

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Omar Passons

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 9, 2022

Approved



Date

09/09/22

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE REGARDING EMERGENCY INTERIM HOUSING ALTERNATIVE SITES

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and City Council with updated information on Emergency Interim Housing (EIH) sites resulting from the discussions at the August 3, 2022, Rules and Open Government Committee meeting, including the associated memorandums and Administration's Early Consideration Forms. This memorandum serves as an interim update, with a more in-depth report to the Mayor and City Council expected late this fall regarding consideration of alternative site locations in Council Districts 4 and 10, among other related items.

BACKGROUND

On June 21, 2022, the City Council directed the City Manager to proceed with four site locations: expansions of two existing EIH sites and new locations in Council District 4 (Noble Ave) and Council District 10 (85/Great Oaks). During the meeting, the City Council indicated that the action did not require a return to City Council, and that staff should consider and analyze alternative site locations provided that alternative sites could be pursued on approximately the same timeline as the approved sites and deliver approximately similar results, as expressed in the approved memorandum by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Foley and Jimenez for the August 3 Rules and Open Government Committee meeting. In addition, Councilmember Cohen also submitted a separate memorandum and the approved item provided further clarification for staff to provide notice to the community regarding the site locations selected, as well as creating a process for further community feedback and engagement about the selected and potential alternative sites.

Other aspects of the August 3 memorandums and direction will be discussed later in the fall upon return to the full City Council. Two updates below are important to share at this time.

CURRENT UPDATES

First, consistent with City Council direction both to consider and evaluate alternative sites and to engage the community, staff has and is taking numerous important steps. In July, a significant community outreach, engagement, and notification effort was initiated. The effort included: launching a new Emergency Interim Housing [website](#); creating an up-to-date Frequently Asked Questions document; posting various reports and documents, including siting and evaluation guidelines; offering a form and email address to receive suggested alternative sites from the public; noticing the community near newly planned EIH sites; and holding numerous community meetings on Zoom and in person in Council Districts 4 and 10. Through these various forums, staff solicited alternative site suggestions through August 15, 2022. Staff has tabulated newly suggested alternate sites from the Mayor and City Council Offices, community, other agencies, and City staff, as well as previous sites on the list that warrant a re-evaluation. Staff posted this tabulated list on September 7, 2022, in its raw, pre-evaluation form, to the EIH [website](#). Staff anticipates providing periodic updates on the status and progress of the evaluation process to provide transparency prior to returning to City Council this fall.

Second, on June 21, 2022, the City Council directed staff to consider alternative sites for locating EIH in Council Districts 4 and 10. Subsequent to the June 21, 2022 meeting, staff reviewed in detail additional historical documentation that involve parcels that make up the Noble site in Council District 4. After review of these documents, the City Administration, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, has come to the conclusion that the additional associated challenges associated with this site make the Noble Avenue site no longer a timely or viable option. Therefore, at or before the November 29, 2022, City Council meeting, staff will recommend not pursuing the Noble Avenue site. Further, staff continues to focus its efforts on the City Council's direction regarding alternative sites. City staff are continuing the process of evaluating alternative sites proposed by the Mayor and City Council Offices, community, other agencies, and City staff, and the previous sites on the list that warrant a re-evaluation. As to the 85/Great Oaks site identified in Council District 10, staff continues to proceed per City Council direction while further evaluation of alternative sites is ongoing, and a fuller update will be provided upon return to City Council later this fall.

/s/

OMAR PASSONS
Deputy City Manager

For questions, please contact Omar Passons, Deputy City Manager, at omar.passons@sanjoseca.gov