



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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**The City Continues to Address Encampment Issues at the Intersection of
Eaton Road and Cohasset Road**

Chico, CA – (Feb. 23, 2023) – On February 22, 2023, the City of Chico (City) participated in a conference with Judge Newman and plaintiffs’ counsel at Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) to resolve whether enforcement may proceed at the encampment located at the intersection of Eaton Road and Cohasset Road. Judge Newman concluded that enforcement may proceed, but that the City must establish two additional alternative sites before doing so.

The City has already approved a portion of the unimproved property located at the southeast corner of Eaton and Cohasset. Within a matter of days, the City expects to have two additional alternative sites built out in that location, with one becoming operable and the other available if the number of homeless persons referred to the alternate sites increases. It is not clear whether LSNC will again object to the City’s creation of the two new alternate sites, but the City will seek to resolve any such dispute as quickly as possible.

For each alternative site, Judge Newman has directed that the City may restrict access to persons who receive referrals to those locations only, and may keep those locations maintained in a manner that promotes emergency access.

Judge Newman further stated that the City may exclude individuals who have already been assessed from its calculation of whether enough bed space exists for a planned enforcement operation. However, such individuals will be re-evaluated to determine whether they wish to enter shelter at that time. Moreover, Judge Newman held that the same procedure should be followed for people living in RVs because they already have a shelter to live in. In other words, Judge Newman has confirmed that the City will have the ability to proceed with enforcement even if there is a large number of individuals who were previously assessed or reside in RVs in future enforcement areas.

For more information, please contact:

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Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us

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