



City of Grover Beach

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Closure & Cleanup of Transient Encampment

GROVER BEACH, CA — On January 26 and 27, 2016, the City of Grover Beach, in partnership with the County of San Luis Obispo, the State of California, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and South County Sanitary Services will be closing and clean up the transient camp located just south of the Train Station in Grover Beach (100 block of South Highway One). The closure will facilitate a major remodel of the Grover Beach Train Station that will extend the depot to the south of the existing facility. Once completed, the project will relocate the bus loading facilities currently located on the east side of the railroad tracks and provide additional parking.

The City of Grover Beach, the County of San Luis Obispo, and other agencies have been working with social service organizations to make encampment occupants aware of services available to them. Representatives from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services, Good Samaritan Services, Transitions Mental Health, Five Cities Homeless Coalition, and SLO Housing Connection visited the site on multiple occasions and offered services to the occupants. Additional informational pamphlets with available social services were provided to the occupants by the Grover Beach Police Department.

While this work is being done as part of the Train Station Expansion Project, the closure addresses an ongoing health and safety issue. There have been a number of calls for Police and Fire assistance within the encampment. Since September 2015, approximately 20 citations have been issued by Grover and Union Pacific Police. According to Mayor Shoals, "*Closure of this encampment allows the Train Station Project to move forward and resolve a public health and safety issue*".

The two-day operation will include the law enforcement agencies vacating the encampment and the Grover Beach Police Department taking possession of any valuable property for the safekeeping and return to the rightful owners who are not present during the vacating process. A cleanup crew will be brought in to remove trash and debris left behind on the property. Once the area has been cleaned up, fencing will be installed to secure the area from trespassers. The area will then be monitored by the Grover Beach Police Department using video surveillance and police officer visits during site preparation and construction of the train station expansion.

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