



Santa Clara Valley Water District Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting

HQ. Bldg. Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/88314500886>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026
10:00 AM**

District Mission: Provide Silicon Valley safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment and economy.

Environmental Creek Cleanup
Committee

Director Jim Beall (District 4)
Director Nai Hsueh (District 5,
Committee Vice Chair)
Director Richard P. Santos (District 3,
Committee Chair)

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available to the public through the legislative body agenda web page at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Santa Clara Valley Water District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to participate in the legislative body's meeting. Please advise the Clerk of the Board Office of any special needs by calling (408) 265-2600.

Jennifer Codianne (Staff
Liaison)

Dave Leon, (COB Liaison)
Assistant Deputy Clerk II
daveleon@valleywater.org
(408) 630-2006

Note: The finalized Board Agenda, exception items and supplemental items will be posted prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

**Santa Clara Valley Water District
Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee**

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To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public have an option to participate by teleconference/video conference or attend in-person. To observe and participate in the meeting by teleconference/video conference, please see the meeting link located at the top of the agenda. If attending in-person, you are required to comply with **Ordinance 22-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SPECIFYING RULES OF DECORUM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS** located at <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.if-us-west-2/f2-live/s3fs-public/Ord.pdf>

In accordance with the requirements of Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Board/Committee during public comment or on any item listed on the agenda, may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the “Raise Hand” tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself in order to speak, at the time the item is called. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board.

- Members of the Public may test their connection to Zoom Meetings at: <https://zoom.us/test>
- Members of the Public are encouraged to review our overview on joining Valley Water Board Meetings at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TojJpYCxXm0>

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Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://valleywater.zoom.us/j/88314500886>

Meeting ID:883 1450 0886

Join by Phone:

1 (669) 900-9128, 88314500886#

1. CALL TO ORDER:

1.1. Roll Call.

2. TIME OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Notice to the public: Members of the public who wish to address the Board/Committee on any item not listed on the agenda may do so by filling out a Speaker Card and submitting it to the Clerk or using the "Raise Hand" tool located in the Zoom meeting application to identify yourself to speak. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Board/Committee Chair in the order requests are received and granted speaking access to address the Board/Committee. Speakers' comments should be limited to three minutes or as set by the Chair. The law does not permit Board/Committee action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. If Board/Committee action is requested, the matter may be placed on a future agenda. All comments that require a response will be referred to staff for a reply in writing. The Board/Committee may take action on any item of business appearing on the posted agenda.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3.1. Elect 2026 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Officers.

26-0070

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2026 Environmental Creek Cleanup

Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1. Approval of September 10, 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes. [26-0072](#)

Recommendation: Approve the September 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [09102025 ECCC Draft Minutes](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

5. REGULAR AGENDA:

5.1. Receive Update on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations. [26-0021](#)

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

- A. San Jose Police Department (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.

Manager: Jennifer Codianne, 408-630-3876

Attachments: [Attachment 1: Service Programs Report](#)

[Attachment 2: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 15 minutes

5.2. Receive Update on Valley Water's Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance Implementation. [26-0022](#)

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

Manager: Mark Bilski, 408-630-2830

Attachments: [Attachment 1: PowerPoint](#)

Est. Staff Time: 10 minutes

5.3. Review and Approve the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) Work Plan. [26-0071](#)

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

as necessary.

Manager: Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

Attachments: [Attachment 1: ECCC 2026 Work Plan](#)

Est. Staff Time: 5 Minutes

6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS.

This is an opportunity for the Clerk to review and obtain clarification on any formally moved, seconded, and approved requests and recommendations made by the Committee during the meeting.

7. ADJOURN:

7.1. Adjourn.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0070

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Item No.: 3.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Elect 2026 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Officers.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

The Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee was established to discuss homelessness and encampment issues and bring discussion and recommendations back to the Board.

The Committee is comprised of the Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, who serve as the Committee's primary and secondary facilitators, and Committee representatives. The Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected by the Committee annually.

The following is a summary of the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee officer terms since the Committee's 2017 enactment by the Board of Directors.

2017:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Tony Estremera, Vice Chairperson

2018:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Tony Estremera, Vice Chairperson

2019:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Tony Estremera, Vice Chairperson

2020:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Tony Estremera, Vice Chairperson

2021:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director John Varela, Vice Chairperson

2022:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director John Varela, Vice Chairperson

2023:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Rebecca Eisenberg, Vice Chairperson

2024:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director John Varela, Vice Chairperson

2025:

Director Richard Santos, Chairperson

Director Nai Hsueh, Vice Chairperson

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

File No.: 26-0070

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026
Item No.: 3.1.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874



Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0072

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Item No.: 4.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Approval of September 10, 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the September 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, a summary of Committee discussions, and details of all actions taken by the Committee, during all open and public Committee meetings, is transcribed and submitted for review and approval.

Upon Committee approval, minutes transcripts are finalized and entered into the Committee's historical record archives and serve as the official historical record of the Committee's meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: 09102025 ECCC Draft Minutes

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874



ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 10. 2025

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special scheduled meeting of the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting was held on September 10, 2025, 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 1:00 p.m.

1.1. ROLL CALL

Committee Board Members in attendance were: Director Jim Beall (District 4), Director 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, Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Mark Bilski, Kendra Boutros, Theresa Chinte, Jen Codianne, Rachael Gibson, Christopher Hakes, Colin Kortman, Dave Leon, Sadie Lum, Becky Manchester, Nicole Merritt, Carlos Orellana, Mark Poole, Shanika Richards, Don Rocha, Breanne Roderick, Stephanie Simunic, and Kristen Yasukawa.

Public in attendance were: Ashley Dargert, Rebecca Eisenberg, Darlyn Escalante, Cheryl Ho, MD, Tiffany Ho, MD, Soo Jung, LindNguy, Jamie Marcil, Kevin Richardson, and Rick.

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. APPROVAL OF JUNE 27, 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the June 27, 2025 meeting minutes.

It was moved by Director Beall and seconded by Vice Chairperson Hsueh, and unanimously carried, to approve the June 27, 2025 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM SANTA CLARA COUNTY AGENCIES ON UNHOUSED SUPPORT SERVICES

Recommendation: Receive information from the following County agencies:

- A. Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department.
- B. Santa Clara County Office of Veterans Services.

Tiffany Ho, MD, Cheryl Ho, MD, and Soo Jung, Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services Department, and Darlyn Escalante, Santa Clara County Office of Veterans Services, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachments 1 and 2, and were available to answer questions.

Public Comments: Gail Osmer spoke relating to the 988 call system and meeting staff at encampments.

Discussion ensued relating to the impacts of Federal budget cuts on the mental health system within the County, mobile crisis services for unhoused individuals living in the creeks or walking along the creeks, the new County medical facility at Valley Medical Center, and the location of the San Jose VA clinic.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.2 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. Update on Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures (CCFMMMP) encampment relocation agreement with City of San Jose.
- D. Update on Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance 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: Gail Osmer spoke relating to outreach teams offering animal services.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff provide information at the next Committee meeting relating to needle exchanges and animal services.

4.3 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.

Discussion ensued relating to agendizing an item regarding first year of implementation of the Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance in January 2026.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

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

The Committee took no action.

6. ADJOURNMENT

6.1 ADJOURN

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved:

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Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0021

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Item No.: 5.1.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Receive Update on Valley Water's Encampment Cleanup Operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive updates and provide feedback on the following topics:

- A. San Jose Police Department (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.

SUMMARY:

Staff will brief the Committee and provide up-to-date information on issues related to encampment cleanups:

- A. SJPD and Creek Safety Issues Update: Regular report on creek safety issues, including recent statistics from the SJPD's SSLE program.
- B. Encampment Cleanup Program Operations and Costs Update: Report on current period encampment-generated trash removal tonnage; Fiscal Year 2026 encampment cleanup expenditures and prior-year comparisons; and volumes of trash removed across all Valley Water trash and debris removal projects.
- C. Valley Water/SCC Outreach Report Update: Update on SCC Office of Supportive Housing outreach services provided between July 1 and November 30, 2025.
- D. Needle Exchange and Animal Services Programs: Per Committee request, staff compiled a report with information on needle exchange and animal services programs within Santa Clara County. See Attachment 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this update.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Service Programs Report
Attachment 2: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Jennifer Codianne, 408-630-3876

Needle Exchange and Animal Services Programs

Staff researched needle exchange and animal services programs available within Santa Clara County. Table 1 provides information on the primary needle exchange program serving the county, the Santa Clara County Harm Reduction Program, and Table 2 provides information on animal services programs serving the county area, including shelter and adoption, foster care, spay/neuter, and community cat programs.

Table 1 – Needle Exchange Program

Program Name	County of Santa Clara Harm Reduction Program (formerly Needle Exchange)
Administering Entity	Santa Clara County Public Health Department — Harm Reduction Program (SHHRP) Also referred to as the County of Santa Clara Harm Reduction Program Website: publichealth.santaclaracounty.gov
Services Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free supplies (sterile syringes, sharps containers, etc.)• Safe disposal of used syringes• Overdose education and naloxone provision• Low-barrier linkage to medication-assisted treatment (MAT)• Alternatives to injection supplies (for safer modes of use)
Service Modalities / Locations / Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixed sites, pop-up sites, and mobile/encampment outreach• Locations include Senter Road (San José), under I-280 overpass, Gilroy, etc.• Harm reduction vending machine in Lenzen Health Center lobby (Mon–Fri 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.)• Anonymous and confidential (no ID required)
Historical Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Began as a “needle exchange” program; expanded to broader harm reduction focus• Operating since 1994, one of California’s longest-running programs
Program Contact	Phone: (408) 792-5529 Email: shhrp@phd.sccgov.org
Service Schedule	Mon 2–4 pm: 1888 Senter Rd., San José Tue 1–3 pm: Under I-280 (overpass between S. First and Second St.), San José Tue 5–7 pm and Wed 9 am–5 pm: Harm Reduction Center (976 Lenzen Ave., Ste. 1800, San José) Fri 9:30–11:30 am: Valley Health Center (7475 Camino Arroyo, Gilroy) Fri 2–4 pm: Little Orchard St., San José

Program Name	County of Santa Clara Harm Reduction Program (formerly <i>Needle Exchange</i>)
Harm Reduction Vending Machine (Lenzen Health Center)	<p>Address: 976 Lenzen Ave., San José, CA 95126 (Main Lobby)</p> <p>Hours: Mon–Fri 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Phone: (408) 792-5529</p> <p>Email: shhrp@phd.sccgov.org</p> <p>Notes: Provides free harm-reduction supplies; naloxone available without ID in emergencies</p>
Post-Overdose Support Team (POST)	<p>Phone: (669) 326-4406</p> <p>Email: post@phd.sccgov.org</p> <p>Services: Post-overdose support, naloxone/test strips, education, linkage to MAT</p>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary syringe services provider in Santa Clara County • Check publichealth.santaclaracounty.gov for current details • Additional overdose prevention resources available via odfree.santaclaracounty.gov

Table 2 – Animal Services Programs

Program Name	County of Santa Clara Animal Services
General Services & Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides sheltering for domestic and farm animals • Facilitates adoptions • Investigates cruelty and neglect complaints • Reunites lost pets with owners • Oversees animal control in unincorporated areas • Serves unincorporated areas and cities, including Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and Sunnyvale <p>Main Contact:</p> <p>Address: 12425 Monterey Road, San Martin, CA 95046</p> <p>Phone: (408) 686-3900</p> <p>Hours: Mon–Fri 12:00–6:00 pm; Sat–Sun 12:00–5:00 pm</p>
Shelter and Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses animals that are lost, injured, or surrendered (space permitting) • Adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchipping, and vaccinations • Maintains “Lost and Found” listings service • Accepts surrendered pets from unincorporated areas and select cities (Gilroy, Sunnyvale, Morgan Hill), with some intake exceptions
Foster Care Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers home-based foster options to reduce shelter stress and support animal well-being

Program Name		County of Santa Clara Animal Services
		<p>Types of Foster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term foster for adoption-ready animals • Field trips / sleepovers for temporary home experience • Kitten fostering for young kittens needing extra care
Spay / Neuter and Community Cat (TNR) Programs – County-Run		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) spay/neuter for community/unowned cats in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Martin, Sunnyvale, Stanford, and unincorporated areas • Clinic location: 12425 Monterey Rd, San Martin • Drop-off: 7:30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays (no appointment; limited space) • Limit: One cat per person/property per day • Only healthy cats accepted; injured/sick cats must go through shelter • Each altered cat is ear-tipped • Eligibility limited to county/unincorporated residents
Regional and Nonprofit Spay/Neuter Programs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San José Animal Care and Services: TNR for cats in San José, Saratoga, Cupertino, Milpitas (2 days/week; post-surgery hold required). • Humane Society Silicon Valley (HSSV): TNR services, vaccinations, parasite treatment, ear-tipping; mobile clinics for cats and small dogs. • SVACA (Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority): Low-cost spay/neuter clinic with rabies vaccine and microchip; voucher programs for low-income residents. • PAWS for SJACS: Nonprofit offering spay/neuter and vaccine support (voucher program currently suspended). • Town Cats: Provides free spay/neuter for feral cats and low-cost services for pets; partners with local shelters for TNR and rescue.
Key Contacts and Facilities		
Entity	Address / Service Area	
Santa Clara County Animal Services	12425 Monterey Rd, San Martin (County-wide, unincorporated plus some cities)	
San José Animal Care and Services	2750 Monterey Road, San José (San José, Cupertino, Milpitas)	
SVACA	3370 Thomas Road, Santa Clara	
Humane Society Silicon Valley	3463 McKee Road, San José (plus mobile clinics)	
Town Cats	901 Ames Avenue, Milpitas	

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Encampment Cleanup Operations Update

Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
January 20, 2026

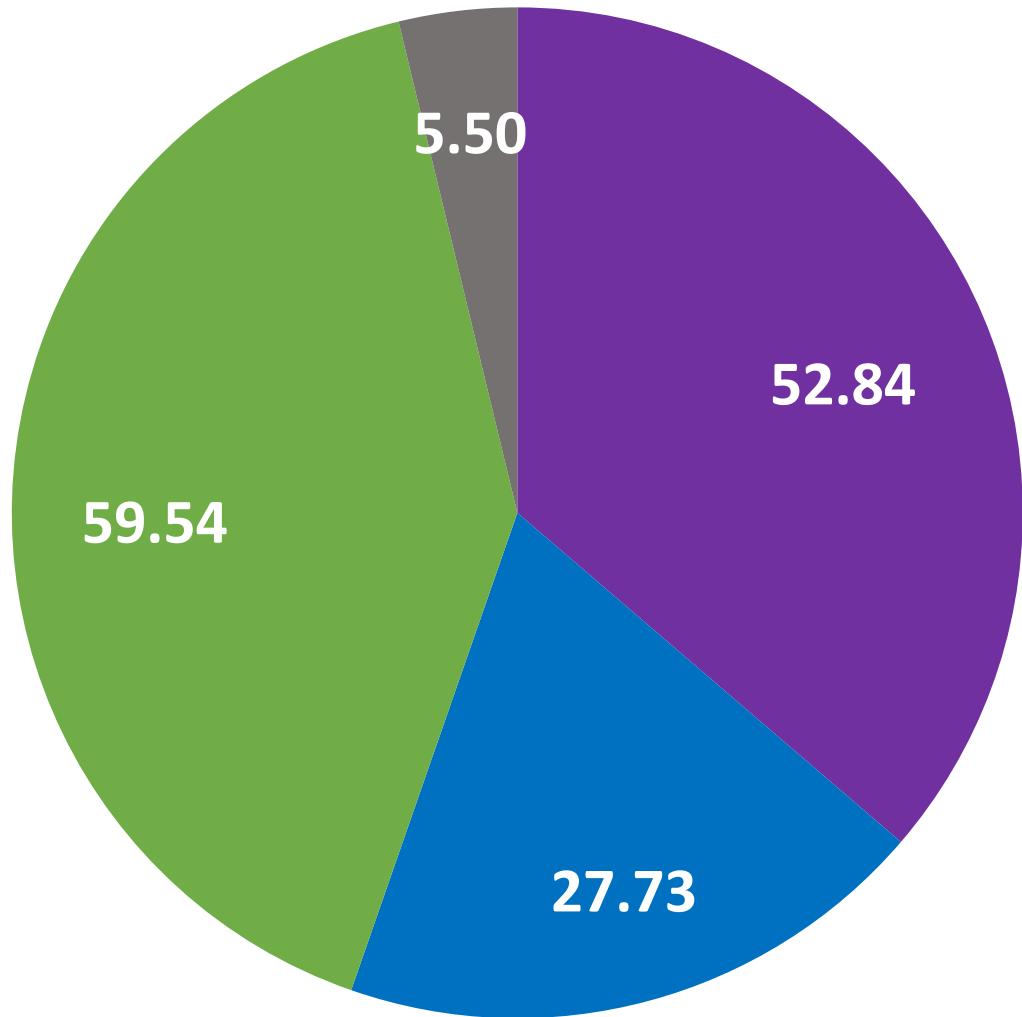
SJPD and Creek Safety Issues Update: Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement (SSLE)

- **September 5, 2025 Statistics:** 0 arrests; 0 citations; 0 warrants associated to the individuals arrested/cited; however, officers admonished numerous individuals about trespassing on VW property to assist with an upcoming abatement.
- **September 19, 2025 Statistics:** 2 arrests; 1 citations; 2 warrants associated to the individuals arrested/cited; one arrest was for a parolee in possession of tear gas.
- **October 10, 2025 Statistics:** 0 arrests; 1 citations; 3 warrants associated to the individuals arrested/cited.

SJPD and Creek Safety Issues Update: Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement (SSLE)

- **October 24, 2025 Statistics:**
0 arrests; 3 citations; 0 warrants associated to the individuals arrested/cited.
- **November 21, 2025 Statistics:** 0 arrests; 0 citations; 0 warrants associated to the individuals arrested/cited; officers admonished numerous individuals about trespassing on VW property.

Encampment Cleanup Update: August 23 – November 30, 2025



**145.60 Tons
Removed**



Uvas Creek (Before)

Watershed:

- Coyote
- Guadalupe
- Uvas/Llagas
- West Valley



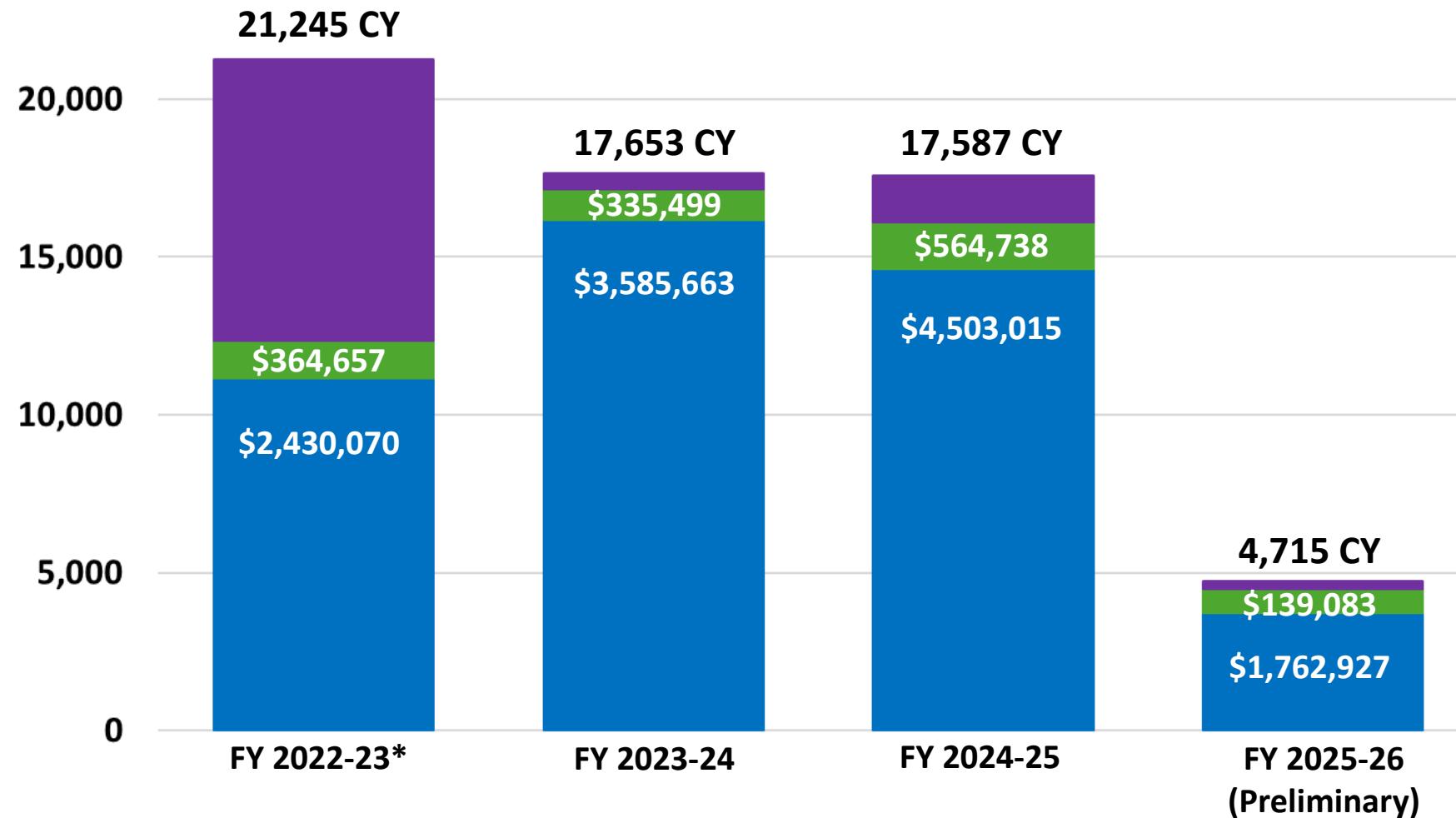
Uvas Creek (After)

Encampment Cleanup Program Costs

Encampment Cleanup Cost Categories	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 (preliminary)
Internal Labor (Salaries, benefits, and overhead)	\$153,523	\$1,321,519	\$1,428,700	\$1,613,881	\$2,147,548	\$984,433
Skilled Contract Labor	\$131,368	\$810,216	\$850,515	\$1,016,341	\$1,200,654	\$320,469
SCC Outreach Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$45,956	\$151,167	\$23,750
Portable Toilet Facilities Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$76,865	\$99,184	\$20,015
SJPD Secondary Employment	\$3,743	\$10,675	\$77,595	\$175,230	\$220,640	\$99,540
SJPD Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement (SSLE)* <i>*FY20-23 SSLE expenditures of \$524,160.21 were charged to SCW Priority B projects rather than Encampment Cleanup</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$221,826	\$124,597	\$50,269
Trash Disposal	\$6,566	\$42,525	\$25,115	\$88,938	\$116,769	\$55,961
Lease & Rental Equipment	\$10,148	\$11,711	\$10,699	\$12,774	\$6,549	N/A
Other Costs (agreements, construction materials, supplies, equipment, tools, fuel, chemicals, etc.)	\$59,548	\$19,650	\$37,446	\$334,002	\$353,185	\$208,490
Encampment Cleanup Cost - Totals:	\$364,896	\$2,216,296	\$2,430,070	\$3,585,813	\$4,420,292	\$1,762,927

CY
25,000

Waterway Trash & Debris Removal: Volume and Cost



CY = cubic yards of trash, debris, and hazardous pollutants removed from waterway areas

- Other Cleanup Efforts (SCW Priority B)
- Litter Removal (SCW F6)
- Encampment Cleanup (SCW F5**)

* In FY 2022-23, under *Other Cleanup Efforts*, Valley Water removed 7,910 cubic yards of encampment-generated trash and debris along Coyote Creek, paving the way for the construction of the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMMP).

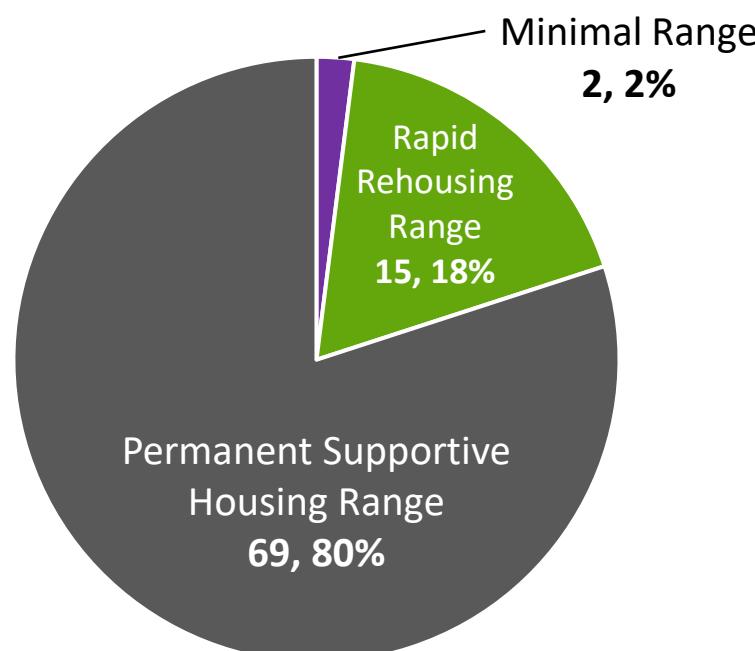
**Beginning in FY 2024-25, Valley Water allocated additional funding for encampment cleanup operations from its Watershed & Stream Stewardship Fund to augment the funding provided by the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water Program.

Valley Water OSH Outreach Report – July to November 2025

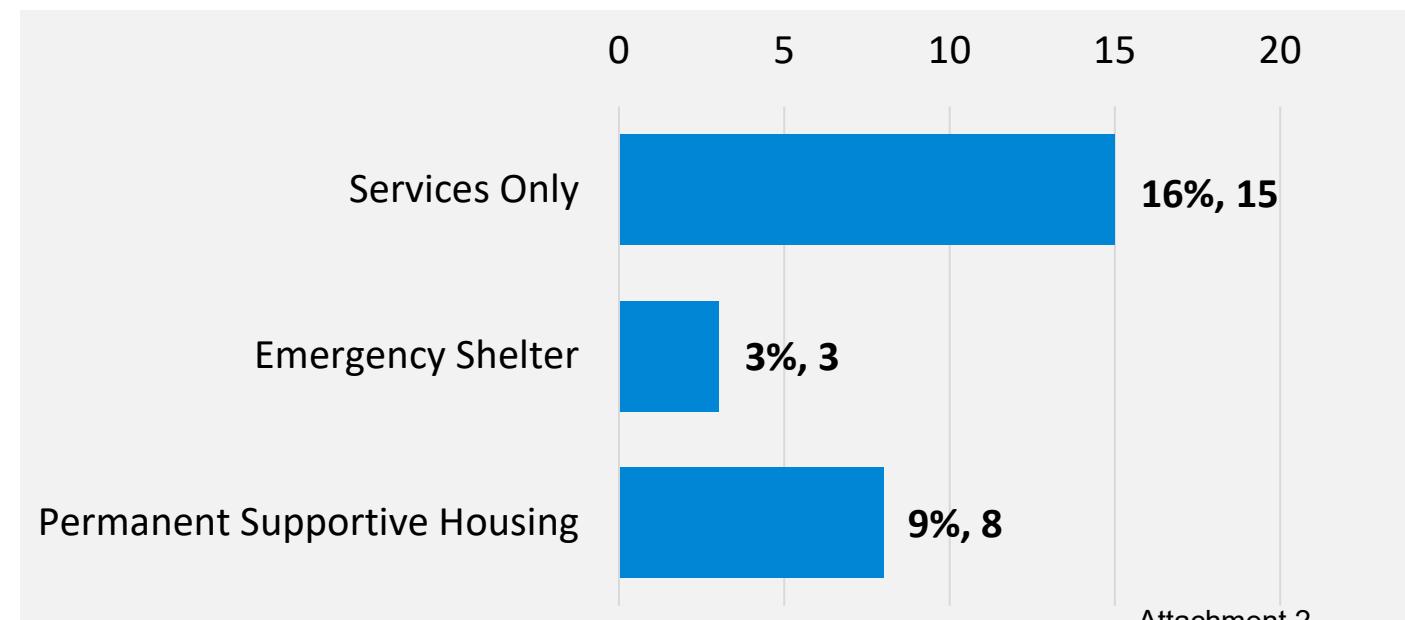
The following shows characteristics for 94 households (98 individuals) currently enrolled in Community Hotline – Hotline Outreach (Valley Water OSH). Enrollments are from July 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025. One client exited from the program during this period.

- 86 households have taken a VI-SPDAT housing assessment, with 15 (18%) scoring in the Rapid Rehousing level of need and 69 (80%) scoring in the Permanent Supportive Housing level of need (based on their most recent VI-SPDAT assessment).
- 8 households are currently enrolled and housed in a Permanent Supportive Housing program.

By VI-SPDAT Level of Need



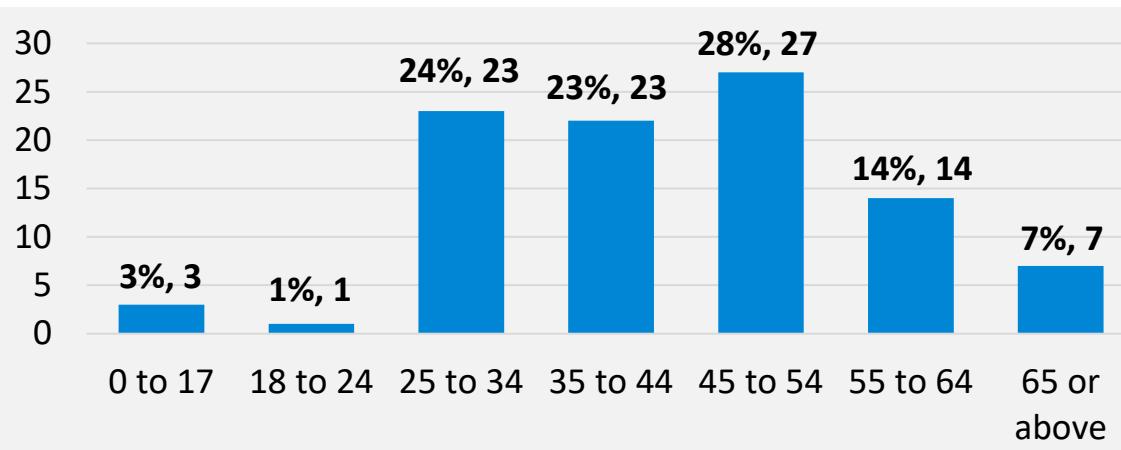
Valley Water OSH Outreach Households Active on Community Queues or HMIS Programs



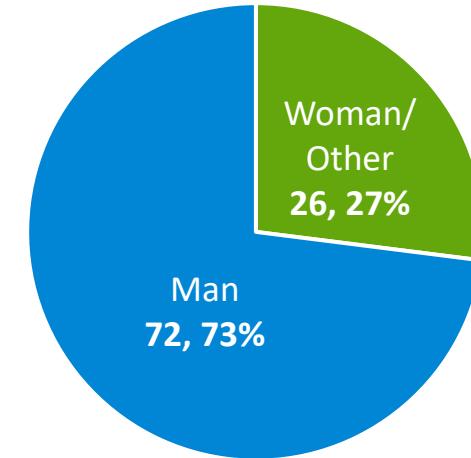
Valley Water OSH Outreach Report – July to November 2025

The following are demographics for 98 individuals currently enrolled in Community Hotline – Hotline Outreach (Valley Water OSH).

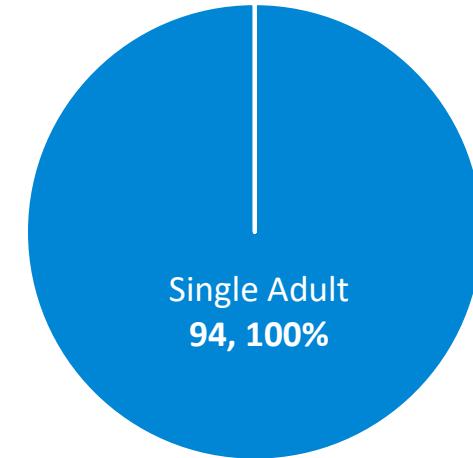
By Current Age Tier



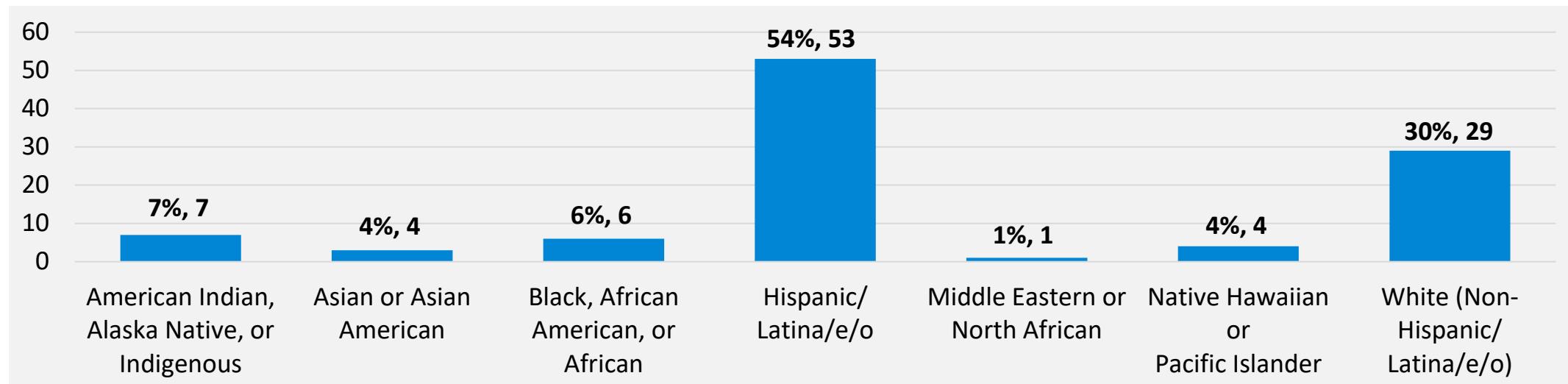
By Gender



By Household Type



By Race and Ethnicity (Multiple Responses Allowed)



Needle Exchange and Animal Services Programs

- 9/10/25 ECCC meeting – Committee requested information on needle exchange and animal services programs within Santa Clara County
- Staff researched available programs and provided summary of available resources
- Additional resources will be valuable if staff encounters issues related to needles and animals at encampments



QUESTIONS





Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0022

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Item No.: 5.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

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.

SUMMARY:

On November 26, 2024, the Valley Water Board of Directors adopted the Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance (Ordinance), intended to address the environmental, health, and safety impacts of unauthorized camping in areas where Valley Water holds land rights. The primary goal of the Ordinance is to protect water resources, ecological resources, and riparian habitat by reducing the presence of encampments along waterways and near water supply facilities. The Ordinance also serves to enhance the safety of Valley Water staff working in the field.

In the first year of Ordinance implementation Valley Water has shown significant progress in meeting its operational needs while balancing those needs with compassion and community partnership. Through collaboration with advocates, nonprofit organizations, and local agencies, Valley Water has established a sustainable and adaptive framework for managing encampments that protects waterways and promotes the health and safety of both the public and Valley Water employees.

WRPZ Ordinance Implementation Plan

Leading up to Ordinance adoption, advocates and organizations supporting unsheltered individuals raised concerns about the potential criminalization of unhoused people and emphasized the need for safe relocation sites, housing, supportive services, interagency coordination, and community engagement. In response, staff developed an Ordinance Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) to supplement the Ordinance and guide its phased and progressive implementation from January 2, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Valley Water sought to avoid an immediate large-scale clearance of encampments that could overwhelm a Santa Clara County housing system that has limited relocation options. The Implementation Plan established enforcement priority levels and a progressive enforcement approach to ensure that the Ordinance would be applied thoughtfully. It also introduced Encampment Condition Guidelines (Guidelines)-a set of responsible camping practices designed to discourage harmful behaviors and reduce negative health, safety, and environmental impacts-so that encampments meeting these conditions could be considered low priority for enforcement during the implementation period.

The Implementation Plan created a progressive enforcement and education framework that provides unsheltered individuals the opportunity to understand the Guidelines and correct violations before enforcement actions occur. Under this approach, High Priority violations trigger immediate enforcement, while Low Priority violations result in education and follow-up visits to encourage voluntary compliance. Encampment removals occur when High Priority violations are observed or when ongoing violations persist without meaningful progress toward compliance.

The Implementation Plan also outlined a timeline and education strategies to inform the community, advocates, social service providers, unsheltered individuals, local agencies, and law enforcement officers about the Ordinance and its requirements. Following adoption, staff updated the Good Neighbor Program website and developed both digital and printed materials to educate potentially affected individuals and the general public.

To expand outreach, Valley Water awarded contracts to three nonprofit organizations with established trust and relationships within the unsheltered community to provide on-site Ordinance education at encampments located on Valley Water lands. Staff also communicated with city, county, and law enforcement partners to ensure consistent enforcement messaging and reinforce Valley Water's education-first, progressive implementation approach. Additionally, staff convened monthly coordination meetings with advocates and service providers through an Ordinance Adaptive Implementation Team to assess progress and refine outreach and implementation strategies.

The final milestone in the implementation timeline calls for the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee to review and evaluate the Ordinance's impact and effectiveness upon completion of the phased implementation at the end of 2025.

Ordinance Implementation Outcomes

Valley Water employed its phased, education-first enforcement strategy that prioritized voluntary compliance and multiple outreach visits before initiating enforcement actions. This phased approach strengthened protections for waterways, ecological resources, and flood protection infrastructure by reducing environmental, health, and safety risks associated with high-impact encampments, while also allowing for flexible enforcement based on adherence to the Encampment Condition Guidelines.

Since the beginning of 2025, Valley Water has established Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZs) along 66 miles of the 333 miles of waterways where it holds land rights in Santa Clara County. Camping is expressly prohibited in the WRPZs, and Valley Water has installed signage to indicate this restriction. By designating WRPZs in the most sensitive areas and continuing to apply

the Encampment Condition Guidelines elsewhere, Valley Water has made substantial progress in managing and reducing encampments on its property while balancing environmental protection with compassion and respect for unsheltered individuals. Valley Water has effectively fulfilled the intent of the Ordinance- to protect public health, safety, and water resources while responsibly reducing the number of encampments on its lands.

Additionally, Ordinance implementation has not resulted in the mass incarceration or criminalization of unsheltered people, as advocates initially anticipated. Progressive implementation and continued education have provided individuals with opportunities to reduce harmful behaviors or relocate voluntarily. Law enforcement intervention has only been necessary in cases involving imminent safety threats or repeated harmful behaviors that continued despite staff attempts to educate or offer voluntary relocation.

Next Steps

Valley Water will preserve its Ordinance implementation progress by continuing to manage encampments in alignment with the Implementation Plan. Ongoing work includes expanding WRPZ areas and addressing re-encampments within established WRPZs to maintain the progress made during the first year. Next steps also include continued collaboration with cities and the County to identify and advance temporary housing options through strategic land-use partnerships.

Valley Water remains committed to supporting long-term housing solutions and maintaining the integrity of its waterways through coordination with local jurisdictions and community partners. With the WRPZ foundation firmly in place, Valley Water's focus can gradually shift from responding to immediate operational needs and facilitating one-on-one relocation efforts to supporting broader housing strategies for unsheltered individuals throughout Santa Clara County.

Staff will continue to evaluate potential no-cost, medium-term land contributions for emergency interim housing projects developed by public or nonprofit partners, following the model established by the Cherry Avenue Emergency Interim Housing partnership with the City of San Jose.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no environmental justice impacts associated with this update.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PowerPoint

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Mark Bilski, 408-630-2830



Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance One-Year Implementation Update

Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
January 20, 2026

Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

- Prohibits camping and related activities in areas where Valley Water owns or manages land
- Implemented to protect water quality and environmental and ecological resources and to enhance Valley Water field staff safety
- Establishment of designated Water Resources Protection Zones

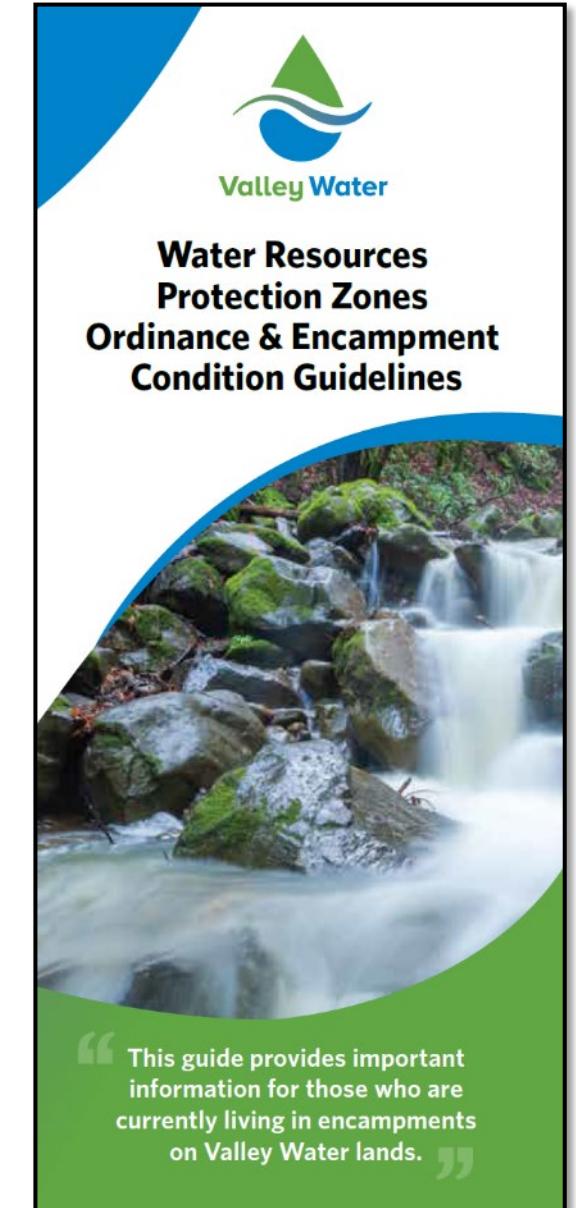
Ordinance Implementation Plan

- Outlined phased implementation with progressive enforcement (January – December 2025)
- Established enforcement priority levels (High and Low Priority)
- Adherence to Encampment Condition Guidelines enables encampments to be designated as low-priority for enforcement
- ECCC to evaluate outcomes at completion of 2025



2025 Ordinance Implementation Activities

- Developed education and outreach communication materials
- Administered 3 nonprofit outreach contracts to provide on-site education to unsheltered individuals
- Coordinated with city, county, and law enforcement partners
- Convened monthly Ordinance Adaptive Implementation Team (OAIT) meetings to receive ongoing feedback on Ordinance implementation
- Developed new Encampment Inspection & Response Protocol + Encampment Inspection Report to guide encampment management
- Emphasized education and voluntary compliance with Encampment Condition Guidelines across multiple visits with unsheltered individuals
 - High Priority violations → immediate enforcement
 - Low Priority violations → education + follow-up



Implementation Outcomes

- Ordinance successfully implemented through progressive, education-first approach as outlined in Implementation Plan
- Expanded outreach engagement via nonprofit partners and Ordinance Adaptive Implementation Team (OAIT) feedback
- Reduced environmental, health, and safety risks at high-impact encampments using the Encampment Inspection & Response Protocol + Encampment Inspection Report
- Established 66 miles of WRPZs (of 333 miles of waterways owned or managed by Valley Water throughout SCC)
- Balanced environmental protection with compassion for unsheltered individuals without safe relocation options
- Achieved primary intent: protect water quality and riparian habitat as well as health and safety for staff and the public



Next Steps

Encampment Management

- Maintain encampment cleanup operations under WRPZ Ordinance with ongoing ECCC oversight
- Continue managing harmful impacts and addressing re-encampment within established WRPZs

Broader Housing Solutions

- Leverage AB 1469 authority to support broader housing solutions within Santa Clara County
- Utilize Valley Water land for housing partnerships (temporary, no-cost; e.g., Cherry Ave EIH)
- Continue collaborating with San José and Gilroy on temporary housing/safe sleeping sites



QUESTIONS





Santa Clara Valley Water District

File No.: 26-0071

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Item No.: 5.3.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee

Government Code § 84308 Applies: Yes No
(If "YES" Complete Attachment A - Gov. Code § 84308)

SUBJECT:

Review and Approve the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee (ECCC) Work Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

The attached Work Plan outlines the approved topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review additional work plan assignments by the Board.

BACKGROUND:

Governance Process Policy-8:

The District Act provides for the creation of advisory boards, committees, or commissions by resolution to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Accordingly, the Board has established Advisory Committees, which bring respective expertise and community interest, to advise the Board, when requested, in a capacity as defined: prepare Board policy alternatives and provide comment on activities in the implementation of the District's mission for Board consideration. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Advisory Committees will not direct the implementation of District programs and projects, other than to receive information and provide comment.

Further, in accordance with Governance Process Policy-3, when requested by the Board, the Advisory Committees may help the Board produce the link between the District and the public through information sharing to the communities they represent.

The attached Work Plan outlines the approved topics for discussion to be able to prepare policy

alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. The work plan is agendized at each meeting as accomplishments are updated and to review additional work plan assignments by the Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACT:

There are no Environmental Justice impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: ECCC 2026 Work Plan

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:

Wendy Ho, 408-630-3874

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<i>Category</i>												
Updates on Valley Water Encampment Cleanup Operations	X			X			X			X		
Subsection: County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing Outreach Agreement Update	X			X			X			X		
Subsection: Creek Safety Issues Report	X			X			X			X		
Subsection: Valley Water Encampment and Unsheltered Individual Count				X								
ECCC Review of WRPZ Ordinance Implementation	X											
<i>Standing Items:</i>												
Election of Officers	X											
Approval of Minutes	X			X			X			X		
Review of Committee Work Plan	X			X			X			X		

LEGEND: Blue text (*new items*); Red strikes (*deleted text*)

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