

City of Lompoc

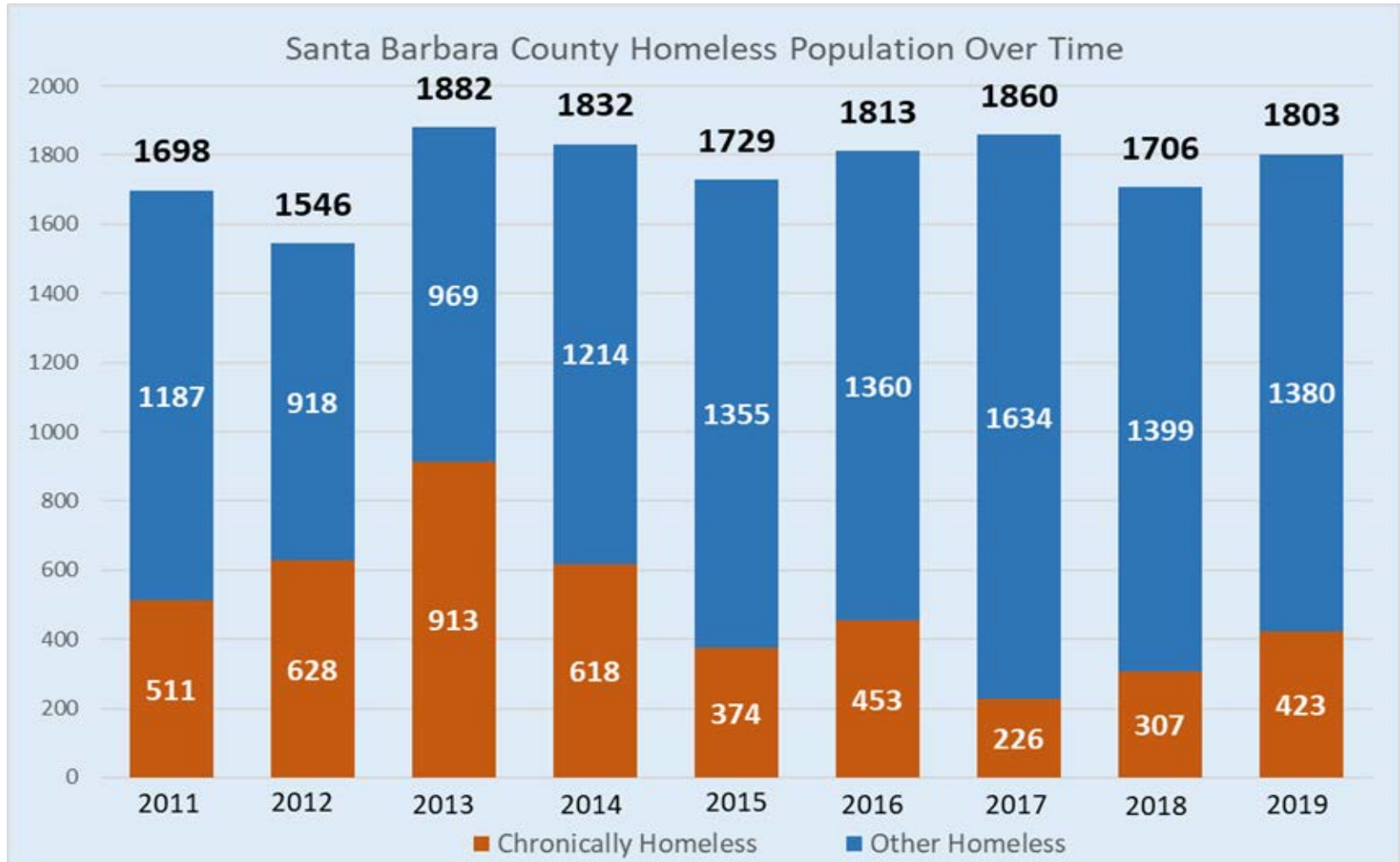
February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting

***Discussion of Santa Ynez Riverbed
Current Status / Clean-up / Homeless
Encampments / Ongoing Maintenance
and Security Required to Defray
Re-Encampment and Littering***



Background

2019 Point in Time Count
Countywide Homeless Population



2019 Point in Time Count Map



Fall 2018 – Riverbed Clean-up

- 60-75 encampments
- 60-80 individuals
- 30-day notices to vacate
- 30-day triage center



Fall 2018 – Riverbed Clean-up

Phase I Clean-up

- Sanitation of waste areas (tarps and sharps collection) to reduce risk during Phase II

Phase II

- Take-down and removal of structures and trash
- Vegetation management
- Larger trees and shrubs removed as allowed



Fall 2018 – Triage Center

- 30-day triage center
- September 10, 2018-October 11, 2018
- Triage Center Costs \$70,000



- Good Samaritan Shelter
- County Housing Authority
- Planting A Seed
- Micah Mission
- United Way
- North County Rape Crisis
- Home for Good
- Transitions Mental Health Association
- Coast Valley Substance Abuse & Treatment Center
- Prepare 2 Care
- Helping Hands of Lompoc
- Lompoc Valley Medical Group
- Family Service Agency
- Also coordination with County Public Service Agency staff including: Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender's Office, Public Health, Animal Services, Probation, Adult Protective Services, 4th District Supervisor's Office and Social Services.

Environmental

- Use of rubber-tired vehicles and equipment only;
- Spill kits available at all times equipment is used;
- Removal of invasive plant species using hand tools, mechanical methods and rodeo herbicide, where indicated by the biologist;
- A biologist present to advise the operator of the Forester what plants to avoid;
- Mowing, where okayed by the biologist, to a height of one foot (islands in river);
- Trimming of larger vegetation using hand tools;
- Use of goat herds to reduce vegetation and fire danger;
- All work must be accomplished when there is no water in the Riverbed;
- Trash, waste and sharps will be sanitized, collected and removed for proper disposal, as necessary;
- Police patrols, on foot, with the Polaris and trailer or the pick-up truck, and with a drone or drones may occur as often as daily; and
- Access is to be obtained from the first parking lot gate at River Park, the gate at Central Avenue and A Street, and the gate at McLaughlin Road to the multi-use trail.

Challenges Moving Forward

- ensuring safe access for contractors
- adequate numbers of police officers to safely and effectively patrol the Riverbed
- due to lack of investment in enforcement, unfortunately, the Police Department and homeless service outreach providers have reported the Riverbed has been re-inhabited with illegal campsites
- City's financial constraints to fund ongoing maintenance, patrol, noticing, abatement and clean-up.

January 2020 Assessment

- approximately 10-15 camps
- of which 10 were actively inhabited
- approximately 20 homeless persons illegally residing in those encampments



January 2020 Assessment





Fiscal Impact

Initial Clean-Up

- The cost for clean-up of the Riverbed at this point in time is estimated at \$128,820
- The Forester and biologist conducting vegetation management cost approximately = \$22,820
- Trash, structure and tarp removal costs approximately = \$56,000

Notice and Abatement

- Over time costs for law enforcement estimated = \$50,000

On-Going Maintenance & Patrol

- Lompoc PD
 - 2 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Police Officers \$ 272,862
 - 2 FTE Police Officers Estimated Overtime (OT) \$12,448
 - Safety Equipment \$5,000
 - Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs \$10,000
- Total Estimated Costs = \$ 300,200

Conclusion

- There are many moving parts in regards to the cost of eviction of the current unlawful inhabitants of the Riverbed, the clean-up of any remaining debris, and clearing of vegetation.
- Following clean-up, there is the on-going maintenance and patrols to deter re-inhabitation and vegetation management that will need to be conducted.
- The benefits outweigh those costs.
- Costs will be dependent on the approach the City Council chooses to take.