Hillsdale Townhouses was developed in response to the tremendous need for high-quality, affordable, workforce housing in San Jose. In 2007 MidPen Housing purchased the dilapidated site formerly known as the Hillsdale House Townhomes, which was operating as a market-rate apartment complex. The complex, however, was in such tremendous need of repairs that the rents were lower than average and many low-income people already lived at the property. MidPen was able to fully upgrade and renovate the complex while keeping rents at levels that existing tenants could still afford and maintaining the sense of community that had developed among residents.

The Hillsdale Townhouses property renovation completely transformed and modernized both the interior and exterior of the building which was originally built in 1965. A third bedroom was added to fifteen of the townhomes, adding a small amount of square-footage to each of these units and the former manager’s unit was turned into a community room and computer lab to be enjoyed by all residents.

A key focus of the upgrade was energy efficiency. Insulation was added and the original windows were replaced with new, energy efficient windows and ENERGY STAR appliances and light fixtures were placed in each unit. Heating systems were upgraded and cooling systems – both air conditioning and ceiling fans – were added to each unit to enhance the livability of the homes. The renovation of the Hillsdale Townhouses increased the city’s stock of affordable workforce housing in a way that enhances the surrounding area and ensures the livability and affordability for the long-term.