

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

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# MINUTES

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**December 21, 2021  
12:30 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

A regular 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, R. Barajas, M. Bilski, J. Codianne, N. Dominguez, R. Gibson, M. Haggerty, B. Hopper, C. Kwok-Smith, J. Lee, M. Lugo, E. Serrano, R. Snyder, S. Tippets, S. Tran, R. Tregoning, and K. Yasukawa.

**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 October 19, 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the October 19, 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee meeting. It was moved by Director Varela, seconded Director Keegan, and carried by roll call vote to approve the minutes as presented.

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

##### **4.1. 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 14, 17 and 19, and Mr. Michael Haggerty, Program Administrator, reviewed slides 15 and 16.

The Committee received updates on and discussed issues and challenges related to Valley Water encampment cleanups. Staff reviewed scheduled cleanups, regulatory permitting, safety and security protocol during encampment cleanups, notification to the unhoused regarding scheduled cleanups, protocol and responsibilities for custody/storage of personal property encountered during cleanups, cleanup costs including use of Valley Water Measure S funds, potential grant opportunities to aid the unhoused, and received an update on the development of a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of San Jose for encampment management.

The Committee request the following of staff:

- Report on potential partnerships with service clubs regarding volunteers and funding to support creek cleanups, coordinated safety/security efforts with San Jose Police Department during cleanup events, possibilities of recruiting the unhoused to assist with scheduled cleanups and providing an appreciation meal to volunteers post event, winter water hazards, and mechanisms for police presence.
- Investigate grant funding possibilities via the new Infrastructure Bill.
- Report on water quality monitoring and whether it makes sense to utilize pre and post cleanup results to show improvements in water quality.
- Report on the possibilities of assisting private landowners to secure permits for cleanup work on creeks that flow within their legal property boundaries.
- Review and discuss Valley Water policies and permitting requirements for providing meals to the unhoused on Valley Water property, and managing waste reduction.

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 responses to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.

Ms. Tippets and Ms. Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Program Administrator, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

The Committee received information on the progress of the development of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a coordinated response to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County. Staff reported discussion occurred 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. Staff will continue to provide updates at future meetings on relevant developments and details that are appropriate to disclose from the ongoing negotiations.

4.4. Review 2021 and 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Work Plans and 2022 Meeting Schedule.

Recommendation: A. Review the 2021 and 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Work Plans and make adjustments as necessary; and  
B. Review and confirm the 2022 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting schedule.

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 items be added to the ECCC Work Plan:

- Report on potential partnerships with service clubs regarding volunteers and funding to support for creek cleanups, coordinated safety/security efforts with San Jose Police Department during cleanup events, possibilities of recruiting the unhoused to assist with scheduled cleanups and providing an appreciation meal to volunteers post event, winter water hazards, and mechanisms for police presence.
- Report on water quality monitoring and whether it makes sense to utilize pre and post cleanup results to show improvements in water quality.
- Report on the possibilities of assisting private landowners to secure permits for cleanup work on creeks that flow within their legal property boundaries.

- Review and discuss Valley Water policies and permitting requirements for providing meals to the unhoused on Valley Water property, and managing waste reduction.

**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:

The Committee request the follow of staff:

- Report on potential partnerships with service clubs regarding volunteers and funding to support for creek cleanups, coordinated safety/security efforts with San Jose Police Department during cleanup events, possibilities of recruiting the unhoused to assist with scheduled cleanups and providing an appreciation meal to volunteers post event, winter water hazards, and mechanisms for police presence.
- Investigate grant funding possibilities via the new Infrastructure Bill.
- Report on water quality monitoring and whether it makes sense to utilize pre and post cleanup results to show improvements in water quality.
- Report on the possibilities of assisting private landowners to secure permits for cleanup work on creeks that flow within their legal property boundaries.
- Review and discuss Valley Water policies and permitting requirements for providing meals to the unhoused on Valley Water property, and managing waste reduction.

Regarding Item 4.4:

The Committee requested the following items be added to the ECCC Work Plan:

- Report on potential partnerships with service clubs regarding volunteers and funding to support for creek cleanups, coordinated safety/security efforts with San Jose Police Department during cleanup events, possibilities of recruiting the unhoused to assist with scheduled cleanups and providing an appreciation meal to volunteers post event, winter water hazards, and mechanisms for police presence.
- Report on water quality monitoring and whether it makes sense to utilize pre and post cleanup results to show improvements in water quality.
- Report on the possibilities of assisting private landowners to secure permits for cleanup work on creeks that flow within their legal property boundaries.

- Review and discuss Valley Water policies and permitting requirements for providing meals to the unhoused on Valley Water property, and managing waste reduction.

**8. ADJOURN.**

8.1. Adjourn to Regular Meeting at 2:00 p.m., on January 18, 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: