



## Temporary Safe Camp and Safe Parking FAQs

In order to improve fire and water safety and to provide shelter for those experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, the City of Paso Robles is partnering with local organizations to provide a temporary shelter location at 3501 North River Road.

**Why is the City of Paso Robles providing these services?** Paso Robles has experienced over 400 fires in the Salinas Riverbed over the last three years, mostly due to cooking and warming fires. In addition, habitation in the riverbed puts the security of one of our major sources of water at risk. As a result, the City must move the homeless out of the riverbed and is providing a place with basic services in hopes of successfully relocating homeless individuals currently living in encampments in the riverbed to a safer, lower fire-hazard area in which security and basic services can be provided, which will in turn allow for the emergency mitigation and fire hazard abatement work in the riverbed to be completed more quickly. These additional services are also necessary to address and protections in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Where is this being proposed?** The City owns a lot located at 3501 North River Road and identified this space as ideally suited for the temporary shelter. This lot was chosen because it is adjacent to where existing encampments are located. Input from the Police Department's Community Action Team indicates that residents of the riverbed are more likely to relocate to an open and safe area near their current encampments.

**What is being provided?** The 20-space, expandable, camp will initially be equipped with individual tents and safe parking for those living in vehicles. The City is providing basic services such as restrooms, trash service, hand washing stations, and showers. The El Camino Homeless Organization ([ECHO](#)) and [Paso Cares](#) are partnering to provide one meal per day onsite. Additionally, mental health and addiction services will be available.

**Who is going to run the Camp?** The City of Paso Robles, in conjunction with Paso Cares and ECHO will provide all administrative and daily services at the site, seven days a week. In addition, private security will be provided to help foster a safe and welcoming environment.

**When is the camp going to be ready?** The camp officially opens on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**How much will this cost the City?** This has been a conscientious effort to keep the camp costs to a minimum, while recognizing the emergency need to address the public safe and healthy hazard that currently exists in the riverbed. Paso Robles Police, Fire, and other departments have collaborated to build a safe and functional camp. Currently, monthly operating costs including security, utilities, equipment, restroom and wash station servicing, are estimated to total approximately \$20,000. Federal CARES Act funds may be available to offset some costs.

**Will this draw more homeless residents to our community?** Our partners - ECHO and Paso Cares - who have extensive experience in providing services, do not believe our basic camp-type services will draw homeless individuals from outside Paso Robles.



**Why can't the City just force them to move?** In short, because of a Federal court ruling, known as the "Boise ruling". In 2018, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that if a city does not have enough shelter beds available, enforcing a camping ban like what happened in Boise, Idaho may violate the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

**What is the long-term plan?** The City continues to work closely with the County and ECHO on developing long-term plans for the homeless individuals living in the Salinas riverbed. A long-term solution is anticipated sometime in 2021.



Temporary camp location for homeless transitioning out of the riverbed. Onsite fencing, tents, and shade canopy not pictured.



General site map. Area consists of approximately three acres, expandable to seven.