

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Prepared on:** 10/21/03  
**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 12/02/03  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**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 Programs

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

A) Authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract with the Coalition to Provide Shelter and Support for Santa Barbara Homeless for the management of the Winter Emergency Homeless Shelter at 816 Cacique Street, Santa Barbara, for the period from December 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004, in an amount not to exceed \$131,924.

**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:**

1. The Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters.

On December 1, 2003, the Public Health Department in cooperation with three nonprofit service providers will open the Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara emergency homeless shelters for the winter months. 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, 2004, a total of 122 days. The total cost to the County of operating the shelters for these 122 days will be \$248,913.

The following data were gathered from the Santa Barbara County Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter programs during the 2002-2003 winter shelter season:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Total Bed Nights</u>
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	<b>15,610</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>2,816</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>18,687</b>
<b>Santa Maria</b>	<b>7,681</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9,703</b>
<b>Lompoc</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>2,274</b>
<b>County Total</b>	<b>24,181</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>30,664</b>

The chart above shows that last winter, 9,703 shelter bed nights were provided during the winter months in the Santa Maria shelter (a nightly average of 83 persons), 18,687 shelter bed nights were provided in the Santa Barbara shelter (a nightly average of 154 persons), and 2,274 shelter bed nights were provided in Lompoc (a nightly average of 19 persons) for a total of 30,664 shelter bed nights countywide. Significantly more homeless individuals and families are expected to seek shelter during the upcoming winter months of 2003-2004. As many as 45,000 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 in Santa Barbara has increased the capacity of the site to shelter more people; due to this increased capacity the number of shelter bed nights increased by 14% last winter as compared to the previous winter. It is expected that this winter, the shelter beds used will average 200 per night, as allowed by the Cacique Street Shelter's Conditional Use Permit.
- The December 2003 opening of the second building of the Bridgehouse shelter in Lompoc will provide increased capacity to 60 beds per night. This increased capacity is much needed, as last winter's shelter with a capacity of 20 beds per night was full nearly every night, and people seeking shelter were regularly turned away. It is expected that all of the 60 available beds will be full throughout the winter months.
- The December 2003 opening of two new shelter buildings at the Morrison Avenue site of Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. in Santa Maria will provide 127 beds per night; it is expected that all beds will be used throughout the winter months.

A. The Coalition to Provide Shelter and Support to Santa Barbara Homeless will operate the Santa Barbara Shelter.

The Coalition to Provide Shelter and Support to Santa Barbara Homeless ("Coalition"), a nonprofit corporation, will provide shelter management at the Cacique Street Shelter. The Executive Director/shelter program manager was previously employed by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and has over twenty year's experience managing and providing services to homeless persons. Human Services Division staff has negotiated a proposed contract with the Coalition to provide shelter management for the winter months of FY 2003-2004 in the amount of \$131,924. Your Board's authorization is requested to allow the County Administrator to execute a contract with the Coalition in this amount.

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

Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. will provide shelter management at its new buildings on Morrison Avenue in Santa Maria. For over ten 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. Human Services Division staff has negotiated an agreement with Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc. to provide shelter management for the winter months of FY 2003-2004 in the amount of \$79,652.

C. Lompoc Housing and Community Development Corporation (LHCDC) will operate the Lompoc Shelter. The Lompoc Housing and Community Development Corporation ("LHCDC" and formerly known as Lompoc Housing Assistance Program) will operate the Bridgehouse Shelter on Sweeney Road in the Lompoc Valley. Last winter the agency operated its winter shelter in its 20-bed small building, since the rehabilitation of the larger building on site was not complete. The larger building is scheduled to open on November 21, 2003, and will provide an additional 40 beds, for a total of 60 beds per night at the Bridgehouse site. For over eight years, LHCDC has served as the manager and service provider of the Marks House Transitional Shelter, under contract with the County and other funding sources. 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 with LHCDC for the operation of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter in Lompoc for the winter months of FY 2003-2004 in the amount of \$37,337.

2. Continued Shelter Services After March 31, 2003

At the close of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelters on March 31, 2004, continued overnight shelter will be provided countywide. In Santa Barbara, the year-round shelter will reopen on April 1, 2003. However, it is anticipated that the Coalition's Conditional Use Permit for the site will have been changed to allow for 100 beds per night instead of the current 30 beds per night. In Santa Maria, Good Samaritan's 127-bed shelter will remain open. The Bridgehouse shelter in Lompoc will continue to provide 60 year-round emergency shelter bed nights services after April 1, 2003. For the months of April, May and June 2004, all three shelter providers predict that all shelter beds available will remain full even after the official close of the winter shelter.

During budget hearings for FY 2003-2004, the Board generously contributed \$100,000 for continued operation of the homeless shelters after the close of the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter months. The three shelter providers will utilize this funding to assist with keeping the shelters open and available for the anticipated maximum capacity.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The Health and Safety Code Sections 50800-50806.5 state that a County may provide emergency shelter to the homeless.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Authorization of these recommendations will not increase General Fund Contribution. During budget hearings for FY 2003-2004, the Board increased the contribution for the Emergency Winter Homeless Shelter Programs by \$171,711 making the total General Fund Contribution \$248,913. This amount is allocated to each provider based on maximum capacity bed nights (\$5.43 per bed night.)

In past years, other funding sources were passed through the County to assist in funding the provider contracts. The original cost estimates to operate the shelters for FY 2003-2004 was \$316,586; \$67,673 higher than the proposed contracts. The \$67,673 represents three funding sources that will now be given directly to the shelters and not passed-through the County: City of Santa Barbara \$25,721; Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) \$31,952; and EFSP (formerly FEMA) \$10,000.

The FY 2003-2004 allotment for the Emergency Winter Shelter Programs is included in the Human Services cost center of the Community Health Division shown on page D-188 of the adopted County operating plan for FY 2003-2004.

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 to Margaret Granger, PHD Contracts Unit Coordinator, Public Health Department, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, 681-5367.

**Concurrence:**

N/A

**Attachment:**

Attachment 1: COALITION BOARD CONTRACT