



HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

---

# MINUTES

---

**MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2018  
2:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

A meeting of the Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) was held on March 15, 2018, in the Headquarters Building Boardroom at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. on March 15, 2018, at the District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

Board Members in attendance were: Director Tony Estremera-District 6, Director Richard P. Santos-District 3, and Director John L. Varela-District 1.

Staff members in attendance were: Glenna Brambill, Rick Callender, Usha Chatwani, James Choate, Mike Cresap, Ray Fields, Meenakshi Ganjoo, Chad Grande, Jay Lee, Tracy Peña, Melanie Richardson, Kirsten Struve, Sue Tippets, Sherilyn Tran and Sue Turner

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

There was no one who wished to speak.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Director Tony Estremera seconded by Director John L. Varela, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017, Homeless Encampment Ad Hoc Committee meeting, as presented.

4. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**4.1 UTILIZATION OF DISTRICT PROPERTIES AND LANDS**

**1. UTILIZING DISTRICT-OWNED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

Ms. Meenakshi Ganjoo, reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item. The property locations should be feasible so people are not returning to the creeks. Legal will need to change the resolution to make this happen.

No action taken.

**2. DISTRICT EFFORT TO PARTNER WITH THE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ ON BRIDGE HOUSING COMMUNITIES (TINY HOME COMMUNITIES)**

Ms. Meenakshi Ganjoo, reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda item.

Director Richard P. Santos advised that the District is not qualified to set up tiny homes.

Director John L. Varela attended a Chamber meeting in South County and there were some concerns about repeat offenders committing crimes and not being processed because of overcrowded conditions.

Ms. Michelle Covert of Santa Clara County Office of Support Housing reported that the space regulations were changed last year to October 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, as opposed to Thanksgiving to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The spaces are limited and on a referral basis because of the high crime concerns.

No action taken.

**3. DOWNTOWN STREETS TEAMS UPDATE**

Ms. Meenakshi Ganjoo introduced Mr. Cliff Navales, Lead Project Manager of Downtown Streets Team to present the update. Mr. Navales spoke about the various teams, volunteerism, achievements, employment, housing and best practices Ms. Sherry Flores gave her personal success and achievement of being in the program.

There is a community meeting held on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., at Grace Baptist Church on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ms. Maureen Damrel, recently promoted gave an update on the partnerships within the Northern California areas. Teams are paid by gift cards to assist them with their living expenses.

Mr. Robert Aguirre, of the public spoke regarding the stipend program and perhaps having different types of gift cards to help with other than groceries, suggested Walmart to buy clothing, shoes, etc. Also, having the stipend increased to minimum wage.

Director Santos mentioned about the \$350,000 funding the District provides goes toward clean up, debris removal and the Committee would like to see this funding continued.

Ms. Sue Tippets, Mr. Chad Grande and Ms. Melanie Richardson were available to answer questions.

Director John L. Varela noted this is a short-term solution are there any long-term assessments done? Ms. Damrel was available to answer.

Ms. Abiola Awolowo, San Jose State University student spoke regarding the program and perhaps having more volunteers would help.

No action taken.

**5. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS**

Committee discussed increasing funding but they need more data to see what funding source is available if any. Staff research dumpsters and/or porta-potties on an experimental basis; check on the cost, where they can be placed and problems with having these on the sites in question.

**6. CLERK REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

There was no formal Committee action, however a few items for staff to research and bring back to meeting suggested for August 2018.

- Additional funding for Downtown Streets Team (looking at homeless budget)
- Have staff investigate having dumpsters and/or porta-potties in the homeless areas along with the problems that may arise or the history

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Director Richard P. Santos adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Glenna Brambill  
Board Committee Liaison  
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Approved: 8-20-18

**This Page Intentionally Left Blank**