

ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**January 18, 2022
12:30 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER.

A special meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (Committee) was called to order via Zoom teleconference at 12:30 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members attending by Zoom teleconference were District 1 Director John L. Varela, District 2 Director Barbara F. Keegan, and District 3 Director Richard P. Santos, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members attending by Zoom teleconference were District Counsel C. Orellana, M. Bilski, R. Blank, J. Codianne, N. Dominguez, R. Fields, R. Gibson, B. Hopper, C. Kwok-Smith, P. Lam, M. Laramie, M. Lugo, R. Snyder and S. Tippets.

Guests Attendees: Ms. Deb Kramer, Keep Coyote Beautiful and Mr. Paul J. Gonzales, Paul J. Gonzales Art Studios.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Chairperson Santos declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3.1. Approval of December 21, 2021 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the December 21, 2021 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting. It was moved by Director Keegan,

seconded by Director Varela, and carried by roll call vote to approve the minutes as presented.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

4.1. Receive Update on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations.

Recommendation: Receive updates on issues and current challenges related to Valley Water encampment cleanups.

Ms. Sue Tippets, Chief Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows: Ms. Jennifer Codianne, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 1 through 7 and Mr. James Downing, Senior Water Resources Specialist, reviewed Slides 8-10.

The Committee received an update on encampment cleanup activities, which included the removal of 90.75 tons of trash in December, a proposed Environmental Cleanup Service Day scheduled for May 2022, winter weather hazards outreach protocol, scheduled creek cleanups, permit application assistance for private landowners for routine stream maintenance activities on creeks within their property boundaries, encampment cleanups and water quality issues.

The Committee made the following requests:

- Receive a report of illegal trash dumps along the creeks that have been reported to the City of San Jose; and
- Staff to research opportunities for grant funding to support water quality monitoring relative to encamped areas.

4.2. Receive Update on Discussions with the County of Santa Clara Related to the Creation of a Memorandum of Understanding to Coordinate Responses to County Waterways Challenges.

Recommendation: Receive an update on Valley Water's ongoing discussions with the County of Santa Clara (County) related to the potential creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of coordinated responses to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.

Ms. Tippets reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

The Committee received an update on discussions with the County, which included possible roles, responsibilities, costs, and desired outcomes of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Staff will continue to provide the Committee with updates regarding any relevant developments and details as are appropriate to disclose from ongoing negotiations.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

- 4.3. Receive Update on Safe, Clean Water Mini-Grant Project: Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's FY 2021 D3 Empire Gardens Elementary School Mural Project (Agreement No. A4517R).

Recommendation: Receive information from Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful regarding their completed mini-grant project.

Ms. Marta Lugo, Assistant Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed as follows: Ms. Deb Kramer, Keep Coyote Beautiful, reviewed Slides 1 through 5, 12 and 13, and Mr. Paul J. Gonzales, Paul J. Gonzales Art Studios, reviewed Slides 6 through 11.

The Committee received information on the completion of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's mini grant project for Empire Gardens Elementary school. The project featured a mural by Paul J. Gonzales depicting the Coyote Creek watershed ecosystem and serves to educate students and the public. The project also included a nature walk and cleanup event at Watson Park, San Jose, in September 2021.

Director John Varela requested that staff research opportunities to coordinate a conversation to initiate similar beautification and cleanup programs in South County.

Ms. Carole Foster, Associate Water Resources Specialist, requested the Committee consider including a standing item on the agenda to report on creek safety issues.

- 4.4. Receive Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee 2021 Accomplishments Report.

Recommendation: Receive and accept the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee 2021 Accomplishments Report.

Ms. Natalie Dominguez, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1.

It was moved by, Director Keegan, seconded by Director Varela, and carried by roll call vote to accept the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee 2021 Accomplishments Report.

- 4.5. Review 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Work Plan.

Recommendation: A. Review the 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Work Plan, and make adjustments as necessary; and
B. Confirm date and time of next Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting.

Ms. Natalie Dominguez, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1.

The Committee reviewed and noted items in the 2022 Work Plan for future meetings and requested the following:

- Add a new standing item to the Work Plan to receive regular reports regarding creek safety issues.

The Committee requested to receive a list of other local agencies and interested parties receiving notice of ECCC meetings and agenda materials.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS.

None.

6. CLERK'S REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the following Committee requests and recommendations:

Regarding Item 4.1:

- Receive a report of illegal trash dumps along the creeks that have been reported to the City of San Jose; and
- Staff to research opportunities for grant funding to support water quality monitoring relative to encamped areas.

Regrading Item 4.3:

- Staff to research opportunities to coordinate a conversation to initiate similar beautification and cleanup programs in South County.
- Provide Committee members with a list of other local agencies and interested parties receiving notice of ECCC meetings and agenda materials.

Regarding Item 4.5:

- Add a new standing item to the Work Plan to receive regular reports regarding creek safety issues.

8. ADJOURN.

8.1. Adjourn to special meeting at 2:00 p.m., on April 6, 2022.

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m., to the next meeting to be called to order by the Committee Chair in compliance with the Brown Act as currently in effect.

Natalie F. Dominguez, CMC
Assistant Deputy Clerk

Approved:

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