

# **Wood Street Encampment Management Interventions**

## **July 2022**

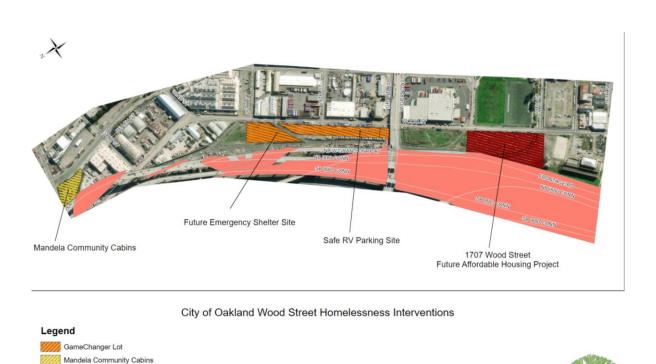
#### Location

1707 Wood Street Oakland Street

STATE OF CALIFORNIA (Caltrans)

Wood Street from West Grand Ave to 26th Street. The Wood Street encampment is located on City-owned public right-of-way outside the fence bordering the City's Safe Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking site and the adjacent empty lot owned by Game Changers.

There are a number of encampments on Wood Street along a large swath of land owned primarily by Caltrans but also by railroads and private entities, in addition to the City of Oakland. The City of Oakland's encampment management activities focus exclusively on City-owned rights of way.



Summer 2022

#### **Encampment Intervention**

The week of July 11-14, 2022 the City removed abandoned, empty structures and more than 51 tons of debris from the Wood Street encampment and provided shelter to individuals who accepted services. A substantial amount of work was accomplished, but the City has not yet cleared the entire area on City-owned property. The City does not have a firm date when the closure operations on Wood Street will resume.

Encampment Management crews followed the Standard Operating Procedures established for identification, removal, and storage of personal belongings during an encampment operation.

The Wood Street encampment is located in a high-sensitivity zone as defined in the City's Encampment Management Policy, which prohibits encampments within 25 feet of an intervention such as the Safe RV Parking Program on the Game Changer lot.

For about a year the City of Oakland has been conducting thorough and ongoing outreach, which intensified over the weeks leading up to the encampment operation. The City has been and will continue to offer services and shelter alternatives to all residents of the Wood Street site on City property, including Community Cabins, The Holland, the Safe RV site, and a hotel, pending availability at the Family Front Door. Outreach teams engaged about a dozen individuals who have been living on site (the population fluctuates); six accepted alternative shelter.

## **City Shelter Bed Capacity**

As of January 2022, the City has a total of 1,528 shelter beds in a number of categories. The City's shelter beds are generally full, however the Encampment Management Team does hold vacancies as they become available to provide shelter for people impacted by City encampment closure activities.

January 2022	Year Round Shelter	Transitional Housing (brick and mortar)	Community Cabins	RV Safe Parking (2 per ppl per RV)	Totals
	598 beds	353 beds	283 beds	294 people (147 spaces)	1528

#### **Safe RV Parking and Mandela Community Cabins**

The **Safe RV Parking program** is in the Game Changer lot on Wood Street. It opened in July 2021 and can accommodate 40 RVs. The **Mandela Community Cabins** opened in 2019 and can accommodate 76 individuals.

#### **Future Emergency Shelter Site**

Funded by a \$4.7 million grant from the State of California, the City plans to set up an emergency shelter program at Wood and 26th streets with 50 shelters. Subject to full funding, the City will add an additional 50 shelters, for a total of 100 units. This emergency shelter site will be located on the second half of the Game Changer lot at Wood Street.

The City's goal is to set up the emergency program within 60 days of construction of the shelter site (which could also take up to 60 days). The City began conversations with Wood Street community members last year to begin the development of this emergency shelter program; Wood Street residents will have priority at this site.

### **Encampments on Caltrans Property**

While the City does not have jurisdictional authority to clear or manage encampments on land owned by other agencies, including Caltrans, the City's interest is in seeing that people affected by closures are housed and supported by services. Unfortunately the City of Oakland does not have capacity to shelter all Wood Street residents.

The City will continue to support Caltrans in their collaboration with Alameda County to identify additional outreach and shelter resources to address the larger population living on their property. The City appreciates and agrees with the Court that Wood Street must close for the health and safety of all residents.

## **Policy Compliance**

This work is done in accordance with the requirements of the City of Oakland's <u>Encampment Management Policy</u> (City Council resolution 88341). This location is considered a high-sensitivity area as defined in the policy, as the encampment is obstructing the City's essential right of way. The policy states, "high-sensitivity areas are locations where the health and safety impacts of homeless encampments are heightened due to the

potential degradation of critical infrastructure, restriction of public amenities or services, or significant obstructions to... businesses."

Additional regulations and guiding documents include, but are not limited to:

- Offer of Shelter Policy (City Council resolution 88077)
- 9th Circuit decision in Martin v. City of Boise
- Applicable Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines

## **How You Can Help**

To learn more about how the City of Oakland is working to address homelessness, including how you can get involved and help, please go to <a href="https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklands-response-to-homelessness">https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklands-response-to-homelessness</a>. If you or someone you know is hungry, homeless, or housing insecure, please call 2-1-1.