

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Omar Passons

**SUBJECT: VALLEY WATER COYOTE
CREEK FLOOD MANAGEMENT
PROJECT**

DATE: May 15, 2023

Approved



Date

5/15/2023

INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and City Council with an update on the Coyote Creek Flood Management Project, led by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) with support from the City of San José.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 2023, the City Council ([Item 7.3](#)) adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Valley Water. This agreement will fund additional targeted, supportive services to individuals living along certain areas of the Coyote Creek and to abate encampments within the work zone for the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Projects in the amount of \$4,844,414 for an initial term through October 31, 2024, with one three-year option to extend through October 31, 2027. This action also enabled the City Manager to enter into an amendment to the agreement to increase funding to the City from Valley Water, if needed.

Execution of the agreement allows the City to engage in the necessary work to support Valley Water's project. This memorandum provides current updates and a timeline regarding the work being done.

Current Updates

By today, May 15, 2023, all encampments must be cleared from the work zone area and abatement activities related to the removal of vehicles, structures, and debris will begin. Since March 2023, the City and its contracted partners have conducted outreach to unhoused people, providing referrals to available shelter and housing options. Valley Water and the City's management and operations level teams have been meeting regularly to discuss progress, next steps, and ensure communication and coordination is working for all stakeholders. The first phase of abatement activities is to secure a construction work zone and turn it over to Valley Water's contractor. The contractor is focused in the area known as Corie Court at Old Oakland

Road towards Watson Park where there will be another construction staging area. This area is a long-standing encampment area with unsheltered residents and a significant number of vehicles.

To ensure that all unsheltered individuals are aware of the activities, every vehicle was noticed at least three times by Friday, May 12 and every encampment resident received a written notice at least twice with at least seven verbal attempts by City staff on site. In addition to the over 165 people identified on the by-name list, there is a segment of the project area near Notting Hill that is mostly inaccessible to outreach workers. Despite at least five attempts by outreach staff where there appear to be camps, the workers have been unable to reach unhoused individuals and believe these areas are no longer lived in. In addition, since executing the agreement with Valley Water, the City's Housing Department has further intensified efforts to identify housing and shelter resources for people in the work zone. The short deadline required of Valley Water by the federal government and the constrained supply of existing shelter options has limited the ability to secure these options. However, the City continues to work with its contract providers and regional partners to identify additional options. Twenty-two rooms in the City's Emergency Interim Housing have been made available and further efforts are underway.

Timeline:

March 2023:

- The City of San José Homelessness Response Team, along with nonprofit partners HomeFirst and PATH, began regular outreach to unhoused people in the encampment areas in the work zone about the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project.

April 2023:

- **Week of April 10**
 - The City of San José BeautifySJ Team began to notice people with vehicles of the need to relocate.
- **Week of April 17**
 - Valley Water mailed a direct mailer to residential and business addresses within a varied distance of 440 feet to 1,400 feet of the work zone.
 - The City of San José Homelessness Response Team distributed a flyer to unhoused individuals affected by the project about an outreach meeting on April 24.
- **Week of April 24:**
 - Valley Water, with support from the City of San José, held an outreach meeting on April 24 for unhoused individuals affected by the project and advocates.
 - Maps of the work zone have been displayed on a-frames and banners in the work zones

May 2023:

- **Week of May 1:**
 - The City provided notice of the abatement to unhoused individuals living along the creeks in the work zones.

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- **Week of May 8:**
 - Valley Water, in coordination and support from the City, conducted an in-person informational meeting with formerly unhoused residents and advocates from Sacred Heart Community Services Survivors of Our Streets advocacy group.

- **Weeks of May 15 through May 26:**
 - All encampments must be cleared by May 15.
 - Abatement activities begin, which includes sorting, storing, and removing personal property, trash, debris, and vehicles from encampments in the surrounding work zone.
 - Valley Water's Board of Directors will award the selected construction contractor on May 16.
 - Heavy equipment and other removal activities make this abatement work zone an area where members of the public will not be allowed. The abatement work zone will be secured by San José Police Department Secondary Unit to ensure the safety of the work zone and then turned over to Valley Water contractor.

June 2023:

- The contract between Valley Water and the City stipulates that the work area is to be cleared by June 5, 2023, based on initial plans and current conditions. Please note that conditions in the work area may change.
- Valley Water will host two pre-construction neighborhood meetings.
 - **June 6 – Golden Wheel Mobile Home Park – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**
 - **June 14 – Roosevelt Community Center – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**The meetings will be in-person and via Zoom. Spanish and Vietnamese-speaking interpreters will be available at the meetings. For more information about the pre-construction meetings, contact Jose Villareal at JVillareal@valleywater.org or visit: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/creek-river-projects/E1-coyote-creek-flood-protection>.

Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project Information: Here is a [link](#) to the project's information that can be utilized to provide information to constituents that may inquire about the project.


OMAR PASSONS
Deputy City Manager

For questions about the Valley Water project, please contact Roseryn Bhudsabourg at RBhudsabourg@valleywater.org.

For questions about the agreement between the City of San José and Valley Water, please contact Andrea Flores Shelton at andrea.floresshelton@sanjoseca.gov.