

Shelter Crisis & Safe Sleeping Locations

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, February 21, 2023

What's the Crisis?



Structure on JRT - Feb 16, 2023

Another large encampment on the Joe Rodota Trail - as of the date of this report, at least 50 people/tents.

Risk to the public's health and safety, including to Trail users, to unhoused persons on the Trail, to the natural environment. Debris, hazardous materials, unsafe living environments, and more.

Today we have very limited places to offer housing if we are to clear the Trail within current legal parameters.

What we have experienced:

- Stuck in a cycle
- Lawless environment
- Duration of services is too short and limited during short housing stints
- Continued impairment to Trail transit/travel

Solutions



Tent set-up at Roberts Lake (RP)

Declare a Shelter Crisis (allows for faster responses, proposals)

Sign, secure, close, clear, clean the Joe Rodota Trail (w/budget)

Consistent with 2023-2027 Homeless Strategic Plan, create up to two (2) new Safe Sleeping Locations, with:

- \$3M in new appropriations ($\frac{1}{2}$ IGT, $\frac{1}{2}$ ARPA)
- Tents/Shelters/RVs, pets OK if no risk to others
- Restrooms and shower service - Not Using Vets Bldg facilities
- Fence, security detail, use Housing First approach, but with rules
- **Housing-focused** case management (clients' planning for next housing step is **essential**)
- Wrap-around services
- About 40 units at each site

The Safe Sleeping Locations

Managed Safe Sleeping Location #1



PRMD/Permit Sonoma Parking Lot
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa

Managed Safe Sleeping Location #2



Vets Memorial Building Parking Lot
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

What's going to help in the longer term?



- Today's action (more safe sleeping)
- Adopt Limiting Camping on Public Property (estimated in April)
- Enforcement presence on the Trail
- Applying for an Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) grant (by 2-28) for:
 - More permanent supportive housing (some being added by Homekey in the coming months, but much more is needed such as home-shares).
 - Increased access to supportive services, including more behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) care.
 - Augment behavioral and social workforce.

Recommended Actions

A - Adopt resolution declaring shelter crisis

B - Approve the two Safe Sleeping Locations

C - Authorize Trail closure

D - Funding for the Safe Sleeping Locations for up to one year (\$1.5M IGT, \$1.5M ARPA)

E - Funding for Trail cleanup (\$50K)

F - Ability to execute contracts by DHS and Regional Parks directors

G - Contract change for Trail cleanup with FS Global

H - Contract change for Trail security with ESP & Alarms