



ISLA VISTA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
961 Embarcadero Del Mar, Isla Vista, CA 93117
www.ivparks.org | (805) 968 – 2017

Date: 12/17/2020
To: Community of Isla Vista
From: Isla Vista Recreation and Park District
Subject: Noticing at AO Park & Temporary Emergency Shelter

Dear Isla Vista Community Members,

IVRPD is proud and excited to play an instrumental role in the opening of the temporary emergency shelter located at 976 Embarcadero Del Mar. After 10 months of advocating for a pathway to provide humane and dignified options for those experiencing homelessness, the new shelter will provide resources needed by our unsheltered neighbors. We hope this becomes a model for how to support the housing crisis while providing safe well-maintained park and open spaces for all community members.

Our District has been advocating on behalf of those that are experiencing homelessness and to ensure we protect our community's public park investment to keep parks maintained, safe and accessible to everyone, especially with the increased need to access park and open space for healthier lifestyles during this pandemic.

The goal of the temporary emergency shelter is to protect the health and wellness of our community members experiencing homelessness, and although the shelter cannot accommodate all individuals from AO Park due to capacity limitations, IVRPD is working with its partners to ensure that every person is able to receive the same level of care and support if they choose to do so.

IVRPD has made every effort to ensure that our parks conform with CDC guidelines to keep the guests of our parks safe. The District has worked with Good Samaritan and other agencies to open a pallet home project to provide services and housing that were previously unavailable. We are asking guests to either relocate to these new individual housing options or relocate to an area of the People's Park where there is more space, ensuring better compliance with CDC guidelines.

IVRPD will be offering the southern end of People's Park for those who are unable to relocate to the temporary emergency shelter. IVRPD is currently working with its service provider and outreach partner, Good Samaritan, to develop a relocation assistance plan that would ensure the health and wellness of Isla Vista's houseless community members while connecting them with essential services and resources such as a sanctioned safe sleeping space at People's Park, handwashing stations, and portable restrooms in a socially distanced manner consistent with CDC guidelines and state health orders.

Per the notices distributed throughout Anisq'Oyo' Park (AO) on Wednesday December 9th, 2020, area closures for maintenance will begin on Monday December 21st, 2020 and individuals are being asked to remove their personal property from the area by Sunday December 20th, 2020.

Due to increased violent activity, complaints by residents and business owners, multiple near-death drug overdoses, human trafficking and other health and safety issues, areas within AO Park will be closed in order for IVRPD to abate those public health and safety issues, as well as remedy, repair, and maintain park resources. AO Park area closures allowing staff to resume maintenance and complete long-delayed park improvement projects are consistent with the COVID-19 Encampment Management Policy (CEMP) adopted by IVRPD's Board of Directors at a public meeting held on August 27th, 2020.

During this noticing, IVRPD and IV Foot Patrol staff contacted as many residents as possible to provide verbal updates on the noticing provisions, and to inform residents that outreach teams would be following up with them

during the noticing period to offer alternative shelter and other resources. IVRPD elected to defer enforcement of its COVID Encampment Management Policy (CEMP) until alternative safe sleeping sites could be provided to community members experiencing houselessness.

IVRPD does not have the budget, staff, or expertise to expend funds on non-park/recreational activities. This is why IVRPD believes it is vitally important for other community agencies and organizations to partner with the District to provide the services and resources that many in the houseless community lack at this time.

Sincerely,

Isla Vista Recreation and Park District



Who is Good Samaritan Shelter?

Good Samaritan Shelter provides the community with many programs addressing homelessness as well as alcohol and substance abuse. This nonprofit organization aspires to save lives and improve the health of those in need on the central coast of California. We provide assistance in countless ways – providing shelter, affordable housing, clean & sober living, drug & alcohol treatment, outreach and education within the local community. By partnering with other local supportive service agencies, we are able to provide the highest level of care to those who need it most. Now reaching across two counties, Good Samaritan Shelter is continually expanding its services to better assist those in need.

Good Samaritan provides the following:

General Services: Case Management, Counseling, Therapy, Safe Houses and women’s treatment centers, Public benefits assistance, Substance abuse wellness and recovery action plans, drug and alcohol education and information, temporary financial assistance

Programs: Shelters, Sobering Center, Residential Treatment Services, Outpatient Treatment Services, Clean and Sober Living, Women’s Treatment Center, Mental Health Services, Veterans Services, Peer Parent Partner Program, After School Program, Rapid Re-Housing, Jail Discharge planning services.

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