San Andreas represents the remarkable transformation of a dilapidated farm labor camp into a model affordable housing community for farmworker families.

The San Andreas labor camp had been deemed uninhabitable by the County of Santa Cruz. MidPen Housing acquired the property, worked through a maze of complicated legal challenges and obstacles, provided financial support to a local nonprofit agency to help relocate the residents and literally burned the camp to the ground.

When San Andreas reopened, all of the prior residents who wanted to return were rehoused in spacious townhouses or flats with backyards for private gardens.

San Andreas is located amid the strawberry fields where many of its residents work. In keeping with that environment, the design features simple, farm-like buildings. The community building includes a sheriff’s substation, a common room and a computer lab where after school and summer programs are held. MidPen Resident Services staff have set up partnerships with many community groups to provide ESL classes, summer programs, and other services.