Dan Horvath, of FEMA, and Katrina Palomar, of CalOES, tell the council they have faced barriers with developers and environmental constraints while attempting to set up temporary homes for Camp Fire survivors in Chico. PHOTO RY ASHIAH SCHARAGA

no FEMA housing units in Chico three months after the Camp Fire.

There is some movement on that front, however, and in all likelihood, 48 furnished, temporary homes (modular or mobile) will be situated on 13 acres in the Hegan Lane Business Park. FEMA Northern Branch Director Dan Horvath told the council the project likely would move forward, with people getting settled within the next four months.

While 48 homes are better than none, some speakers addressing the dais noted, it's a far cry from what is needed. FEMA has a projected need of 1,800 total units.

"It's a very tedious process. We're in negotiations with the land owners, the developers. We go through an environmental review process," Horvath said. "We spend weeks at a lot of these sites, going through negotiations, only to find out in the end we aren't able to come to an agreement."

Those against the location mainly mentioned the traffic impacts. For Nathaniel Perry, who works near the proposed development, at Build. com, that was a flimsy excuse. "If we're going to get started, this seems like a good place," he said. "I'll deal with the traffic."

Also on Tuesday, the council directed

the Internal Affairs Committee— Chair Alex Brown and Councilmen Karl Ory and Scott Huber—to brainstorm the stakeholder groups for a marijuana advisory committee, with the stipulation—requested by Morgan—that at least one representative be from law enforcement.

The committee will work with city staff and be tasked with determining the path for cannabis business in Chico, which overwhelmingly voted for state legalization in 2016. Those recommendations eventually will come to the council.

Vice Mayor Brown said that the voter support "speaks loudly to me," and is why she brought the issue forward. The city can choose to regulate more than the state if it desires, but she'd like to see all of the options brought to the table, and that "we're creating opportunities for businesses to be successful."

> **—ASHIAH SCHARAGA** ashiahs@newsreview.com





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