



Memorandum

**TO: RULES & OPEN
GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE**

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Matt Mahan

**SUBJECT: GIS ANALYSIS FOR
EMERGENCY HOUSING
ON CALTRANS LAND**

DATE: January 27, 2021

APPROVED:

01/21/2021

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Direct the City Manager to:

- 1) Conduct a citywide GIS analysis of all vacant properties in San José owned by Caltrans that are at least 1 acre in size where short-term emergency housing may be feasible. The analysis should include but not be limited to the five Caltrans sites identified by the California Department of General Services (DGS) per CA Executive Order N-23-20¹.
- 2) Present the findings of the analysis to the City Council no later than Spring 2021 and seek further Council direction at that time.

BACKGROUND:

On January 8, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-23-20, which required the CA Department of General Services (DGS) to identify all properties from the digitized inventory of excess state land that can be used by cities on a short-term emergency basis to provide shelter for individuals who are homeless.

In response, the DGS utilized GIS mapping² to identify only five vacant parcels owned by Caltrans in San José that could be converted to short-term emergency housing:

1. District 1: in between CA State Route 85 off of Rainbow Drive
2. District 2: in between CA State Route 85 and Monterey Road interchange

¹ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EO-N-23-20-Homelessness-Crisis-01.08.2020.pdf>

² <https://cadgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c7f256b23d5e421885422c518db253b3>

3. District 4: in between CA State Route 237 and Holger Way
4. District 9: the CA State Routes 17 and 85 interchange
5. District 10: the CA State Routes 85 and 87 interchange

We believe a more comprehensive inventory of vacant Caltrans land in San José would better facilitate construction of emergency interim housing communities (EIHC). The site at Rue Ferrari/101, for example, was not included in the list, yet City staff identified its potential for an EIHC last Spring, successfully executed a lease agreement with Caltrans, and quickly transformed the vacant lot into a community for 118 unhoused residents that will open next week. We now have a small window of opportunity to leverage State funding and associated CEQA waivers to replicate this model elsewhere in the City, and we believe additional potential sites owned by Caltrans can be identified through a GIS mapping analysis.

By proactively identifying a full list of potential sites on Caltrans land for emergency housing, the City will be better positioned to secure philanthropic and State or Federal funding opportunities as they become available. Limiting the analysis to sites larger than 1 acre will ensure the study is efficient and focused on the highest potential sites.

Once the City conducts its own study, the candidate sites can be forwarded to the DGS and Caltrans for possible inclusion as state recognized sites, thus opening an avenue to future partnerships that can use the scalable template we have already demonstrated with the Felipe Bridge Housing Community and Rue Ferrari/101 emergency interim housing community.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.