

# 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 (½ IGT, ½ 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

Potential Managed Safe Sleeping Location #1



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

Potential 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 Limits on 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 up to 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