



Joe Rodota Trail Homeless Emergency: Strategic Proposal

Sonoma County Department of Health Services and
Community Development Commission

Board of Supervisors

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Background

On December 17, 2019 the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors declared a homeless emergency on the Joe Rodota Trail (JRT) due to the threat to health and safety of those experiencing homelessness.



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Background

- There are 3,000 individuals currently experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County
- JRT currently has 210 occupants
- Public health emergency
 - Only a few public restrooms, no trash services, standing water in areas, pests, needles, etc.



Actions to Date

- Community response
- Restrooms
- Handwashing stations
- Kincade Fire Response
- ACCESS Initiative work on the JRT
- CDC outreach on the JRT



Multifaceted Strategy Needed

- There is no one size fits all
- Continuum of housing and supports required
- We have to meet people where they are
- And we have to act with urgency, while being deliberate and strategic with our actions.
- Near term and long term solutions that focus on systemic change in the continuum of housing



Key Components of Strategy

- Permanent supportive housing
- Care coordination to facilitate successful participation in services and ultimate successful housing placement
- Behavioral health, social, and medical services
- Indoor-outdoor shelter site(s) including a Navigation Center



Strategic Proposal: Option A

Permanent supportive housing:

- Congregate housing – shared housing with mutual support from peers
 - 6 multi-bedroom housing units
 - 30 units serving 60 individuals
 - Projected cost of \$5 million
 - **Timeframe:** Completed within 100 days



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Strategic Proposal: Option A Continued

- **Permanent Supportive Housing Master Leases**
 - Allows for a provider to directly rent on behalf of individual
 - Nonprofit partners to submit proposals
 - 6-7 units leased serving 20 individuals
 - Projected annual lease cost of \$750,000
 - **Timeframe:** Completed within 100 days



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Strategic Proposal: Option A Continued

Coordinated Care and Service Delivery

- ACCESS Interdepartmental multi-disciplinary team (IMDT) establishes JRT cohort
 - Intensive case management to coordinate services and housing
- Intensive mental health treatment and wrap around services
- Substance use, detox and residential treatment services (15 beds)
- Medical services, social services
- Screening for housing recommendations and placements
- Ongoing costs of approximately \$4,299,000
- **Timeframe:** Ongoing



Strategic Proposal: Option A Continued

- **Single Site Indoor-Outdoor Shelter** – A modernized, single site shelter to accommodate the needs of individuals unable to enter housing continuum
 - May include a combination of on-site structures, RV hook-ups, and safe parking
 - Extension of existing shelter system
 - Provides access to sanitation, food, with ability to accommodate individuals, families, and pets
 - Accommodate 50-60 individuals
 - Projected Costs: \$1.31 million (Site preparation, structures and ancillary services)
 - **Timeframe:** 60 to 180 days



Strategic Proposal: Option A Continued

- **Single Site Indoor-Outdoor Shelter Continued**

- The criteria for the indoor-outdoor shelter will guide site selection
 - These include: accessibility, site characteristics, transportation, proximity to services, utilities and cost
 - The County will engage the community for needs of the shelter



Strategic Proposal: Option B

- **Modified Option A WITH multiple sites for indoor-outdoor shelter**

- Multiple Site Indoor-Outdoor Shelter
 - Same structure as single site option replicated across multiple sites
 - Selection criteria: accessibility, site characteristics, transportation, proximity to services, utilities and cost
 - The County will engage the community in key components for needs of the shelter
- Each site to accommodate approximately 40 individuals for total of 80
- Total annual cost of approximately \$2.08 million
- **Timeframe:** Completed within 60 to 180 days



Immediate Next Steps:

County agencies will address the following:

- Rat and pest control
- Placement of additional hand washing stations and bathroom facilities
- Needle disposal bins on site
- Trash removal services
- Private security services to protect well-being of occupants



Recommended Action

- A. Provide direction on two proposed options to address the homelessness emergency on the JRT
- B. Adopt concurrent resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma and the Board of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission (CDC)
 1. Delegating authority and making findings for services contracts
 2. Making findings with regard to development Codes
 3. Direct Staff to establish Shelter and Low-Barrier Navigation Centers and Outdoor Shelter Alternatives



Recommended Action Continued

- C. Amend the Allocation List for the Department of Health Services for 7 FTE
- D. Authorize the Department of Health Services (DHS) and CDC Commission to select site(s) consistent with the criteria in Attachment 2
- E. Approve the use of General Fund contingencies up to \$2.1 million to finance housing equipment leased spaces and for indoor-outdoor multi-site and support services
- F. Adopt a resolution delegating authority to the CAO and ACTTC to execute all budget appropriations increases and adjustments up to \$11.68 million



Conclusion

- County will continue efforts to identify housing resources and sheltering site
- Will immediately contract with required providers and work in concert with County Human Resources to hire staff to support the IMDT
- DHS and CDC will return to your board to obtain required authorizations and appropriations to implement the Board direction
- CDC will continue to pursue the acquisition of additional properties over the next couple months with new units to come on line over the next 24-36 months
- DHS and CDC will continue to update your Board and the CAO



Questions and Discussion



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