

October 3, 2019

via electronic mail
Agenda Item 4.1.9 on 10/8/19

Honorable Linda LeZotte, Chair and
Valley Water Board of Directors

RE: Concerns about proposed Coyote Creek Homeless Encampment Cleanup Event

Dear Chair LeZotte and Board Members:

Please defer a decision on the Homeless Encampment AHC Coyote Creek cleanup to ensure there is adequate time for addressing questions like these, for implementation planning, and likely for more suitable weather for an outdoor event. Please also know that I very much appreciate the work of the HEAHC and Valley Water's stewardship efforts, and I think it is important to take the time to launch this project with care rather than rush.

After reading the agenda materials for the last HEAHC meeting, I don't understand what the proposed pilot event actually is or "what does success look like?" For example, it is not clear whether this is supposed to be:

- * some sort of a preplanned and enhanced encampment removal project,
- * or more of-a collaborative effort to help the unhoused keep their encampments neat and tidy including a meet-&-greet with community service agencies,
- * or an enhanced but ongoing adopt-a-creek effort with the unhoused as the adopters ,
- * or what?

Additionally, there are no criteria for defining the success of this pilot project, no description of proposed metrics or desired outcomes, and no estimates of anticipated future funding needs.

Lastly, in my experience, Earth Day/Earth Week are usually already really busy times for the environmental community, so I do suggest considering combining the event with National Rivers Cleanup Day in May with the additional funding described in the staff report included.

Thank you for considering these comments.

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cc: Norma Camacho, Melanie Richardson, Interested Parties

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