



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: February 21, 2023

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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### **Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma Delegating Authority to the Director of Health Services, or Her Designee, and Making Findings for Services Contracts Needed in Support of the Declared Shelter Crisis**

**Whereas**, there is a serious and growing threat to the health and safety of those experiencing homelessness and living in growing encampments on or around the portion of the Joe Rodota Trail located within the City of Santa Rosa, which has prompted the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma and the Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission to concurrently declare a Shelter Crisis based on the need for urgent action to address this growing problem; and

**Whereas**, these conditions also threaten adjacent property owners, neighborhoods, the environment, and the general public, including users of the Joe Rodota Trail public properties where encampments have arisen, which requires immediate action to mitigate the growing health and safety risks in the area; and

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma and the Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission jointly declared a Shelter Crisis on October 9, 2018 pursuant to Government Code § 8698.2 and those conditions and findings are still relevant and in effect; and

**Whereas**, the results of the 2022 Homeless Point-in-Time Count for Sonoma County indicated that there are 2,893 people experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County, with 2,088 living in unsheltered circumstances; and

**Whereas**, since that time, the number of people occupying the Joe Rodota Trail in large encampments have increased, resulting in health and safety concerns for those occupants and the overall community; and

**Whereas**, there is currently a large homeless encampment consisting of more than 50 tents/structures and more than 50 individuals located on a portion of the Joe Rodota Trail, which is County owned property located within the Santa Rosa city limits, and the encampments in the

area have been steadily growing in size over the past two weeks; and

**Whereas**, the Joe Rodota Trail is a recreational and commuter trail intended to be enjoyed by the public at large, and the existence of encampments on the trail impedes the public use of this property for its intended purpose, blocks the safe and efficient passage of bicycles, pedestrians, and emergency vehicles through the designated right-of-way, and creates significant health and safety concerns for the persons living on the trail as well as a threat to the environment, public health, and the safety and well-being of the community at large; and

**Whereas**, extraordinary immediate actions and coordination are required to address this dire situation, including through the creation and operation of an emergency housing facility under Government Code § 8698.1, et seq.; and

**Whereas**, there are a significant number of persons living on or around the portion of the Joe Rodota Trail located within the City of Santa that are currently without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons living on the trail along with the community at large, prompting the County of Sonoma and the Community Development Commission to concurrently with this resolution declare that a Shelter Crisis exists in and around the portion of the Joe Rodota Trail within the City of Santa Rosa pursuant to Government Code § 8698.2; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to the concurrently declared Shelter Crisis, the County of Sonoma and Sonoma County Community Development Commission are authorized to exercise all rights conferred under Government Code § 8698.1, et seq.; and

**Whereas**, the County and its partner agencies have identified urgent services contract needs due to the concurrently declared Shelter Crisis and specifically for resolving the Joe Rodota Trail situation. In addition to the procurement of tents, shelters, and other goods necessary for the operation of the emergency housing facilities, these needs include site operation, security, cleaning, sanitation, housing, food, transportation, navigation services, as well as wrap-around services, including social, medical, and behavioral health services. Many of these services will meet interim, short-term needs and are necessary to stabilize existing conditions pending long-term, comprehensive plans for effectively resolving the homelessness emergency; and

**Whereas**, existing County personnel and resources are insufficient to meet the extent, breadth, and variety of services needed, especially while maintaining normal County services and operations; and

**Whereas**, standard County procurement process required for obtaining services is often lengthy in duration, and typically involves competitive process; and

**Whereas**, the urgency of the Shelter Crisis and conditions on the Joe Rodota Trail are such that standard procurement process timeframes are unacceptable to meet existing needs; and

**Whereas**, under County's policies for procurement of services, interim emergency agreements may, among other reasons, be executed in light of urgent emergency needs to preserve life, health or property and to maintain essential public operations; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Government Code section 23005 and other applicable law, in general the Board of Supervisors may delegate authority subject to its agents and officers to exercise certain powers; and

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that this Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma hereby finds, declares, determines and orders as follows:

1. The foregoing recitations and findings are true and correct and incorporated herein.

2. The Executive Director of Health Services, or her Designee, is delegated authority to negotiate and execute agreements for interim emergency services needed to respond to the current Shelter Crisis, in a cumulative amount not to exceed \$3 million, on condition that informal competitive bidding and such other methods and procedures be used to secure best value consistent with emergency needs, a single or sole source waiver be obtained for any such agreements over \$50,000 in accordance with Sonoma County Code 2-58, and contingent on funding being available and identified for such agreements.

3. The County Purchasing Agent, or her designee, is directed to process and expedite sole and single source waivers in accordance with this Resolution.

4. The County Purchasing Agent, or her designee, is directed to prioritize and expedite procurement and processing of all said contracts and agreements and as requested by the Director of Health Services in accordance with this Resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a special meeting of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission this 21st day of February 2023 by the following vote:

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:                      Rabbitt:                      Gore:                      Hopkins:                      Coursey:

Ayes:                      Noes:                      Absent:                      Abstain:

**So Ordered.**