



City of Arts & Innovation

Housing and Homelessness Committee Memorandum

**TO: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

DATE: MAY 24, 2021

FROM: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY REGIONAL SANTA ANA RIVER
BOTTOM ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE PLAN**

ISSUE:

Receive and file overview presentation of the Multidisciplinary Regional Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Housing and Homelessness Committee receive and file an overview presentation of the Multidisciplinary Regional Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) has a history of providing outreach, housing, and supportive services to homeless individuals who live and encamp in the Santa Ana River bottom. Many of these individuals are considered chronically homeless, meaning they have spent more than one year in an unsheltered condition and are experiencing more than one chronic debilitating health condition, such as mental health challenges, substance abuse, or other medical conditions. Many of these individuals have also experienced trauma and are therefore reluctant to accept services; this requires a targeted intensive, and comprehensive outreach effort.

The Santa Ana River runs the length of the City of Riverside and several surrounding jurisdictions including the County of Riverside, the City of Corona, the City of Norco, the City of Jurupa Valley, and the City of Eastvale. Given this unique circumstance, the Santa Ana River Bottom encampments offer an opportunity to launch a coordinated response effort which addresses homelessness, restores habitat, addresses public safety concerns, and prevents future encampments.

DISCUSSION:

Several collaborative meetings have occurred over the past few months with the County and Cities referenced in this staff report, including 2nd District convenings held by Supervisor Karen

Spiegel's office. These meetings have begun to lay the foundational principles in identifying collaborative partners for a sustainable long-term response to the Santa Ana River Bottom, the integration of a public safety plan, the housing and homeless response, and habitat conservation efforts.

Key stakeholders and partners have been identified and convened, including Animal Services, Behavioral Health, Department of Public Social Services, Flood Control, Housing and Homeless Workforce Solutions, Public Health, Probation, Regional Park and Open Space District, Sheriff's Department, County Workforce Development and several homeless nonprofit agencies including CityNet and Path of Life. Partners also include the US Army Corp of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Services and Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority.

A proposed scope of work and timeline has been created with the stakeholders to execute the coordination of services. The year-long effort began in April 2021 with initial planning meetings and will conclude with the provision and coordination of housing resources and intensive supportive services, to accomplish major milestones in service provisions as detailed in the presentation attached to this staff report.

Outcome and performance measures will be captured through placements in housing and referrals to services, reduction of environmental impacts and fire incidents, improves trail accessibility, trash and debris removal, and tracks the rates of recidivism of the homeless population.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

Prepared by: Hafsa Kaka, Homeless Solutions Officer
Certified as to
Availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by: Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Santa Ana River Bottom Presentation