

**Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center Capital Investment**

The Antelope Valley an under-resourced area of the County with respect to substance use disorder and mental health services, with unique challenges attributable to its remote location related workforce and service access. As a result, ensuring needed behavioral health services for this region is an essential priority. The Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center in Acton (AVRC) has been a cornerstone to the county’s substance abuse and addiction treatment services for over 80 years. Operating as the county’s only directly operated residential rehabilitation center, this facility has been crucial to ensuring the most vulnerable residents have access to robust addiction services.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is recommending permanent closure of the AVRC based upon a feasibility study by the Department of Public Works and internal and independent analysis focused on the ongoing operations of AVRC. The DPH Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control reported in January 2021 that overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic have increased by nearly 50% during the first five months of the pandemic. Similarly, the DPH Homeless Mortality Report update from January 2021 highlighted that drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness. The National Institutes of Health further indicates that about half of individuals with mental health conditions will also experience a substance use disorder at some point during their lifetime, and vice versa. In response, the County is taking steps to increase substance abuse services among our most vulnerable population including expanding access to various harm reduction tactics. These crucial measures must be matched in parallel with sufficient bed access. While DPH has identified additional substance abuse treatment beds in the Antelope Valley to exceed previous capacity, the increasing rates of people suffering from co-occurring disorders compels the need for both additional integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment options.

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MOTION

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health, to explore the feasibility of retrofitting or rebuilding the AVRC to establish an integrated care facility for individuals with substance use and/or mental health conditions.

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KB:acs