ORDINANCE NO. 449.254

AN URGENCY INTERIM ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW SHORT TERM RENTALS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY AREAS OF THOUSAND PALMS AND B BAR H RANCH

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside ordains as follows:

Section 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY. The purpose of this urgency ordinance is to establish a temporary moratorium on new Short Term Rentals in residential neighborhoods within the unincorporated communities of Thousand Palms and B Bar H Ranch, which are more precisely defined by Exhibits "A" and "B", to protect public safety, health, and welfare, while County staff evaluate the impacts of the Short Term Rentals in these areas, and reasonable regulations to mitigate such impacts. This urgency ordinance does not prohibit renewals of existing Short Term Rentals, which meet all of the requirements for renewal pursuant to Ordinance No. 927. This urgency ordinance is adopted pursuant to California Constitution Article 11, Section 7, and California Government Code sections 25123 and 65858, and will take effect immediately upon its approval by at least a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside.

Section 2. FINDINGS. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside makes the following findings to protect the public safety, health, and welfare in support of the immediate adoption and application of this urgency ordinance:

A. Riverside County is experiencing an increase in privately owned residential dwellings being used as Short Term Rentals in the unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside, especially within the unincorporated areas of Thousand Palms and B Bar H Ranch. While Short Term Rentals have been a staple in the County and provide a benefit by expanding the number and type of available lodging facilities, their exponential increase continues to cause adverse impacts which have the potential to endanger the health and safety of residents and guests, and the very environment and resources that attract visitors to the County. Adverse impacts to surrounding neighbors and properties include unpermitted large-scale events, excessive noise, disorderly conduct, traffic congestion, illegal vehicle parking, and

accumulation of refuse. This urgency ordinance is necessary to ensure neighborhood compatibility and reduce conflicts within surrounding residential neighborhoods, to facilitate economic growth within the County, and to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the County's residents.

- B. The unincorporated County area of Thousand Palms is located along Interstate 10 at the intersection of Ramon Road, and is characterized by mobile home subdivisions, single-family residential neighborhoods, and rural residential development. Infrastructure within the residential neighborhoods located north of Ramon Road remains rural in nature, exhibiting narrow roads and a lack of sidewalks and shoulder parking. Concentrations of Short Term Rentals in certain residential neighborhoods have resulted in increased complaints from residents in recent years, related to unpermitted large-scale events, excessive noise, and illegal parking. 31 Short Term Rental certifications are currently active, and 9 new applications for certifications have been received since 2023.
- C. B Bar H Ranch is an unincorporated community comprised of predominantly low-density residential, located between Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs in the Seven Palms Valley. Similar to adjacent areas, the infrastructure in B Bar H Ranch remains rural in nature. This small unincorporated area is comprised of just 573 parcels on 240 acres. There are currently 37 actively certified Short Term Rentals in this small area, and 20 new applications for certification have been received since 2023.
- D. The County continues to receive complaints related to noise, refuse, parking, septic capabilities, and public safety related to Short Term Rentals in these areas, indicating a need for heightened operating standards and enforcement. Without proper regulation, continued concentration of Short Term Rentals in the identified area neighborhoods may jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of guests and the existing residential community.

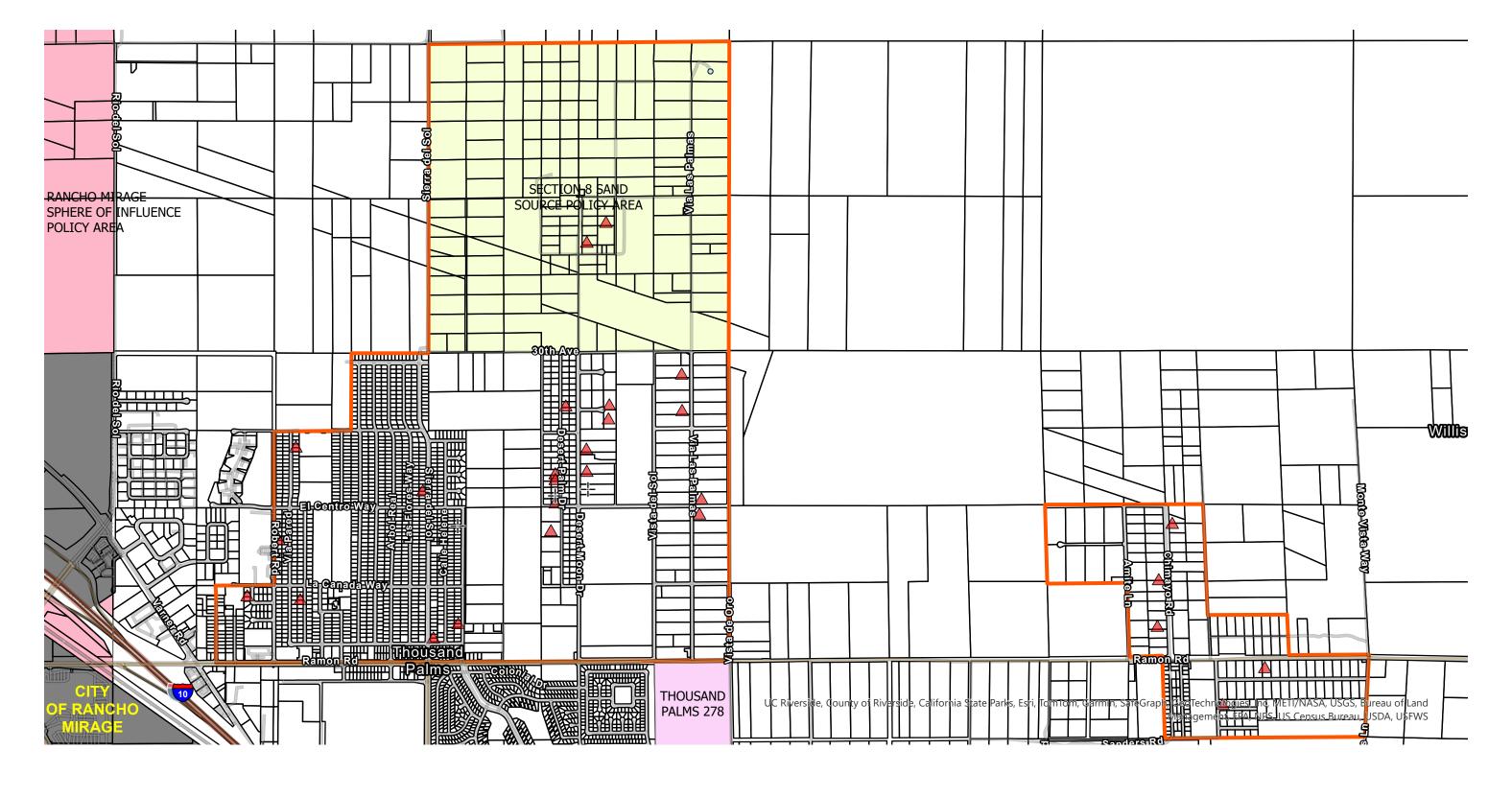
- E. The County is currently in the process of studying and considering various legislative proposals to address issues associated with concentrations of Short Term Rentals to reduce risks to public safety, health, and welfare.
- F. Concentrations of Short Term Rentals in certain areas of the County can have an adverse impact on residential character, neighborhood stability, public safety, and quality of life, demonstrating the need to consider different processes or regulations, such as separating, eliminating, or capping the number of Short Term Rentals in certain areas of the County.
- G. The density of Short Term Rentals in in the unincorporated areas of Thousand Palms and B Bar H Ranch surpasses that of other unincorporated areas in the County.
- H. On December 12, 2023, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside amended Ordinance No. 927, an Ordinance of the County of Riverside Regulating Short Term Rentals, through adoption of Ordinance No. 927.2. Development of Ordinance 927.2 entailed analysis of limits or caps for Short Term Rentals within the unincorporated areas of Idyllwild and Temecula Valley Wine Country, including establishment of boundary areas, determination of source of authority for a specific residential unit count, creation of an appropriate limit or cap, and a methodology for allowing new Short Term Rentals when capacity becomes available. Such analyses and regulatory measures could also be appropriate for Thousand Palms and B Bar H Ranch.
- I. The unincorporated areas of Thousand Palms and B Bar H Ranch currently include 68 active and pending Short Term Rental certificates. The County has also received 29 new applications for Short Term Rental certificates for these two small areas since 2023. This proliferation of Short Term Rental applications demonstrates a rush to obtain certificates that may be inconsistent with future licensing regulations, specifically, analysis of an amendment to Ordinance No. 927 to consider a limit or cap on Short Term Rentals in these areas.
- J. Issuing numerous Short Term Rental certificates in areas that may be subject to future limits, caps, or additional regulations would undermine the County's current effort

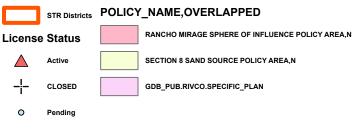
to protect the public health, safety, and welfare from the negative impacts of Short Term Rentals that are improperly sited, over-concentrated, or under regulated.

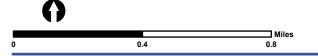
- K. Issuing numerous Short Term Rental certificates in areas that may be subject to future limits, caps, or additional regulations would also create further confusion and potentially cause the need to unwind many Short Term Rental certificates.
- Section 3. MORATORIUM. During the term of this urgency ordinance, no new Short Term Rentals shall be allowed on properties located within the unincorporated areas of Thousand Palms or B Bar H Ranch. Renewals of existing Short Term Rentals which meet all of the requirements for renewal pursuant to Ordinance No. 927, are exempted from this moratorium. The moratorium is necessary to mitigate or avoid the ongoing impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare of these communities and there is no feasible alternative apart from this moratorium at this time.
- Section 4. DEFINITIONS. Except as otherwise specified herein, all terms used herein shall have the same definition as in Ordinance No. 348 and Ordinance No. 927. Otherwise, as used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - A. <u>County:</u> County of Riverside
- B. <u>Thousand Palms</u>: Residential neighborhoods in the unincorporated area of Thousand Palms that include Short Term Rentals, the boundary of which is detailed as Exhibit A to this ordinance.
- C. <u>B Bar H Ranch</u>: Residential neighborhoods in the unincorporated area of B Bar H Ranch that include Short Term Rentals, the boundary of which is detailed as Exhibit B to this ordinance.
- Section 5. DECLARATION OF URGENCY. Based on the findings set forth in Section 2 above, this ordinance is declared to be an urgency ordinance that shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Supervisors.
- Section 6. SEVERABILITY. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

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1	Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM. In accordance with Government Code sections
2	25123 and 65858, this urgency ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage by at least
3	a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors and shall remain in effect for 45 days from the date of
4	adoption. This urgency ordinance may be extended by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with
5	Government Code section 65858.
6	DOADD OF CUREDVICODS OF THE COUNTY
7	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8	By:
9	Chair, Board of Supervisors ATTEST:
10	KIMBERLY RECTOR
11	CLERK OF THE BOARD
12	By: Deputy
13	(SEAL)
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15	APPROVED AS TO FORM
16	March5, 2025
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18	By:AARON C. GETTIS
19	Chief Deputy County Counsel
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1	EXHIBIT A
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3	RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THOUSAND
4	PALMS THAT INCLUDE SHORT TERM RENTALS
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6	BOUNDARY MAP
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1	EXHIBIT B
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3	RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF B BAR H
4	RANCH THAT INCLUDE SHORT TERM RENTALS
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6	BOUNDARY MAP
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