

HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**MARCH 30, 2021
2:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL.

A regular meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Homeless Encampment Committee (Committee) was called to order in the Valley Water Headquarters Board Room, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California at 2:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call.

Committee members in attendance were District 1 Director John L. Varela, District 2 Director Barbara F. Keegan, and District 3 Director Richard P. Santos, Chairperson presiding, constituting a quorum of the Committee.

Staff members in attendance were R. Callender, Chief Executive Officer, J. Abbatelli, L. Bankosh, R. Barajas, D. Candelas, T. Chinte, J. Choate, J. Codianne, N. Dominguez, J. Downing, R. Fields, A. Gshwind, L. Hoan, B. Hopper, J. Lee, M. Lugo, T. Pena, M. Richardson, D. Rocha, E. Serrano, S. Tippets, S. Tran, and K. Yasukawa.

Also, in attendance: Mr. Ray Bramson, Destination Home, Steve Preminger, County of Santa Clara and Ms. Olympia Williams, City of San Jose.

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.

Mr. John Davis, San Jose resident, expressed concern for the continued destruction of Coyote Creek embankment and urged Valley Water to consider installing some type of material to prevent intentional destruction.

Mr. Scott Largent, Ms. Jan Berenstein, Mr. Richard Scott and Ms. Gail Ann Osmer expressed concern for the lack of response to the needs of the homeless community including outreach and mental health services, housing assistance, relocation and removal of personal belongings.

Mr. Davis expressed concern for the lack of response to his offers to work with the County of Santa Clara and City of San Jose to develop housing options for veterans.

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

3.1. Elect 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee Officers.

Recommendation: Nominate and elect the 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

It was moved by Director Varela and seconded by Director Keegan to re-elect Chairperson Santos to continue as Chair for the year 2021.

It was moved by Chairperson Santos and seconded by Director Keegan to re-elect Director Varela as Vice Chairperson for the year 2021.

The motions carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

4.1. Approval of Minutes.

Recommendation: Approve the August 31, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

The Committee considered the attached minutes of the August 31, 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee meeting. It was moved by Director Varela, seconded by Chairperson Santos, and carried by roll call vote that the minutes be approved as presented. Director Keegan abstained from voting.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1. Update From Destination Home Regarding the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness.

Recommendation:

- A. Receive an update from Destination: Home regarding the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness, the newest roadmap for addressing homelessness in Santa Clara County.
- B. Recommend the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration and endorsement.

Ms. Sue Tippetts, Interim Chief Operating Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 3 were reviewed by Mr. Ray Bramson, Destination Home.

Director Keegan asked for and received an explanation of how the number of persons that become homeless annually is determined and city housing requirements.

Director Varela expressed concern for the increased migration of the homeless population into Santa Clara County and how it impacts creek conditions and water quality.

It was moved by Director Keegan, seconded by Director Varela, and carried by roll call vote to approve Recommendation B, and forward the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration and endorsement.

Chairperson Santos moved the agenda to Item 5.3.

5.3. Update on Rescheduled Coyote Creek Cleanup Event.

Recommendation: Receive an update from staff regarding the rescheduled Coyote Creek Cleanup event planned for May 1, 2021.

Ms. Tippets and Mr. Ricardo Barajas, Program Administrator, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Mr. Steve Preminger, County of Santa Clara, reported on the County's efforts to work with the unhoused and interest to provide outreach and other resources for the upcoming cleanup event.

Mr. David Hernandez, of undisclosed residency, expressed appreciation to Valley Water for providing fresh drinking water at previous clean up event and interest to help motivate the unhoused to participate in the upcoming cleanup event.

Ms. Olympia Williams, City of San Jose, explained the Cash for Trash Program, which offers a \$4 redemption value for each full bag of trash submitted during specific cleanup events.

Mr. Davis asked for and received an explanation of how the unhoused would be informed of and engaged to participate in the upcoming cleanup event, and educated on the importance of creek habitat preservation.

Directors Varela and Keegan expressed their support for the upcoming May 1, 2021, cleanup event with restricted adult only participation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions.

Chairperson Santos encouraged all cities within the county to participate in countywide cleanup events.

The Committee noted the information without formal action.

Chairperson Santos returned the agenda to Item 5.2.

5.2. Receive an Update Regarding the March 23, 2021 Meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

- Recommendation:
- A. Receive a verbal update from staff regarding the March 23, 2021 County Board of Supervisors meeting which included an agenda item on the topic of a potential Memorandum of Understanding with Valley Water for the purpose of coordinated responses to challenges around waterways throughout Santa Clara County.
 - B. Recommend 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.

Ms. Tippetts and Mr. Don Rocha, Deputy Administrative Officer, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

It was moved by Director Varela, seconded by Director Keegan and unanimously carried by roll call vote to accept the verbal update and approve Recommendation B, to recommend 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.

Ms. Gail Ann Osmer, of undisclosed residency, asked and received an explanation regarding enforcement of a potential agreement.

5.4. Receive CEO Input Box Suggestion to Rename the Homeless Encampment Committee to "Houseless Encampment Committee".

- Recommendation:
- A. Receive the CEO Input Box suggestion to rename the Homeless Encampment Committee to "Houseless Encampment Committee";
 - B. Receive staff's recommendation to change the committee name to Encampment Committee; and
 - C. Provide input to staff.

Ms. Tippetts reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo.

Directors Varela and Keegan expressed support for using the term unhoused versus homeless.

Director Keegan suggested the Committee agendaize a study session to review and discuss the Committee's purpose and priority focus prior to taking action to

rename the Committee.

Item 5.4 was continued to a future meeting to provide staff additional time to research alternatives and provide the Committee the opportunity to discuss its purpose and priority focus.

5.5. 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee Accomplishments Report.

Recommendation: Review and accept the 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee Accomplishments Report.

Ms. Natalie Dominguez, Assistant Deputy Clerk II, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1.

It was moved by Director Varela, seconded by Chairperson Santos, and carried to accept the 2020 Homeless Encampment Committee Accomplishments Report. Director Keegan abstained from voting.

5.6. Review 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Work Plan.

Recommendation: A. Review the 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee Work Plan, and make adjustments as necessary; and
B. Discuss and determine the 2021 Homeless Encampment Committee meeting schedule.

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1.

The Committee made the following adjustments to the Work Plan:

- To receive regular updates on the development of 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
- Agendize a Study Session prior to May 1 to discuss the Homeless Encampment Committee's purpose and priority focus.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS.

None.

7. CLERK'S REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Ms. Dominguez reviewed the following Committee Requests and Recommendations:

Regarding Item 5.1:

Approve Recommendation B, and forward the 2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness to the Valley Water Board of Directors for consideration and endorsement.

Regarding Item 5.2:

Approve Recommendation B, to recommend 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.

Regarding Item 5.6:

The Committee made the following adjustments to the Work Plan:

- To receive regular updates on the development of 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.
- Agendize a Study Session prior to May 1 to discuss the Homeless Encampment Committee's purpose and priority focus.

8. ADJOURN.

8.1. Adjourn to next regular meeting to be called to order in compliance with the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20.

Chairperson Santos adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m., to the next meeting to be called to order in compliance with the State Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to COVID-19, and the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20.

[original signed by]
Natalie F. Dominguez, CMC
Assistant Deputy Clerk

Approved: April 20, 2021