



# Proposed Critical Infrastructure Ordinance Prohibiting Camping in Certain Locations on Public Property

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# Overview – Conditions and Capacity

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*County is committed to a multi-faceted approach to unsheltered homelessness that prioritizes providing shelter, housing, and services :*

- Almost 250 new shelter beds funded this year
  - \$10 million to re-house 300+ households
  - Expansion of behavioral health services
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- Current Encampment Policy prioritizes outreach and shelter resources to high impact, high need camps
  - Despite this, numbers of unsanctioned encampments rising and conditions worsening

# Proposed Ordinance

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Proposed ordinance would limit camping in four areas:

## Critical Infrastructure

- Within 25 feet
- Requires identification of specific sites by resolution

## Wildfire/Flood Risk Areas

- Within 30 feet
- During severe weather events

## Shelter Perimeters

- Up to 1,000 feet

## Youth-Serving Facilities

- Within 25 feet
- Schools & libraries

# Proposed Ordinance

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*These locations were identified to:*

- Prevent potential damage and/or destruction of vital public assets and ensure no impact to operations and maintenance
- Address past challenges clearing wildfire and flood risk areas during severe weather
- Support goal that shelters result in a decrease in encampments in surrounding area
- Ensure youth have unimpeded access to schools and libraries

# Community Input

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## *Input from owners of public infrastructure*

- SMUD, Regional Transit, Reclamation Districts
- Currently challenged maintaining key infrastructure
- Safety concerns from employees tasked with maintenance and operations
- Able to work with County to prioritize sites when outreach and shelter capacity available

# Community Input

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## *Input from environmental advocates:*

- Concerns over environmental degradation of creeks and other waterways
- Acknowledgement of need for alternative locations for shelter and housing
- Concerns over behaviors and violence in encampments, and impacts on general public's comfort to enjoy public resources
- Request to consider 150 feet from waterways as 'critical infrastructure' in alignment with State Fish & Game code

# Community Input

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## *Input from homeless advocates – main themes:*

- Concerns that County does not have plan for adequate shelter/housing
- Concerns about impact of ordinance on ability to provide people basic services
- Concerns about punitive actions if people do not voluntarily comply
- Concerns that critical infrastructure ordinance is being used to limit land available for camping without conducting mapping
- Concern that ordinance(s) are not evidence based
- Concern about intersections of racial justice and climate change
- Concerns that County doesn't have sufficient places to store belongings if ordinance(s) are enforced

# Next Steps

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- Second reading of ordinance – August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Ordinance effective – September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Before implementing ordinance, Board will need to adopt by resolution to designate specific sites as ‘critical infrastructure’
- Staff will revise and update Encampment Response Policy based on ordinance
- Additional meetings with public property owners and partners on implementation