



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: July 14, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department
Contact: Joe Dzvonic, Assistant Director, Housing and Community Development
SUBJECT: Approval of Contract for Sanitation Services to Resolve Encampments in Santa Barbara County

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JA

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

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 (Agreement) with South Coast Funding Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company doing business as QwikResponse Restoration & Construction (QwikResponse) in the amount not to exceed \$317,500, for the period of August 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028; 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 the completion of a 2-year service contract for the provision of sanitation services to homeless encampments with QwikResponse 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. Staff requests the Board to authorize and approve Agreement (Attachment A) in the amount of \$317,500 for the continuation of sanitation services in connection with resolution of homeless encampment sites for a term of August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

Discussion:

QwikResponse has been involved in local homeless encampment clean-up in Santa Barbara County since 2018 and has been an integral part in properly executing the County’s Encampment Response Protocol (ERP). Their experience over the years has supported the execution of large-scale, multiple-phase operations. QwikResponse has current certifications and licenses relevant to handling hazardous materials and waste streams and is a licensed hazardous material hauler. Beyond the handling and removal of hazardous materials, they assist in the storage of personal items in accordance with the ERP. CSD staff have applied for Round 5 of the California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF-5), and the continuation of sanitation services is crucial to the resolution of encampments by restoring impacted sites to their original, intended uses.

The performance measures for sanitation services for the current two-year term (June 2024- June 2026) appear below. During this two-year period, QwikResponse removed over 782 tons of debris at 591 encampments, involving 150 sites.

Table 1: Performance Measures for Sanitation Services

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

Background:

On August 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Encampment Resolution Strategy and Encampment Response Protocol, including funds to provide sanitation services. The ability to remove debris after people relocate from encampments has been critical in mitigating environmental impacts and preventing recurrence. Sanitation services are not an eligible use of homeless assistance funds, including State-awarded CERF. Rapid clean-up of resolved encampment areas assists in preventing re-habitation, protects our watersheds and oceans, and offers a significant visible improvement to the environment and community.

On July 16, 2024, the Board approved the Agreement with QwikResponse for encampment debris removal using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-2026 in the amount of \$500,000, which was increased by an additional \$250,000 pursuant to the First Amendment to the Agreement on December 3, 2024. A Second Amendment was approved for an additional \$250,000 in November 2025, for a grand total of \$1,000,000

Performance Measure:

The performance measures for sanitation services for the term of the Agreement appear below in Table 2.

Table 2: Performance Measures proposed for Sanitation Services

2-year term period	Number of sites
August 1, 2026- June 30, 2028	100

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This allocation is made up of ARPA and CERF funding. No General Fund Contribution is being requested. Future fiscal year funding will be included in the Department’s requested budget, subject to Board approval.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	Total
State (CERF-1)		\$17,500	\$17,500
Federal (ARPA)	\$300,000		\$300,000
Fees			
[Other Source]			
Total	\$300,000	\$17,500	\$317,500

The proposed funding actions would approve \$300,000 in restricted ARPA funding and \$17,500 in Encampment resolution funding to continue supporting the removal of debris and biohazards from encampments through June 30, 2028. Initially, the state allowed the use of CERF funds for debris removal. The use of CERF funds for this purpose was prohibited in subsequent funding cycles, and such prohibition remains in place today.

Staffing Impacts:

The Encampment Response Manager (Manager) administers the Agreement and deploys the contractor. The Manager has been funded by ARPA funding approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 31, 2021. Such ARPA funds, together with funding from other sources such as CERF, have extended funding for this position through October 31, 2027.

Special Instructions:

Upon approval, please forward a certified copy of the minute order, and the executed agreement to Katherine Soto-Vasquez ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org and Steven Fung sfung@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Sanitation Services with QwikResponse Restoration (Signature Required)

Contact Information:

Katherine Soto-Vasquez
 Encampment Response Manager
ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org