



TO: Board of Directors FROM: Homeless Encampment Committee
SUBJECT: March 30, 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Meeting Summary DATE: April 27, 2021

This memorandum summarizes the Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) meeting held March 30, 2021, where the following workplan items were discussed:

1. Update from Destination Home Regarding the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness.

The Committee received an update on the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness (Community Plan), a county-wide plan which serves as a roadmap for addressing homelessness in Santa Clara County. The Plan is organized around three main strategies: 1) Address the root causes of homelessness through system and policy change; 2) Expand homelessness prevention and housing programs to meet the need; and 3) Improve quality of life for unsheltered individuals and create healthy neighborhoods for all. There is a relationship between the goals in Community Plan Strategy 3 (improve quality of life) and the partnership opportunities available under Valley Water's renewed Safe, Clean Water Program, specifically projects under Priority F. This new priority supports public health and public safety along our waterways and critical infrastructure. Project F5: Good Neighbor Program: Encampment Cleanup provides enhanced funding to support Valley Water's coordination with local cities and agencies in a cooperative effort for services related to encampment cleanups and to help provide alternatives to homelessness. Specifically, the renewed Program provides up to \$500,000 per year in cost-share with local agencies for services related to encampment cleanups, including those services supporting staff safety, discouraging re-encampments along waterways or addressing the homelessness crisis with the goal of reducing the need for encampment cleanups.

2. Update on March 23.2021 Meeting of the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors

The March 23, 2021 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting agenda included a request from Supervisor Chavez to approve referral to Administration and County Counsel to report to the Board with options for consideration on May 4, 2021 relating to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), or similar legal entity with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which regional bodies such as Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and cities in Santa Clara County can choose to opt into, for the purpose of coordinated responses to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.

The Committee approved recommending the to the Board of Directors that it direct staff to work with the County of Santa Clara to accomplish a Memorandum of Understanding, Joint Powers Authority, or similar legal entity with the County of Santa Clara, for the purpose of coordinated responses to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.

3. Update on Rescheduled Coyote Creek Cleanup Event.

Staff reported on the Coyote Creek Cleanup event rescheduled ~~for May 14, 2021~~. The event previously scheduled to occur in December 2019 had been postponed due to inclement weather, and two subsequent planning efforts were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two proposed cleanup sites are 1) Coyote Creek at Tully Ballfields and 2) Coyote Creek from Montague Expressway to East Brokaw Road. The event intends to engage multiple levels of the community, including the unhoused, to clean proposed sites and will be an opportunity to connect the unhoused to needed services and outreach. The City of San Jose Cash for Trash program, which provides a redemption value of \$4 per full bag of trash collected, will also be at each of the cleanup sites to encourage the unhoused to help pick up trash. Given elevated safety concerns during the pandemic, the event will be staffed by established volunteer groups who have undergone training in COVID-19 safety protocols. Separately, as part of the National River Cleanup, offsite volunteers will be participating by picking up litter and debris in their own local neighborhoods.

4. CEO Input Box Suggestion to Rename the Homeless Encampment Committee to the Houseless Encampment Committee.

This it was continued to a future meeting to allow staff additional time to perform research and formulate recommendations for the Committee's consideration.

5. 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee Accomplishment Report.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the report which summarized discussions and Committee action during the calendar year 2020. A copy of the report is included as an attachment to this meeting summary.

Board member comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Natalie Dominguez, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, at (408) 630-2659 or by email to ndominguez@valleywater.org.

Richard P. Santos

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Homeless Encampment Committee Chairperson