State of California

Health and Human Services

Department of Rehabilitation

Quality Location Development Committee (QLDC) Meeting  
Wednesday, March 08, 2023, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

**Meeting Notes**

In attendance:

QLDC members (by Zoom): Paul Patche II, Joni Patche, Jerry Gann, Steve Alford, Michael Hatch

DOR staff (by Zoom): Michael Thomas, Sue Pelbath, Marc Leyva, Susanna Bishop, Kelly Snow, Colleen Bowden, Emma Godinez, Luis Rodriguez, Jennifer Wilbon

Members of the public (by Zoom): Max Duarte, Sandy Balani, Naresh Balani, Michael Davis

Agenda

Welcome and roll call

The Chair welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the rules.

Waivers

Susanna Bishop: There is a request for food trucks at CDCR-CIW; there was no vote at the last QLDC meeting because a quorum was not established. CDCR is requesting a 10-year waiver for the food truck. Chatsworth Courthouse requested a snack bar and 2 vending machines. The vendor would have to be within a 50-mile radius. It would be a 5-year waiver if they do not get a snack bar.

Emma Godinez: Emma clarified that the food truck request is for CIW not CIM. CDCR wants the food truck for staff only. Emma shared her thoughts and opinion about the 10-year waiver. Based on population numbers, it would not be worth it to invest in a snack bar, the vendor will lose money. Vending machines would be an option, but not a snack bar. Even with combining all the locations as suggested by Steve, the vendor, will not make primary numbers. Recommended VMU.

Sue Pelbath: Sue had questions for Max about food trucks. Sue asked vendors to give a rationale behind the motions they make.

Committee members questions and comments

Paul Patche: Opened CIW food truck discussion to members. Courts have ruled they can ask for a 10-year waiver.

Michael Hatch: Suggested waiving the food truck, does not foresee it working. Michael does not want to keep setting a precedence of a 10-year waiver for prisons and feels a 10-year waiver is too long of a waiver, should be a 5-year waiver at most. Michael had questions about the building population for Chatsworth. Michael mentioned that every time a vendor “drops down”, from a snack bar to dry vending for example, vendors drop down their potential sales. Michael does not think putting small locations together will work.

Steve Alford: Agreed with Michael Hatch about 5-year waivers for courthouses. Steve shared his experiences with courthouses. Steve knows a vendor who is interested in the Chatsworth Courthouse location but is outside the 50-mile radius limit. Steve suggested the Van Nuys Courthouse be re-announced with Chatsworth, as well as the Van Nuys building. Steve had questions about “scaling down”.

Jerry Gann: Jerry asked about “bundling” locations and asked which vendors were running other locations.

Public comment

Max Duarte: Max has been a vendor with CDCR-CIM and CIW prisons and shared his experience and thoughts about these locations. Max agreed with Emma, and feels it is not a good idea to put a snack bar in due to the building population.

Motion: Jerry Gann moved a motion for a 5-year waiver because there is no infrastructure costs to bring in a food truck. The motion was seconded by Steve Alford.

Vote: Jerry Gann, yes; Joni Patche, yes; Michael Hatch, yes; Steve Alford, yes. Motion passed.

Motion: Steve Alford moved a motion to waive the snack bar at Chatsworth Courthouse for 5 years. The motion was seconded by Jerry Gann.

Vote: Jerry Gann, yes; Joni Patche, yes; Michael Hatch, yes; Steve Alford, yes. Motion passed.

Motion: Steve Alford moved a motion to announce the Van Nuys State Building, the LA Superior Court Van Nuys, the Van Nuys Municipal Court, and the Chatsworth Courthouse as one satellite vending route. The motion was seconded by Joni Patche.

Vote: Jerry Gann, yes; Joni Patche, yes; Michael Hatch, no; Steve Alford, yes. Motion passed.

Updates on Interim Locations

Susanna Bishop: Susanna will look into moving interims into other location types and get them announced once the new location development officer starts.

Colleen Bowden: Colleen suggested looking at location reviews, MOR’s, and corrective action plans when determining how well a location is doing.

Michael Thomas: Michael agrees that getting information and opinions from vendors is a good idea and should be included when the department makes the final decision regarding interim locations. Michael remembers vandalism and damage to the Gold Run and Donner Pass locations, so no vendors have applied for these locations.

Sue Pelbath: Sue said that the Donner Pass location is closed.

Luis Rodriguez: Luis mentioned the vandalism to be extreme at Donner Pass and Gold Run.

Committee Members questions and comments

Paul Patche: There are 22 interim locations. Would like to discuss a way to structure how to evaluate interims when changing them back to satellites or primary locations. Asked committee members for their thoughts. Suggested vendors create a letter that can be sent to discuss how their location is performing and bring the information to the committee. Paul asked the department how quickly they are looking into moving interims into other location types. Paul explained the process that took place for interim locations prior to Covid.

Michael Hatch: Michael suggested looking at each individual location and looking at averages over a certain period of time. Michael would like to know what the department is looking at and what criteria the department is going by when looking at interims. Michael asked about the status of Gold Run and Donner Pass.

Steve Alford: Steve said he had looked over the interims. He discussed locations and offered suggestions. Steve suggested looking at the interims that do not have a vendor assigned right away.

Joni Patche: Joni said there was a lot of damage to vending machines at Gold Run and said a previous discussion included looking at how to protect the machines from vandalism.

Public comment

Max Duarte: Max mentioned not being able to find anyone to make vending machines with cages. Max feels the two roadsides would do well if it weren’t for the vandalism.

Current Pending Announcements and Upcoming Interviews

Susanna Bishop: The Caltrans building in the LA area will be circulating. An announcement for the P Street Café in Sacramento, and Van Nuys Court and municipal traffic courts will be re-announced. There are no upcoming interviews until some of the announcements close.

Emma Godinez: Emma said the Caltrans location is in Glendale.

Committee members comments questions

Michael Hatch: Michael had questions about Caltrans in Los Angeles.

Public comment

None.

Prospective New Locations and Opportunities

Committee members comments and questions

Jerry Gann: Jerry shared that he went to conference in Vegas, and Washington State discussed taco truck ideas including vendors inviting the taco truck onto their location (with an agreement). The topic was “Food trucks, fight them or join them”. Jerry would like to explore this idea. Jerry shared a visit he and other vendors had at the O Street building in Sacramento and mentioned there being a lot of foot traffic at this building.

Paul Patche: Paul agreed with Jerry with exploring the food truck idea.

Public comments and questions

Max Duarte: Discussed a visit that he and some of the vendors went to at 1021 O Street in Sacramento. Max said many people are in the building and discussed the visit.

**Updates and Evaluate Current Locations**

Michael Thomas: Asked for an update regarding Willie’s and Michael’s taskforce.

Committee members comments and questions:

Paul Patche: Paul would like to schedule a presentation at the next CVPC meeting to get more information about smart coolers being and option to replace cold food machines. CVPC gave the authority to QLDC that when things are waived, the department can issue the waivers without waiting for CVPC to ratify the waivers because most often they will be passed by the CVPC if already passed by the QLDC.

Public comment

Max Duarte: Max commented that smart coolers only use credit cards.

Open Forum

Susanna Bishop: Susanna said a Location Development Officer has been hired and will start March 20, 2023.

Committee members comments and questions

Michael Hatch: Michael discussed what was expected of vendors if they wanted to get rid of a satellite. Michael asked about the hiring of a Location Development Officer.

Paul Patche: Paul participated in the conversation about satellites.

Public comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.