



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** February 7, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Dean Albro, City Manager  
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**SUBJECT:** Receive Report on Clean-up Efforts of the City-Owned Parcels East of the Airport

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council receive staff's report.

### **Background:**

#### *City-Owned Parcels East of the Airport*

On April 5 and April 19, 2022, the City Council adopted an ordinance closing three City-owned parcels east of the Lompoc Airport to public access and use (APNs 093-051-012, 093-051-013, and 093-051-014) and approved \$175,000 in supplemental budget appropriations for installing and maintaining fencing. The estimated amount for the clean-up of those parcels was expected to be approximately \$100,000. The fencing was \$86,351, police staffing for assisting in removal of encampments was approximately \$11,535, dumping fees were \$10,753, solid waste staff \$15,400, and professional cleaning services was \$7,519 for a total \$120,805.

There will be a 20-year repayment schedule for the Airport portion of the fence installation, for a total of \$24,000, divided into 20 annual payments of \$1,296.74, that will be added to the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2023-25. The fenced in Airport property will generate increased rental income and is expected to adequately cover the repayment schedule for the fencing project. The cost allocated to the Airport was determined at approximately 20%. The overall project cost could have been substantially lower, however due the large-scale clean-up, the extra reinforcements, and numerous vandalism issues, the cost was considerable higher than normal farm fencing. City staff allocated more to the General Fund, since the main concern was public safety.

### **Discussion:**

For the parcels east of the Airport, staff coordinated with local outreach programs and services to provide homeless individuals access to shelter, services, and programs and/or

relocate them with their families, when possible. That process started in April 2022 and concluded on September 6, 2022. This was a slow process, but it was intended to be a more permanent solution. Santa Barbara County (County) and non-profits have been very supportive in their efforts. It should be noted that the City's General Fund has also contributed \$25,000 in appropriations to the Good Samaritan to help in those efforts to find services and programs for needy individuals.

There are a number of homeless persons that have relocated within the City that had been identified during the 2018 cleanup. Those individuals are known as "services resistant" and pose a greater health concern and will need additional outreach to find permanent solutions.

During the outreach for the parcels east of the Airport, there were 43 individuals identified, of which only 4, or (9%) had ever lived in close proximity to Lompoc. The City and regional jurisdictions need to start looking at the homeless problems in Lompoc differently and transition from emergency sheltering to transitional shelters and provide services to help the homeless find permanent solutions. The regional approach to addressing homelessness is an area of great concern, since additional funding is needed to address the homeless individuals migrating to the City. These are limited and needed resources to provide adequate services levels to our citizens for police, fire, library, park, and recreation services and more. The Lompoc citizens are among the lowest median income throughout the County and their tax dollars are very limited and should be used for their service levels.

**Fiscal Impact:**

On May 24, 2022, the chain link fencing for the parcels east of the Airport was put out to bid and closed June 15, 2022. The total cost for the entire project was \$120,805 which was paid out of the General Fund. There will be a repayment schedule for the Airport's portion of \$24,000, paid in 20 annual installments of \$1,296.74 that will be added to the Biennial Budget Fiscal Years 2023-25.

**Conclusion:**

There are many moving parts regarding the cost of offering access to services and shelter and removing encampments of those experiencing homelessness. The clean-up of the parcels east of the Airport has been a good start to finding long term solutions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dean Albro, City Manager