

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

October 19, 2021
2:00 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER.

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Homeless Encampment Committee (Committee) was called to order via Zoom teleconference at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance via 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 in attendance via Zoom teleconference were District Counsel C.J. Orellana, M. Bilski, D. Candelas, J. Codianne, N. Dominguez, A. Gschwind, B. Hopper, T. Howard, C. Kwok-Smith, J. Lee, D. Rocha, E. Serrano, R. Snyder, S. Tippets, S. Tran, and R. Tregoning.

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 July 20, 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the July 20, 2021 Homeless Encampment 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. Review and Consider Homeless Encampment Committee Name and Purpose.

- Recommendation:
- A. Review and discuss the Homeless Encampment Committee name and purpose;
 - B. Update the Committee purpose to remove obsolete language and align with current approaches; and
 - C. Choose one of three (30 staff-recommended options to address whether to update the Committee name.

Mr. Mark Bilski, Senior Management Analyst, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

The Committee received information regarding the Committee's purpose and noted that two of the original five chartered purposes, Nos. 2 and 5, responding to requests from the Santa Clara County Housing Task Force have been completed. The Committee expressed support for proposed changes to update the Committee's purpose as outlined in Recommendation 1.

The Committee received information regarding proposed options for renaming the Committee and suggested the options outlined in Recommendation 2 be presented to Valley Water's Board of Directors for review and input.

It was moved by Director Varela, seconded by Director Keegan, and carried by roll call vote to forward the Committee's recommendations 1) supporting proposed changes to the Committees purpose as outlined in Recommendation 1, and 2) seeking the Board's input on options for renaming the Committee as outlined in Recommendation 2, to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration.

4.2. Update on Fencing Repair Contractor Response Times.

- Recommendation: Receive information regarding the expected response time of Valley Water's recently retained fencing repair contractor.

Ms. Jennifer Codianne, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

The Committee received an update on expected response time of the recently retained fencing repair contractor. There being no actual data available to report, it was noted that relevant language had previously been inserted into the agreement regarding expected response time and follow up on repair.

The Committee requested staff continue to monitor fencing issues and repairs and provide updates at future meetings.

4.3. Regular 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 response to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.

Mr. Donald Rocha, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

The Committee received updates on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding a coordinated response to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County. Verbal updates regarding any relevant developments and details that are appropriate to disclose from the ongoing negotiations will be reported at the future meetings. Discussion ensued regarding agreements with the cities regarding encampment abatements, how weather conditions could impact encampments, notification to the unhoused of planned creek clean up events, coordination with city and county Emergency Operation Centers in regard to encampments established along waterways, and Valley Water's role and responsibilities.

Chair Santos requested to receive a briefing on staff's meeting with Santa Clara County regarding the development of the MOU, scheduled to occur on October 20, 2021, and to discuss additional assistance, if necessary.

4.4. Review 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Work Plan.

Recommendation: A. Review the 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Work Plan, and make adjustments as necessary; and
B. Select a date for the next Homeless Encampment 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 Attachments 1 and 2.

The Committee requested the following adjustments to the Work Plans:

- Include a standing item regarding activities related to encampments and common themes. (B. Keegan)
- Include an item to discuss a plan to move forward with Valley Water cleanup events upon return to a normal business schedule. (B. Keegan)
- Schedule a special meeting in December 2021 to receive updates regarding activities related to encampments and common themes, and the development of an MOU regarding a coordinated response to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County. (Chair Santos)

5. INFORMATION ITEMS.

None.

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

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the following Committee requests and recommendations:

Item 4.1:

Forward the Committee's recommendations 1) supporting proposed changes to the Committee's purpose as outlined in Recommendation 1, and 2) seeking the Board's input on options for renaming the Committee as outlined in Recommendation 2, to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration.

Item 4.2:

Staff to continue to monitor fencing issues and repairs and provide updates at future meetings.

Item 4.3:

Staff to provide Chair Santos a briefing on staff's meeting with Santa Clara County regarding development of the MOU, scheduled to occur on October 20, 2021, and to discuss additional assistance, if necessary.

Item 4.4:

Make adjustments to the Work Plan as follows:

- Include a standing item regarding activities related to encampments and common themes. (B. Keegan)
- Include an item to discuss a plan to move forward with Valley Water cleanup events upon return to a normal business schedule. (B. Keegan)
- Schedule a special meeting in December 2021 to receive updates regarding activities related to encampments and common themes, and the development of an MOU regarding a coordinated response to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County. (Chair Santos)

8. ADJOURN.

- 8.1. Adjourn to next regular meeting to be called to order by the Committee Chair in compliance with the Brown Act as currently in effect and Santa Clara Valley Water District Resolution 21-85, adopted on September 28, 2021, in compliance with the provisions of AB 361 (Rivas).

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 2:35 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 and Santa Clara Valley Water District Resolution 21-85, adopted on September 28, 2021, in compliance with the provisions of AB 361 (Rivas).

Natalie F. Dominguez, CMC
Assistant Deputy Clerk

Approved: