



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 26, 2023**

### **The City Works to Address Encampment Issues at Teichert Ponds**

Chico, CA – (Jan. 26, 2023) - The City of Chico (City) initiated discussions with plaintiffs' counsel at Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC), involved in the Warren v. Chico settlement, on December 21, 2022, to prepare for then-imminent adverse weather conditions that could have created difficult living conditions for the unhoused persons living at Teichert Ponds.

At that time, the City counted 54 persons camping at the location. At that time, there were 26 available pallet shelters and 29 open beds at the Torres Shelter for a total of 55 qualifying shelter locations.

The City's position was that it should be able to prevent people from entering Teichert Ponds, thereby endangering themselves, while assessing current occupants for shelter and assisting them with property removal, only enforcing on those who refuse to leave, if enough shelter space is available to do so. LSNC's position was that there are too few bed spaces currently available to enforce on anybody at Teichert Ponds. The City responded that the present availability should be more than adequate because there were multiple couples who could utilize a double-occupancy unit at the Pallet Shelter, multiple occupants have already been assessed and refused shelter previously, and, based on prior experience, it is likely that many homeless persons will simply leave the area rather than accept shelter. LSNC objected to enforcement at that time.

As of January 04, there were 28 pallet shelters available and 24 open beds at Torres Shelter (52 in total). On Monday, January 02, Target team found 52 individuals on site with many vacant tents. LSNC claimed a higher number, which is possible, as people come and go from the site regularly. However, we know from past experience that a very significant number would likely not go into shelter. We were confident that enforcement at Teichert would not fill all available shelter space. But because of the perceived possible lack of qualifying shelter space, the City was prevented from enforcement.

The City raised these issues with Chief Magistrate Judge Kendall J. Newman on January 05 during an emergency hearing. Chief Judge Newman denied the City's request and ordered the parties to continue to meet and confer to reach a solution.

The City mapped the locations of encampments and people in the area, and proposed a smaller area determined to include 40 campsites (several abandoned) and 34 persons. Notice LSNC was provided on January 10, 2023. LSNC again objected unless the City agreed to the following conditions:

1. The City will enforce according to Plaintiffs' counsel's interpretation of the location of the red border line running across from 1500 Humboldt Road to 1422 Ridgebrook Way; and
2. There are at least 45 available shelter spaces on the morning of Tuesday, January 17.

Agreement as to the enforcement location was reached on January 18. On site noticing began on January 19, 2023. We expect final enforcement and cleanup during the week of February 01, 2023.

[2022-12-21 Notice of Planned Closure of Public Property to LSNC](#)

[2023-01-11 Notice of Planned Closure of Public Property to LSNC](#)

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](http://www.chico.ca.us)*

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