



City of Buellton

August 19, 2024

Presiding Judge Pauline Maxwell
1100 Anacapa Street
PO Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

Re: Response to 2024 Grand Jury Report: Homeless Encampments in Santa Barbara County

Dear Presiding Judge Maxwell:

Per the request of the Grand Jury, the City of Buellton presents the following responses to recommendations found in the Grand Jury's report regarding Homeless Encampments. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your inquiry and to convey the City's position and potential actions regarding this issue.

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 to Finding 2 - *AGREE*

Recommendation 2

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

Response to Recommendation 2 – WILL BE IMPLEMENTED – The City is agrees that a multi-disciplinary approach is necessary to address the issues associated with engaging unhoused persons and attempting clean-up operations, to minimize trauma to the unhoused persons, to protect their rights, and to ensure their long-term health and well-being. While the City has no encampments in need of clean-up, any future cleanup operation of encampments will be conducted in consultation with law enforcement, Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, and other County and non-profit social service agencies.

Finding 3

Encampments lack basic sanitation services.

Response to Finding 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 to Recommendation 3 – WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED – The City of Buellton currently has no encampments within the City Limits. The determination as to whether or not to provide the facilities identified in Recommendation 3 will be made by the City as part of its response to the establishment of an encampment (should that occur), and will be made in light of the suitability of the site for such an encampment, the potential impact of the encampment on nearby residents and businesses, and the options available to the City for removal of such an encampment (especially in light of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*). While the City is unable to commit to any particular action with regard to providing facilities to a hypothetical encampment, it does commit to making decisions in this regard with a focus on the protection of the health and safety of the encampment residents as well as the community at large.

The City of Buellton hopes that you have found these responses both sufficient and useful. Should additional information be required, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully Submitted,


Scott Wolfe, ICMA-CM
City Manager



City of Buellton

107 W. Highway 246 • P.O. Box 1819 • Buellton, CA 93427

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