In the spring of 2000, MidPen Housing purchased Marmo’s, a dilapidated trailer park that was at-risk of closure in order to convert it to permanent affordable housing. Completing extensive land renovations and habitat preservations, the hillside next to Pinto Lake in unincorporated Santa Cruz became Villas del Paraiso, affordable housing for farmworker families. The community also marks MidPen’s first development constructed using pre-fabricated, manufactured housing materials as required by city ordinances.

Villas del Paraiso includes amenities such as a multi-use community room with kitchen, computer lab, and laundry room. Outdoors, there are two playgrounds, a soccer field, a basketball hoop, a viewing dock on the lake, and space for a community garden. In recognition of the promise of the new community, the former Marmo’s residents chose the name Villas del Paraiso (Paradise Villas) for the newly constructed development.