

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS

April 20, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Bartlett
Supervisor, Fifth District
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., 5th Floor
Santa Ana, California 92701

Dear Supervisor Bartlett:

The South Orange County Association of Mayors (SOCAM) met on April 19th to discuss a potential site for an emergency shelter serving the South Orange County Service Planning Area, as requested U.S. District Judge David Carter. City Officials acknowledge the urgency to find an emergency shelter location to address the homeless crisis in Orange County.

A site has been identified and presented to the County for its consideration. The address is 7531 E. Santiago Canyon Road, Silverado, CA 29676 (aerial image attached). The approximately 11 acre site consists of two former school classroom buildings, one of which is not in active use and contains three classrooms. It is estimated that each classroom could accommodate at least 20 sleeping cots per room for a total capacity of 60 beds. The site also includes several large paved and turf areas that could be utilized for additional bed capacity and/or support services (e.g. mobile services for health and social services as provided and described by County CEO Frank Kim at the SOCAM meeting) . The site is owned in fee simple interest by the County of Orange and is located within the South Orange County Service Planning Area (SPA) in unincorporated Orange County.

The City of Lake Forest was not part of the consensus for the Santiago Road site and has expressed a number of operational concerns regarding this site. Should the County of Orange wish to move forward with this site to accomplish the court's directive to locate an emergency shelter site in the South SPA, all of the South Orange County SPA Mayors have expressed their desire and interest in working collaboratively and cooperatively with the County and the City of Lake Forest to address any operational concerns.

The Mayors of the South Orange County SPA are ready to take all steps necessary to move forward expediently with the site as an emergency homeless shelter. The cities also understand that the court is ready to assist jurisdictions in this process should legal challenges arise. The County has direct experience in developing and implementing such a plan, having recently done so in less than 90 days at The Courtyard (former OCTA bus depot) in Santa Ana. The site's smaller size and current improvements to electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems, should enable the site to be quickly opened.

One noteworthy issue identified as a potential concern is transportation. SOCAM believes transportation logistics can be overcome through partnerships with non-profit providers or others, such as Lyft, Uber and the Yellow Cab contract that the Board of Supervisors may be considering at a future meeting. Shuttle services similar to those used for other emergency shelters may also be considered.

South Orange County City Officials have also recommended that the County initiate a partnership with the California Conservation Corps to create a jobs and transitional housing program at Los Pinos Forestry Camp. City Officials agree this could be an excellent opportunity to provide additional support services and to establish a jobs training program through the California Conservation Corps for those willing to accept employment. The jobs training

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program could serve as an important mechanism to provide employment and skills training and to assist in the transition out of homelessness.

SOCAM is advancing the date of their next meeting to continue this important dialog. We are confident that the County will thoughtfully deliberate on the identified site and provide feedback and further collaborative suggestions prior to the next SOCAM meeting date, May 10th.

Best Regards,
South Orange County Association of Mayors

Mayor David Harrington
City of Aliso Viejo

Mayor Richard A. Viczorek
City of Dana Point

Mayor Donald Wagner
City of Irvine

Mayor Kelly Boyd
City of Laguna Beach

Mayor Melody Carruth
City of Laguna Hills

Mayor Elaine Gennawey
City of Laguna Niguel

Mayor Carol Moore
City of Laguna Woods

Mayor Ed Sachs
City of Mission Viejo

Mayor Michael Vaughn
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Mayor Tim Brown
City of San Clemente

Mayor Sergio Farias
City of San Juan Capistrano

Attachment

CC: Orange County Board of Supervisors
Frank Kim, Orange County CEO
U.S. District Judge David Carter



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