

**CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EXHIBIT/DOCUMENT LOG**

MEETING DATE & AGENDA NO. 03/11/2025 #13

STAFF DOCUMENTS (Numerical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
1	Staff	12-Page PowerPoint

2

3

4

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (Alphabetical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
A	N/A	

B

C

D

E

F

G

**Establishing an Unsafe
Camping Ordinance in San
Diego County to Prevent
Wildfire Hazards and Ensure
Public Safety In Our
Communities**

Item 13
March 11, 2025



Timeline



RESOURCES FIRST APPROACH

- County's Outreach Team consists of Sheriff's HART, HHSA, DPW, and DPR
- Team practices resources-first approach
- Team coordinates weekly outreach to connect people experiencing homelessness to services and housing resources
- Team engages to build rapport and complete assessments to match people experiencing homelessness to the appropriate resources based on their needs
- Services and resources are offered first prior to abatement or enforcement activities



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Background



The County is considering enhancements for its Unsafe Camping Ordinance.



The existing ordinance is County Regulatory Code Section 73.108 – Public Parks.



This ordinance is now enforceable under the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in the *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*.

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Current Procedures for Addressing People Experiencing Homelessness in Unincorporated Areas

Advance Notification

- When possible, the County assesses a site to determine if an unsheltered encampment poses an imminent threat to life, health, safety or infrastructure.
- Determine whether exigent circumstances require immediate removal of the encampment.

County Outreach Team

- Health and Human Services Agency, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Sheriff's Office Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) provide outreach to people experiencing homelessness.
- Team connects people based on their needs to available resources including emergency housing.

Notification Procedures

- Posting *Notice to Vacate* at the physical site of the encampment 72 hours prior to clearing.
- Collection, labeling and storage of personal property for 90 days.
- Provide information for individuals to retrieve personal property.

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Options for Unsafe Camping Ordinance

Option 1:

- Enhancement A: Add provisions to related to fire risk
- Enhancement B: Add protections on property managed but not owned or leased by the County, including areas such as open spaces and public works infrastructure
- Enhancement C: Codify existing procedures for unsheltered encampments

Option 2:

- Makes no changes to the current ordinance
- No person shall camp in any park, public street or highway or on any improved or unimproved property
- Notification procedures of 72 hours to vacate
- Storage and labeling of personal property for 90 days

Enhancement A: Address Fire Risk



ENHANCEMENT : PROHIBIT THE FOLLOWING IN ANY COUNTY PARK, ANY PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY OR ON ANY IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE COUNTY

- Use an ignition source to cause or intend to cause a fire
 - Maintain an existing fire
 - Camp while using or possessing an ignition source
 - Discard any lighted tobacco product or burning combustible materials
-
- State Responsibility Area handled by CAL FIRE

Enhancement B: Protections In Specific Areas



Enhancement: Protections on Property Managed but Not Owned by the County, Including Areas Such As Open Spaces, Bodies of Water, and Public Works Infrastructure

Prohibited actions:

- Camping
- Making or maintaining a fire
- Activities like digging or removing vegetation that interfere with the function of the property or create a threat to health or safety
- Storage of personal belongings
- Additional restrictions at Public Works facilities during construction, maintenance, emergencies

Areas May Include:

- Open Space
- Bodies of Water
- County-maintained drainage and flood control culverts and channels
- County airports, wastewater treatment facilities, inactive landfills and road stations

Enhancement C: Include Current Abatement Procedures

ENHANCEMENT: MAKE EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR UNSHELTERED ENCAMPMENT ABATEMENT PART OF THE ORDINANCE

This option would make existing procedures for clearing encampments part of the ordinance including:

- Posting Notice to Vacate (24 hours recommended in Ordinance, current practice is 72 hours) prior to clearing
- Collection, labeling, and storage of personal property for 90 days

Option 2: Make No Changes to Current Ordinance

OPTION 2: MAKE NO CHANGES TO CURRENT ORDINANCE

This option would make no modifications to the existing ordinance and continue enforcement :

- Provide outreach to people experiencing homelessness
- Engage and connect people based on needs resources including housing
- Non-compliance could result in enforcement

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Thank You

