



ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE

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# DRAFT MINUTES

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**TUESDAY, January 20, 2026**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A regular scheduled meeting of the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting was held on January 20, 2026, at Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Building, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Director Richard P. Santos called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**1.1. ROLL CALL**

Committee Board Members in attendance were: Director Jim Beall (District 4), Vice Chairperson Nai Hsueh (District 5), and Committee Chair Director Richard P. Santos (District 3), constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Valley Water Staff in attendance were: Audrey Beaman, Mark Bilski, Lisa Brancatelli, Theresa Chinte, Jen Codianne, Omar El-Qoulaq, Rachael Gibson, Christopher Hakes, Wendy Ho, Colin Kortman, Dave Leon, and Carlos Orellana.

**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 who wished to speak.

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**3.1. ELECT 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2026 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

It was moved by Director Beall, seconded by Vice Chairperson Hsueh, and unanimously carried to re-elect Chairperson Santos and Vice Chairperson Hsueh to their respective positions.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **4.1. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Recommendation: Approve the September 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

It was moved by Director Beall and seconded by Vice Chairperson Hsueh, and unanimously carried to approve the September 10, 2025 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

### **5. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **5.1 RECEIVE UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER'S ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP OPERATIONS**

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

- A. SJPD and creek safety issues update.
- B. Encampment cleanup program operations and costs update.
- C. Valley Water/County of Santa Clara (SCC) outreach report update.
- D. Information on needle exchange and animal services programs within Santa Clara County.

Jen Codianne reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2, and was available to answer questions.

Public comments: None.

Discussion ensued relating to minimal activity on the lower peninsula watershed and whether encampments are changing locations, Ordinance signage used indicating that there is no camping on Valley Water-owned land, reductions in encampments on off-railroad property, plans to repair sites damaged by encampments, reduced fence cutting, participation from law enforcement from varying municipalities, services for abandoned animals, and trash cleanup.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

#### **5.2 RECEIVE UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER'S WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION ZONES (WRPZ) ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION**

Recommendation: Receive an update and provide feedback on the WRPZ Ordinance implementation progress after the first year of implementation.

Mark Bilski reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1, and was available to answer questions.

Public comments: None.

Discussion ensued relating to Valley Water's participation in the County of Santa Clara's Homeless Action Plan, and housing bond allocations in the State legislature.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

**5.3 REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE (ECCC) WORK PLAN.**

Recommendation: Review the Committee work plan to guide the committee's discussions regarding policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation and make recommendations as necessary.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments: None.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff report at a future Committee meeting relating to Valley Water's use of the Coyote Alamitos Canal in the Santa Teresa Hills.

**6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE'S REQUESTS TO THE BOARD**

The Committee took no action.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**7.1 ADJOURN**

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Submitted by:

Dave Leon  
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved:

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