

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 13**

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON EXISTING COUNTY POLICIES AND PRACTICES REGARDING HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT ABATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE ABATEMENT PROCESS IN HIGH FIRE-RISK AREAS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On February 25, 2025 (12), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return in 90 days with: (1) a report on existing County policies and practices regarding the removal of illegal encampments, including emergency removal based on fire risk, and (2) recommendations to improve the encampment removal process. The Board further directed the CAO to identify high fire-risk areas within the County with significant homeless encampments and prioritize these areas for removal and issuance of stay-away orders as appropriate. The Board also directed the CAO to work with other jurisdictions interested in implementing similar measures and to not duplicate efforts previously directed on August 27, 2024 (17), which were reported back on March 11, 2025 (13).

In response to Board direction, the Public Safety Group Executive Office coordinated with multiple County departments, including the Departments of Parks & Recreation (DPR), Planning & Development Services (PDS) and Public Works (DPW), as well as the Finance & General Government Group, Health & Human Services Agency, County Fire, Office of Emergency Services, and Sheriff's Office. This collaborative effort resulted in the development of a comprehensive overview of current policies and practices related to homeless encampment abatement and identification of opportunities to strengthen interdepartmental coordination, improve situational awareness, and enhance operational effectiveness in support of encampment abatement activities, especially as it relates to fire risk.

Today's requested actions are for the Board to receive a report on existing County policies and practices regarding homeless encampment abatement and recommendations to improve abatement processes in high fire-risk areas.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Receive report on existing County policies and practices regarding homeless encampment abatement and recommendations to improve abatement processes in high fire-risk areas.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night. Of those, 201 were counted in the unincorporated areas of the county. The County engages people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted community members, community partners, and other key stakeholders in developing County plans to address homelessness. Their feedback is valued and incorporated into the development of programs. The County has conducted lived experience forums in the North, East, and South Regions to gain valuable information on shaping programs and has

implemented regular lived experience feedback questionnaires. Today's proposed actions are designed to strike a balance between protecting public safety and upholding the rights and dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommended actions align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal #4 of safeguarding the health and well-being of all residents by addressing fire risks and mitigating environmental impacts associated with encampments on public and private land within the unincorporated areas.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendations to receive a report on existing County policies and practices regarding homeless encampment abatement and opportunities to improve abatement processes in high fire-risk areas. Staff will return to the Board for authorization and approval of funding source(s) for any future related actions with a fiscal impact. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter

