



Legislation Text

File #: 2019-1634, **Version:** 1

To: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): Sonoma County Community Development Commission, Sonoma County Regional Parks

Staff Name and Phone Number: Geoffrey Ross, x7505

Vote Requirement: Informational Only

Supervisory District(s): 5th

Title:

1:30 P.M. - Joe Rodota Trail

Recommended Action:

Receive an update on the current status of the Joe Rodota Trail.

Executive Summary:

This Board item provides an overview of the homeless encampment that has developed along the Joe Rodota Trail and an update on activities of County and City agencies as well as contracted service providers that are responding to the situation. The Community Development Commission has played a coordinating role in this effort and its outreach teams have actively deployed on the trail since the encampment was established. Regional Parks performed regular trail visits until recently, when staff felt the need to pull back, citing health and safety concerns. Regional Parks has posted advisements that the public use alternatives to the impacted trail segment. The Santa Rosa Police Department continues responding to calls at the encampment and remains committed to coordinating with County departments.

Discussion:

The Joe Rodota Regional Trail is an 8.5-mile paved, off-road pedestrian and bicycling trail that links Sebastopol to downtown Santa Rosa. Owned by County Parks, the trail passes through two cities and portions of unincorporated County property, making it a multi-jurisdictional amenity.

Over the past several weeks, a homeless encampment of approximately 110 people developed along the trail. The encampment is located in the Roseland neighborhood, which was incorporated into the City of Santa Rosa in 2017. Approximately 60% of those living on the trail are men, while 40% are women. About 5-10% are youth, ages 18-24 years old. The overall average age of those who call the JRT home each night is between 35-45 years old.

As of Friday, October 25, 2019, the number of various providers maintaining a presence on the trail increased. To date, trained outreach workers from Catholic Charities Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST), Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) and Reach for Home, as well as staff from the Community Development Commission and the County's Interdepartmental Multidisciplinary Team (IMDT) have all offered services to various populations on the trail. To date, approximately 20 people have come into services, with an additional 4-5 in process.

As the encampment has grown, Catholic Charities HOST workers temporarily pulled back from the trail, but are now working in coordination with other outreach teams. Over the course of the last two weeks, the County Interdepartmental Multidisciplinary Team (IMDT), part of ACCESS Sonoma County efforts, have also ramped up outreach to individuals on the trail.

Additionally, Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) outreach workers have provided targeted assistance to youth ages 18-24 on the trail. Enhanced outreach efforts will continue to provide multiple opportunities for shelter and permanent housing for those currently on the trail.

For the time being, Regional Parks has cautioned trail users to avoid the encampment if possible, despite the trail remaining open along the section of Sebastopol Road where the encampment is located. As will be described at the Board hearing, CDC with its City and CBO partners, will be working over the next several weeks, to offer services and appropriate shelter options.

Prior Board Actions:

N/A

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 19-20 Adopted	FY20-21 Projected	FY 21-22 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

N /A

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

1. Powerpoint Presentation

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:

N/A