

CACH Public Health and Storage Sub-Committee Meeting 10/14/19

Attendees: Aron Nicol, Ron Prince (Staff), Dwaine Tait and Tony Elliot (Parks and Recreation)

Problem Statement:

Lack of access to adequate sanitation facilities (toilets, sinks, showers, laundry, storage and needle disposal) creates severe hardships for people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz. This includes medical hardship, a loss of opportunities to seek/accomplish employment and housing and ultimately pose a potential public health risk.

Proposed Solution:

The City of Santa Cruz in collaboration with other stake holders to provide mobile urban sanitation stations in strategic locations throughout the city in order to meet the needs of the unsheltered population.

Anticipated needs:

As many as 50 additional toilets/sinks (likely closer to 25), 10-20 shower units and improved access to existing shower facilities

Phase 1 Work Plan

This phase of the sub-committee's work will be focused on hygiene, specifically the development of a needs assessment for both toilets and showers. The City Council's Homelessness Coordinating Committee (2017) framed their recommended action item on securing hygiene resources as follows: "Explore locations and providers of additional restrooms and showers dedicated for the homeless community. Consider hygiene buses or mobile restroom trailers. Consider partnership with the faith-based community homeless advocates, businesses and other organizations to support and host the mobile facilities."

Consistent with that recommendation, our CACH sub-committee is pursuing the elements of a **pilot program** that would involve the deployment of portable toilets and mobile shower units within strategically placed locations.

Siting: Parks and Recreation Director Tony Elliot is going to initiate a GIS (Geographic Information System) based data collection effort in order to identify suitable locations for portable toilets, based on on-going maintenance "hot spots". Data will also be captured on needle refuse collection locations. This data will be utilized to develop recommended sites for deployment of the portable toilets and for public engagement purposes.

Discussion:

A list providing the information on currently available toilets/sinks in parks and other public land was provided by Tony Elliot (Santa Cruz Parks and Rec) An acknowledgement that these are also used by tourists and residents was noted. See the map provided for facility locations with both quarter mile and half mile radius represented and the attached spreadsheet of public restrooms located in the City of Santa Cruz along with hours of availability. It was discussed that 3-6 mobile toilets/sinks and 3 mobile shower units could be temporarily positioned near Loudon Nelson in the SCPD lot...Pending discussions

with SCPD. A recognition that these are emergency oriented strategies and not long term solutions was also discussed.

Utilization: Special Projects Advisor Ron Prince will contact Housing Matters, the Salvation Army, the St. Francis Soup Kitchen and the coordinators of Shower the People, in order to collect data on shower use and potential gaps in availability. Up to 3 recommended sites will be researched for implementation feasibility, including costs associated with each potential rotating location.

Discussion: Any other toilets/showers in businesses or churches that might be made available similar to Bookshop SC program will be identified/documented. It was reported that 10 showers are currently available although, have very limited hour, maybe not ADA accessible and water pressure issues are significant.

Best Practices: The sub-committee will research best practices in the western United States, regarding successful hygiene pilot programs with a proven track record.

Discussion: It was discussed that the UN refugee camp guideline of 1:20 (toilets:people) as baseline requirement in what is an emerging space without clear standards. Olympia Washington was identified as a possible community to model our efforts after. Ron Prince agreed to reach out to the Community Homeless Coordinator for guidance/suggestions.

Funding: The sub-committee will be developing funding strategies for the proposed pilot program over the next 30 days.

Discussion: Member of the committee discussed several ideas ranging from soliciting local businesses/stakeholders to contribute vs the city borrowing money to purchase or lease portable hygiene stations. The idea of accessing HEAP funding for staffing along with a component of volunteers to address the staffing needed.

Public Engagement: Once the key elements of the pilot program are developed, a public engagement strategy will be launched in an effort to educate community members living near the proposed sites. Due to the fact that the mobile shower pilot plan would be set up on a rotating location schedule during the duration the plan, there is an expectation that public acceptance may be easier to achieve (versus permanent siting).

Discussion:

Information will be gathered from Olympia on hygiene measures they implemented around camps, feedback from the community listening sessions, other lessons.

A possible data collection could come from temporary attendants at public bathrooms in key locations eg. Main Beach

Notes and Next steps: The Sub-committee has scheduled the next meeting for 10/28/19 and subsequent meetings to be scheduled bi-weekly on the Mondays preceding the regular Tuesday CACH meetings. All members of the sub-committee agreed to continue to research best practices, and other feasibility concerns regarding providing urban sanitation stations that the City of Santa Cruz could potentially provide the homeless population. I was also discussed that continued concern for heavy burden on Parks staff, burnout, loss of high quality employees, heavy use of certain facilities, minimal use of others and significant environmental impact of camps near water (ocean, river) and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Other Further Data Collection

UN guidance on suggested number of showers if available, mapping of human waste in Santa Cruz with App to identify areas of greatest need/greatest public/environmental health risk, water quality trends over time near inlet for city water or water arriving at the treatment plant, GIS mapping of population, toilets, sinks, showers, syringe kiosks, high quality survey/needs assessment (on hold for now as unclear how this can be accomplished, need reliable data collected in scientific manner) and continued research on costs of used hygiene units (? 20K/toilet), cost of staffing (have ballpark ideas)

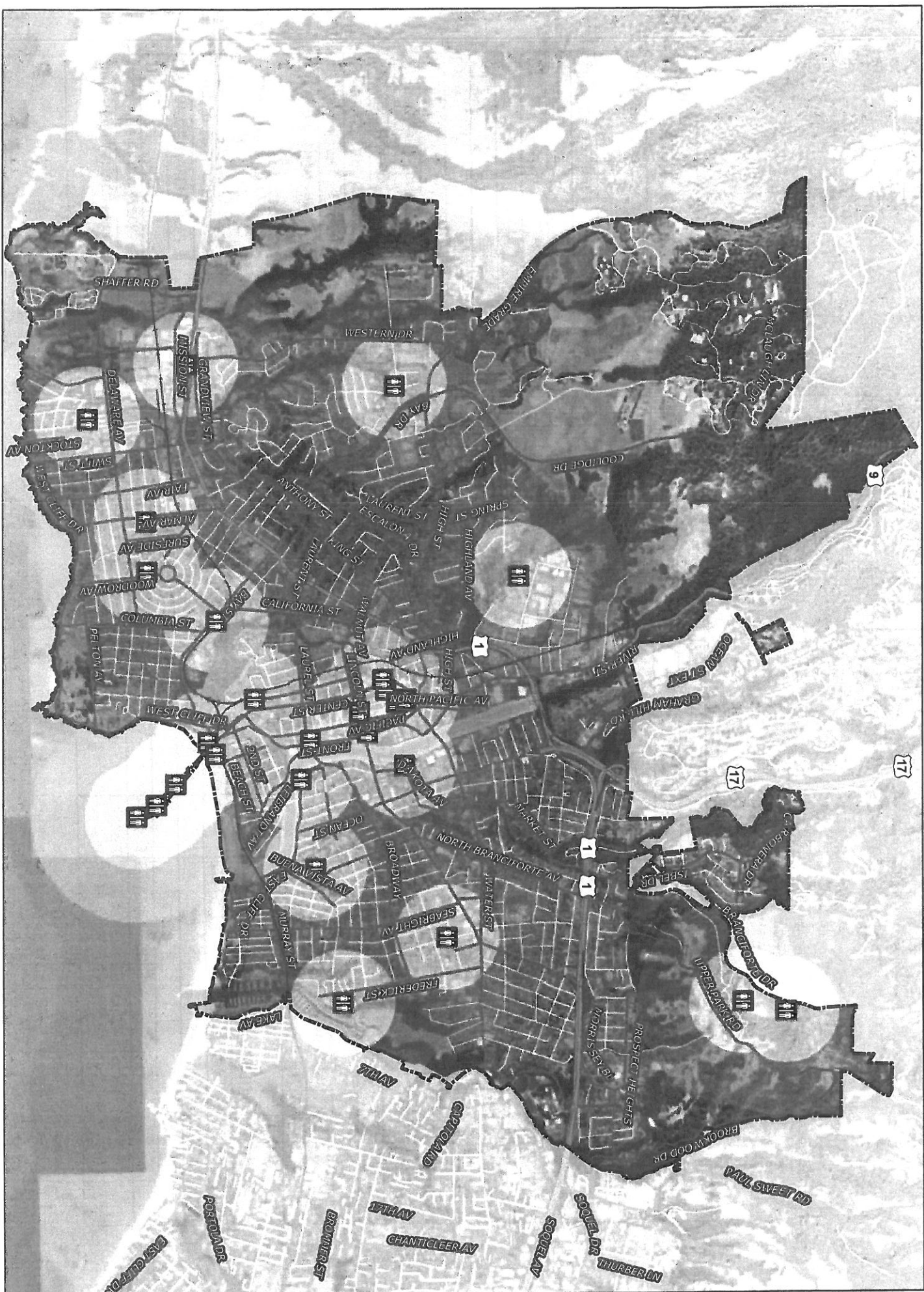
Further Discussions: Throughout the meeting the following areas of comments and concerns were noted: support for full time city employee working on these issues (Homeless Response Coordinator), need for productive and civil dialogue at full committee meetings and a concern re: loss of valuable members (Ingrid, Katie) and measures to prevent future losses.

City of Santa Cruz Public Restrooms

Location	Address	Type of facility	# toilets	# urinals	# sinks	Hours
PARKS						
Cowell Beach	Beach Street	Building	2		2	5am – 9pm
Delaveaga Golf Lodge	401 Upper Park Rd	Building	9	3	7	Sunrise to Sunset
Delaveaga Park	850 Branciforte Street	Building	4	5	2	Sunrise to Sunset (Nov.-Feb.), Sunrise to 11pm (Mar. – Oct.)
Depot Park	119 Center Street	Building	4	2	4	Sunrise to Sunset
Frederick Street Park	168 Frederick Street	Building	3	1	2	Sunrise to Sunset
Garfield Park	634 Almar Avenue	Building	2		2	Sunrise to Sunset
Grant Park	150 Grant Street	Building	2		1	Sunrise to Sunset
George Washington Grove	1292 Branciforte Drive	Building	2		2	Sunrise to Sunset
Harvey West Park	326 Evergreen	Building	4	3	2	Sunrise to Sunset
Ken Wormhoudt /Mike Fox Park	225 San Lorenzo Blvd.	Portable	1			Sunrise to Sunset
La Barranca	Corner of Cal & Bay St.	Building	2		1	Sunrise to Sunset
Main Beach	108 Beach Street	Building	8	4	4	5am – 11:30pm
Wharf Restroom 1 (near Wharf HQ)	Municipal Wharf Street	Building	5	2	2	5am – 10pm
Wharf Restroom 2 (Wharf Commons)	Municipal Wharf Street	Building	2		2	5am – 2am
Wharf Restroom 3 (Fish End)	Municipal Wharf Street	Building	6	2	2	5am – 2am
Ocean View Park	102 Ocean View Avenue	Building	2		1	Sunrise to Sunset
San Lorenzo Park	137 Dakota Avenue	Building	4	2	2	Sunrise to Sunset
Sergeant Derby Park	508 Woodland Avenue	Portable	1	1	1	24/7

University Terrace Park	Main entrance on Meder St	Portable	1		1	24/7
West Side Pump Track	100 Western Drive	Portable	1		1	Sunrise to Sunset
LIBRARY BRANCHES						
Branciforte Library	230 Gault Street	Building				Tue. – Th. 10a-6pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am – 5pm
Downtown Library	224 Church Street	Building				M-Th. 10am – 8pm, Fri-Sat 10am -5pm, Sun. 1-5pm
Garfield Park Library	705 Woodrow Avenue	Building				Mon. 10am – 5pm, Tue. – Th. 11am – 6pm, Fri. 1 – 5pm, Sat. 10am – 2pm
PARKING GARAGES AND LOTS						
Locust Street Garage	124 Locust Street	Building	3	1	2	6am – 10pm
Soquel Front Garage	601 Front Street	Building	3	1	2	6am – 10pm
Lot 2	1100 Cedar Street	Portable	1			24/7
Lot 8	710 Cedar Street	Portable	1			24/8
Lot 27	301 Front Street	Portable	1			24/9
OTHER						
City Hall	809 Center St	Building	3	1	2	
Police Department	155 Center St	Building	5	1	5	Mon.-Thur. 9am-4pm, Fri. 10am-3pm
Bookshop Santa Cruz	1520 Pacific Ave	Building	5	1	2	Sun. – Thur. 9am – 10pm, Fri. – Sat. 9am – 11pm
TOTAL			87	30	54	

Quarter Mile Buffer



Public Restrooms October 2019



Public Restroom

Quarter Mile Buffer

Half Mile Buffer



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

