



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Media Advisory: Bridge to Housing Pilot Project Timeline Change

(Woodland, CA) – In an effort to ensure the Bridge to Housing Pilot Project is a success and all the necessary components are in place, the timeline for the project has changed. The North Levee Clean Up Day will now be held on Saturday, November 8 with moving day targeted for Wednesday, November 12.

Background

The riverbank in West Sacramento has long attracted people experiencing homelessness, especially along what is referred to as the North Levee (publicly and privately owned parcels north of the Broderick Boat Ramp). The North Levee area currently has an established community of approximately 71 people experiencing homelessness, 47 dogs and 22 cats. Members of this homeless community have lived there, without trash service or running water, for an average of 4.5 years, with some members homeless there for ten years or more.

The City of West Sacramento has worked previously to clear the area of homeless camping on several occasions; however, without other alternatives, the homeless have continued to return to the site after each instance.

This time, the West Sacramento Police Department reached out to representatives of public, private and faith-based agencies to think about a different and more effective way to work with the North Levee homeless encampment. The result is a collaboratively developed Bridge to Housing Pilot Project which is a time- and population-limited project designed to test a “Housing First” model for Yolo County. It consists of the following components:

- Initial Outreach
- North Levee Clean Up Day (November 8) – Requested by the homeless residents as a way to give back to the community for its assistance with donations and the assistance of United Christian Centers, Waste Management, Ethan Conrad Properties and Home Depot, to name a few
- Moving Day (Target: November 12) – Participating members (71 residents already identified) will move to a temporary housing location. There will be opportunities for a pet clinic, public health assessment, laundry, transportation and a move into a temporary housing site

- Pets will be allowed to go with their owners to temporary housing but some may have to pare down; pet owners are aware of this
- Yolo County Animal Services will be providing a cleaning station, immunizations and medication, as well as solutions for pets that may need to be surrendered
- Triage, Assessment and Application – During the 60 to 120 day stay in housing, 71 already identified members will participate in applying for benefits for which they may be eligible, including job training and assistance, chemical dependency, disabled benefits, counseling and other services. In addition, they will apply for available permanent housing programs for which they may be eligible
- Ongoing Services – Includes mental health, substance abuse, medical services and case management
- Placement in Permanent Housing – Includes ongoing and, in some cases, intensive case management to help them succeed in their new housing.

Partners: Bridge to Housing is a multi-disciplinary effort that includes:

- County of Yolo, including County Administrator’s Office, Employment & Social Services, Environmental Health, Health Services, Probation and Animal Services
- City of West Sacramento, including the Police Department and City Manager’s Office
- Legal Services of Northern California
- Yolo County Housing, including the CEO’s office, Real Estate Services and Housing Assistance
- United Christian Centers
- CommuniCare Health Centers
- Mercy Faith Coalition
- Yolo Community Care Continuum
- California State Parks
- Yolo Food Bank
- Home Depot
- Waste Management
- Turning Point Community Programs
- Northern California Construction & Training
- Yolo County Day Reporting Center (Sacramento County Office of Education)
- Ethan Conrad Properties

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved \$50,000 for the project, with \$50,000 matching support by the City of West Sacramento. Yolo County’s support services include Employment & Social Services, Health Services, Animal Control and Environmental Health. The City of West Sacramento’s Police Department and City Manager’s Office are also supporting the effort. Ethan Conrad is the property owner of the private parcel; public parcels are owned by the City of West Sacramento and California State Parks.

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