Avelina consists of 40 one-bedroom apartments for seniors and one two-bedroom manager’s unit contiguous with Oroysom Village, an affordable housing development also developed by MidPen Housing. The site is adjacent to the mother house and retirement center of the Sisters of the Holy Family, who sold the 6-acre site to MidPen. The decision of the Sisters to sell the land to MidPen touched off one of the Bay Area’s longest and most vigorously debated affordable housing developments.

Today, Avelina and Oroysom Village are model intergenerational and multi-ethnic communities that are welcomed by and integrated into a surrounding upscale neighborhood.

Avelina was built on land originally inhabited by Ohlone Native Americans, whose descendants participated in a ceremony blessing the new site and who recommended that the development be named after “Grandmother” Avelina Cornates, one of the last full-blooded Ohlones to whom many living Ohlones in the area trace their lineage.

In addition to affordable senior apartments, the site includes landscaped grounds, a pond, a community room and an onsite video theatre.