



November 12, 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 Judge Maxwell:

Per the request of the 2024 Grand Jury, the City of Solvang provides the following answers to the recommendations regarding Homeless Encampments found in their most recent Annual Report. We apologize for our delayed response, as we were unaware that the City of Solvang was expected to provide one until we recently received notice from the 2024-25 Foreperson. That said, our comments are as follows:

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.

Solvang Response – Agree

Recommendation 2 – The County and the cities shall ensure that all sweeps occur utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach.

Solvang Response – Has been implemented – To the extent that there have been any recent encampments within the City, the sweeps have been coordinated with the County and other agencies so that a variety of resources are available at the time of the clean-up.

Finding 3 – Encampments lack basic sanitation services.

Solvang Response – 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.

Solvang Response – Will not be implemented – The City of Solvang is not aware of any current encampments within the City limits. To the extent that any are discovered in the future, City staff will evaluate the encampment regarding the suitability of the site, especially in light of safety and health concerns of our residents as well as the campers. Additionally, in light of the recent SCOTUS ruling, we will also consider our options regarding removal of the encampment. While the City will not commit to any particular course of action, we do commit to treating everyone with dignity and respect.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at randym@cityofsolvang.com or 805.688.5575 x204.

Yours in public service,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Randy Murphy.

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Randy Murphy
City Manager