

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND  
KATHRYN BARGER

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

**Establishing a Shelter in the San Gabriel Valley**

With the voters' approval of Measure H, Los Angeles County (County) has been able to provide more services and place more people into temporary and permanent housing than ever before. Yet, like in our neighboring counties, we are seeing a rise in homelessness. We currently have a shelter shortage, particularly in the San Gabriel Valley. People exiting the foster care system, the criminal justice system, and hospitals seek refuge in parks or behind businesses, without having their basic medical and mental health needs addressed after they exit those systems.

According to the most recent Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, more than 5,201 people are experiencing homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley. This is a 17% increase from the previous count. Despite the great need, there is a shortage of shelter beds in this region and this Board of Supervisors (Board) has made addressing homelessness one of its key priorities in its strategic planning.

Moreover, the City of Pomona boldly established the Hope for Home shelter, a

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

year-round facility that serves 200 women and men every single night. This 16,000-square-foot, tent-like structure with heating and air conditioning systems was built in part with Measure H funding (\$3.4M), and is operated by Volunteers of America Los Angeles through the use of Measure H funding. The Pomona Hope for Home shelter has a sleeping area, restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, private on-site security, and office space for program operations. At Hope for Home, individuals have access to basic health care, mental health, and substance use disorder services. This shelter has served as an early intervention strategy to assist people experiencing homelessness in the region.

Building off of the success of initiatives such as Pomona's Hope for Home shelter, the County must focus on how to right-size the current overall shelter capacity by looking into County-owned properties. Continuing to create shelters is a critical piece of the comprehensive effort to combat homelessness. Faith-based and community partners continue to craft plans to assist with decreasing homelessness in this region.

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation currently operates the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, a 836-acre park located in the City of Irwindale. Carving out a space of the recreational area for a temporary shelter could provide relief to individuals experiencing homelessness. By combining a temporary shelter bed with employment, health, and other supportive services, the County could provide individuals an opportunity to start over. In order to address the current shortage of shelter options in the San Gabriel Valley, the County must assist in establishing a shelter in this region.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI) to:

1. Work with the Departments of Mental Health, Health Services, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to report back in 30 days on the feasibility of a 75 to 100 bed, year-round interim housing shelter that would provide basic medical and mental health services at the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area; and
2. The report back should also identify ongoing funding for all costs associated with a year-round interim housing shelter.

# # #

HLS:jvall