



Encampment Resolution Strategy: Six-Month Progress Report

The Encampment Resolution Strategy and Encampment Response Protocol approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021 is a 3-year effort (2021-2024) with the goal of resolving 45 encampments of varying size and impact; to date, 39 camps in 5 clusters throughout the county have been resolved. The approved Encampment Resolution Strategy relies on an effective system of care that can ultimately provide shelter, housing, and services to meet the needs of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Encampment Resolution Strategy

There has been progress in all components of the Encampment Resolution Strategy in the first six months of implementation. Progress includes:

1. **Increasing access to shelter:** Acquisition of a 50-bed shelter in Isla Vista; relocation of 20 pallet shelter units to the Bridgehouse shelter campus in the unincorporated Lompoc Valley; and development of a 33-bed modular project in downtown Santa Barbara.
2. **Leveraging long-term rental subsidies:** 219 Emergency Housing Vouchers have been utilized. Due to the success of expedited utilization, the local housing authorities received another 57 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) in May 2022. Over 70% of EHV residents are engaged in supportive services.
3. **Creating new permanent housing units with supportive services:** The award of Homekey project funding at the Super 8 in Goleta in 2022 will create new permanent housing units with services in an area heavily impacted by encampments.
4. **Robust outreach and engagement:** American Rescue Plan Act funds will support two approaches to outreach and engagement beginning July 1, 2022. The County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is essential for complex cases where justice involvement and severe mental illness create barriers to accessing services and housing, and provides intensive case management services in cases where coordination is needed across County departments. City Net has been the contracted partner to provide outreach, case management, maintain personal storage options, and assist with coordinating shelter placements for persons living in encampments. Maintaining consistent staffing levels has been a struggle for both City Net and the County MDT. CSD / HCD has released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to identify the non-profit outreach provider for two years beginning July 1, 2022.
5. **Sustained adequate funding:** The historic investment of American Rescue Plan Act funds to address homelessness, specifically to fund a more comprehensive Multi-Disciplinary Team as well as a community-based organization to provide case management to persons living unsheltered, provides necessary funding to resolve encampments over the next two years. The **\$2.52 million California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF) grant award to the County** will fund outreach and interim housing for persons living in encampments along the transit corridor. Longer term funding sources are still needed.

Community Assessments and Community Collaboration and Coordination

As of March 31, 2022, mapping software utilized by County-funded street outreach providers shows **60 encampments in 8 primary clusters countywide have been resolved**. The addition resolutions were the result of actions by CalTrans and cities.

Regular Coordinated Outreach Team meetings are held in South-, Mid-, and North-County in order to share locations of reported encampments and street outreach needs. These team meetings provide a forum to collaborate and coordinate services for the unsheltered population, and have improved accountability in each service area through regular follow-up measures. These meetings and the data tracing prevent duplication of services.

Heal the Ocean, a community-based environmental organization, provides regular surveys of encampments in South County. Heal the Ocean's detailed surveys and mapping of homeless encampment sites pre-dates the full use of mapping software by the County. Their surveys demonstrate **a reduction from 102 camps in February 2021 to 55 camps in August 2021**. The estimated number of persons inhabiting the encampments decreased from 260 to 125. Heal the Ocean continues to note extreme levels of trash and refuse in encampment areas.

As the Encampment Resolution Strategy moves forward, increased partnerships and opportunities for collaboration and sustainable funding are necessary to address encampment issues. The FY 2022-23 CA State Budget proposed in January 2022 included \$500M in funding to resolve encampments. Governor Newsom has also proposed funding for additional interim housing. The May revision of the State proposed budget and approval by the State Legislature is still pending.

Encampment Resolution Protocol Implementation

Immediately after Board of Supervisors approval in August 2021, the Community Services Department (CSD/HCD) appointed a temporary Encampment Response Coordinator. On January 11, 2022 Qwik Response was selected and contracted to provide the sanitation services for Encampment Response. On May 2, 2022, Lucille Boss was appointed to the regular, full time Encampment Response Coordinator position.

As of March 31, 2022, Fulcrum mapping software utilized by County-funded street outreach providers **shows 39 encampments in 5 primary clusters have been resolved**. These County-led efforts to resolve encampments took place in: Orcutt, Isla Vista, Montecito, an area around Patterson Avenue, and Goleta Beach. Most identified encampments in Mid and North County have been located on CalTrans property or within city boundaries. The purpose of the Encampment Response Protocol is to provide increased clarity and coordination around all aspects of encampment responses for property owned and/or controlled by Santa Barbara County. The Encampment Response Team comprised of staff from Community Services, Public Health, Fire, Sheriff, and a homeless outreach worker continues to assess existing encampments reported for health and safety risks, provide education on hazards, and provide

linkages to shelter and services. The team evaluates encampments based on criteria outlined in the [Encampment Response Protocol](#) and recommends interventions to address and resolve encampments. All interventions include health and safety measures, and are based on health and safety risks, available resources, and capacity.

The goals and performance measures set forth in the Encampment Resolution Strategy are intended to: 1) ensure streets and open spaces are safe and clean; 2) meet the housing, shelter, and service referral needs of individuals experiencing homelessness; 3) improve the medical and behavioral health of individuals experiencing homelessness; and, 4) deliver coordinated services to effectively address and resolve encampments by developing efficient means to manage calls for service and prioritize resources, and effectively share information and coordinate resources countywide. The Encampment Response Coordinator tracks demographics in camps (persons assessed, persons enrolled in services, and persons in closed/cleared sites) to limit inequities or disparities in service and outreach. The Coordinator convenes after-action focus groups, including persons who have experienced homelessness and the Encampment Response Team, to assess the processes in place and to improve implementation for persons in camps and experiencing homelessness.

The goals are based on the approved Encampment Response Protocol, and were presented to the Board of Supervisors in August 2021 as follows:

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Number of encampments assessed	20	20	20
Number of encampments resolved	15	15	15
Number of persons identified in assessed encampments	50	50	50

Between August 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022, County-led efforts to resolve encampments took place in 5 clusters:

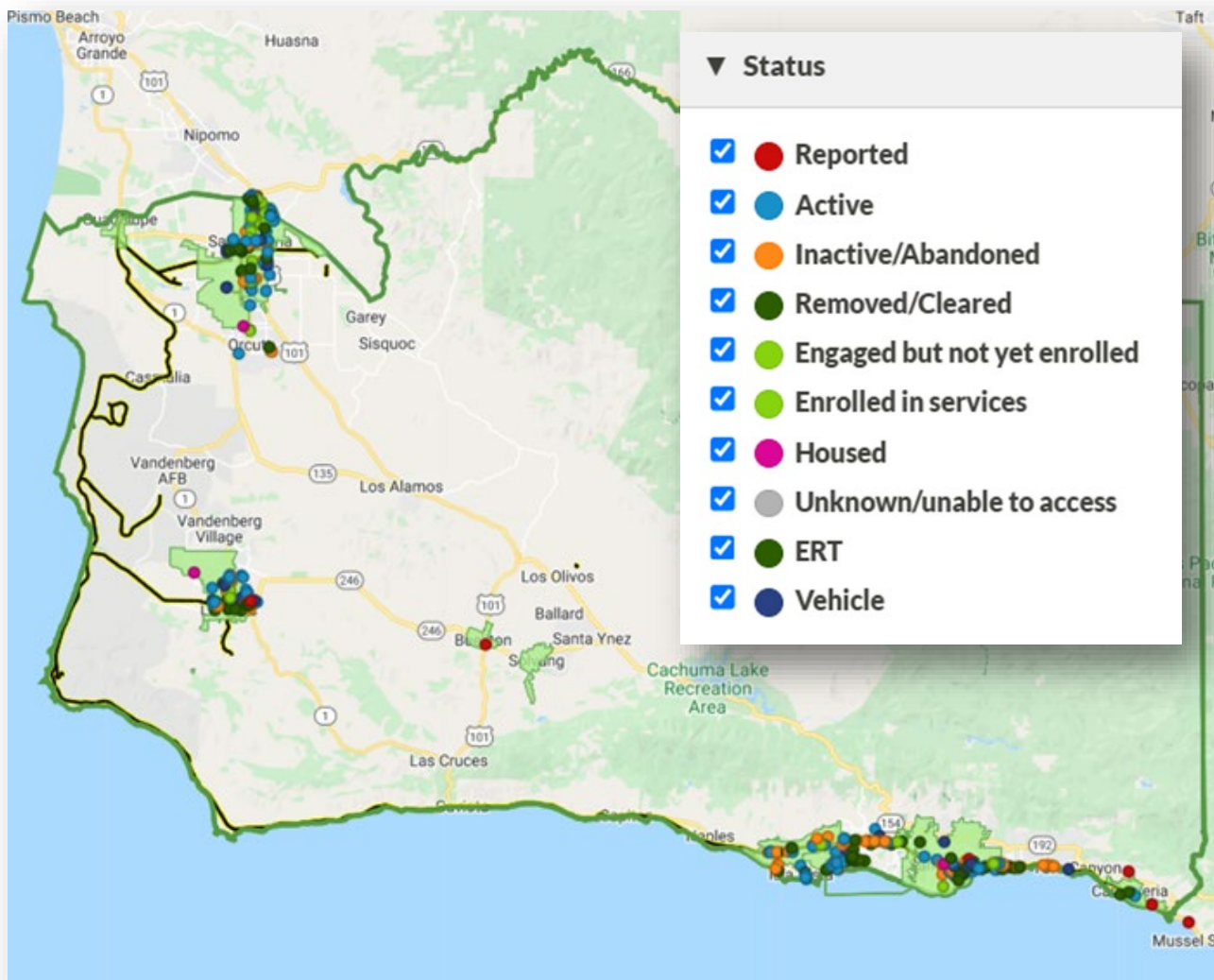
1. Montecito: a wide area with multiple camps was assessed and over **20** abandoned camps were resolved;
2. Isla Vista: **1** area assessed and resolved;
3. Patterson Avenue area: a wide area with multiple camps was assessed and **15** camps were resolved;
4. Orcutt: **2** areas assessed and resolved;
5. Goleta Beach: **1** area has been assessed and is currently pending resolution.

City Net has been the contracted partner to provide outreach, case management, maintain personal storage options, and assist with coordinating shelter placements for persons living in encampments with Coronavirus relief funds. During the first encampment outreach contract period (September 14, 2020 – November 30, 2021):

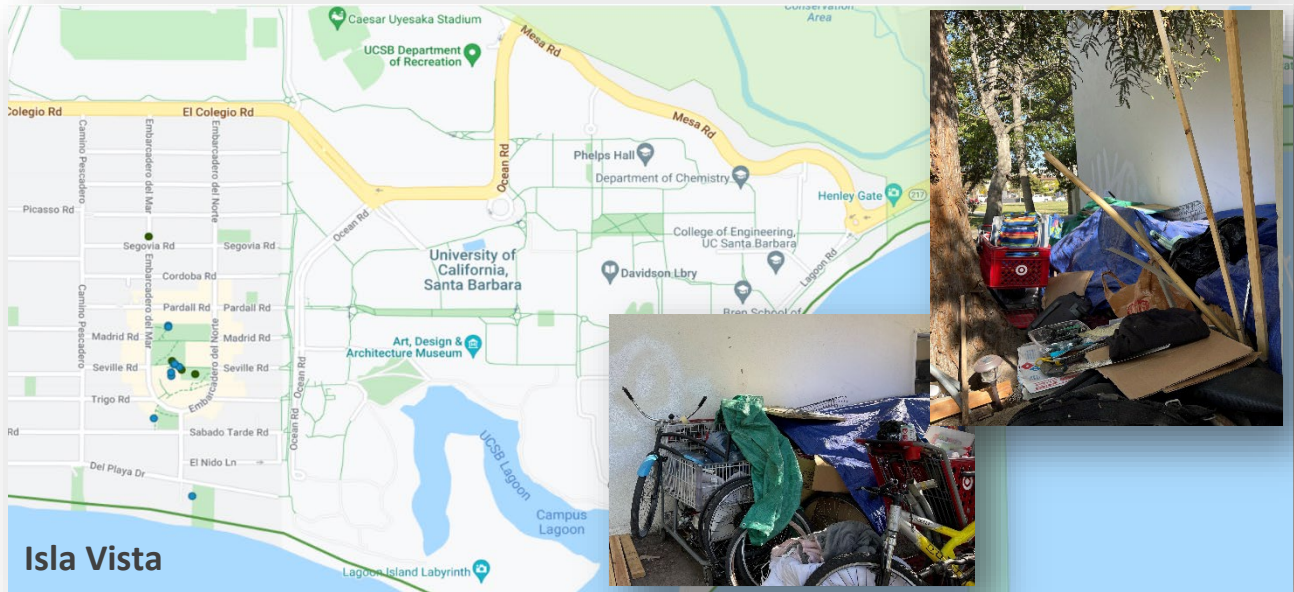
- 157 persons were served, and 86 are still enrolled in ongoing case management services;
- 71 persons have exited street outreach services;
 - 49% (35 persons) exited street outreach services to permanent housing destinations;
 - 11% (8 persons) persons exited street outreach services to sheltered destinations;
 - 4% (3 persons) exited street outreach services to institutional settings.

Utilizing Mapping Software for a Data-Informed Approach

Fulcrum, new [Encampment/Street Outreach software](#), has expanded data collection efforts using real-time mapping tools. Service providers have entered 675 records of encampments countywide in various levels of resolution: reported, active, enrolled in services, abandoned, and removed/cleared.

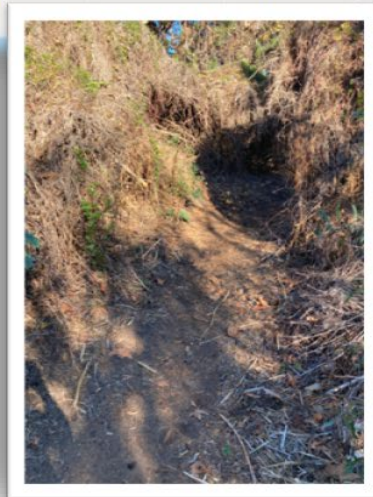
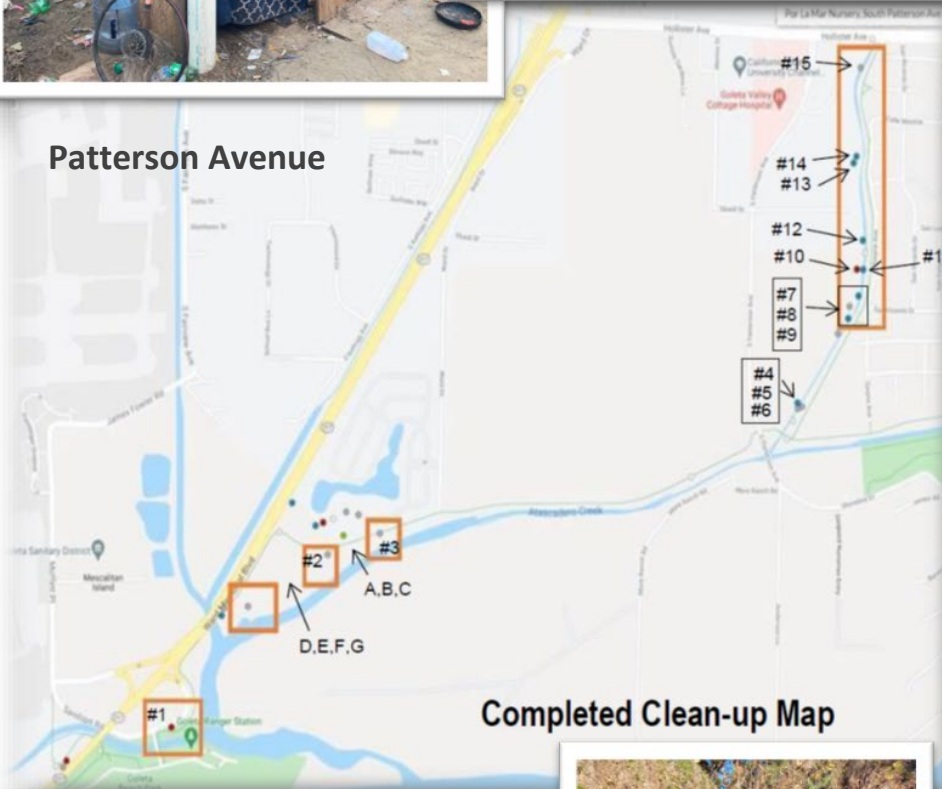


The following pages in this report show maps and images of encampments that have been reported, engaged, and resolved, throughout the county.





Patterson Avenue





Orcutt: Eric Okerblom Memorial Trail

California Encampment Resolution Funding: Regional Coordination and Collaboration

In pursuit of opportunities for collaboration and sustainable funding, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to submit an application to the State of California’s competitive Encampment Resolution Funding grant program. The County of Santa Barbara was awarded \$2.52M to address encampments along the transit corridor (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways), targeting populations in documented danger of fires and vehicle/train right-of-way pedestrian strikes. The specific encampment site, section of an encampment, or closely linked community of encampments being resolved crosses cities in each County district, for a total of 53 camps and at least 99 persons based on current mapping software data. Staff has begun coordination with jurisdictions and agencies along the transit corridor (along U.S. Hwy 101 and CA Hwy 1, where railroad parallels and intersects highways) to finalize a Memoranda of Understanding.

Next Steps

A 12-month report to the Board of Supervisors will detail progress, lessons learned, and recommendations based on a full year of a comprehensive encampment resolution strategy and response protocol including approved goals and performance measures. The anticipated next steps include:

- Implementation of CA Encampment Resolution Funding Award (Transit Corridor):
 - Outreach: Sub-recipient agreement for street outreach case managers and housing navigators will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in late June 2022;
 - Memoranda of Understanding: with CalTrans, railroad companies, City of Lompoc, City of Santa Maria, City of Santa Barbara, and City of Goleta to address coordination components will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in 2022;
 - Develop: temporary interim housing sites to support persons moving from encampments into shelter and permanent housing placements;
 - Environmental rehabilitation: staff will draft a scope of work to support rehabilitation efforts, such as re-planting and repair to damaged areas, including environmentally sensitive areas such as creeks and ocean outlets.
- Street Outreach and Encampments: American Rescue Plan Act funding will support a 2-year outreach contract for countywide street outreach, including encampments outside of the transit corridor;
- Data-Informed Approach: use of mapping software will expand to street outreach providers countywide; regular reports and site visits will inform street outreach and housing navigation practices;
- Expansion of Multi-Disciplinary Team: to include additional staff, funded July 1, 2022;
- Improve communication and coordination with cities and other agencies throughout encampment response and resolution.

Prepared by: Lucille Boss, Encampment Response Coordinator, Housing and Community Development Division of the Community Services Department; to learn more about the County of Santa Barbara's Encampment Resolution Strategy and Response Protocol, please contact lboss@countyofsb.org