



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (02-08-19)

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Richard P. Santos
ECCC Chair
SUBJECT: Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
(ECCC) February 21, 2023 Meeting
Summary
DATE: March 14, 2023

This memorandum summarizes the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) meeting held on February 21, 2023, where discussion occurred on the following items:

1. Time Open for Public Comment on Any Item Not on the Agenda.

Four public comments were received expressing advocacy for the unhoused, and concerns for safety for families and businesses, as well as a presentation on a solution to encampments.

2. Elect 2023 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Officers.

The Committee elected Directors Santos and Eisenberg as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively.

3. Approval of January 17, 2023 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting Minutes.

The Committee approved the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

4. Receive Updates on Valley Water’s Encampment Cleanup Operations.

The Committee received a presentation on identified sites for housing, availability of Web access to those sites; a Memorandum of Agreement which is cost-shared with City of San Jose would take into account all necessary services for the unhoused to get relocated.

The Committee requested that housing for the unhoused should be referred to as “transitional housing” to be consistent with the City of San Jose use in housing the unhouse and to form a connection with wrap around services with transitional housing; that staff would look into whether transitional housing has a state requirement to be inside or outside the 100-year FEMA flood zone and whether transitional housing qualifies for Home Key funds; that staff would present this Committee’s recommendation to the full Board on whether to include encampment relocation as well as housing on costs of capital projects such as the Coyote Creek Flood Mitigation Measures project; and that staff would consider the possibility of providing lockers for the unhoused.

Sergeant Scott Williams, San Jose Police Department Street Crimes Unit Supervisor, spoke about Mission of the Street Crimes Unit related to the agreement with Valley Water on community policing, uniformed patrols, plainclothes enforcement and bicycle patrols. The Committee was informed about implementation of animal control, fire prevention and recommendations on encampment sites.

Gail Anne Osmer, identified herself as a housing advocate, expressed frustration over non-profits that had not provided services they were supposed to give. Director Eisenberg offered to connect

Gail Anne Osmer to non-profit organizations that had performed and delivered services to the unhoused.

The Committee noted the information without taking formal action.

5. Receive Information on the Potential for Valley Water to Offer Portable Toilet Facilities in Heavily Encamped Creek Areas.

The Committee was informed that additional funding for encampment cleanup could come from an Environmental Protection Agency grant that would allow use of the funds for portable toilets. With regard to dumpsters at encampment sites, City of San Jose staff had mentioned that dumpsters were provided at several encampment sites but had attracted illegal dumping from housed residents.

The Committee requested that staff would come back with information on whether a contractor could provide oversight services for these facilities; that staff would continue the feasibility analysis for this program, and if necessary and appropriate, would request funding approval for porta potty services when the mid-year budget adjustment is presented to the full Board on March 28, 2023; and that Finance staff would find out if encampment costs could be integrated within project costs.

Gail Anne Osmer spoke about the urgency and importance of porta potties at encampment sites and mentioned about a candidate that could fill the porta potty oversight position.

The Committee noted the information without taking formal action.

6. Review 2023 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Work Plan.

The Committee made a request that:

- A special March 2023 meeting date would be tentatively scheduled if staff would have enough information for discussion.
- A special June 2023 meeting date would be scheduled in lieu of a cancellation of the regular July 18, 2023 meeting.

7. Adjourn

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. to the April 18, 2023 regular meeting.

Board member comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Eva Sans, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, by email to esans@valleywater.org or phone at (408) 630-2306.