



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: November 4, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department
Joe Dzonik, Assistant Director, Housing and Community Development Division
SUBJECT: **Approval of Contract for Sanitation Services to Resolve Encampments in Santa Barbara County**

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) Ratify, approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Second Amendment (Attachment A) to the service contract with South Coast Funding Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company doing business as QwikResponse Restoration & Construction (QwikResponse) to allocate \$250,000 in one-time special revenue funds for the continuation of sanitation services in connection with homeless encampment resolution on property either owned and/or controlled by Santa Barbara County; 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:

Staff requests the Board authorize a Second Amendment in the amount of \$250,000 with QwikResponse for 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. Currently, these areas do not include in State Right of Way Caltrans or Union Pacific Railroad.

Discussion:

In the third year of the Encampment Resolution Strategy (July 2023 – June 2024), the contracted sanitation services provider, QwikResponse, spent an estimated 2,865 hours collecting and removing debris from encampments on County-controlled parcels. The total amount of trash removed from all County sites, a total of 182 encampments, is approximately 340 tons. 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 our encampment response protocol. Their experience over the years has allowed for the execution of large-scale, multiple phase operations across miles of riverbed. 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 facilitate and support the storage of items deemed necessary during removals.

Background:

On August 31, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Encampment Resolution Strategy and 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. 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.

Sanitation services are not an eligible use of homeless assistance funds, including state awarded California Encampment Resolution Funds (CERF).

On January 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract for \$325,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for encampment debris removal. The contract was extended into FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 in the amount of \$375,000 per year. Then on July 16, 2024, a two-year contract for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-2026 was increased in the amount of \$250,000. If approved, this amendment would increase the CSD investment of funding into encampment debris removal to a total of \$1,200,000.

Performance Measure:

The detailed Encampment Resolution Strategy and Response Protocol performance measures are found in the Year 3 final report, which was presented to the board of supervisors on June 10, 2025 (Attachment B).

The performance measures for sanitation services for the second year of the Agreement appear below in Table 1.

Table 1: Year 2 Performance Measures

Year	Number of sites to be addressed	Tons of waste projected to be removed
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	75	75

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This one-time allocation will come from special revenue funds that include \$220,000 from HHAP interest, and \$30,000 from a San Luis Obispo County payment to CSD for Santa Maria Riverbed cleanup operations in 2024. 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 2025-2026	Total
CSD Special Revenue	250,000	\$250,000
Total		\$250,000

The proposed funding action would approve an additional \$250,000 in one-time special revenue funds to continue Encampment Resolution efforts for removal of debris and biohazards from encampments through June 30, 2026.

Staffing Impacts:

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

Special Instructions:

Upon approval, forward a certified copy of the minute order via email to:

- Katherine Soto-Vasquez, Housing and Community Development, ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org
- Steven Fung, Community Services Department, sfung@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – Second Amendment to Agreement for Sanitation Services with QwikResponse

Attachment B – Encampment Resolution Strategy and Response Protocol 3-year Final Report

Contact Information:

Katherine Soto-Vasquez

Encampment Response Manager

ksotovasquez@countyofsb.org