



Council Agenda Report

From: Thomas Frutchey, City Manager

Subject: Salinas Riverbed Clean-up and Homeless Relocation and Services

Date: July 21, 2020

Facts

1. Fire activity in the Salinas Riverbed corridor is a safety threat. The riverbed corridor encompasses over 478 acres, much of it heavily forested. Public safety personnel have responded to over 50 fires in the Salinas riverbed during the first six months of 2020, and over 400 fires in the last few years. Many are associated with homeless encampments in the riverbed.
2. On [July 15, 2020](#), the City Council approved an updated *Policy Regarding Removal of Garbage in the Salinas Riverbed; Clean-Up of Temporary Shelters; and Code Enforcement Abatement Procedures*. This will allow the City to work in partnership with ECHO, the County, and other social service providers to develop a comprehensive approach to relocate the homeless and help them access needed social services, locate suitable areas to live, retain ownership of their private property, and observe measures appropriate to reduce risks from the coronavirus. The rubbish heaps and sharps will also be removed, further reducing fire risks and risks to the regional water supply, by removing trash, bacteria and other pathogens, and drugs and other chemicals.
3. Council authorized the City Manager to proceed with contracts and accessory equipment purchases to mitigate hazardous fuels in approximately 181 acres of the riverbed. Council appropriated \$278,000 in General Fund reserves for these collective purposes and directed staff to and return to Council for additional direction and funding, as necessary.
4. Council also directed staff to return on July 21, 2020 with additional information regarding potential sites to utilize for temporary relocation of the homeless. In order to make the greatest feasible progress, staff—working with ECHO, the County, and other stakeholders—will continue its efforts and will provide an update on progress achieved to the Council and public at the July 21 Council meeting.

Options

1. Take no action; or
2. Receive the updated report and provide additional direction.

Financial Impact

Unknown. An update will be provided on July 21.

Recommendation

Provide additional direction and approvals on Salinas Riverbed clean-up, homeless services, and temporary shelter, and funding.

Attachments

None.