

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL  
COUNTY OF ORANGE

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7 Attorneys for Defendants, County of Orange,

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **SOUTHERN DIVISION – SANTA ANA**

11 ORANGE COUNTY CATHOLIC  
WORKER, an unincorporated association;  
12 LISA BELL; SHAWN CARROLL;  
MELISSA FIELDS; LARRY FORD;  
13 CAMERON RALSTON; KATHY  
SCHULER; GLORIA SHOEMAKE, as  
14 individuals,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.

17 ORANGE COUNTY; THE CITY OF  
ANAHEIM; THE CITY OF COSTA  
18 MESA; and THE CITY OF ORANGE,

19 Defendants.  
20

Case No. 8:18-cv-00155 JLS-E

**COUNTY’S NOTICE OF ISSUES TO  
DISCUSS WITH THE COURT**

21  
22 The County is in the position to meet its obligation under the Stipulation, in order for  
23 the TRO to be lifted on Tuesday, February 20th at 9:00 a.m., as ordered by the Court.  
24 However, the immediate motel placement within one day presents a challenge. Below is a  
25 list of the resources the County has been able to secure thus far:

- 26 • 42 persons are housed in motel rooms;
- 27 • 54 motel rooms are available today, including 27 motel room connections provided  
28 by Brooke Weitzman;

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COUNTY OF ORANGE

- 1 • 28 motel rooms are currently being negotiated but not confirmed;
- 2 • Many persons on the Riverbed have been asking to share rooms, which we have
- 3 accommodated and is helping the County secure enough rooms;
- 4 • The County's Chief Real Estate Officer is currently finalizing a six month lease for
- 5 100 hotels rooms at a local motel, and has reached a tentative agreement with the
- 6 hotel owner. The lease would provide for 50 hotel rooms immediately and 50 more
- 7 over the next two weeks. The maximum capacity of the 100 rooms (which not only
- 8 includes standard hotel rooms, but also larger rooms and suites with larger capacity)
- 9 is 282 occupants. The Chief Real Estate Officer is currently in final negotiations on
- 10 the lease rate and hopes to have the lease executed tomorrow and the first 50 rooms
- 11 available upon lease execution. Additionally, the draft lease includes offices for on-
- 12 site Health Care Agency and other County staff, to provide direct linkage to services.
- 13

14 However, we are asking the Court to consider the short time table imposed by the  
15 Court on the County, which is to transition almost 300 individuals, who have been  
16 chronically homeless, immediately into housing without even a preliminary assessment as  
17 to the appropriate motel choice placement for that individual. This was never the County's  
18 plan, even before this litigation. Harried motel housing for this population may set them up  
19 for failure. In fact, some of the individuals housed since last week in motels have already  
20 been evicted for failure to comply with rules. Similarly, instantly uploading 300 plus  
21 individuals into the County's health care system creates a burden that cannot be met this  
22 quickly and sets the system up to fail.

23 The purpose of this CMC is to ask the Court to allow the County to proceed in a  
24 multi-stage approach. We can reduce to 3 stages in order to meet a shorter time table, but  
25 we would prefer not move on from a previous stage without completely and adequately  
26 placing the population in that stage. If the Court insists on clearing the Santa Ana Riverbed  
27 in one day, the County requests that the Court encourage persons suffering from substances  
28 addictions or physical ailments to instead select a service option, such as recuperative care

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1 bed or substance abuse treatment beds, that will better meet those individuals' long term  
2 needs.

3 Even though the County's staged plan may not get everyone currently on the Riverbed  
4 into a motel by the end of Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, that does not mean the County is  
5 breaching the terms of the Stipulation or that the TRO should not be lifted. In addition to  
6 the concern that persons are not placed in the appropriate motels, the Court's plan of having  
7 everyone in a motel room by Tuesday is challenging, given the following:

- 8 • County staff have been met with a higher level of resistance to renting to the  
9 homeless population due to the stigma attached to the homeless, especially those  
10 with mental health and/or substance use issues. Staff continue to call motels, but are  
11 finding a reluctance to rent rooms. In working with local motel owners and property  
12 managers, many report that they do not want people with substance use problems in  
13 their motels;
- 14 • Approximately 5 persons who have been placed in a motel room have already been  
15 evicted or are in the process of being evicted by the motel and some are seeking a  
16 second motel room;
- 17 • It is being reported to HCA staff that more and more people are entering the Riverbed  
18 and demanding their motel room;
- 19 • It has been reported by HCA staff that some individuals at the Riverbed are becoming  
20 more aggressive, demanding hotel vouchers;
- 21 • It has been reported by HCA staff that some are refusing motel housing due to not  
22 liking the location, the individual motel, and people located at the motel, and  
23 wanting to be near their friends; and
- 24 • Individuals who appear appropriate for a Substance Use Disorder treatment bed or  
25 Recuperative Care bed are refusing those options, and instead demanding motel  
26 housing.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE