

SONOMA COUNTY
 **WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**

www.sonomawib.org

**Executive Committee - REVISED
December 13, 2023
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Note Location ⇔ ⇔

2227 Capricorn Way, Santa Rosa
Petaluma Room

This is an in-person meeting. If you meet the criteria for AB2449 “just cause” for virtual attendance please contact staff 24 hours before the meeting at 707-565-8500 to confirm and receive a zoom link.

***Vote Required**

- I. **Public Comment (4:00)**
- II. **Approve Minutes of November 8, 2023 and Review Action Items (4:05)** *(Action*)*
- III. **WIB Business (4:10)** *(Discussion/Action*)*
 - A. **Membership**
 - B. **Attendance**
 - C. **Ethics Update**
- IV. **Operations (4:25)** *(Discussion)*
 - A. **OSO Update**
 - B. **Job Link Update**
 - C. **Grant Updates**
- V. **Ad Hoc Committee Updates (4:45)** *(Discussion/Action*)*
- VI. **Prepare for January WIB Meeting (4:50)** *(Discussion)*
- VII. **Upcoming WIB Executive Committee Meetings and WIB Meetings** *(Discussion)*

January 10, 2024	Executive Session:	2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed
January 10, 2024	Full Session:	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed
- VII. **Adjourn**

Open Meetings: Except as expressly authorized under the Brown Act, all meetings are open to attendance by interested members of the public.

If WIB members are **unable to attend**, please **call (707)565-8500 prior to the meeting** to leave a message stating you are unavailable.

Meeting Materials: Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the WIB after distribution

of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the WIB Administrative Office at 2227 Capricorn Way, Suite 100, Santa Rosa during normal business hours.

Accommodation: *If you have a disability which requires the agenda materials to be in an alternative format or requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please call (707) 565-8500 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting, to facilitate arrangements for accommodation.*

Workforce Investment Board

Executive Committee

DRAFT Minutes of November 8, 2023

Members Present: Brandy Evans, Robin Bartholow, Judy Coffey, Scott Kincaid, and, Stephen Jackson

Members Absent: Michael Pickens Ananda Sweet

WIB Staff: Michelle Revecho, Maureen Fifer, Pru Ratliff, and Judy Oates

* Indicates members who arrive late or leave a meeting early.

I. Public Comment

Duane Dewitt of Roseland spoke as a member of the public. He asked for someone from the City of Santa Rosa or from County of Sonoma to step up and champion the work to be done on the polluted area (known by the EPA as Brownfield sites) by Sebastopol Road. There was a grant for this work six years ago and he would like to see this work continued.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2023; and Review Action Items

Motion to approve Minutes of May 10, 2023: Scott Kincaid /s/ Judy Coffey. Approved (Brandy Evans, Robin Bartholow, Judy Coffey, Stephen Jackson, and Scott Kincaid.) There were no abstentions. There were no “nay” votes. The motion carried.

III. WIB Business

A. Membership

- Reviewed new member application from Cynthia King. This item will be held until the Membership Ad Hoc Committee meets. Staff reminded the committee there is still another application from Lauren Bosworth on file for review as well.
- Noted that Anita verbally told a WIB member she intends to leave the WIB but has not submitted a resignation in writing yet.

Action: Staff was asked to reach out to Cynthia to see if she is looking to replace Dr. Cooper as a representative of CAP Sonoma or if this was a separate request.

Action: Judy Coffey will reach out to Anita regarding an official resignation.

Auxiliary aids, services, and versions are available to individuals with disabilities upon request by calling (707) 565-8500.

B. Membership Ad Hoc Update

- The group had their first meeting.
- Newly added members include Robin Bartholow, Carol McHale, and Judy Coffey.
- The group plans to review the current application form and process against what other WIBs use and what the Maddy Book uses.

C. DEIB Ad Hoc Update

- The team has completed the first goal of Learning. The second goal of Membership is in process (under the newly formed Membership Ad Hoc). The third and last goal of Data and accountability will be discussed at the next meetings.
- Michelle reported that the Office of Equity is working on accountability measures that will be part of the discussion at the next meeting.

D. Exec Meeting Retreat

Brandy asked if there was interest in doing a retreat in 2024 to engage in planning and review goals. The group would like to work with staff to plan a WIB Executive Committee retreat in the fall of 2024, and look at the option of a WIB retreat in 2025 for education and planning.

E. WIB Monitoring Update

Pru shared that staff is waiting to receive the findings report from the state for our September/October monitoring visit. This information will be shared at a future meeting.

IV. Prepare for November WIB Meeting

There were no discussion items or requests to prepare for at this time.

V. Upcoming WIB Executive Committee Meetings and WIB Meetings

November 8, 2023	Full Session: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed
December 13, 2023	Executive Session: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed
January 10, 2024	Executive Session: 2:00 pm to 2:50 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed
January 10, 2023	Full Session: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	In person / Zoom As Needed

VI. Adjourn

2:53 pm meeting was adjourned.

Auxiliary aids, services, and versions are available to individuals with disabilities upon request by calling (707) 565-8500.

WIB Attendance 12 Months										
	Dates						Present	%	Absent	%
	1/11/23	3/8/23	5/10/23	7/12/23	9/13/23	11/8/23				
Bartholow, Robin	P	P	P	A	P	P	5	83%	1	17%
Brown, Ethan	P	P	P	A	A	P	4	67%	2	33%
Carlson, Erin	P	P	P	A	P	A	4	67%	2	33%
Coffey, Judy	P	P	A	P	P	P	5	83%	1	17%
Cooper, Susan	P	P	A	A	P	P	4	67%	2	33%
Davis, Brad	P	P	A	P	P	P	5	83%	1	17%
Diaz, Keith	P	A	P	P	P	P	5	83%	1	17%
Duranczyk, Paul	P	P	P	P	A	A	4	67%	2	33%
Emanuele, Nancy	A	A	P	Z	P	P	4	67%	2	33%
Evans, Brandy	P	P	P	P	P	P	6	100%	0	0%
Holloway, Kristina	P	A	P	A	P	P	4	67%	2	33%
Jackson, Stephen	P	P	A	P	A	P	4	67%	2	33%
James, Judy	P	P	P	A	A	P	4	67%	2	33%
Kincaid, Scott	P	P	P	A	P	P	5	83%	1	17%
Knerr, Chris	P	P	P	A	P	A	4	67%	2	33%
McEntagart, John	P	A	A	P	P	P	4	67%	2	33%
Pickins, Michael	P	P	P	A	A	P	4	67%	2	33%
Brian Purtill	X	X	X	X	P	P	2	100%	0	0%
Sprague, Ken	P	A	P	Z	P	Z	5	83%	1	17%
Steffensen, George	P	P	P	P	P	P	6	100%	0	0%
Stuebner, Thomas	A	P	P	A	P	A	3	50%	3	50%
Sweet, Ananda	P	P	A	P	P	A	4	67%	2	33%
Tam, David	P	P	P	P	P	Z	6	100%	0	0%
Toledo, Pedro	P	A	Z	A	P	A	3	50%	3	50%
Wall, Alena	A	P	P	P	A	A	3	50%	3	50%
Wayte, David	P	P	P	P	A	P	5	83%	1	17%

P = Present A = Absent X = Not a member yet Z= Approved attendance via zoom

Scheduled Absences:

None.

WIBE Attendance 12 Month

	Dates										Present	%	Absent	%
	12/14/22	1/11/23	3/8/23	4/12/23	5/10/23	6/14/23	7/12/23	8/9/23	9/13/23	11/8/23				
Bartholow, Robin	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	7	70%	3	30%
Coffey, Judy	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	8	80%	2	20%
Evans, Brandy	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	P	4	100%	0	0%
Jackson, Steven	P	P	P	P	P	Z	P	Z	A	P	9	90%	1	10%
Kincaid, Scott	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	9	90%	1	10%
Pickens, Michael	P	P	P	P	A	A	A	A	P	A	5	50%	5	50%
Sweet, Ananda	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	7	70%	3	30%

P = Present A = Absent X = Not a member yet Z=Zoom

Residents of Joe Rodota Trail encampment want 'solutions' not 'agendas' ahead of Caltrans sweep in Santa Rosa

The Caltrans action is the latest on the Joe Rodota Trail, where scores of homeless encampments have grown and been disbanded by authorities amid a longer-term struggle to access affordable housing in Santa Rosa. | 30



SLIDE 1 OF 6

Caltrans is preparing to clear of patch of land between the Joe Rodota Trail and SMART Trail just below Highway 101 and High4way 12 where Thesha Iraheta currently lives in the encampment along the railroad tracks near Roberts Avenue in Roseland, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. (Chad Surmick / The Press Democrat)

KATHRYN STYER MARTÍNEZ

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

November 28, 2023, 6:24PM | Updated 1 hour ago

Thesha Iraheta is outspoken about the needs and welfare of people like her who live in makeshift shelters.

Tents, plywood structures and tarps are strung together on a triangle of land beneath the nagging drone of Highway 12 traffic just west of Highway 101 in Santa Rosa.

Caltrans is gearing up to clear out about 75 people, including Iraheta, beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday from an encampment there, between the Joe Rodota Trail and the SMART trail.

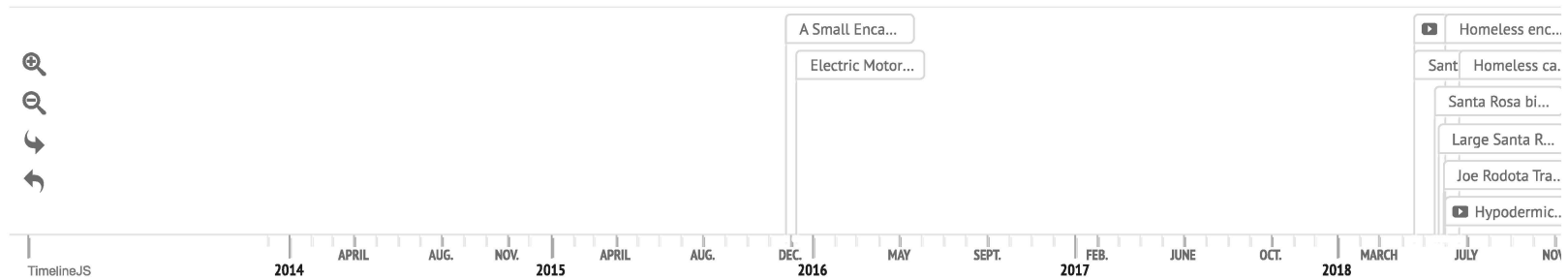


(Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)

Henok Tewold walks his dog, Teg, along the Joe Rodota Trail on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020 in Santa Rosa.

HOMELESSNESS ON JOE RODOTA TRAIL – A TIMELINE

The 8.5-mile paved trail between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, named after Joe Rodota, Sonoma County's first parks director, has long attracted homeless campers. The largest of those camps, at over 250 people, was disbanded by the county in early 2020 just before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Smaller camps preceded and have followed that episode along segments of the trail. Here is a rundown of that recent history.



"I think that it's important to know that people really should be offered adequate housing," Iraheta said.

The looming sweeps were news to her last week, but not the legal action by seven trail residents who sought an injunction halting the move. It was lifted by a federal judge last month.

Caltrans did not respond to requests for comment in time for publication.

ADVERTISEMENT

 **Featured Comment**



Ancient Techie

Let's face it: Encampments are inherently unhealthy and unsafe - for residents and neighbors alike. Period. Now there's no doubt - the courts have said you can't camp out on CALTRANS property. Sam Jones Hall is one alternative, Los Guilicos is another. Likewise other sanctioned alternatives. Maybe not ideal but perpetual vagrancy is not a permissible option. Period....

[Read More](#)

REPLY  25  1



[Read All 30 Comments](#)

Caltrans posted notices to vacate in English and Spanish along the trails, taped or stapled to a handful of white and orange A-frame barricades.

Sonoma County Regional Parks said it was going to close the affected section of the Joe Rodota Trail on Tuesday to assist the state agency, which has said it is acting at the request of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County officials.

Caltrans is clearing the land and California Highway Patrol is enforcing the sweep as it's state-owned property — unlike the trail, which is owned by the county.

CONOCADE
PATENT END

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE TO VACATE CAMPSITE

Every person who camps or lodges or stores property on State property without permission of the owner is guilty of a misdemeanor violation of California law.

POSTING DATE: 11/27/2023

TIME: 08:00

LOCATION: SON 12 E/B & W/B Joe Rodota Trail PM 15.6

INSTRUCTIONS TO OCCUPANTS:

1. ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CAMP DEBRIS IS TO BE REMOVED BY THE TIME AND DATE NOTED BELOW.
2. ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY LEFT AT THIS SITE AFTER THIS TIME WILL BE CONSIDERED ABANDONED.
3. ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY NOT DISPOSED OF WILL BE STORED FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS. TO RECLAIM PROPERTY CALL: (707) 762-6641

FAILURE TO RECLAIM BY SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM REMOVAL WILL RESULT IN ITS' DISPOSAL.
4. CONTINUED VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN CITATION AND/OR ARREST.

VACATE BY DATE: 11/29/2023

TIME: 08:00

REMOVAL START DATE: 11/29/2023

REMOVAL END DATE: 12/1/2023

VIOLATIONS NOTED AT THIS TIME:

- ✓ CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE Section 647(e). Unlawful camping or lodging. Every person who commits any of the following acts is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, who: (a) lodges in any building, structure, vehicle, or place, whether public or private, without permission of the owner or person entitled to the possession or in control of it.
- ✓ CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE Section 23112. (b). Depositing litter, debris or garbage on State Right of Way: No person shall place, deposit, or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited, or dumped, any rocks, refuse, garbage, or dirt in or upon any highway, including any portion of the right of way thereof, without the consent of the state or local agency having jurisdiction over the highway.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT:

California Highway Patrol (CHP) Sonoma Office: (707) 588-1400



Caltrans posted a handful of Notice to Vacate signs in English and Spanish around a homeless encampment in Santa Rosa, Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. (Kathryn Styer Martínez / The Press Democrat)

The action is the latest on the Joe Rodota Trail, where scores of homeless encampments have grown and been disbanded by authorities amid a longer-term struggle to access affordable housing in Santa Rosa.

Housing is a human right, not a privilege, Iraheta said. "It should be the politicians, it should be the city that should be responsible for its own people," she said.

She previously lived near another segment of the trail, in a large camp on a property off Roberts Avenue in Santa Rosa before that roughly 70-person settlement was cleared in April 2022.

Jennielynn Holmes, the CEO of Catholic Charities, said a number of residents at the encampment along the trail have requested housing at Sam Jones Hall. Catholic Charities is contracted by the city of Santa Rosa to help people find temporary shelter, especially in the aftermath of encampment clearing.

For this particular encampment, Holmes said, the Catholic Charities outreach team has had a significant presence there for the last 10 weeks, visiting a minimum of three times a week.

Kelli Kuykendall, Santa Rosa homelessness services manager, previously told The Press Democrat that homeless outreach workers "engaged individuals residing in the encampment on a weekly basis since early September."

That outreach included offering individuals shelter at Sam Jones Hall, the city's safe parking site at its Stony Point Road property and in the family shelter at Caritas Center in downtown.

Iraheta said placement at Sam Jones Hall, the city's largest homeless shelter, was not a good solution for her.

"I'm sorry, but people are not brought to success through Sam Jones," she said, "It's a system where you're easily able to get thrown out more than you are to get in."

Holmes acknowledged that Sam Jones may not be the best option for everyone, but said it's "probably one of the lowest barrier shelters in the county."

"We work really hard to really be adaptable for, again, unique individual needs," she said, adding, "the reality is people are requesting Sam Jones."

The Sam Jones shelter has 213 beds, 85 of which are in a large open room. Juanita Butterfly, 40, said she "can't do that."

"They had me at Sam Jones one time, and they wanted to put me in this big old room with a bunk bed with a bunch of men and women," she said. "I can't sleep like that."

Butterfly has been homeless for six years. She was at the encampment Tuesday morning, taking care of her brother who is sick with pneumonia.

Living outside isn't safe either, though, she said. In February, Butterfly was sexually assaulted by a person she said she knew and considered safe. She did not say whether she contacted police.

"I want it to be known, like there are people out here like that, and he was my friend, I thought," she said.

Kenneth Jones was visiting people who lived between the two trails and bringing them food on Thursday. He also came to see his friend, a 63-year-old man who had been beaten. He wanted to make sure he was OK.

The area is dangerous, Jones said. "I don't even come down here at nighttime."

Margarita Navarete, 60, lives near the encampment and walks along the SMART trail every morning. She said she sometimes doesn't feel safe walking along the trail.

Butterfly, who is Blackfeet and Karuk, used to live in Oregon and came to Santa Rosa after her husband died. "I'm in Los Guilicos right now but I come out here every day to help" these guys with placement for shelter, she said.

"No clue what people are going to do," she said of the imminent sweep.

Holmes said 20 shelter placements have already been made from the encampment, but said the numbers are fluid.

"It's working with (residents) to kind of find what the right option is and then securing that option for them as best as we can with what's available in the community," she said. "We're working with every single person on a case by case basis."

Iraheta and Butterfly say mental health is a big issue for residents, especially when people's possessions are cleared and then thrown out.

"You start to lose sense of what's important and what isn't," Iraheta said, "everything starts to look important."

Residents were notified via Caltrans' signs that, at the time of the sweep, their belongings would be taken and thrown away 60 days later if left unclaimed.

Butterfly said her mental health is "good" at the moment. She's fortunate enough to have access to medication to treat her PTSD, anxiety, panic attacks and nightmares.

But not everyone wants that kind of treatment, she said.

A big part of helping maintain people's mental health is stable, secure housing where people can step out of survival mode, she said.

Iraheta said better outcomes result for those staying at places like the Los Guilicos Village, the county's emergency housing site near Oakmont. Opened in early 2020, it consists of about five dozen tiny homes, or pallet shelters, giving residents greater privacy and security.

"It's an amazing opportunity for a lot of people in our situation, to decompress, and to just kind of plan for a future, instead of having to worry about survival mode 24/7," Iraheta said.

Together, the county and Santa Rosa have funneled tens of millions of dollars into emergency housing sites for unsheltered people in the past three years, converting former motels into apartments and erecting outdoor shelter sites that were among the first of their kind in the county.

Kenneth Jones, 61, used to live along the Joe Rodota Trail. From there, he said, he went to Los Guilicos Village and then secured an apartment where he's lived the past three years. He said county vouchers and shelters are important tools to help people access stable housing.

"Sonoma County has money, I know they do," adding, "there's too many homeless people, and it's sad."

He, too, highlighted the importance of mental health care and other wraparound services that can be offered in addition to housing to help stabilize the lives of those who live without shelter.

"Being out here for a long period of time, it stresses them out," he said.

Without that help, even those who secure more permanent housing can be at risk of losing it.

"I've seen this," he said. People eventually get kicked out and end up back outside because they needed someone to work with them for the first six months, he said. "You know, to work with the individual and check on them."

Jones said he was blessed to have mentorship and help from a team of women at Sonoma County Job Link, the employment and job training center. They had faith in him and helped him.

"But you know, when you go to prison and then you're homeless, you have nowhere to go, people don't have faith in you. You go fill out applications for jobs... I mean, nobody. All I needed was just a second chance," he said.

Now he sees his visits as a way to help others. "I like working with homeless people because I'm used to it, I can deal with them, I can communicate with them. I know what's wrong," he said.

"My whole thing is, I want to see these people off the street," he said, adding, "I don't know how many of it will make it."

Butterfly is also a helper. She tends to camp residents, looking after burns, abscesses and cuts. "I try to keep them clean so they don't lose their fingers or limbs," something she sees everyday, she said.

Iraheta said she'd like to see people move into converted motels provided they are responsible enough and have the mental health for it. She also wants more places where people can continue to live together in a safe designated, private area where services are provided.

"These sort of communities, they've bonded and ... they've become unified for a reason," Iraheta said. "Nobody really notices and cares if it's just a couple of people versus like, you know, a big mass amount of people like this."

Butterfly also spoke to the protective nature that camps can provide. Four months ago, Butterfly contracted COVID-19. She isolated herself but stayed near enough to where people could bring her food, water and keep an eye on her. They even dug stairs into the earthen hill so she could safely climb up to her nook.

Once, when it rained, Butterfly said, the entire camp came together at 3:00am to help dig a trench in order to divert rain water away from tents that were starting to flood.

“There’s a group of us that I’ve been camping with for the last six years since I got here, and I mean, I trust them more than I trust anything in the world,” she said.

Caltrans pending sweep threatens to upend that fragile unity once more for Iraheta and other affected campers. With colder, rainier days ahead, people’s physical well-being is also at stake, she said.

A SMART train rolled by the camp, temporarily drowning out Iraheta’s voice as she wondered how much clearing the encampment would cost taxpayers versus and how much would it cost to provide housing, mental health resources and vouchers to help residents get onto their feet.

After the encampment is cleared, Iraheta said, “we’ll just have to make another community somewhere — somewhere else, you know, and I’m sure it’ll be the same type of struggle.”

It’s not about starting a revolution, she said, for her it’s just about finding home.

Kathryn Styer Martínez is a reporting intern for the Press Democrat. She can be reached at kathryn.styermartinez@pressdemocrat.com or 707-521-5337.

DAILY HEADLINES NEWSLETTER

DAILY

Wake up to local news every day. Subscribe and start your day in-the-know, exclusively from the Press Democrat newsroom.

Subscribe Now

Opt out anytime. [Read our Privacy Policy](#)

Sponsored Content on Press Democrat



Holiday Shows At The Green Music Center!

By Green Music Center at Sonoma State University

Enjoy performances from Grammy® Award-winning jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and...

Trending Articles



Santa Rosa schools files complaint against students in ...

23 comments



Snubbing Barbara Lee, and more: Wednesday's Letters to ...

56 comments



Nonprofit director says he was misled by Sonoma County ...

47 comments



County supervisors deadlock over proposed ballot measur...

10 comments

[Open ad privacy settings](#)

UPDATED: Please read and follow our commenting policy:

[Send a letter to the editor](#)

- *This is a family newspaper, please use a kind and respectful tone.*
- *No profanity, hate speech or personal attacks. No off-topic remarks.*
- *No disinformation about current events.*
- *We will remove any comments — or commenters — that do not follow this commenting policy.*

Loading...