



City of Arts & Innovation

Housing and Homelessness Committee Memorandum

**TO: HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2021

FROM: OFFICE OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

WARD: 1, 3, AND 7

SUBJECT: SANTA ANA RIVER BOTTOM ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Housing and Homelessness Committee:

1. Receive an update on the Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan; and
2. Conceptually approve the City's Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response scope of work and timelines.

BACKGROUND:

One of the largest concentrations of homeless encampments in Riverside County can be found along the Santa Ana River Bottom and thus is one of the highest priorities for encampment response and mitigation. The Santa Ana River Bottom encampments offer unique challenges and opportunities to launch a coordinated response effort which addresses homelessness, restores habitat, and prevents future encampments.

The County of Riverside drafted a Santa Ana River Bottom Encampment Response Plan (SAR Plan) with partners and collaborating agencies that included the foundational principles:

1. Partners are committed to resolving and not simply managing homelessness. We recognize that a sustained, long-term effort is required to fully address all issues. At minimum, partners commit to dedicating their respective teams for a one-year period.
2. Everyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness is vulnerable and deserving of being treated with dignity and respect. This effort is not intended as a displacement intervention; rather it seeks to provide meaningful resources to those experiencing homelessness.
3. Access to safe and secure housing is one of the most basic human rights. All persons should have access to housing and services which they can use as a platform to address key factors leading to their homelessness.
4. Every effort must be made to address the health and basic human needs during the

COVID-19 crisis. This includes but is not limited to encouraging social distancing, providing medical response to those displaying symptoms, and providing temporary needs for hygiene.

The SAR Plan identified the following goals:

1. Rehouse existing encampment residents living in the Santa Ana River Bottom Area.
2. Remove and mitigate physical encampments.
3. Conduct clean-up and habitat restoration.
4. Establish effective tools to prevent the reoccurrence of encampments.

The SAR Plan proposed outcomes and performance measures include the following:

- Placements into housing, referrals to services
- Reduction of environmental impacts, fire incidents
- Trail accessibility
- Trash/debris removed
- Recidivism

DISCUSSION:

On October 25, 2021, the County of Riverside will provide an update on the following scope of work and timelines identified in the SAR Plan:

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE
Coordination, Initial Planning and Community Strategy	April 2021 – May 2021
Assessment and Mapping	May 2021 – June 2021
Initial Outreach and Service Assessment	July 2021 – August 2021
Service Provision, Sheltering and Housing Connections, Resource Events, Placement of Low-Acuity Residents and Medical Care	August 2021 – October 2021
Intensive Resident Engagement, Identification of Medium-Long Term Housing	November 2021 – March 2022
Clean-up Efforts	Last quarter of 2021

County staff will also provide an update on the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding that the County had allocated to the SAR Plan.

City staff is recommending the scope of work and timelines to address the areas within the SAR located in the City limits:

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE
Assessment and Mapping	November 2021
Initial Outreach and Service Assessment	December 2021
Service Provision, Sheltering and Housing Connections, Resource Events, Placement of Low-Acuity Residents and Medical Care	January 2022 – February 2022
Intensive Resident Engagement, Identification of Medium-Long Term Housing	March 2022 – May 2022

Clean-up Efforts	April 2022 – May 2022
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The City has the following funds allocated for the SAR:

ACTIVITY	FUNDING ALLOCATION
Outreach (HHAP 1)	\$478,468.78
Rapid Re-Housing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees (HHAP 2)	\$773,447.15
Clean-up efforts (American Rescue Act Plan)	\$1,000,000.00
TOTAL CITY SAR FUNDING	\$2,251,915.93

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority 2 Community Well-Being and Goal No. 2.2**, collaborate with partner agencies to improve household resiliency and reduce the incidence and duration of homelessness.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy and timely and reliable information. The Santa Ana River Bottom project will serve the public’s interest and result in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – Individuals living in the Santa Ana River Bottom will have equal access to the housing programs that are funded through the HHAP grants.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** –The City will ensure that the HHAP grant funds will be used in accordance with the State’s program regulation, including funding evidence-based programs serving people experiencing homelessness among eligible populations.
4. **Innovation** – The HHAP grant provides the City with the ability to support innovative programs that address gaps in our homeless system of care.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Riverside is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Prepared by: Michelle Davis, Housing Authority Manager
 Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager
 Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachment: PPT presentation