



August 23, 2024

Via Regular Mail and Email:

Presiding Judge Pauline Maxwell
1100 Anacapa Street
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107
pmaxwell@sbcourts.org

SUBJECT: City of Lompoc's Response to Findings and Recommendations in the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report: Homeless Encampments in Santa Barbara County: Becoming Part of the Community Again

Dear Honorable Judge Maxwell:

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury recently released its report entitled *Homeless Encampments in Santa Barbara County: Becoming Part of the Community Again*. The City of Lompoc is named as an affected agency and is required to respond to applicable findings and recommendations within 90 days of receipt of the report, by September 19, 2024.

The following are Lompoc's responses to the individual applicable findings and recommendations in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

Finding 2:

The negative effects of encampment sweeps can be mitigated when a variety of community resources are present at the time of the clean-up.

Response 2:

Agree.

Recommendation 2:

The County and the cities shall ensure that all sweeps occur utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach.

Response 2:

Has been implemented.

In 2018, Lompoc conducted an encampment sweep that addressed the entire Santa Ynez River. A “triage center” was established and representation from all disciplines were present.

Since 2018, encampment sweeps have been small and Lompoc staff coordinates with homeless outreach teams to address encampment clean-ups.

Finding 3:

Encampments lack basic sanitation services.

Response 3:

Agree.

Recommendation 3:

The County and the cities shall make trash cans, porta-potties, resources for handwashing, and sharps containers for safe disposal of needles and other hazardous waste available near encampment sites.

Response 3:

Has been implemented.

When Lompoc initiates an encampment “sweep,” sanitation services, including trash removal and temporary sanitation facilities, are provided during the process. This approach helps address immediate health and safety concerns and facilitates a more orderly transition for those affected. However, when individuals are residing in encampments, engaging in trespassing, and illegally dumping waste, the expectation is that they enter a structured program, such as a homeless shelter, where they can access comprehensive services, including restrooms, showers, and other necessary amenities. These facilities are designed to provide a stable and sanitary environment that encampments cannot offer.

In situations where local shelters are at full capacity, Lompoc will collaborate with faith-based organizations and community service providers to assess and address the need for additional resources within the city. This collaborative effort ensures that individuals have access to essential services without compromising public health and safety standards.

Lompoc will continue to provide necessary services during encampment sweeps and work with community partners to address any overflow needs.

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This concludes Lompoc's responses to the individual applicable findings and recommendations in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

Sincerely,



Jenelle Osborne, Mayor
City of Lompoc

cc: Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Santa Barbara County Courthouse
PO Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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cc: Honorable Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Members
Dean Albro, City Manager