

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Homelessness Committee when called upon:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560977607?pwd=aEPMd6vQJKrqwQqafNKbmLoIIcHAFZ.1

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128 US Webinar ID: 865 6097 7607 Password: 812514 Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Homelessness Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can also provide comment by using the "raise hand" feature or hitting *9 on the phone keypad.

As a convenience to the public, CVAG provides a call-in option and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue disrupting the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.

THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE. ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

1.	CALL TO ORDER	– Chair John Peña	. Councilmember.	. Citv of La Quinta
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2. ROLL CALL

A. Member Roster P4

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

This is the first of two opportunities for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE / CVAG STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes of the May 21 2025, meeting of the Homelessness Committee P5
- B. Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the second quarter of 2025

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

7. <u>DISCUSSION / ACTION</u>

A. Countywide policy to address homeless encampments – Greg Rodriguez of Riverside P12
County's Housing and Workforce Solutions

Recommendation: Information B. Countywide trends on housing placements - Greg Rodriguez of Riverside County's **P46** Housing and Workforce Solutions **Recommendation:** Information C. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers - Tom Kirk **P47** Recommendation: Elect a Homelessness Committee Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2025-26 8. **INFORMATION** Α. Attendance Record P48 B. Updates from Ex Officio Members C. New location of CVAG's public meetings **P49** D. CVAG Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2025-26 **P50** E. Update on annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program P51

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Unaudited financial statement through June 30, 2025

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Homelessness Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this Committee may do so at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

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10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F.

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee Member Roster 2025- 2026



VOTING MEMBERS					
City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez				
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale				
City of Coachella	Councilmember Yadira Perez				
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN				
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye				
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Toper Taylor				
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon – Vice Chair				
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña – Chair				
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Joe Pradetto				
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Ron deHarte				
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Michael O'Keefe				
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez				
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez				
Ex-Officio	Non-Voting Members				
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez, Executive	Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition				
Amanda Galindo, Executive [Director, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission				
Vacant, Executive D	virector, Home Aid Inland Empire				
Samuel Hollenbeck, Chief Executive Officer, Martha's Village and Kitchen					
Vacant,	Vacant, The Salvation Army				
Angelina Coe, Executi	ve Director, Shelter from the Storm				

CVAG Staff
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director
Candice Graff, Management Analyst

Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes May 21, 2025



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm

- 1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 10:01 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in Palm Desert.
- 2. ROLL CALL Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez City of Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale Desert Healthcare District Director Carole Rogers, RN City of Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Jan Pye City of Indian Wells Councilmember Toper Taylor* Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Vice Chair** City of Indio City of La Quinta Councilmember John Peña, Chair City of Palm Desert Councilmember Joe Pradetto City of Rancho Mirage Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Mallotto Riverside County – District 4 Deputy Director Greg Rodriguez

Ex-Officios Present

Shelter from the Storm Angelina Coe

Members and Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Coachella
City of Palm Springs
Councilmember Yadira Perez
Mayor Ron deHarte
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
Martha's Village and Kitchen
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Councilmember Yadira Perez
Mayor Ron deHarte
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez
Samuel Hollenbeck
Darla Burkett

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Peña led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Alena Callimanis, resident of La Quinta, joined the Committee via Zoom, and shared her concerns regarding the Point-In-Time (PIT) counts in Indio. She expressed concern that the

^{*}arrived at item 5
**left after at item 7B

reported numbers may not accurately reflect the scope of homelessness in the area and recommended conducting multiple counts throughout the day.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale shared information about a cooling center that has opened in Cathedral City for the summer months, offering residents relief from extreme heat.

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci announced that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presented at the last committee meeting is now under review at the city council levels. She will be attending council meetings to be available to answer any of the council's questions.

Ms. Felci reminded the committee that the General Assembly is approaching and shared key details about the June 30 event.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025, meeting of the Homelessness Committee

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ AYE **COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE** AYE COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ **ABSENT DIRECTOR ROGERS** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER PYE** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER FERMON** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA AYE** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO** MAYOR DEHARTE **ABSENT** MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO AYE **DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ AYE** TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ **ABSENT**

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. <u>DISCUSSION / ACTION</u>

A. Annual Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Individuals

Greg Rodriguez, Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions' Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting findings in this year's Point in Time (PIT) count data.

Robust member discussion ensued with Mr. Rodriguez answering questions from the committee regarding the data results.

Ms. Callismanis, a resident of La Quinta, rejoined the meeting via Zoom and addressed additional concerns related to the Point-in-Time (PIT) count.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Lift to Rise Action Plan Update

lan Gabriel, Lift to Rise Director of Collective Impact, provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the organization's Action Plan, including State and Federal advocacy they have been working on.

Member discussion with Mr. Gabriel answering questions from the Committee regarding Lift's mission, how it supports affordable housing options and funding plans.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

C. Resuming CV Housing First in the City of Desert Hot Springs

Ms. Felci presented the staff report.

IT WAS MOVED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR ROGERS TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REESTABLISH CV HOUSING FIRST SERVICES IN THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS AND INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL CLIENTS FROM THE CITY TO THE CV 225 LIST

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 1 NAY AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ AYE **COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE AYE** COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ **ABSENT AYE DIRECTOR ROGERS COUNCILMEMBER PYE** AYE **COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR** NAY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON **ABSENT** COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA AYE **COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO** AYE MAYOR DEHARTE **ABSENT MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO AYE** DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ AYE TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ **ABSENT**

8. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

Shelter from the Storm Executive Director Angelina Coe announced their Spring Fundraiser 4x4x48 run/walk/ event starting May 31st hosted and sponsored by FitIn42. Sign-up and donations can be made at www.shelterfromthestorm.com

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 2nd, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, 71333 Dinah Shore Dr, Rancho Mirage, 92270. Additional event information to be announced soon.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Peña adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysía Regalado CVAG Management Analyst

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CV Housing First's Quarterly Report for Second Quarter of 2025

Contact: Candice Graff, Management Analyst II (cgraff@cvag.org)

<u>Recommendation</u>: Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the second quarter of 2025

<u>Background</u>: CVAG is in its fifth year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV 200, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals residing in desert cities that have frequent contacts with law enforcement and who are likely to be shelter resistant or who have already fallen out of housing. The list was developed in partnership with CVAG's member jurisdictions and local law enforcement. It is also maintained in partnership with those agencies.

CVAG staff has committed to adjusting CV Housing First programming based on the data and based on available funding. Updates on the program's metrics are provided quarterly. The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units, which are residential units, apartments and hotel rooms that CVAG rents to case manage CV Housing First clients.

CV Housing First Clients - By the Numbers January 1 through June 30, 2025

CV 200 as of 06/30/2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	38	37			74
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0	0			0
	10	10			07
Clients returned to the street (failures)	19	18			37
Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	8	3			11
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0	0			0
Clients moved into permanent housing through Outreach (successes)*	5	4	0	0	9

TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200	13	7	0	0	20
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NON CV 200 Clients	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Households Housed in CSH Units	4	3			7
Households being helped through RR	0	0			0

Households returned to the street (failures)	3	2			5	
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	1	1		2
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes) *	0	0		0
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED	1	1		2
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED	1	1		2

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Clients Housed	72	54	58	50
Clients Still Housed	18	29	44	44
Clients No Longer Housed	17	10	10	4

The data is divided by CV 200 clients – the by-name list of chronically homeless individuals that CVAG maintains in partnership with law enforcement and code enforcement – and non-CV 200 clients. There were three non-CV 200 client served this quarter and 1 non-CV 200 client served was permanently housed. One individual that was assisted this quarter was a 2023 CV 200 that had fallen out of housing. The CV Housing First team was able to place her into a CSH unit and quickly re-house her bringing the number of CV 200 clients from 2023 from 43 to 44 clients that are still housed.

CVAG staff would acknowledge that it is unusual to have a quarterly report where clients housed are only in the single digits. This has happened once before in the program's history, also reporting out seven clients for the quarter. CVAG staff would note that a number of unusual circumstances contributed to the lower-than-normal quarter, and staff has already seen an uptick in the third quarter.

During the second quarter, CVAG had 13 Project Based Voucher (PBV) referrals for CV 200 clients but these referrals are currently pending the opening of the properties. The referrals are for multiple new projects that are opening this year. These projects were originally opening in May and June but all project opening dates were pushed back to the summer months or later. That's left several clients in limbo and awaiting housing. Additional delays were experienced when properties took longer than normal to get units move-in ready.

This year, CVAG has faced challenges with CV 200 clients passing stricter background check policies needed for vouchers or individual properties. In addition to the established case management strategies, CVAG staff is working to identify clients who may face challenges in passing background checks and connecting them with an in-patient or out-patient treatment if they have any possession or substance-related charges on their record.

Some additional notes about the data provided in the chart:

The total number of clients housed or returning to the streets is equal to or less than the total helped each quarter, as the grand total includes clients who may remain in their units at the end of the quarter. CVAG continues to refine its data metrics in order to be transparent about how many and how quickly individuals are housed. Numbers have been provided for the number of clients that were housed by year and how many clients remain in housing. Some clients are unaccounted for since we are unable to communicate with them to determine if they still remain in housing or not and others have passed away. CVAG also tracks clients who are being permanently housed by the CV Housing First program via outreach efforts, and not case management based in the crisis stabilization units.

CVAG staff also tracks how long individuals are staying in the program before being housed or returning to the street. The goal is to exit clients within 90 days to permanent housing solutions. Over the past three years, it is not uncommon for the length of stay to exceed 100 days. For the second quarter, the CV 200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit on average for 28 days. Those CV 200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed on average 50 days.

<u>Fiscal Analysis</u>: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV 200 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities and Riverside County grants.

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Countywide policy to address homeless encampments

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In September 2024, CVAG's Public Safety and Homelessness Committees held a joint meeting to discuss the regional ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in the case of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, which effectively set a new standard on how local municipalities can address homeless encampments on public property. The case stemmed from the enforcement of anticamping laws in Grants Pass, Oregon, which had led to fines and penalties for homeless individuals camping on public property. The Court's ruling prompted Gov. Gavin Newsom to issue an executive order that immediately changed how California's state agencies addressed encampments and it prompted at least two Coachella Valley to update their own ordinances.

The ruling was a 6-3 decision. In reversing the Ninth Court ruling, the Supreme Court held that anticamping ordinances did not violate the Eighth Amendment when they were applied in a manner that targeted the conduct of camping in public spaces and not the status of being homeless. The Court also acknowledged there was interest in maintaining public health, safety, and welfare, which in this case included preventing hazards at public spaces in order to have them accessible for the general public.

The Homelessness and Public Safety Committees had a lengthy discussion about the ruling and potential impacts during a joint meeting that was held in September 2024. At the time, CVAG staff sought direction on whether to create a model ordinance for the Coachella Valley that addresses homeless encampments on public property. It has been noted that having a cohesive approach across the region could be beneficial to cities, agencies or service providers seeking future grant opportunities. Committee members were divided on the concept of a model ordinance, with some members noting that their cities are satisfied with the ordinances that already exist. Instead, staff was directed to return with any model ordinance under development by Riverside County and consider how to promote a collaborative approach through a memorandum of understanding or a "good neighbor" policy, which was endorsed by CVAG's Executive Committee in December 2024.

CVAG staff also committed to tracking any updates on this issue as County staff had indicated they were working on a potential update to their encampment ordinance. Over the summer, Riverside County's Continuum of Care and the Board of Governance reviewed the county's policies and procedures for encampment responses. The document (attached) outlines collaboration between County departments as well as with agencies. The County's policy calls for 72-hour notice so homeless individuals have a chance to relocate before the encampment is removed – which is more time than the 48 hours that the State has recommended for a model approach. The County's COC formally adopted the policies and procedures at its July 23, 2025 meeting, and noted that it could serve as a model or

best practice that local jurisdictions could use. COC members also noted that it could be used to guide how future encampment funding is distributed in the County.

Greg Rodriguez, the Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement at Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions, will be attending the September meeting of the Homelessness Committee in order to discuss the County efforts and how the policy compares to the State model. CVAG staff also provided this as an informational update to the Public Safety Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update.

<u>Attachment</u>: Riverside County's Encampment Response Policies and Procedures



County of Riverside Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions- CoC Division Homeless Encampment Response Policies & Procedures

Riverside County Homeless Encampment Response Policies and Procedures

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I. Purpose

A. This document is intended to create a set of clear guidelines for County departments and partners responding to homeless encampments. These guidelines will establish authority, best standards of practice, and governance related to all types of responses to encampments, from day-to-day practices to emergency and disaster response.

II. The Need

- A. Homeless encampments present health and safety risks for people experiencing homelessness and diminished quality of life for communities in general. In Riverside County, encampments in riverbeds and other open spaces negatively affect water quality and protected habitats and create risk of fire and other public safety and public health concerns. As many as twenty different county departments are affected by the presence of encampments, and for most departments, the impact creates costs that cannot be reimbursed by non-County sources of funding. Encampment clean-up costs are an example.
- B. Prior to the development of these guidelines, County departments typically responded to encampments in an ad hoc manner. As a result, the response did not effectively leverage our diverse resources to assist people experiencing homelessness not just out of a given area, but in moving into permanent housing. The Board of Supervisors are frequently on the front lines of this issue, as constituents regularly call with concerns and complaints.
- C. We recognize the importance of a designated county lead to avoid silos and duplication of efforts. County departments have identified the lack of a central point of contact, siloed information and communications, and no overarching plan as key problems.

III. Vision, Values, and Assumptions

To address the identified needs, Riverside County has developed the vision, values and assumptions stated below.

- A. **Vision:** To provide a coordinated encampment response leading to the most beneficial outcome for our homeless community and the community at large.
- B. The values underpinning our vision are:

Respect

Inclusion

Compassion

Collaboration

Transparency

Effective Outcomes

C. Assumptions

- 1. All episodes of homelessness are urgent. Limited resources force us to prioritize our response. This in no way minimizes the concern for people experiencing homelessness living in places that fall into a lower response priority.
- 2. As we test methods, and seek additional resources, these guidelines and protocols will evolve over time.
- 3. People move to living in an encampment because it is the best option they could find, given their circumstances. A meaningful response to encampments requires understanding the unique barriers that limit the ability of people living there to move out of homelessness.
- 4. Notwithstanding the rights of people living in encampments, residents and businesses in the neighboring areas also have a right to the use and enjoy their property and public spaces. This response seeks to balance the needs of the community and people experiencing homelessness.
- 5. Many County departments, in their daily work, will encounter people experiencing homelessness and have their own department-specific procedures to follow. This includes the responsibility of enforcement agencies to properly fulfill their duty to enforce the law.
- 6. Where practical and appropriate, these policies and procedures complement, and do not replace existing procedures, unless the department has opted to make those changes.
- 7. The response to homeless encampments requires collaboration, clear communication, and accountability among stakeholders.
- 8. The County has a fundamental interest in providing encampment dwellers a viable path out of homelessness to sustainability in permanent housing.
- 9. Securing permanent housing and other social services for residents living in encampments may be constrained by these factors:
 - a) The presence of imminent threat to the health or safety of the public due to high fire potential or other similar threat that requires moving out of the site on short notice.
 - b) The rights and requirements of owners of property where people experiencing homelessness have encamped.
 - c) Limited local resources for housing and services.
 - d) Limited staff capacity to regularly engage and facilitate outreach to residents.
- 10. These constraints are not insurmountable barriers.
- 11. Our process for addressing encampments should not jeopardize the safety, rights, or dignity of the people living in such encampments.
- 12. In responding to encampments and the needs of people living in them, we also seek to reduce the impact of homelessness on neighbors, private property owners, and public spaces.
- 13. County departments and response teams will need to apply their best judgement in situations not anticipated by these policies and procedures, and adjust policies and procedures as needed.

IV. Definitions

- A. Assessments refer to reports collected by homeless encampment response personnel:
 - a) **Observational Report**: Contains a description of the encampment location and resident. May be provided in form of phone call, email, or in person.
 - b) **Site Assessment**: Following receipt of an observational report, a site visit is conducted to determine what departments and/or personnel need to be involved in planning and executing a response. Information is recorded in the Homeless Encampment Response Database.
 - c) **Assessment**: Occurs during or after an inspection. Survey of people living at the site to determine strategy for moving to permanent housing. Information collected in HMIS.
- B. **Attended Property** refers to personal property which is accompanied by a person who asserts or claims ownership over the personal property.
- C. **Deployment Plan** occurs after Detailed Assessment. Developed by encampment response personnel in consultation with people conducting inspection and detailed assessment.
- D. **Encampment** refers to three or more persons living in an outdoor location without permission from the owner.
- E. **HMIS** refers to Homeless Management Information System.
- F. **Personal property** refers to any and all tangible property, including, but not limited to, goods, materials, merchandise, tents, tarpaulins, bedding, sleeping bags, hammocks, and personal items such as luggage, backpacks, clothing, documents, medication, and household items.
- G. **Private Property** refers to any real or personal property owned by an individual, organization, or business that is not a governmental entity.
- H. **Public Property** refers to any real or personal property owned or controlled by local, State or Federal government or agency thereof.
- I. **Response** refers to a coordinated action plan developed by encampment response personnel and executed by an assembled team to reach the most beneficial outcome for the homeless encampment inhabitants and communities. Team members will vary depending on location of encampment, and conditions to be addressed.
- J. **Squatter** refers to one or more persons living in a building without permission from the owner.
- K. **Trash/debris** refers to unclaimed property left at the site; and/or waste left by inhabitants and/or illegally dumped at the site.
- L. **Trigger** refers to the event that initiates an encampment response. See Table 1, page 11.
- M. Trigger Priorities/Threat Levels (see Table 1, page 11)
 - 1. High/Disaster Evacuate as soon as possible.
 - 2. Medium/Emergency Evacuation or other mitigation within 72 hours

- 3. Low/General Time for intensive assessment and planning for housing placement
- **N. Unattended Property** refers to personal property which is not accompanied by a person who asserts or claims ownership over the personal property.

V. Legal Considerations in Encampment Response

- A. Civil Rights of Homeless People
 - 1. Notice prior to Enforcement Action
 - a) Fourth Amendment considerations regarding seizure of personal property, even if the personal property is left on sidewalks in violation of a municipal ordinance.
 - b) Fourteenth Amendment due process considerations regarding personal property, attended and unattended, at the encampment.
 - 2. Property ownership, personal property, and due process rights
 - a) Public land constitutional requirements are implicated, and the County must adhere to due process requirements for the removal of personal property; in most circumstances the County cannot criminally cite people for camping on public land.
 - (1) Criminal enforcement of anti-camping ordinances may be a violation of the Eighth Amendment under Martin v. Boise.
 - (2) Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on camping are arguably still allowed.
 - (3) Non-criminal enforcement to clean up encampments is allowed as long as procedural protections are implemented.
 - b) Private land Civil court action or trespass orders. Private property owners are subject to administrative or civil penalties or injunctions for failure to comply or maintain their properties in accordance with County ordinances. Owners must follow civil process prior to clean-up when the encampment is on private property.
 - c) BNSF/other transit agency the agency's internal protocols are followed to protect the safety of people encamped near railways.
 - 3. Other legal considerations
 - a) Enforcement of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance for pubic area and private property may not require prior notice; but other procedural due process still applies for any removal of personal property.

B. Documentation of Effort

- 1. Encampment on Public Property (Penal Code 602) (Riverside County Ordinance 328)
 - a) Noticing efforts prior to clean up should be documented in writing and with photographs and affidavits. Photos of notices should be saved electronically.
 - b) During clean-up, photographs should be taken of encampment before unattended personal property is removed. Photos and/or video should be part of the case file.

- c) Detailed inventory of unattended personal property should be kept. (See Attachment A: Personal Property Inventory Sheet)
- d) Personal property should be securely stored for 90 days so that individuals can retrieve their personal property.

2. Encampment on Private Property

- a) Make efforts to secure a trespass order from the private property owner. If trespass order is obtained, follow same noticing and documentation efforts as with a public property clean-up.
- b) If a trespass order cannot be obtained, pursue civil court action for abatement.

C. When are legal authorities required?

- 1. Emergency (unexpected) response versus routine enforcement
 - a) Generally, emergency response does not require prior notice of 72 hours.
 - b) Routine enforcement generally requires prior notice (see Section 8.)
- 2. Who issues the opinion/recommendation?
 - a) The entity legally responsible for the property where the encampment is located will determine the need for its removal. In cases where a private owner does not act to remove an encampment, or has a no trespass order, an authorized enforcement agency (Code Enforcement and Sheriff) may initiate the order to leave.
 - b) For situations that are a public health concern, the County Health Officer will issue the order to clear a site.

VI. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ENCAMPMENT POLICIES

- A. Standard Notifications: no imminent risk to health or safety of encampment residents.
 - 1. Notice prior to Enforcement Action
 - a) For any Riverside County department response to a homeless encampment, policy is to provide people living in the encampment at least 72 hours prior notice of impending encampment clearance.
 - b) If the encampment response is led by a city or private property partner, the terms of County participation include requiring at least 72 hours prior notice.
 - c) The 72-hour requirement will not be in force when there is imminent risk to health or safety, as determined by the County Health Officer, County Flood Control District, Emergency Management Department, or Riverside County Sheriff
 - d) 72-hour notification to leave an encampment will be accompanied at a minimum by an offer of temporary housing and services, as they are available.

2. Documentation of Effort

- a) Encampment on Public Property Unincorporated Areas
 - (1) Prior noticing efforts and offers of temporary housing and services should be documented in writing and with photographs and affidavits.
 - (2) During clean-up, photographs should be taken of encampment before unattended personal property is removed.

- (3) Disposition of property should be noted (what is disposed of, and where stored items will be held).
- b) Encampment on Private Property Unincorporated Areas
 - (1) Make efforts to secure a trespass order from the private property owner. If trespass order is obtained, follow same noticing and documentation efforts as with a public property clean-up.
 - (2) If a trespass order cannot be obtained, pursue civil court action for abatement.
- c) Personal Property
 - (1) Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered (see attachment A). Items that are contaminated, hazardous or combustible, and weapons will be turned over to local authorities such as law enforcement and environmental control. Other items that are soiled, perishables, paper, and open household products will be trashed.
 - (2) Retained unattended personal property should be securely stored for at least 90 days.
 - (3) Owners of the retained personal property should be given information on the location of their collected items and when they can access it.

3. Confidentiality

- a) Notwithstanding the public nature of homeless encampments, County personnel, to the greatest extent possible should respect the privacy of the people being asked to move. Photography to be used in media releases should have a signed or recorded consent from the people included in images or video.
- b) Protected personal information should be recorded using designated applications, such as the Homeless Management Information System.

VII. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ENCAMPMENT PROCEDURES

VIII. Participating Agencies – See Appendix A

IX. Staffing and Oversight

A. **Staffing and Roles** (see Organizational chart with Encampment Response Team Roles on page 9)

Following the Emergency Management Department Incident Command Model, the Encampment Response Protocols refer to roles that need to be filled during a response. In this section, we list the roles first, in bold, and indicate likely staff positions to fill the roles.

- 1. **Encampment Response Team:** Refers to the people convened by the Encampment Response Coordinator for a specific encampment response. Denoted by the response name. For example, "Hole Lake 2019 Encampment Response Team".
- 2. **Encampment Response Coordinator:** This position receives countywide incoming calls for service, assigns responses, leads activation debriefs and prepares reports.
- 3. **Response Lead**: Regional position that coordinates the response for a specific event. In the near term, this may be filled by the Encampment Response Coordinator. As we become more practiced and there are simultaneous deployments in different parts of the county, additional staff will need to be designated at Response Leads. For example, if a response is on lands managed by Parks, the Response Lead could be a ranger within the Riverside County Regional Parks & Open Space District. Confirms property ownership and whether public or privately held. Ensures all required tasks are completed, troubleshoots issues, communicates progress and issues with Encampment Response Coordinator.
- 4. **Site Assessor:** Conducts initial site observation; recommends further action. Potentially done by staff from Code Enforcement, Sheriff, Flood Control, Parks District, Behavioral Health or partner outreach teams.
- 5. **Safety Manager**: Ensures presence of public safety officers as indicated by the assessment. While the safety manager need not be a public safety officer, staff asked to secure a location would likely come from Sheriff, or Rangers from Parks District.
- 6. **Interim Housing Coordinator**: Secures shelter or other short-term housing options. Behavioral Health, Housing Authority, nonprofit or city partners. This will vary by region.
- 7. **Special Needs Coordinator**: With encampment residents, develops and implements shortand long-term plans for services and housing. Filled by any dedicated social work or case management position from Behavioral Health, DPSS, Housing Authority, Probation, or

nonprofit partner. Engages additional support as needed from the following departments and agencies:

- a) Department of Animal Services
- b) DPSS Adult Services Division, Adult Protective Services
- c) DPSS Children's Services Division
- d) DPSS Self-Sufficiency Division
- e) Law Offices of the Public Defender
- f) Office on Aging
- g) Probation Department
- h) Relevant City and nonprofit partners including storage (for sites in unincorporated areas, or terms established in City MOU)
- i) RUHS Behavioral Health (mental health, addiction recovery)
- j) RUHS Public Health
- k) Veterans' Services
- 8. **Long Term Housing Coordinator**: Secures permanent housing options; works with Special Needs Coordinator to determine appropriate fit.
- 9. **Technology support**: Addresses any problems with information technology/applications, Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT)

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- B. **Quality Improvement:** An Encampment Advisory Committee, as well as ad hoc committees comprised of diverse county departments provide feedback and guidance to the Encampment Coordinator.
- C. **Reporting:** It is important to report out to partners and to the county encampment response efforts. A proposed reporting schedule could look like the following:
 - 1. Quarterly public reports summarizing operations and outcomes.
 - 2. Monthly district-specific reports regarding operations and plans.
 - 3. Annual Reports for year-end June 30th, by September 1st, starting September 1, 2022.

Table 1 Triggers for Encampment Response

	Type of Trigger	Location	By Whom	Potential Responding County Department	Other Possible Responders
	Observation	Public or Private	Resident Complaint	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT	Jurisdiction's outreach or enforcement
Standard	Property Maintenance	Private	Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT; Waste Resources	CAL FIRE
	Property Maintenance	Public	Flood Control; Parks District	<same +="" behavioral<br="">Health</same>	CalTrans, USFS
Crisis	Imminent Risk	Public or Private	Flood Control, Fire, EMD, Parks District	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT	State or Federal enforcement agencies, BNSF, Union Pacific
Urgent	Public Health	Public or Private	County Public Health Officer	Public Health, Behavioral Health, RSO HOT	
n	Public Safety	Public or Private	RSO/Law enforcement	RSO HOT; Behavioral Health; Probation	City law enforcement

X. Prioritizing Encampment Response

The Encampment Response Coordinator prioritizes County-led responses following the trigger priorities/threat level standards. County responses may be deferred to support a City that has a more urgent situation, providing the City has an executed MOU with the County.

- o Authorities: Who Triggers the Response?
 - Authority for triggering an encampment response depends on who has legal title to the
 property where the encampment is located, or who is empowered by local, state, or federal
 law to respond. Each of the responses below indicates potential sources of legal authority to
 act:
 - County land use ordinances and California Penal Code: Code Enforcement
 - California Penal Code and County Ordinances: Sheriff Department, Parks District Rangers
 - California Health and Safety Code: County Health Officer
 - See **Appendix B** for table of legal authorities.
 - o Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Response for Imminent Risk
 - Definition: Imminent risk refers to near-term risk of death. These are situations that emerge quickly, or may develop over a period of days, but typically in less than 72 hours. Examples include:
 - Wildfire
 - Weather forecast predicting large volume of rain, dangerous winds, or extreme heat or cold
 - Proximity to trains or traffic
 - o Public Health Response
 - Definition: Public Health threats are those related to the spread of contagion, communicable diseases. Examples:
 - Hepatitis A
 - Tuberculosis
 - Typhus
 - o Responding to Public Safety and Community Impact concerns
 - Definition: Public safety and community impact concerns are situations that, while requiring a response, would fall behind imminent danger and public health threat responses. Examples:
 - Encampment on private or public property adjacent to residential areas or businesses leading to complaints of theft and vandalism, or repeated calls to law enforcement.
 - Trigger & Authority
 - Community complaint to Board of Supervisors: Board staff notifies Encampment Response Coordinator who will ascertain authority to respond.
 - Authority will depend on whether the encampment is on public or private property.
 - Response Goal
 - Long-term strategy for housing placement and necessary services for encampment residents and clearance of the site.
 - Note: Nuisance abatement (administrative or civil enforcement against property owner).
 May result in appointment of receiver, length of process is dictated by court dates and timeframes.

b) Process Overview

CRISIS RESPONSE – IMMINENT DANGER

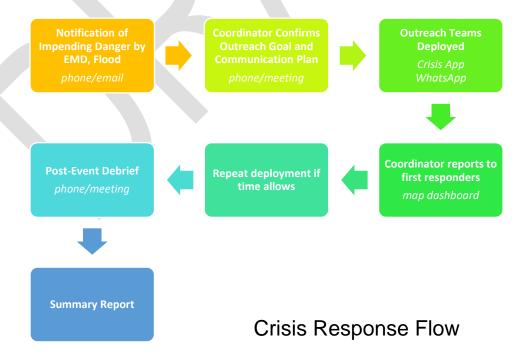
- Response Goal: Move people out of danger
- Trigger & Authority
 - Trespass order (602 letter): initiated by private property owner (railroads).
 - City request: initiated by city, government by Encampment Response Memorandum of Understanding
 - Fire: CAL FIRE or EMD
 - Weather-related: Flood Control will use National Weather Service Data
 - Trains or traffic: Railway law enforcement, California Highway Patrol, CalTrans

Response Goals

- At a minimum, relocation to safer area.
- Ideally, notifications to encampment dwellers with as much lead time as possible.
 Repeat notifications if time allows. Notification should be in writing and if people are present, given verbally.
- Offers of services and transportation to shelter if time and resources allow.

Process

- Responses are organized via a coordination call with managing authorities (EMD, Railroads)
- Crisis Response App will be used to track notifications and location of people refusing to leave area. Encampment Response Coordinator will communicate information with first responders.



• If part of a broader evacuation plan convened by EMD, Encampment Response Coordinator will provide updates on the homeless encampment response element of the evacuation plan.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

 Response Goal: Address public health concerns in encampments. During a public health crisis such as COVID-19 homeless encampment response activities are led through the Emergency Operations Center. Encampment response is guided by state and local guidance such as for the one for COVID-19:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html}$

Additional recommendations during a health crisis such as COVID-19 include:

- c) If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are.
 - Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.
- d) Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.
 - o If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at higher risk for severe illness to individual rooms or safe shelter.
- e) Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.
- f) Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.
- g) If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

Trigger & Authority

- The Health Officer of the County of Riverside is authorized under state law to make a determination that there is a threat of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Per State law, the Health Officer may request the support of law enforcement to ensure the implementation of prevention measures.
- During COVID-19, CDC recommendations for encampment response are used to create local guidance. Per the CDC recommendations individuals in encampments are advised to stay in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Response Goals

- Notifications to people living in the encampment
- Dissemination of treatment

• If resources permit, clear the site and facilitate relocation to services and housing.

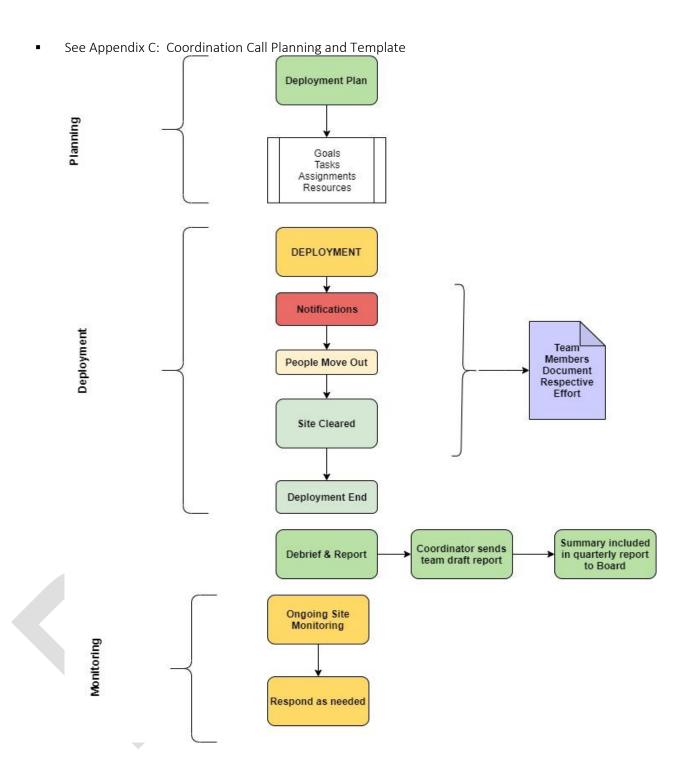
Process

- The Emergency Operations Center Coordinator organizes coordination call with managing authorities (Public Health, Sheriff)
- The Site Assessment and Individual Assessment Apps will be used to track notifications and services provided.
- Public Health Crisis-Pandemic
 - The Emergency Operations Center Coordinator organizes coordination call with managing authorities (Public Health, Sheriff)



STANDARD PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Response goal: Move as many people as possible to short- or long-term housing and services before clearing site.
- Either in the course of their work or because a resident notifies them, a county employee will learn of an encampment. The existence of the encampment should then be reported.
 - Caveat: The employee should enter information in the Encampment Response Database. They should follow up with call or email to confirm it has been received.
- If the person reporting the encampment does not have access to the Encampment Response Database or request that a member of the Encampment Response team form to address that response to do the assessment.
- Following the site assessment, the ERC and Site Assessor will discuss next steps. This will include:
 - Confirmation of property ownership (public vs. private, and who)
 - Presence of people and animals
 - Visible hazards
 - Roster of agencies to be invited to kick-off coordination call or meeting
- Kick-off call or meeting
 - Attendees/Roll Call
 - Situational Awareness presented by Site Assessor
 - Additional information from team members
 - Draft deployment plan
 - Next steps (see Appendix C)
- Follow up
 - Additional Coordination Calls as needed
 - Debriefing [see template]
 - Outcomes report, media release
 - Monitoring plan



ASSESSMENT PROCESS & TOOLS

- Assessments are recorded in the following databases
 - Encampment Response Database
 - Individual Assessments- HMIS database (Geolocation feature)
 - ArcGIS Field Maps
- The databases are used and intended to gather just enough information to plan for the deployment of resources. Protected personal information will be entered into HMIS or other HIPAA compliant databases as needs dictate.
- Database use and oversight is informed by HWS staff member.

h) Resources

- o Disaster resources [mass shelter, transportation]
- Health: Public health, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, dental care
- o Human services: Veterans, youth-specific, legal assistance, probation,
- o Other services: Animal services, waste management
- Housing
- Code Enforcement
- Law Enforcement
- For any long-term response to work, the deployment plan must provide for the availability of, or connection to:
 - Short-term housing (crisis shelter, bridge housing, motel vouchers)
 - Permanent housing (affordable to referred people; permanent supportive housing for high-need persons with disabilities)
 - o Diversion: transportation to home community, vehicle repairs, bicycle repairs, furniture, appliances, moving expenses, etc.
 - Storage
- Until further notice, the Encampment Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring each deployment has a personal property plan that, at a minimum, communicates to the person whose items have been collected how, where the property will be held, how long the property will be held, and the process for retrieving the property (hours, any needed identification).
- The Encampment Response Coordinator will report on the use of storage in unincorporated areas and when possible, make a recommendation for standardized procedures.

i) Stakeholder Responsibilities

Notwithstanding the defined roles for encampment response,
 participating county agencies will have the following scope of
 engagement, dictated by the presenting conditions of each encampment:

Animal Services

- Accompany outreach teams to offer veterinary services and assist with transporting people with animals during an encampment response. If part of a larger evacuation effort, inform animal owners in threatened areas about resources and having a plan for themselves and their animals, what to expect if they or their animals are evacuated, locations where services will be offered, and transportation resources available, etc.
- Activate response plans to accept large and small animals at identified sites during evacuations
- Coordinate public messaging with appropriate stakeholders
- Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD)
 - Identify, assess, and prepare, to the fullest extent practical, all District channels, storm drains, debris basins and other tributary facilities prior to weather events
 - Perform site visits to District flood channels, culverts, etc. During visits, if they
 encounter homeless population, they should be prepared to provide connection options
 to known available resources and notify the Encampment Coordinator.
 - Collaborate with National Weather Service (NWS) and EMD to regularly monitor weather patterns
 - Liaison to water quality and other environmental agencies and nonprofit stakeholders
 - Notify appropriate Encampment Coordinator when negative imminent weather may impact known encampment locations such as river bottoms and/or low-lying areas
 - Notify Encampment Coordinator of impending maintenance impeded by the presence of homeless encampments.
- CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department
 - Perform life safety and incident command operations in the field
 - Provide public education to residents, e.g. TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN
 - Coordinate with appropriate stakeholder agencies on public information messaging
 - Prevention of unwanted fires
 - Suppression or extinguishment of dangerous or hazardous fires
 - Maintenance of fire protection and elimination of fire hazards on land
 - Investigates the origin, cause, and circumstances of fire
 - Enforce State and local statutes, California Fire Code codes, and other public offenses
- Emergency Management Department (EMD)
 - Serve as primary coordination point at Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - Manage and deploy volunteer resources when unmet needs are identified during an emergency event;

- Notify appropriate Encampment Coordinator when negative imminent weather may impact known encampment locations such as river bottoms and/or low-lying areas
- As appropriate, facilitate the acquisition of resources to support emergency response
- Environmental Health
 - Coordinate with Encampment Response efforts when/if issues related to environmental safety or contamination are identified
- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
 - Administers public benefits and safety net programs targeting low-income children, youth, families, individuals, and seniors, including CalWorks, Calfresh, and temporary shelter
- RUHS Behavioral Health
 - Coordinate street outreach efforts to people with mental illness, including those involved with the criminal justice system
 - Administers the Coordinated Entry System
 - Participates in workflow analysis
- Sheriff's Department
 - Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) operations to identify and respond to homeless encampments
 - Participates in workflow analysis
 - Identify and respond to issues related to arrest, detention and release from County jails
- County Counsel
 - Provide legal guidance for encampment response efforts
- District Attorney
 - Identify and respond to issues related to arrest, detention and release from County jails
- Parks and Open Space
 - Patrols County parks and open spaces
 - Issues notices to move
 - Liaison to environmental partners
 - Participate in workflow analysis
- HWS/Housing Authority
 - Operates outreach teams for housing authority residents, but that can respond to deployments in limited circumstances
 - Administers housing subsidy programs
- Veterans Services
 - Connects veterans to state and federal benefits and resources
- Transportation & Land Management Agency

- Code Enforcement department responds to land use violations and resident complaints. Code can confirm whether 602 (trespass order) letter is on file. Code enforcement officers' role is to ensure property compliance; they are not peace officers
- Under certain circumstances, code enforcement personnel conduct property cleanup, but only after people inhabiting an area have left.

RUHS - Public Health

- Under certain conditions such as communicable disease or environmental contamination, the Public Health Officer can declare a health emergency that will set in motion an encampment response (Health and Safety Code §101040, §101080), subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors.
- Sends nurses to evaluate and provide linkages to care.
- Sends Communicable Disease Specialists for HIV screening/testing and linkage to care

Probation

- Supports ex-offenders, including those who are homeless, with services to prevent recidivism
- Operates street outreach team to offer services to homeless probationers.
- Law Offices of the Public Defender
 - Legal representation for indigent defendants.

j) Communications

- o Internal messaging for response coordination and management
- Tools: The team will use Coordination Calls (phone, email, and video if available), for text
 messaging; site assessment tools will be used to communicate information collected during
 site assessments; dashboards on browser-based application to view mapped data
- Audience: Identified response team members, with copies to supervisors as requested
- Content: Situational analysis, identification of needed resources or additional people to add to the team, plans for next steps. The Coordinator will work with the team to get agreement

- on external messaging to people outside the team. This could include Board offices, parties initiating the original request to respond, and/or media
- Summaries to elected officials: Email or phone call
- o Messaging for partners (non-County entities that are part of a response team, not part of the response team, but affected by the work)
 - Tools: email, conference calls
 - o Messaging for homeless people will be part of the deployment plan
 - Tools: Face to face; business cards (No flyers; info must be on cardstock, water-resistant ink; small enough to fit in a pocket; fonts large enough to read)
 - Audience: may need and not have prescription glasses to read, may have cognitive issues making it difficult to remember, may be distrustful
 - Content: Specific information with dates, times, consequences; where to obtain further information or retrieve stored personal belongings.
 - Messaging for the public:
 - Tools: Social media, print and electronic media
 - Audience: Concerned neighbors, general public
 - Content: The report for each action will include a summary to be used in press releases.
 Photos of people served only with their consent.

k) Data and Technology Needs

- Data and technology needs are assessed and addressed on an ongoing basis.
- Data collection tools
- The data collection tool will be the utilization of HMIS. They are intended for only County departments and encampment response stakeholders. They are not intended for general public use at this time.
- The tool include a crisis assessment for evacuations, site assessment, and a detailed assessment of people at site.
- HMIS for people accepting services
 - Project management
- Encampment Response Database to track assignments
- SharePoint/Google Docs to store and share plans, track progress, and reports
 - Reporting standards
- For each deployment:
 - Number of people identified at site
 - Number of people offered assistance; number accepting assistance; outcomes

- Agencies serving on Encampment Response Team, number of personnel supporting response
- Duration of response
- Issues encountered, resolved, and continuing
- Reflection on what worked and what needs improvement
- Summary report:
 - Number of deployments
 - Total number of people assisted
 - Total number of people declining services
 - Total number of agencies and personnel participating
 - Names of participating agencies
 - Map of assessed sites and responses
 - Recommendations
 - o Data retention policy to be developed
 - o Users
- User group will be convened by the Encampment Coordinator in collaboration with HMIS staff.
- HMIS will manage permissions, in accordance with set policy.

I) Managing Site Assessments and Creating the Plan

- The Coordinator serves as the single point of contact for the response. This section will refer to the Coordinator's responsibilities, but they may delegate the day-to-day management of the response to a Response Lead. While these procedures indicate a sequential response, the circumstances may require or permit simultaneous work. For example, if property ownership is not immediately clear, someone on the team will need to do further research to confirm ownership. In the time, outreach may be able to go out with a soft notice that enforcement is likely coming.
- o In coordinating the Response Plan, the Coordinator must be aware of what, if any, other agencies would have a primary concern for addressing the encampment in the area. For example, Flood Control must follow specific procedures to comply with regulations and to minimize disruption or harm to the natural habitat. If there is a concern about criminal activity at the site, the Sheriff's Department may be the appropriate Response Lead.

- o Disaster Prevention Response: used for short term actions such as evacuations, this is intended to clear people from an area with short notice. ARC GIS/ Field Maps is intended to be very quick survey to record the number of people at a site, how many intend to leave and how many intend to stay. Data from the app is used to notify first responders of any potential needs during a disaster event. It does not require collection of names.
- o Site Assessment: short survey to record general information about a site. This includes number of people, presence of children, dogs, safety hazards, and biohazards. The site assessment information will be mapped, giving a record over time of sites visited and assessed. The site assessment has 3 status settings: Observed, Active, and Closed.
- A. Detailed Assessment: Survey of the people at the site. May be used during site assessment visit, or during a follow-up visit. These records are tied to each person at the site, and their movement can be tracked over time. This assessment does not collect personally identifiable information. Should the person accept services, additional protected information will be collected in HMIS. This does not preclude other departments (such as Probation) from also recording information in their own database.

B. Coordination calls:

- 1. After debriefing the site inspector, the lead and inspector will identify team members. The lead will organize coordination calls with selected team members. Based on the EMD model, the calls will follow this format:
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Legal status of property: ownership, issues related to owners (602 order on file, permits from collaborating jurisdiction, etc.)
 - c) Situational awareness: report from site inspector
 - d) Recommendations from Site Inspector and lead
 - e) Questions from team members
 - f) Plan for next site visit: who will go, when, what the objective will be
 - g) List of additional information that is needed, assignment of person(s) to conduct that research or obtain resources
 - *h)* Schedule for next call

C. Documentation

- 1. The Lead will document the planning process. Tools to support documentation include:
 - a) Surveys collected via assessment apps
 - b) Coordination call meeting notes
 - c) Timelines created using project management tools

- d) A SharePoint site for encampment response has been set up at this time. Responses using non-County personnel may be set up in Asana or another web-based project management platform. If the sites are not HIPAA compliant, staff should ensure that no protected content is posted to the site.
- e) Regardless of the type of application used, the Encampment Coordinator will ensure that all parties to the plan will be provided a copy of it, indicating tasks, responsible parties, and time frame for completing the task.

XI. At the Site

A. Personnel

- 1. Designated Lead: this is the go-to person at the site. If not fulfilled by the Encampment Coordinator for County-led responses, he will name a lead. This person responds to questions about the enforcement and outreach effort. For responses led by other entities, Encampment Coordinator will obtain the contact information for the designated lead.
- 2. Outreach & Assessment: people in this capacity will interview people that are there and complete the Detailed Assessment in HMIS. They will provide information about available services. If planned for, they may provide transport to service.
- 3. Enforcement/Safety: Depending on size and prior assessment of the site, public safety officers may be on site to provide back-up security. However, as with the HOT deputies, they would also be available to conduct assessments and encourage the encampment dwellers to accept services.

B. Personal Protective Equipment and Preparation

- 1. Visitors to the site must wear protective footwear (ideally boots) with thick rubber soles, and should wear long pants
- 2. Additional items if engaging in clean-up work: leather work gloves; eye protection, needle disposal container, and orange work shirts if heavy equipment will be used in the area.
- 3. Fully charged phone or mobile device
- 4. Sufficient water

C. Hazards

- 1. Staff should guard against putting themselves in danger or exposing themselves to biological threats. Forms of danger include hostile, erratic, or threatening behavior by people in the area, biohazards from needles, untreated human waste, sharp objects among the debris, and uncontrolled animals. At any time, a team member believes there is too much risk to proceed, they should retreat, and report back to the Lead.
- 2. Encampment responders also need to take note of potential environmental damage. If the team does not include representatives with that expertise, immediately notify the coordinator so that the connection can be made. Note that if the encampment is in the Flood Control District, or a protected habitat, there are regulations that govern how trash and hazards are to be removed.

D. Removal of Property

- 1. The team should ensure that identified personal property (see definitions) will be secured before site clearance.
- 2. Agencies charged with site clearance will comply with applicable regulations.
- 3. Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered. Agencies should securely store any unattended or consumer's personal property for at least 90 days.

E. Notifications to Neighbors

- 1. Neighbors should be notified of an impending deployment if:
 - a) Equipment or activity may affect ingress or egress to their property
 - *b)* There are safety concerns
- 2. If not given prior notice, a person should be designated to respond to questions from neighbors
- 3. Neighbors should also be given the Coordinator's contact information if they have questions or concerns about the deployment.

XII. Appendix A Participating Agencies

- A. Riverside County
 - 1. Board of Supervisors
 - 2. Code Enforcement Department
 - 3. Department of Animal Services
 - 4. Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS)
 - 5. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
 - 6. Emergency Management Department (EMD)
 - 7. Fire Department
 - 8. Flood Control & Water Conservation District
 - 9. Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR)
 - 10. Law Offices of the Public Defender
 - 11. Office of County Counsel
 - 12. Office of the District Attorney
 - 13. Office on Aging
 - 14. Probation Department

- 15. Riverside County Regional Parks & Open Space District
- 16. Riverside University Health System (RUHS)
 - a) Public Health
 - b) Behavioral Health
 - c) Population Health
- 17. Sheriff's Department
- 18. Veteran's Services

- B. Potential participating entities
 - 1. All City Governments in the County of Riverside
 - 2. State and Federal Agencies
 - a) CalTrans
 - b) California Fish & Wildlife
 - 3. Native American Tribal Representatives
 - 4. Nonprofit Agencies
 - 5. Other entities
 - a) Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF)
 - b) Union Pacific
 - c) Other private property owners



XIII. Appendix B Legal Authorities

	Legal	Under What		
WHO	Authority	Conditions	Where	Goals/Notes
COUNTY				
Board of Supervisors	None			
CEO/Executive Office	None			
Deputy CEO Homelessness Solutions	None			
CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department	County Ordinance 695.4 and 772; 787.8 (adopting California Fire Code)	Fire prevention; Investigations and enforcement (peace officers)	Unimproved parcels with fire hazard or flammable vegetation	Abatement occurs after encampment is removed and only if flammable vegetation exists. Can also do 602 enforcement.
	State: California Government Code Title 3 [23000-32005]; CA Penal Code - Section 829.5 Chapter 4.2. – role of Code Enforcement Officers 602 – No trespass	Code Enforcement Officers can assist with obtaining and verifying 602 No trespass orders for privately-owned property.	Countywide	Enhance public safety and quality of life for all parties involved, balancing the needs of communities with those of homeless people. This typically means abating the violations after the encampment has been dispersed.
ţ	County:			
Code Enforcement	Ord. 348 - Land Use	Excessive outside storage, occupied recreational vehicles, zoning and/or public nuisance	Private Property	Enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership with communities through fair enforcement of the law and codes
RivCo Co	Ord. 520 - Vehicle Abatement			
	Ord. 541 - Accumulated Rubbish		Private Property	
	Ord. 754 NPDES	Pollution, illicit connection / discharge or non-storm water discharge.	Private Property	
	Ord. 413 - Parking	72 hour and RV Parking on County- maintained roads	Right of way/public road	

	Legal	Under What		
WHO	Authority	Conditions	Where	Goals/Notes
RivCo Flood Control	Title 40 CFR, Subpart D, Parts 112 & 122 Federal Clean Water Act, Sec. 402 CA Water Code (CWC), Chapt. 5.5, Div 7, starting at Sec. 13370 CA Health & Safety Code, Sec. 25250.12 CA Public Resources Code, Sec. 42954	Field reconnaissance, citizen complaint, outside agency notification	Flood control facilities w/in county Unincorp & several city boundaries	Homeless encampments should be removed promptly to avoid any water quality impacts to downstream property owners
Housing Authority of County of Riverside	None	Outreach teams may be engaged to support an encampment response.	Countywide	Engage for services; Linkage to emergency housing and permanent housing.
RivCo Parks & Open Space	RivCo Parks & Open officers (CA Penal code co		District properties countywide: regional parks, wildlife areas, RCA- owned properties & Santa Ana River.	Preserve lands and increase habitat. Staff are expected to evict homeless individuals, clear all debris, and restore the area to its native state. Routine patrols are required in order to prevent encampments from being established.
RUHS – Behavioral Health		General outreach per contract; emergency response as needed	Countywide	Engage for services; Move to permanent housing
RivCo Animal Services	Animal Service Officers	Officers can seize any animals deemed to be public safety concern.	Countywide	Seize any animals deemed to be public safety concern.

Attachment A

PERSONAL PROPERTY INVENTORY LIST

Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered. Agencies should securely store any unattended or consumer's personal property for at least 90 days. If possible, provide a copy to the consumer and maintain a copy in agency's records. Ensure form is signed by Agency Staff and, if possible, consumer. If consumer is unavailable to sign, explain why.

Name of C	onsumer/Location of Encampr	nent Site			HMIS or Case #	
UNATTENI	DED PERSONAL PROPERTY Y	□ N □				
Quantity	Name/Description of i	tem	Date Removed	Location where i (Item Record #	d Planned Discard Date	
AGENCY	STAFF SIGNATURE		TITLE		DA	TE
CONSUMI	ER SIGNATURE (if available)			DATE		
WITNESS		TITLE		DATE		

Contacts

Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions

Tanya Torno, Deputy Director- (951) 955-7728 Emma Singh-Perez. Administrative Services Manager- (951) 907-1646 Raushanah Walker, Supervising Development Specialist- (951) 203-4035

Riverside County Parks and Open Space

Oscar Serrato, Natural Resources Manager- (951) 955-4558

Riverside County Code Enforcement Supervisors

District 1/2 (West County)
Supervisor Jamison Cole 951 210 1445 (desk)

District 5 (East County)

Supervisor Frank Mendez 760 393 3371 (desk)

District 4 (mid County)

Supervisor Jose Cruz 951 210 1145 (desk)

District 3 (South County)

Senior CEO Sara Rhoads 951 955 3497 (desk)

Cannabis Team (Admin)

Supervisor Jennifer Morris 951 210 1455

Special Enforcement Team (Vending, short term rental etc.)

Supervisor Ron Welch 951 600 6262 (desk)

Administrative Office: 951 955 2004

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Countywide trends on housing placements

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Agencies that provide homelessness services in Riverside County feed their information to the County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This is a program used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with the federal requirements. In Riverside County, the Housing & Workforce Solutions (HWS) Department serves as the HUD Collaborative Applicant and is responsible for administering HMIS for the County of Riverside Continuum of Care and serving as the HMIS Lead Organization.

The HMIS data is also compiled in order to create an annual HUD performance report. This report measures success on a number of levels, including the types of temporary exits (such as transitional housing or short-term hotel vouchers) and permanent exits (such as housing solutions, with or without a voucher).

Greg Rodriguez, the Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement at Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions, will be attending the September meeting of the Homelessness Committee in order to discuss the trends in the data. Mr. Rodriguez will also address how the County efforts fit into a changing philosophy by the new administration, specifically President Trump's Executive Order in July that shift the federal focus away from "housing first."

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update.

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Election of Homelessness Committee Officers

Contact: Tom Kirk, Executive Director (<u>tkirk@cvag.org</u>)

<u>Recommendation</u>: Elect a Homelessness Committee Chair and Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2025-26

<u>Background</u>: Each fiscal year, the Homelessness Committee considers the election of a Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair.

The Homelessness Committee has often re-elected the same Chair over many years. Indio Councilmember Lupe Ramos Amith was Chair from the Homelessness Committee's formation in 2006 until 2016. Palm Desert Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan served as Chair from 2016 until June 2019, when Palm Springs Councilmember Christy Holstege became Chair.

In September 2022, the Committee elected La Quinta Councilmember and then-Vice Chair John Peña to serve as Chair and Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon to serve as Vice Chair. They are the Committee's current officers.

Staff recommends that the Homelessness Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for the fiscal year.

<u>Fiscal Analysis</u>: There is no additional cost to the budget as Homelessness Committee officers receive the same per diem as other committee members.

ITEM 8A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD FY2024-2025

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	*SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTEN	DED
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians			0		0			0		0	**		0 out c	f 5
City of Blythe			•		•			0		0	•		4 out c	f 5
City of Cathedral City			•		•			•		•	•		6 out c	f 5
City of Coachella			•		•			0		•	0		3 out c	f 5
Desert Healthcare District			0		•			•		0	•		4 out c	f 5
City of Desert Hot Springs			•		•			•		•	•		6 out c	f 5
City of Indian Wells			0		0			•		•	•		4 out c	f 5
City of Indio			•		0			•		•	•		5 out c	f 5
City of La Quinta			•		0			•		•	•		5 out c	f 5
City of Palm Desert			•		•			•		•	•		6 out c	f 5
City of Palm Springs			•		•			•		•	0		3 out c	f 5
City of Rancho Mirage			•		•			•		•	•		6 out c	f 5
County of Riverside			•		•			•		•	•		6 out c	f 5
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			•		•			•		•	0		4 out c	f 5
Total Attendance Per Meeting			11		10			11		11	10			

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	*SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTEN	DED
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition			0		0			0		0	0		0 out c	f 5
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission			0		0			0		0	0		0 out c	f 5
HomeAid Inland Empire			0		0			0		0	0		0 out c	f 5
Martha's Village and Kitchen			0		0			0		0	0		0 out c	f 5
The Salvation Army (vacant)			0		0			0		0	0		0 out c	f 5
Shelter From the Storm			•		0			•		•	•		5 out c	f 5
Total Attendance Per Meeting			1		0			1		1	1			

This was a joint meetin	g with the Public	Safety Committee
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No Meeting

Vacant **

Present • Absent •

ITEM 8C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: New location of CVAG's public meetings

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: For decades, CVAG has held its public meetings at the Parkview building located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive in Palm Desert. The building is owned by the City of Palm Desert. In 2024, Palm Desert staff notified CVAG that it would be demolishing the Parkview building to make space for the City's new library that is being built adjacent to Civic Center Park. The City also agreed to build a new conference room space for CVAG as part of the library's construction.

In the interim, CVAG staff sought to find an alternative meeting location for CVAG and for its sister agencies, the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and the Coachella Valley Power Agency (CVPA). CVAG staff previously notified committee members and the public that CVAG anticipated moving its meetings to the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board. Over the summer, CVAG learned the partnership would not be possible as logistics could not be worked out with the State.

Thankfully, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has agreed to have CVAG host its public meetings at CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East in the City of Palm Desert. CVAG and CVCC have larger-than-most governing boards, and the room is equipped to accommodate this need. The first meeting at the new location was the August meeting of CVAG's Transportation Committee. CVAG staff has posted the new location on its websites and also reached out to member jurisdictions to notify them of the change.

<u>Fiscal Analysis</u>: CVWD is providing the meeting room at no cost to CVAG. Coordination of public meetings is covered under existing staff time. Minor equipment purchases, such as additional microphones, may be necessary and would be covered under the Executive Director's spending authority and CVAG's existing budget.

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026



CVAG STANDING COMMITTEES	DAY	TIME	JULY (Dark)	AUG (Dark)	SEPT	OCT (Dark)	NOV	DEC (Dark)	JAN	FEB	MAR (Dark)	APR	MAY	JUN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Last Monday	4:30 p.m.	-	-	29	-	H Dec 1	-	26	23	-	27	H June 1	29
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	1 st Monday	10:00 a.m.		-	H Aug 25	-	3	-	5	2	-	6	4	1
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2 nd Thursday	10:30 a.m.	-	-	11	-	13	-	8	12	-	9	14	11
DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY	3 rd Monday	3:00 p.m.	21	18	15	20	17	-	H Jan 12	H Feb 9	16	20	18	15
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE	2 nd Thursday	12:00 p.m.	-	-	11	-	13	-	8	12	-	9	14	11
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	2 nd Monday	9:00 a.m.	-	-	8	-	10	-	12	9	-	-	11	8
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE	3 rd Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	-		17	-	19	1	21	18	-	15	20	17
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Last Monday in June	6:00 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29

H = Holiday *= Special Meeting AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.cvag.org. UPDATED: June 3, 2025

ITEM 8E

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee September 17, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

<u>Background</u>: Last year, the Homelessness Committee and Executive Committees authorized the Executive Director to execute memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with member jurisdictions to increase the CV Housing First contribution to \$125,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and provide for annual inflation adjustments that are reviewed by the Homelessness Committee. The Executive Committee also asked for further review of this issue by CVAG's Finance Committee, which reviewed questions of equity in the contributions before supporting identical, across-the-board contributions for participating cities.

Based on this direction, CVAG staff finalized a memorandum of understanding that was circulated to member jurisdictions. Long-term funding agreements will ensure financial stability for the program and avoid the uncertainty – and significant staff time – that comes with the previous process of asking cities for funds each year. CVAG staff has consulted with Legal Counsel, who notes that there is no legal impediment to cities entering into a multi-year commitment. Additionally, the California Constitution debt limit only prohibits a multi-year contract where the funds to pay the full contract are not on hand, and that the amount of this proposed MOU does not appear large enough to create that concern. The MOU was also brought to the Homelessness Committee in April 2025, prior to its distribution.

To date, the Cities of Cathedral City, Indian Wells, Indio, Palm Desert and Palm Springs have approved the multi-year MOU. The City of La Quinta approved a one-year MOU at the increased rate. The Cities of Desert Hot Springs, Coachella and Rancho Mirage have not brought the item to Council yet.

Fiscal Analysis: CVAG has increased the annual contribution request to cities to \$125,000 starting in Fiscal Year 2025-26. This is a \$25,000 increase over the previous year's contribution. It is the first time in more than 15 years that CVAG has increased the requested amount, which at one point was set at \$103,000 when Roy's Desert Resource Center was open. It would generate an additional \$225,000 if approved by all cities currently participating in the program. The County of Riverside, which has been instrumental in helping CVAG secure additional funds through grants, has an agreement for general fund contributions through Fiscal Year 2025-26 that provides \$359,711 annually

The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and program operations, is funded by contributions from member jurisdictions and grants. CVAG's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget anticipates a \$1,914,664 operating budget, with a \$245,587 deficit being covered by the program's fund balance. CVAG continues to seek grant opportunities

CVAG is also incorporating an annual inflation adjustment into the future MOUs. The inflation factor shall be reviewed annually by the Homelessness Committee. It shall be the same one utilized to budget other CVAG programs, which is based on the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Area Consumer Price Index (CPI).

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS HOMELESS & BUS PASS PROGRAM UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 01, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

REVENUES

BUS PASS CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 27,000
HOMELESS FUNDING	\$ 1,271,970
TOTAL REVENUES	1,298,970

EXPENDITURES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	954,578
BUILDING LEASE MAINTENANCE/RENT	314,840
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	70,982
RAPID RESOLUTIONS	889
LEGAL SERVICES	8,560
PROJECT COSTS/OTHER EXPENSES	216,295
ELECTRIC (UTILITIES)	79,888
OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,166
LOCAL MEETINGS/STAFF MILEAGE	16,706
MOBILE ACCESS CENTER (MAC)	4,107

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,670,014
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	(371,043)
FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	2,478,488
PRELIMINARY FUND RALANCE AS AT HINE 30, 2025	\$ 2 107 445