



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: July 16, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Joe Dzvonic, Deputy Director Housing and Community
Development (805) 568-3523
SUBJECT: **Approval of Contract for Sanitation Services to Resolve Encampments in Santa
Barbara County Using American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a service contract with South Coast Funding Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company doing business as QwikResponse Restoration & Construction (QwikResponse) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000 (Agreement). This Agreement will provide sanitation services in connection with homeless encampment resolution throughout the County for a period of approximately two years beginning July 16, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026; and
- b) Determine that the above recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), as the contemplated activities consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and direct staff to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board of Supervisors following a competitive procurement process, including a Request for Proposals (RFP), for the provision of sanitation services to homeless encampments on property either owned and/or controlled by Santa Barbara County or in an area where other jurisdictions have agreed to partner with the County through an MOU. Of the two proposals received, QwikResponse was the most qualified proposer, and met the requirements specified in the RFP. The Community Services Department (CSD) is requesting the Board authorize and approve a contract for up to \$500,000 with QwikResponse for sanitation services in connection with resolution of homeless encampment sites for a term of July 6, 2024 – June 30, 2026 (Attachment A).

Background:

On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved and adopted an Encampment Resolution Strategy and Encampment Response Protocol which has had a significant impact on mitigating the impacts of encampments in the region. On January 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract for \$325,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to provide sanitation services to resolve encampments of persons experiencing homelessness as a key part of restoring public lands for community use and removing hazardous materials for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2021-22. The contract was extended for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 in the amount of \$375,000 per year for a total investment of \$1,075,000.

The ability to remove debris after persons relocate from encampments has been critical. Sanitation services are not an eligible use of homeless assistance funds, including state awarded California Encampment Resolution Funds (CERF). Rapid clean-up of resolved encampment areas assists in preventing rehabilitation, protects our watersheds and oceans, and offers a significant visible improvement to the community. During the past 30 months of sanitation services, QwikResponse, as the contracted provider during that period, removed an estimated 200 tons of trash, including hundreds of pounds of biohazard waste, needles and propane tanks.

On April 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved an action to extend efforts for removal of debris and biohazards from encampments through June 30, 2026, utilizing existing ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Sanitation services companies were invited to submit proposals in response to a Request for Proposals published on May 10, 2024. CSD received two proposals from respondents. After Encampment Response Team members reviewed and scored such proposals, they recommended the Agreement with QwikResponse. QwikResponse has been involved in local homeless encampment clean-up in Santa Barbara County since 2018, with projects ranging in size from miles of riverbed with large track loaders to small syringe collections. QwikResponse has current certifications and licenses relevant to handling hazardous materials and waste streams, including hazardous material hauler licensing.

Performance Measure:

The detailed Encampment Resolution Strategy and Response Protocol performance measures are found in the Year 2 Progress Report. The performance measures for sanitation services for the two-year term of the Agreement appear below in Table 1.

Table 1: Performance Measures proposed for Sanitation Services

Year	Number of sites	Tons of waste removed
July 16, 2024 – June 30, 2025	75	75
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	75	75

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Costs for work conducted by QwikResponse are budgeted within the CSD operating budget as part of the Housing and Homelessness COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			\$ 500,000.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total		\$ -	\$ 500,000.00

Narrative: The proposed funding action would approve up to \$500,000 in restricted ARPA funding to continue Encampment Resolution efforts for removal of debris and biohazards from encampments through June 30, 2026. CSD staff will return to the Board with a Budget Revision Request to appropriate funding at a future Board Hearing.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of ARPA funds in accordance with all federal and state requirements governing their use. In addition, the County would be held liable if it or any provider to which it grants funds is found to be non-compliant with applicable requirements. The QwikResponse Agreement is a cost-reimbursement contract, which allows CSD to disburse funds for reimbursement of eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by the Agreement. The County will only reimburse QwikResponse for costs that are eligible under the Agreement and documented in a manner that is acceptable to CSD.

The Agreement applies County standard independent contractor terms and conditions in accordance with State of California and federal laws and regulations. The risk mitigation includes insurance coverage appropriate for the level of risk involved as determined by CSD in conjunction with the County Risk

Manager, and indemnification of County agents, officers and employees from all claims that arise from activities performed under the Agreement.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
N/A

FTEs:
N/A

The Encampment Response Coordinator administers the Agreement and deploys the contractor. The Coordinator has been funded by ARPA funding approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021. Due to funding from other sources such as CERF, ARPA funds have extended funding for this position through June 30, 2026.

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement for Sanitation Services with South Coast Funding Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company doing business as QwikResponse Restoration & Construction

Authored by:

Katherine Soto-Vasquez, Housing Program Specialist, Housing and Community Development Division and Community Services Department