

# Community Engagement Comments

January 2020



Homelessness has become a major crisis across the State of California. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates California's homeless population to be 128,777. Last year, there were an estimated 1,330 homeless people in the Bakersfield metropolitan area including 643 individuals within the City of Bakersfield limits that were without a home or shelter – a 108% increase from 2018. The 2020 count of unsheltered individuals in Bakersfield is expected to increase yet again.

At the direction of Council, staff held three community meetings over the month of December and January to discuss the potential construction of a homeless shelter. Two community meetings were held in the area near the proposed shelter and one was held downtown at the Mechanics Bank Theatre. There was a combined attendance of over 200 people at the community meetings where folks had the chance to make public comment and meet one-on-one with the City Manager, Chief of Police, the Directors from the Public Works Department, Recreation and Parks Department and Development Services Department and support staff. Over 50 emails and public comment cards were received.

Comments are listed and summarized below.

| Name                     | Type   | Subject   |
|--------------------------|--------|---|
| Michelle Cuba            | E-mail | Oppose Calcot; Safety Concerns  |
| Kristen Taylor           | E-mail | Oppose Calcot; Safety Concerns; Near Schools; Facility Size                 |
| Lauren Adams             | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| Tammy Cates              | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| John Stovall             | E-mail | Support Calcot & Brown Street   |
| Beth Pandol              | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| Roland Maier             | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| Stephen Pelz             | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| SJohnsonOliver           | E-mail | Oppose Calcot; Surrounding Community; Facility Size                         |
| Stephanie Johnson-Oliver | E-mail | Oppose Calcot & Brown Street; Crime Concerns; Surrounding Community         |
| PC5347                   | E-mail | Oppose Brown Street; Safety Concerns; Crime Concerns; Surrounding Community |
| Andrew Brager            | E-mail | Homelessness  |
| Xavier Lopez             | E-mail | Oppose Calcot; Safety Concerns  |
| Tom Pasek                | E-mail | Support Calcot  |
| Kristie & Bob Coons      | E-mail | Support Calcot & Brown Street   |
| Nancy Perez              | E-mail | Support New Location  |
| Daphne Porter            | E-mail | Support New Location  |
| Gary Florence            | E-mail | Homelessness  |
| Shawn Whittington        | E-mail | Support New Location  |
| Carol Juette             | E-mail | Support New Location  |
| Joy Irvin                | E-mail | Support Calcot; Oppose Brown Street   |
| Nolberta                 | E-mail | Oppose Calcot   |
| Deacon Williams          | E-mail | Support Calcot & Brown Street   |
| Gregg                    | E-mail | Support County Partnership  |
| Thejcbomars              | E-mail | Homelessness  |
| Andrew Brager            | E-mail | Homelessness  |
| Anthony Gordon           | E-mail | No Support For Any Shelter  |
| Alan Cheryl Avery        | E-mail | Support New Location  |
| Kirk Sunderman           | E-mail | Support New Location  |

|                    |              |   |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| Liz Tovar          | E-mail       | Support Calcot & Brown Street   |
| Kristen Sodergren  | E-mail       | Support New Location  |
| Tony Loc           | E-mail       | Homelessness  |
| Elizabeth Ode      | E-mail       | Crime Concerns  |
| Harlan Ode         | E-mail       | Crime Concerns  |
| You_Matter         | E-mail       | Compassion for Homeless   |
| Lori Monroe        | E-mail       | Support Brown Street  |
| Nancy Pappy        | E-mail       | Oppose Calcot & Brown Street; Support New Location                                  |
| Ms. Caneta         | E-mail       | Support New Location  |
| Glen Daugherty     | Comment Card | Support New Construction; Faith-Based Community Involvement; Multiple Shelter Sites |
| Andrew Juarez      | Comment Card | Support Calcot; Safety Concerns   |
| Tina Bengston      | Comment Card | Support Calcot  |
| Emprezz Nontz      | Comment Card | Oppose Calcot & Brown Street  |
| Mariano            | Comment Card | Offer Soft Skills & Job Training  |
| Pamela Chavez      | Comment Card | Oppose Brown Street; Safety Concerns  |
| Genora McClanahan  | Comment Card | Invest in Transitional Job Placement Training                                       |
| Jovan Payes        | Comment Card | Support Calcot  |
| Matthew Cruise     | Comment Card | Job Creation For Homeless; Start "Family Reach Out" Program                         |
| Estella Benitez    | Comment Card | Oppose Calcot   |
| Mike Wafford       | Comment Card | Oppose Calcot; Crime Concerns; Surrounding Community                                |
| Samuel Galvan      | Comment Card | Support Calcot  |
| Curtis Bingham Sr. | Comment Card | Support Calot & Brown Street  |

| Community Meeting | Type   | Summary of Comments             |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1                 | Verbal | Area concentration              |
| 1                 | Verbal | Large shelter                   |
| 1                 | Verbal | Multiple sites                  |
| 1                 | Verbal | Other areas being considered    |
| 1                 | Verbal | Community engagement            |
| 1                 | Verbal | Neighborhood strengthening      |
| 1                 | Verbal | Safety                          |
| 1                 | Verbal | Local homeless                  |
| 1                 | Verbal | Behavioral Health services      |
| 1                 | Verbal | Citywide concern                |
| 1                 | Verbal | Infrastructure improvements     |
| 1                 | Verbal | Multilingual residents          |
| 1                 | Verbal | PIT Count focused areas         |
| 1                 | Verbal | Hotel use                       |
| 1                 | Verbal | County partnership              |
| 1                 | Verbal | Grassroots efforts              |
| 1                 | Verbal | Career and soft skills training |
| 1                 | Verbal | Alternative areas sites         |
| 1                 | Verbal | Creative solutions              |
| 1                 | Verbal | Transportation                  |

|   |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| 1 | Verbal | Minority & female contractors for shelter   |
| 2 | Verbal | Safety                                      |
| 2 | Verbal | East Hills Mall                             |
| 2 | Verbal | Referral-only system                        |
| 2 | Verbal | Homeless IDs                                |
| 2 | Verbal | Private security referrals                  |
| 2 | Verbal | Long-term shelter needs                     |
| 2 | Verbal | City/County security partnerships           |
| 2 | Verbal | Religious services at shelter               |
| 2 | Verbal | Additional needs for homeless at shelter    |
| 2 | Verbal | Homeless veteran focus                      |
| 2 | Verbal | Multi-service approach to homelessness      |
| 2 | Verbal | Transportation                              |
| 2 | Verbal | Individualized case management              |
| 2 | Verbal | Education & job training                    |
| 2 | Verbal | Pre-school for homeless children            |
| 2 | Verbal | Unaccompanied/disconnected youth            |
| 2 | Verbal | GED attainment                              |
| 2 | Verbal | Limited-English speaking homeless           |
| 2 | Verbal | County partnership                          |
| 2 | Verbal | Community & media engagement/involvement    |
| 2 | Verbal | Minority-focused media                      |
| 2 | Verbal | On-staff diversity                          |
| 2 | Verbal | Community meetings                          |
| 2 | Verbal | Infrastructure improvements                 |
| 2 | Verbal | CBO partnerships                            |
| 2 | Verbal | Multiple sites                              |
| 2 | Verbal | Additional community investments            |
| 2 | Verbal | Encouraging the use of services             |
| 2 | Verbal | State-wide homeless shelter project impacts |
| 2 | Verbal | Area concentration                          |
| 2 | Verbal | Data-driven decision-making                 |
| 3 | Verbal | Large shelter                               |
| 3 | Verbal | County partnership                          |
| 3 | Verbal | Shelter capacity building & expansion       |
| 3 | Verbal | Area concentration                          |
| 3 | Verbal | Multi-service approach to homelessness      |
| 3 | Verbal | Consistency & stability with shelter        |
| 3 | Verbal | Root cause of homelessness                  |
| 3 | Verbal | Permanent Housing                           |
| 3 | Verbal | Infrastructure improvements                 |
| 3 | Verbal | Multiple sites                              |
| 3 | Verbal | SE economic development opportunities       |
| 3 | Verbal | Community meetings                          |
| 3 | Verbal | Education & job training                    |



# BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019**

**CONTACT: Joe Conroy**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**(661) 326-3074**  
[JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us)

### COMMUNITY MEETINGS PLANNED REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW HOMELESS SHELTER LOCATIONS

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**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT:** The City of Bakersfield invites the public to provide comments and learn more about the development of a new Homeless Shelter to serve the needs of the local homeless population in Bakersfield. The public is encouraged to comment by attending a community meeting at one of the dates listed below, or by sending an email to [CommunityOutreach@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:CommunityOutreach@bakersfieldcity.us).

**MEETING TIME AND LOCATION:** The meetings will be held at **6 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2019** at the MLK Community Initiative Meeting at Jerusalem Mission Church, 924 Cottonwood Road, Bakersfield, CA; and **6 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2019** at MLK Community Center, 1000 South Owens Street, Bakersfield, CA.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the 2019 Point-in-Time count, there are more than 1,150 homeless individuals in Bakersfield. 643 are unsheltered, which is an increase of 108% from 2018. There are currently fewer than 400 emergency beds in Bakersfield. This lack of available beds has led in part to increased calls for service to public agencies and impacts to quality of life for residents. The City is working to address concerns raised by local citizens through a number of new programs, including the construction of a new “Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter” which allows residents to have partners, pets and possessions. Earlier this year, the City Council directed Staff to evaluate potential locations that would be suitable for a shelter. Therefore, Staff visited and studied existing facilities in Bakersfield and other Cities to learn more about “Best Practices” for operating and locating a shelter. After searching available properties, Staff has identified two potential locations for the shelter:

**Site 1 – 1900 E. Brundage Lane (Calcot Ltd.):** a 7.24-acre office complex with 34,832 sq-ft of office space and 34,975 sq-ft of warehouse space; able to accommodate 150 beds for the first 3 years with potential for additional beds in the future; includes existing office space to allow service providers to be co-located on-site; includes space for a future Bakersfield Police Department substation; includes adjacent 10-acres of vacant land which can be redeveloped in the future for economic growth.

**Site 2 – 601 Brown Street:** a 1.89-acre property with 9,500 sq-ft of office space and 22,800 sq-ft of warehouse space; able to accommodate 150 beds for the first 3 years with potential to add beds in the

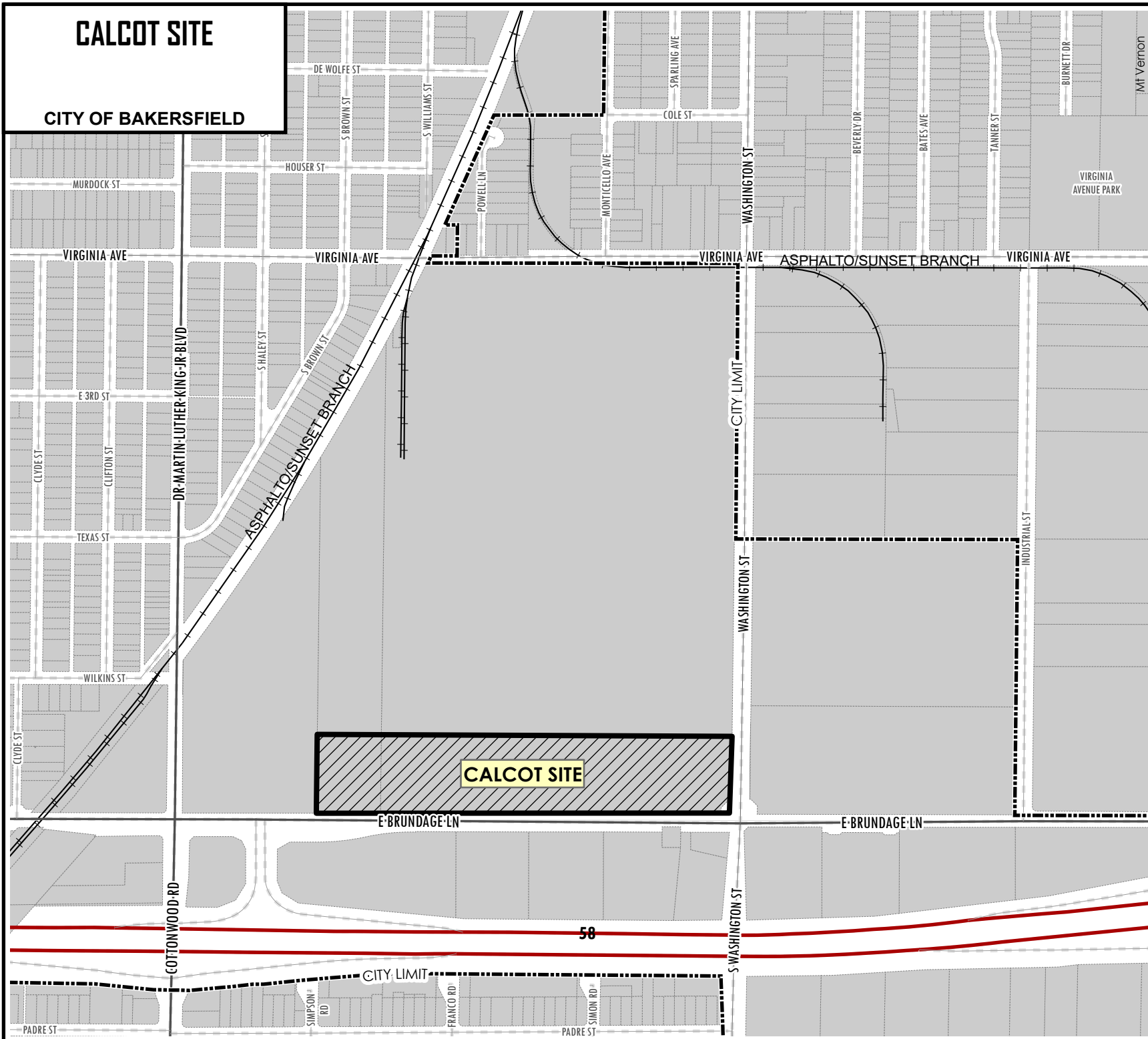
future; office trailers or warehouse renovation would be needed to allow service providers to be on-site; a dining tent and other portable amenities would need to be installed.

The Facility would be professionally run in accordance with a Good Neighbor Policy to ensure the Facility is safe, clean and has minimal impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The Facility would host service-providers on-site to ensure that homeless residents are connected with resources to help transition to permanent housing.

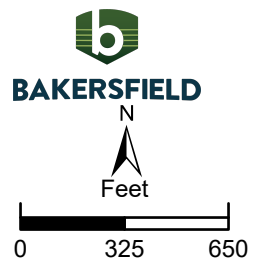
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information can be obtained at the community meetings or at the project website: <https://bakersfieldcity.us/shelter>.

# CALCOT SITE

CITY OF BAKERSFIELD



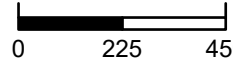
## NOTICES



**CITY OF BAKERSFIELD**



Feet







# BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020**

**CONTACT: Joe Conroy**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**(661) 326-3074**  
[JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us)

### **CITY TO HOLD ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW HOMELESS SHELTER LOCATIONS**

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT:** The City of Bakersfield will hold an additional community meeting for the public to provide comments and learn more about the development of a new Homeless Shelter to serve the needs of the local homeless population in Bakersfield. This will be the third meeting where the public was offered an opportunity to talk to Staff about the project. The public is encouraged to comment by attending the meeting, or by sending an email to [CommunityOutreach@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:CommunityOutreach@bakersfieldcity.us). Spanish language translation will be available upon request.

**MEETING TIME AND LOCATION:** The meeting will be held at **6 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020** in the Potato Room at the Mechanics Bank Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the 2019 Point-in-Time count, there are more than 1,150 homeless individuals in Bakersfield. 643 are unsheltered, which is an increase of 108% from 2018. There are currently fewer than 400 emergency beds in Bakersfield. This lack of available beds has led in part to increased calls for service to public agencies and impacts to quality of life for residents. The City is working to address concerns raised by local citizens through a number of new programs, including the construction of a new “Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter” which allows residents to have partners, pets and possessions. Earlier this year, the City Council directed Staff to evaluate potential locations that would be suitable for a shelter. Therefore, Staff visited and studied existing facilities in Bakersfield and other Cities to learn more about “Best Practices” for operating and locating a shelter. After searching available properties, Staff has identified two potential locations for the shelter:

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**Site 2 – 601 Brown Street:** a 1.89-acre property with 9,500 sq-ft of office space and 22,800 sq-ft of warehouse space; able to accommodate 150 beds for the first 3 years with potential to add beds in the future; office trailers

City Manager's Office  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
661-326-3751 FAX: 661-324-1850

or warehouse renovation would be needed to allow service providers to be on-site; a dining tent and other portable amenities would need to be installed.

The Facility would be professionally run in accordance with a Good Neighbor Policy to ensure the Facility is safe, clean and has minimal impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The Facility would host service-providers on-site to ensure that homeless residents are connected with resources to help transition to permanent housing.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information can be obtained at the community meetings or at the project website: <https://bakersfieldcity.us/shelter>.