



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Matt Mahan  
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez  
Councilmember Omar Torres  
Councilmember David Cohen  
Councilmember Dev Davis

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** June 14, 2024

Approved:

Date: June 14, 2024

**Subject: Potential Supportive Outdoor Sleeping/Temporary Alternative Sleeping Sites**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Accept staff recommendations (a), (b1), and (b3) with the following additions:

1. Delegate authority to the City Manager through June 30, 2025 to proceed with feasibility studies and construction of additional sites if necessary to meet the requirements of our Stormwater Permit
  - a. Report back to Council on any additional sites that will move forward through an Info Memo.
  - b. Within 30 days of the release of the Info Memo, Councilmembers may bring individual sites to the Rules Committee requesting a vote of the full Council.
  - c. Direct staff to conduct community meetings for feasible sites and evaluate the best approach for establishing Community Advisory Committees (CAC) for sites that proceed to construction.
2. Pursue a scalable and cost-effective operations model for safe sleeping sites that will result in significantly lower costs per bed than the EIH model while providing basic essential services and sanitation.

## **BACKGROUND**

We recently passed a budget that invests in the necessary and substantial efforts required to maintain our Stormwater Permit. Over the next year, we'll need to significantly reduce the amount of trash and biowaste entering our waterways, primarily from homeless encampments along our creeks. However, our ability to make progress and maintain compliance with our

Stormwater Permit hinges on rapidly establishing and scaling supporting outdoor sleeping (SOS) sites with enough capacity to move at least 500 people away from the waterways.

This level of urgency requires nimbleness and innovation, and we commend staff for identifying ways we can grant authorities to our Public Works Director to deliver projects quickly. However, with only nine potential SOS and Basic Needs sites proposed for further evaluation and given the very preliminary amount of analysis conducted to date, we're concerned that additional analysis could quickly narrow this list and limit the number of sites that advance to construction. Instead, we should ensure our City Manager has enough latitude to evaluate additional sites if necessary, and staff should feel empowered to deliver those sites without losing time spent seeking approval from Council. Our recommendations propose a balanced approach that grants the City Manager this authority, while providing a 30-day noticing period for Councilmembers to request a full vote of the Council on specific sites.

Further, as we bring SOS and Basic Needs sites online, we'll need to maximize our limited dollars for ongoing operations to ensure we can serve as many people as possible. While we recognize staff plans to further refine the estimates provided in [MBA #17](#), we're concerned the current trajectory will result in a costly operations model akin to interim housing that limits the number of sites we can operate. By comparison, [MBA #41](#) from last year estimated much lower operating costs. Council should affirm that the primary goal of both SOS and Basic Needs sites is to quickly move people into a more managed setting and provide the most basic but essential services, and staff should develop an operations model that reflects this goal.

*The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.*