

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 10/7/02
Department Name: Public Health
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If Yes, date from:
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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Roger E. Heroux, Director
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Nancy J. Madsen, Administrator
Human Services Program, 681-4078

SUBJECT: Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter Program

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute a License to Use State Military Facility with the California Army National Guard for an emergency winter homeless shelter in the Santa Maria Armory for the maximum period of December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, at a maximum cost of \$42,705;
- B) Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute a contract with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. for the management of the Santa Maria Winter Emergency Homeless Shelter for the period from December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, in an amount not to exceed \$68,160;
- C) Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute a contract with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the management of the Santa Barbara Winter Emergency Homeless Shelter at 816 Cacique Street, Santa Barbara, for the period from December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, in an amount not to exceed \$180,850.
- D) Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute a contract with the Lompoc Housing Assistance Corporation for the management of the Lompoc Winter Emergency Homeless Shelter at Bridgehouse, 2025 Sweeney Road, Lompoc, for the period from December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, in an amount not to exceed \$34,500.

E) Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Public Health Department to apply for a grant from the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development Emergency Housing Assistance Program (“EHAP”) to be applied to the costs of operating Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters next winter, Fiscal Year 2003-2004 (see Attachment 1);

F) Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to use \$100,000 of Public Health Department funding to assist with funding the permanent year-round homeless shelters;

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in which to Live, Work, and Visit and Goal No. 7. A Community That Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Public Health Department in cooperation with three nonprofit service providers will open the Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara winter emergency homeless shelters on December 1, 2002. In anticipation of continued cold and/or wet weather this winter, the Public Health Department and the shelter service providers plan to keep the three Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters open through March 31, 2003, a total of 121 days. The total cost to the County of operating the shelters for these 121 days will be \$326,215.

Last winter, a nightly average of 95 persons in Santa Maria and 136 persons in Santa Barbara sought emergency shelter; 11,107 shelter bed nights were provided during the winter months in the Santa Maria shelter, and 16,398 shelter bed nights were provided in the Santa Barbara shelter, for a total of 27,505 shelter bed nights countywide. Significantly more homeless individuals and families are expected to seek shelter during the winter months of 2002-2003. As many as 35,000 shelter bed nights are likely to be provided this winter at the three shelters. The increase in shelter usage is anticipated because:

- the reconstruction of the Cacique Street Shelter will increase the capacity of the site to shelter more people;
- the opening of the Bridgehouse shelter in Lompoc will provide much needed shelter that previously did not exist in the area;
- meteorologists predict an “El Niño” condition that could bring much rain.

A. Santa Maria Armory Will be Used for the Santa Maria Shelter

The Department of the Army and Air Force Last has increased the nightly rent for the Armory to \$365 per night (last year’s rent was \$352 per night). The Armory will be used for the winter shelter for 117 days, for a cost of \$42,705. Shelter will be provided for approximately 117 days at the Armory instead of 121 days for the other shelters because the Armory is usually unavailable for about four days during the winter months due to military maneuvers. Your Board is requested to authorize the Public Health Director to execute a License to Use State Military Facility with the California Army National Guard for an emergency winter homeless shelter in the Santa Maria Armory for 117 days between December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, at a maximum cost of \$42,705.

B. Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. will operate the Santa Maria Shelter

Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. will provide shelter management at the Armory. For over nine years, Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. has served as the manager and service provider of the Santa Maria Emergency

Winter Homeless Shelter, under contract with the County. The administration and staff of this community-based nonprofit organization have extensive experience working with homeless services and shelters. Good Samaritan has helped to keep costs to the County as low as possible this year by paying from other grants one-half of the salaries of the winter shelter manager and shelter assistant. Human Services Division staff has negotiated a contract with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. for Winter FY 2002-2003 in the amount of \$68,160. Your Board's authorization is requested to allow the Public Health Director to execute a contract with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc.

C. Society of St. Vincent de Paul will operate the Santa Barbara Shelter

The Coalition to Provide Shelter and Support to Santa Barbara Homeless, a nonprofit corporation, has purchased a building at 816 Cacique Street for use as a homeless shelter and day center. This building is also used as the site for the Santa Barbara Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has provided the management and supervision of the Santa Barbara Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter, including arranging for food preparation by the Community Kitchen of Santa Barbara, since FY 1997-1998. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has extensive experience managing and providing services to homeless persons and has been designated as the lead provider for the Coalition's homeless day program. The Human Services Division staff has negotiated a proposed contract with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the operation of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter in Santa Barbara for Winter FY 2002-2003 in the amount of \$180,850. Your Board's authorization for the Director of Public Health to execute a contract with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is requested.

D. Lompoc Housing Assistance Corporation (LHAC) will operate the Lompoc Shelter.

LHAC states that the barriers to opening the Bridgthouse shelter have now been overcome and the shelter will be open by December 1, 2002. In addition to providing a safe place to sleep overnight and showers, a hot supper and a light breakfast will be included in the shelter service. LHAC expects to operate the Bridgthouse shelter at full capacity every day, and will therefore provide a total of 4,840 shelter bed nights between December 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003. LHAC will operate the shelter with its own staff members. For over eight years, LHAC has served as the manager and service provider of the Marks House Transitional Shelter, under contract with the County and other funders. The administration and staff of this community-based nonprofit organization have extensive experience working with homeless services and shelters. Human Services Division staff has negotiated a proposed contract with LHAC for the operation of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter in Lompoc for Winter FY 2002-2003 in the amount of \$34,500. Your Board's authorization allowing the Public Health Director to execute this contract is requested.

E. Public Health Department to Apply for EHAP Grants for Winter 2003-2004

The State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development's Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) grant cycle is fourteen months, and runs from approximately March of one year through June of the next year. The Public Health Department applied for three grants totaling \$129,106 for the grant cycle that includes this winter, 2002-2003; this \$129,106 represents the entire amount allocated by the State for Santa Barbara County. Each of the three grant applications was successful, and the County will receive \$129,106 to be applied to the costs of operating the three winter shelters. For the next grant cycle (March 2003-June 2004), EHAP has allocated only \$40,315 for Santa Barbara County. With your Board's approval, the Public Health Department, through the Human Services Program, plans to write a grant application to EHAP to obtain these grant funds to be used for next winter's emergency homeless shelters. The EHAP grant process is highly competitive, and it is anticipated that several applications from nonprofit

organizations in the County will also be submitted. If the Public Health Department's grant applications are preferred by EHAP over competing applications, the County will receive \$40,315. In order to qualify for EHAP grants, your Board must adopt a resolution prior to November 14, 2002, authorizing the Public Health Department to apply for grants on behalf of the County. Your Board's adoption of this Resolution is hereby requested (see Attachment 1).

Continued Shelter Services After March 31, 2003

At the close of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters on March 31, 2003, continued overnight shelter will be provided countywide. The 30-bed year-round shelter in Santa Barbara will reopen on April 1, 2003. In Santa Maria, Good Samaritan's 75-bed shelter will remain open, and as appropriate people will move from the emergency shelter to the 48-bed transitional shelter at the same location. The Bridgehouse shelter in Lompoc will continue to provide 40 year-round emergency shelter bed nights services after April 1, 2003. All three shelters will rely on various revenue sources (such as state, federal and private foundation grants and individual donations) to pay for shelter operations during non-winter months.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Health and Safety Code Sections 50800-50806.5 create the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program (EHAP), through which funds are made available to counties who carry the responsibility for providing emergency shelter to homeless persons. The shelters operate on a first-come, first-served basis. The opening of the Lompoc shelter will increase the level of service by approximately 4,840 bed nights.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Fiscal Year 2002-2003

The estimated costs to open and operate the three Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters from December 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 (121 days) will be \$326,215. Current revenue sources, Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP, formerly FEMA), the City of Santa Barbara, the County General Fund, and the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) grants, add up to \$247,029. In order to not seek additional General Fund Contribution or close the shelters early, the remaining cost of \$79,186 for the emergency winter shelters and \$100,000 for the permanent year-round winter shelters, will be one-time funding from the Public Health Department (PHD). A Budget Revision Request will follow pending approval of this Board Letter.

Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Each year, the cost and revenue estimates for the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters become a bigger challenge. Each year, the shelter providers need more money to deliver their services, as increasing demand for shelter and food increases the cost of staff and materials. The known loss of \$88,791 of EHAP funding from this year to next year, the unavailability of the Public Health Department's one-time funding to be continued in future years, and a minimum estimated cost increase of 5% results in an unfunded estimated amount of approximately \$158,000 or 50%. It is possible that the shelters will be open for a much shorter time period next year if additional funds are not found.

Illustrated below are the FY 2002-2003 funding sources for the negotiated service contracts for the emergency winter shelter operations, and an estimate of FY 2003-2004 revenue shortfall.

FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004
W/ SM Armory	W/O SM Armory

Revenue

EFSP	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
City of SB	25,721	25,721	
County General Fund	77,202	77,202	
EHAP Grant	129,106	40,315	Reduced by \$88,791
PHD (one-time)	79,186		Unavailable
Total Revenue	\$ 326,215	\$ 158,238	

Cost

All locations	\$ 326,215	\$ 316,586	Estimated 5% increase
Estimated Unfunded	<u>-0-</u>	<u>\$ 158,348</u>	50% unfunded

The Public Health Department's Human Services division will continue to seek new revenue sources and attempt to enhance existing revenue sources. The PHD will continue to work with the three nonprofit service providers to gain new funding sources. In addition, if Proposition 46 is passed by the voters on November 6, 2002, the PHD will research any legislation which may assist funding services related to permanent and emergency homeless shelter operations.

Approval of these recommendations will not result in a need for any additional County facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please return a copy of the minute order, and one original EHAP_Resolution to Nancy Madsen, Human Services Division, Public Health Department, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 1, 681-4078.

Concurrence:

N/A

Attachment:

Attachment 1: Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Authorizing the County Public Health Department to Apply for Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Funding for Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters