

**ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE  
(formerly Homeless Encampment Committee)**

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# MINUTES

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**April 18, 2022  
2:00 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 held on April 18, 2022, in the Headquarters Building Boardroom at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

**1.1 Roll Call.**

Committee members in attendance 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 in attendance were District Counsel C. Orellana, R. Barajas, M. Bilski, R. Callender, C. Cannard, M. Cook, J. Codianne, V. Dela Piedra, M. Haggerty, B. Hopper, J. Lee, E. O'Keefe, J. Randall, M. Richardson, D. Rocha, R. Snyder, S. Tran, R. Tregoning and K. Yasukawa.

Guests Agencies in attendance were: Deb Kramer, Keep Coyote Beautiful; Sandra Murillo, San Jose Conservation Corps; Olympia Williams, Beautify SJ; Andrew Gutierrez, Public Defender Office, Santa Clara County; Unknown Participants from Downtown Streets Team.

Public in attendance were: Frank Weiland and Gail Anne Osmer.

**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.

Mr. John Davis, a San Jose resident, expressed concern on the continued presence of trash and fallen trees and on the no specified flow reduction at Coyote Creek where he owns properties; inquired about progress and location of Stream Maintenance Program Phase II project permitted under the US Army Corps of Engineer (USACE); asked whether the City of San Jose (CSJ) has a permit similar to Valley Water in the mitigation of stream flow; and asked about a contact person in CSJ to answer his questions on the said mitigation permit.

Chairperson Santos and Mr. Carlos Orellana, District Counsel, announced that no further discussion could be made on a topic that was not on the agenda; and requested Ms. Jennifer Codianne, Deputy Operating Officer, to reach out to Mr. Davis; and for the Chair and Mr. Davis to connect offline.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **3.1. Approval of January 18, 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the January 18, 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting. It was moved by Director Varela, seconded by Director Keegan, and carried by roll call vote to approve the minutes as presented.

### **4. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **4.1. Elect 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Officers.**

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

It was moved by Director Varela and seconded by Director Keegan to re-elect Chairperson Santos to continue as Chair for the year 2022.

It was moved by Chairperson Santos and seconded by Director Varela to reelect Director Varela as Vice Chairperson for the year 2022.

The motions carried unanimously, by roll call vote.

#### **4.2. Update on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations.**

Recommendation: Receive updates and provide feedback on the following topics.

- A. Cleanup schedule.
- B. May 2022 cleanup event.
- C. Cleanup funding and costs.
- D. San José Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- E. Fencing issues.
- F. Creek Safety Issues Report.
- G. Potential Grant Funding Opportunities.
- H. Watersheds Encampment Risk Assessment

Ms. Codianne reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Board Agenda Memo, and per the information contained in Attachment 1.

Director Keegan recommended a special committee meeting with school districts to provide outreach.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

#### 4.3. Standing Items.

- Recommendation:
- A. This agenda item allows the Committee to receive verbal or written updates and discuss the projects noted in the agenda memo summary. These items are generally informational; however, the Committee may request additional information from staff; and
  - B. This is information only and no action is required.

Ms. Kristen Yasukawa, Program Administrator, informed the Committee that the Office of Civic Engagement would soon secure a consultant that would help put together a strategic plan for public art and would include South County within the next two years.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

#### 4.4. 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.

The Committee requested that at the next meeting of this Committee, a date would be decided on a Special Meeting with members of school board in a future meeting of this Committee. Private owners could also be invited, to begin discussion on how we could help each other on encampment issues. Chairperson Santos would discuss with Mr. Rick Callender, Chief Executive Officer, on the best approach to the planned reach out.

Chairperson Santos requested staff to bring timely information to the Committee such as the tiny homes to be built in San Jose District 4, trash that ends at Berryessa from close by encampment sites, or other huge encampments adjacent to a creek where trash ends up.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

### 5. INFORMATION ITEMS.

#### 5.1. Information on List of Local Agencies and Interested Parties Receiving Notice of Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting and Agenda Materials.

- Recommendation:
- At the January 18, 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting, the Committee has requested a list of other local agencies and interested parties receiving notice

of ECCC meetings and agenda materials. Attachment 1 lists the information requested.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

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

None.

**7. ADJOURN.**

7.1. Adjourn to special meeting at 2:00 p.m., on July 19, 2022.

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m., to a next meeting in two months. Subsequently, after this meeting, Chairperson Santos has called for a May 16, 2022 Special Meeting to discuss Watersheds Encampment Risk Assessment.

Eva M. Sans  
Assistant Deputy Clerk

Approved: