



ENVIRONMENTAL CREEK CLEANUP COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FRIDAY, June 27, 2025

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A special scheduled meeting of the Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee Meeting was held on June 27, 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, Mark Bilski, Lisa Brancatelli, Rita Chan, Theresa Chinte, Jen Codianne, Omar El-Qoulaq, Rachael Gibson, Chris Hakes, Nick Ingram, Colin Kortman, Dave Leon, Sadie Lum, Nicole Merritt, Linda D. Nguyen, Carlos Orellana, Mark Poole, Charlotte Reinthaler, Shanika Richards, Don Rocha, Breanne Roderick, Kristen Yasukawa, and Genevieve Yip.

Public in attendance were: Vanessa Butera, Gail Osmer, Greg Pensinger, Rick, and Olympia Williams.

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 MARCH 13, 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the March 13, 2025 meeting minutes.

It was moved by Director Beall and seconded by Vice Chairperson Hsueh, and unanimously carried, to approve the March 13, 2025 Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

4. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 RECEIVE UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER'S ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP OPERATIONS

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

- A. City of San Jose Cherry Avenue Emergency Interim Housing (EIH) update.
- B. San Jose Police Department (SJPD) and creek safety issues update.
- C. Encampment cleanup program operations and costs update.
- D. Encampment and unsheltered individual count.
- E. Update on Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures (CCFMMMP) encampment relocation agreement with City of San Jose.
- F. Valley Water/County of Santa Clara (SCC) outreach report update.

Jennifer Codianne and Vanessa Butera, Senior Development Officer, City of San Jose, reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Jennifer Codianne, Colin Kortman, Vanessa Butera, Olympia Williams, Deputy Director - Community Services Division, City of San Jose, and Sergeant Chris Ferguson, San Jose Police Department, were available to answer questions.

Public Comments: Gail Osmer spoke relating to the Stream Stewardship Law Enforcement team and inquired as to the funding for Conex boxes for storage of personal property.

Discussion ensued relating to the Cherry Avenue encampment, which agency collects private donations, which agency executes tiny home operations, police operations within various encampments, and outreach services offered by the County of Santa Clara.

The Committee received the information, took no formal action, and requested that staff report to the Committee relating to which agency accepts private donations.

4.2 UPDATE ON VALLEY WATER'S WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION ZONES (WRPZ) ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION

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

- A. WRPZ Ordinance implementation progress
- B. Ordinance education and outreach strategy
- C. Ordinance enforcement and outcomes

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 the Olive program and safe parking program sites.

Discussion ensued relating to unhoused individuals leaving encampments and renting RVs for housing, a San Jose City Council Ordinance relating to vanlording, and hotels coming online to provide housing for people living at Columbus Park.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.3 RECEIVE INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR VALLEY WATER ENCAMPMENT MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Recommendation: Receive information on the proposed Inclement Weather Guidelines and provide feedback, as necessary.

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 Valley Water staff working in extreme heat.

Discussion ensued relating to flash flood and rain preparation, distribution of information relating to temporary shelters, and purchasing water for unhoused individuals.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.4 RECEIVE INFORMATION ON VALLEY WATER'S RESTORATION PROJECTS ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENT-GENERATED IMPACTS

Recommendation: Receive information on Valley Water's restoration projects addressing encampment-generated impacts.

Jennifer Codianne reviewed the information on this item, per the attached Committee Agenda Memo, and the corresponding presentation materials contained in Attachment 1. Jennifer Codianne and Chris Hakes were available to answer questions.

Public Comments: None.

Discussion ensued relating to funding and mitigation efforts and projects within those efforts, the criteria that determines which rehabilitation projects are implemented, and a process for the public to request a rehabilitation project.

The Committee received the information and took no formal action.

4.5 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.

The Committee considered this item without a staff presentation.

Public Comments: None.

Vice Chairperson Hsueh requested that the reports received be included in the upcoming Board strategic planning session.

Director Beall provided comments relating to interim housing and the lack of Proposition 1 funds received by the County and the need to advocate for future funding.

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 2:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dave Leon
Assistant Deputy Clerk II

Date Approved: September 10, 2025