, something has to be done, and something has to change, because it's not fair. We're so many, but we don't have any body to represent us. We were part of the community, we contribute to industry, to business, but we don't have no representation. Salinas was small, but I didn't like it. I like it better now. That dream came true you know, through the years, I have been part of that change, and I've been active in the community over the years as an advocate for change. I think it started in 1970 when Cesar Chavez came to Salinas, I think we started to change at that point. Thousands of farm-workers went on strike. I wanted to say to the community, we have power and we're very important, we are here because we want to do something important. You have to treat us better. If not, you're going to pay the consequences, because we're part of the community, part of the industry too. I think the changes started at that moment, because so many people got involved in activities. The struggle was big in the community. Now the majority in Salinas is Latino, and the mayor is the first Latino in 100 years.

The good thing you know is that even though there is a majority of Latinos, they aren't working alone. They have the support of other communities, the Anglo communities. In the past they haven't worked with us, I think we gain by ourselves, but now the power has changed. She represents everyone. I've seen different races, democrats, republicans support her. She's very smart because she's been gaining support from both sides. CCA: Well, CCA has been a resource for the community since we started fifteen years ago. I think there's a big change. CCA has been a tool in support in advocating for affordable housing. Once in a while, I do a tour to people showing them the difference between one time and another time. You're going to see the difference between the past and the present. You can go to Golden Torch and say, we're lucky were tearing down the past, this is the past, we're tearing down the past here and rebuilding something new. You can go the Pinto Lake and say this is one example, one very clear example. I like to take them to a labor camp, and say this is the past. This is the future. I take people to south county. There are a few labor camps, then this is the past still. And we're working to change that kind of lifestyle. We've been changing a lot of places. We drive to Moro Cojo project in Castroville. We support very actively this project. They are 175 single homes built by the farm-workers, and they're living there very decent. This is the present, this is change.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** What do you want to see in the future to really solve the problems for the poorest people?

**SABINO LOPEZ:** There's still a lot to do you know. We dreamed one day every labor camp in Monterey County, and hopefully Santa Cruz county too, we have a system that those families that are living in those places, we have the resources to relocate them, can tear down those shameful buildings, and build affordable housing for farm-workers in that same place. We don't want to lose those sites, we want to maintain them for farm-workers so they can live close to their jobs. This is our dream. Every time they build a new place, it's one step. Pinto Lake, it's one step. We're closing one era, then we're coming to the new one.

**RACHEL GOODMAN:** I bet when you see one of those labor camps going down, you feel it's your past going down.

**SABINO LOPEZ:** We are a little afraid to push the county to tear down all the labor camps, I think the county understands the point. They don't do nothing until they have some plan to build new homes for farm-workers.