



# Encampment Resolution Protocol

*A Review Post Grants Pass v. Johnson Decision*

Community Services Department

October 8, 2024

# Agenda

- Key Points of Current Encampment Resolution Protocol
- Recommended Changes Following *Grants Pass v. Johnson* Decision

# Encampment Response Protocol

Adopted by the County on August 31, 2021 for County-owned and/or controlled property

## Goal

Create a consistent approach for addressing encampments based on defined criteria and interventions

- Criteria: *Safety, Location, Health and Size (other factors on occasion)*
- Interventions: *Engage outreach → Implement health and safety measures → Remove debris → Close site*

## This goal is accomplished by

1. Defining County department roles and responsibilities
  - *Community Services, Public Health, Fire, Law Enforcement, Outreach staff (others on occasion)*
2. Coordinating and managing limited resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness

Appendix to ER Protocol **currently** prescribes County agencies to:

1. **Identify and reserve available shelter** for encampment occupants **before** initiating closure
2. Provide **72-hours of notice** to each encampment occupant **before** initiating closure
3. Provide outreach and support staff on-site for encampment occupants before and during closure
4. Offer free storage of personal items for up to **90 days after** encampment closure

# Encampment Response Protocol

## Recommended Changes to Protocol

Based on input from Departments that participate in the encampment resolution process, Staff recommends the following updates to the Protocol:

1. Transition the Protocol into a format consisting of two separate documents, as follows:
  - i. One that address County policy on encampment resolution.
  - ii. One that address operational processes describing encampment resolution.
2. Remove language that suggests encampment resolution may only be initiated following demonstration that shelter beds are available.
3. Reduce the period of posting before the start of any encampment resolution from 72 hours to 48 hours.
4. Reduce the offer of personal property storage from 90 days to 60 days.

# Encampment Response Protocol

## Potential Changes to Existing County Code

Many County regulations already help to prevent the existence of encampments in specific locations, but perhaps need some modification to make these regulations more effective and efficient:

Staff presents potential modifications to existing County Code sections, as follows:

1. County Code Sec. 23-13.3 - Camper Parking Restrictions:

Revise Code to delegate authority to post parking restrictions to reduce inefficiencies and provide more timely response to public requests on this matter.

2. County Code Sec. 24-7 - “Watercourse” camping:

The Code currently prohibits placement of a “structure” or “building” in a watercourse. Revise Code to define and add “camp paraphernalia” to list of prohibited items.

# Recommended Actions

## Today we ask that the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file this report
- B. Provide direction to staff concerning possible revisions to the Encampment Response Protocol
- C. Provide direction to staff concerning possible amendments to County Code Sections 23-13.3 (Parking) and 24-7 (Watercourses)
- D. Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the actions do not involve any commitment to any specific project.