

Community Focus Statement A: Improve the quality of our built environment to enhance community health, safety, neighborhood character, and the image of our business corridors.

Action Statement A.3: Construct public restrooms in two locations accessible to people arriving to the east end of the Big Bear Valley. If permanent restrooms are infeasible due to maintenance costs, install portable restrooms during peak visitor seasons, including three-day holiday weekends.

A3

Benchmark: Public/private partnership, formed including local banks, property owners, and/or business owners, to construct restrooms on two sites in the east end of Big Bear Valley.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$500,000–\$2,500,000



Restrooms accessible to the public. Photo source: [P L Chadwick](#)

Bear Valley is substantially underserved by public restrooms. There are almost no restrooms in parks and other public places, with a limited number of restrooms in businesses that are available to customers or members of the public. Additionally, the few publicly accessible restrooms are in the central and western parts of the area, making the issue especially problematic for visitors who arrive from the east along State Route (SR) 18. To better serve the large number of tourists who visit Bear Valley, the communities should construct public restrooms accessible to all visitors, including those arriving from the east.

Public restrooms should be located along or in close proximity to SR 18. At least two restrooms should be constructed, with a planning and community engagement process to determine the number of restrooms and their locations. To reduce the costs associated with constructing and maintaining the restrooms, they can be located in parks or other public recreational facilities. Each facility should have dedicated restrooms for both sexes and provide off-street parking locations, preferably shared with other facilities as long as there is sufficient capacity. To better serve tourists, the facilities can also include vending machines and picnic tables, and be located near existing visitor-serving businesses. Signs along SR 18 and other key roadways can indicate where the restrooms are located. Their locations can also be indicated on tourist maps and in other resources that visitors are likely to have access to.

A new restroom structure costs an estimated \$200,000 to \$300,000, with additional costs potentially needed for parking, studies, and landscaping. There may be an opportunity for cost savings if restroom construction can be folded into other efforts, such as a park reconstruction. The construction of the restrooms will require coordination

between the Bear Valley communities, San Bernardino County, and various stakeholder groups. This collaboration will likely translate into public-private partnerships, including local banks, property owners, and businesses, to fund and construct the facilities. It may also be possible to use a grant to fund the restrooms. As the initial step, a feasibility study should be completed to assess the restrooms’ potential locations.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Convene like-minded stakeholders and form a restroom committee for the east valley.	Champion	Month 1 with ongoing meetings as needed	American Restroom Association http://www.americanrestroom.org/
2. Describe need and identify potential locations for the restrooms. Meet with Big Bear City CSD (CSD).	East valley public restroom committee	Month 2-3	Community Facilities Grant Program https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
3. Conduct feasibility study to evaluate potential locations, cost of construction, maintenance, and other factors.	East valley public restroom committee	Month 3-8	Information on Other Grants and Public/Private Partnerships to Fund Public Restrooms
4. Determine capacity for long-term maintenance.	East valley public restroom committee	Month 6-8	http://www.downtowndevelopment.com/DIXarticle5.pdf
5. Estimate costs and work with local agencies and organizations such as Big Bear City CSD to determine which agency is most feasible to manage construction and on-going maintenance and operations.	East valley public restroom committee	Month 7-12	City of San Francisco, Public Toilets http://sfpublicworks.org/services/public-toilets City of Santa Cruz, Visitor Restroom Program http://cityofsantacruz.com/departments/economic-development/business-support/visitor-restroom-program
6. Acquire land and prepare plans.	East valley public restroom committee	Year 2	
7. Complete the necessary development review and permitting for the restroom facilities.	East valley public restroom committee	Year 2-3	
8. Fund, construct and maintain the restroom facilities.	East valley public restroom committee	Year 3-, ongoing	