

## American River Flood Control District Lathrop Way Clean-Up Assistance

### Staff Report

#### Discussion:

At the February Board meeting, the Board directed staff to work with the City to clean-up debris and materials on the District's parcel adjacent to Lathrop Way that have been deposited by campers on the parcel. Staff understood that the campers would need to be moved from the site to allow District crews and equipment access to remove the debris. The Board indicated a preference for having City Navigators from the Department of Community Response to hand out notices of trespass to the campers indicating they needed to leave the site by a set date to conduct the clean-up. If that assistance from City DCR was not available, staff was to enlist the support of the Sacramento Police Department to help move the campers.

The following is a timeline of events since the February Board meeting:

- Trustee L'Ecluse contacted Bridgette Dean, Director of the DCR, on 2/11/22 to request assistance. Ms. Dean replied that DCR would not be able to hand out notices of trespass or move campers on the District's parcel.
- Superintendent Kawamura contacted Officer Pettit at Sac PD to request help on 2/16/22. Officer Pettit stated that his City Legal Counsel considered our parcel as public land and therefore it was covered under the Boise decision. City PD stated they could not assist in handing out the notices of trespass but may be able to help once the District distributed the notices and still couldn't get the campers to move.
- District staff posted 'Notice to Vacate' signs all along the parcel on 3/2/22 and distributed the notices to visible campers. Staff did not knock on any RVs or tents to contact those within. The Notice to Vacate indicated a deadline to move on 3/8/22 at 7:00am for the clean-up.
- The District GM e-mailed Bridgette Dean on 3/2/22 indicating the posting on the Lathrop Way parcel.
- On 3/8/22, no visible movement of the campers from the parcel was observed.
- On 3/8/22 District Legal Counsel Rebecca Smith was contacted by City Attorney Brett Witter to discuss the City's determination that the parcel was a public parcel and the limitations of the City's to assist clearing campers the parcel.

The condition of the parcel is that it is strewn with belongings associated with the parked RVs and about a dozen tents. Most of the tent encampments appear to be occupied but one may be empty. There is not a large accumulation of 'trash' like we usually see at encampments in Arcade Creek and at Railroad Drive. Most of the materials on-site look like hoarded 'belongings'. The most serious hazard is a large accumulation of 10 to 15 5-gallon buckets grouped together in the center of the parcel that are filled with feces. There are also about a dozen gallon jugs filled with a liquid placed next to the buckets. These hazardous materials need to be disposed of properly and District staff is not trained on the proper disposal of such materials.

At this time, the ability to move the campers and the hazardous waste has exceeded the capability of District staff. The General Manager requests contracting authority to hire contractors to assist in the effort. Proposed contracts would be to private security firms to hand out notices of trespass and to affect the removal of the campers from the parcel and to Hazardous Waste Disposal Crews

Once the site is cleared, it is recommended that the District post 'No Overnight Parking' signs all along the parcel to prevent a reoccurrence of the costly and time consuming clean-up effort.

**Recommendation:**

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Trustees grant contracting authority to hire contractors to assist in the camp removal and clean-up effort.