

Homeless Encampments, Water Courses & MS4 Regulation

A Riverside Perspective



Homelessness

- Homeless Population
 - United States – 550,000 (2017)
 - California – 115,000 (2015)
- Trends
 - Numbers declining across United States except 5 western States including California

Current State of Homelessness:

Point in Time Counts and Permanent Housing

- Total and Unsheltered Homeless:
 - **2015** Point in Time: 2,470 homeless (17% decrease from 2013)
 - 1,587 unsheltered
 - **2016** Point in Time: 2,165 homeless (12% decrease from 2015)
 - 1,351 unsheltered
 - **2017** Point in Time: 2,406 (11% overall increase since 2016)
 - 1,638 unsheltered

Southwest Corridor: *Point in Time Counts*

	2017	2016	2015
Lake Elsinore	62	53	51
Menifee	14	20	16
Murrieta	7	0	2
Perris	29	65	52
Temecula	85	37	42
Wildomar	6	13	10
Unincorporated:			
Anza	0	2	0
French Valley	Not reported	0	3
Mead Valley	14	0	1
Lakeland Village	9	14	3
Sun City	Not reported	0	4
Temescal Valley	1	Not reported	0
Winchester	Not reported	0	1

*unsheltered homeless count results

Current State of Homelessness: *Emergency Shelter Beds*

- Increase in permanent housing (PSH + RRH) beds countywide:
 - 2010 - 364 beds
 - 2013 - 862 beds
 - 2016 - 1,830 beds
 - 2017 - 1,894 beds
- 2017 Emergency shelter beds countywide: 554
 - 65 beds for cold weather (December-April)
 - Loss of 80 beds due to Roy's DRC closure
 - 336 for specific sub-populations
 - Veterans
 - Families
 - Unaccompanied youth
 - Domestic Violence
 - Mental health
- Enough emergency shelter beds for 34% of unsheltered homeless population

Two Groups of Homeless

Group A

- ~2/3 of homeless population
- Able to use existing services/resources to get off street
- May experience situational homelessness
- Can benefit from supportive services and housing to become self sufficient
- May just need one time/short term assistance

Group B

- Living in encampments
 - Tents
 - Makeshift shelters
 - Public places
 - Remote areas
- Most visible
 - Complaints by businesses and residents
 - Most contact with law enforcement
 - Higher frequency at jails, hospitals, shelters, etc.

Group B: Chronically Homeless

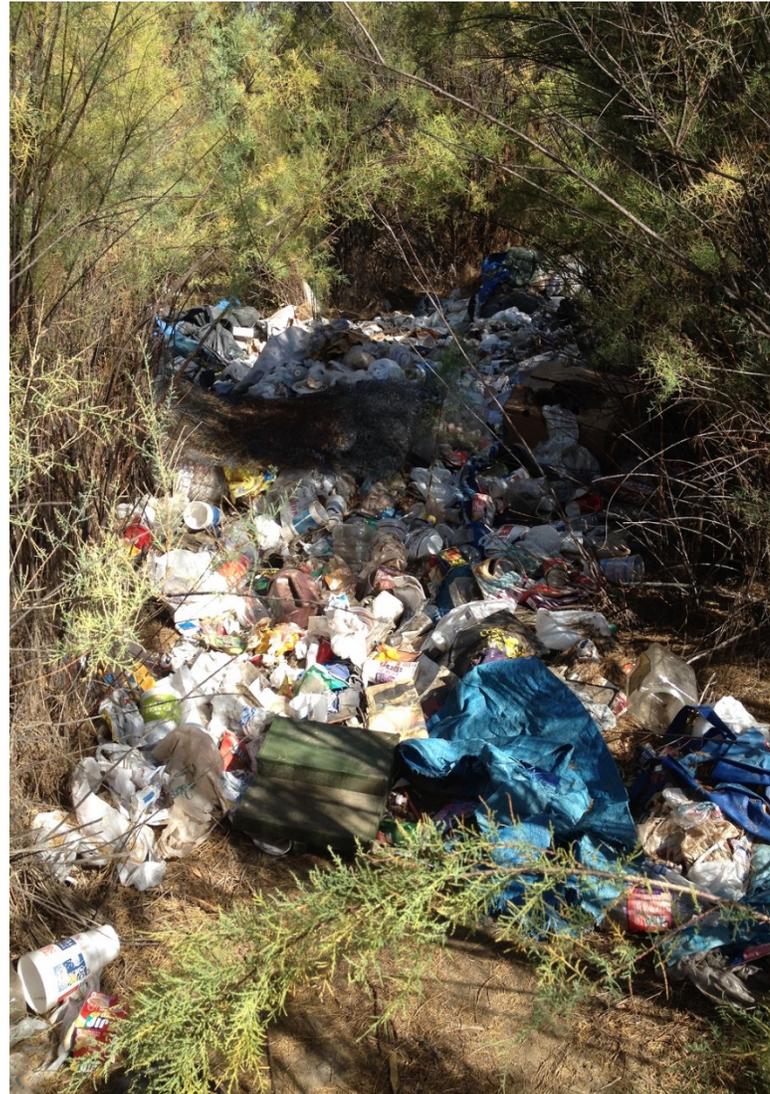
- Most challenging
- Most severe barriers
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse
- Highly “service resistant”
 - Do not want to go into emergency shelter
 - Frequent contacts with:
 - Law enforcement
 - Homeless outreach teams
 - Offered services multiple times

Why Watercourses?

- Fenced environment – Safety and place for animals
- Near highways – White noise
- Bridges – Weather protection
- Removed from urban centers – Out of sight; reduced risk of eviction
- Proximity to light industry and commerce – Source of materials
- Low flood risk – Relatively safe

Source CCCFCD, 2013

Homeless Encampments In Watercourses



Homeless Encampment Watercourse Impacts



Regional Homeless Outreach

The City of Temecula has taken the lead on crafting a comprehensive approach to addressing regional homelessness in a way that respects the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

- **Background**
- **Increase Community Awareness**
 - What is responsible compassion?

“Never do for the poor what they can do for themselves...to provide an emergency response to a chronic need is to harm people...”

Please
**DON'T GIVE TO
PANHANDLERS**
IT'S OKAY TO SAY NO

GIVE TO A CHARITY
FOR MORE INFO VISIT CMOH.NET OR CALL (951) 444-1404

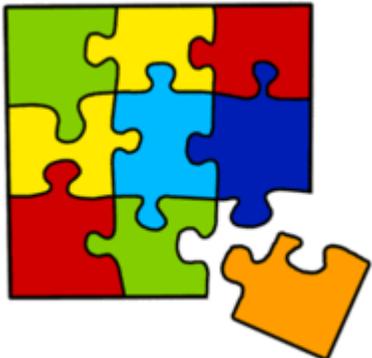
FOR HOMELESS ASSISTANCE DIAL 2-1-1

Three-pronged Approach

Collaboration – working with a variety of partners and non-profit stakeholders, Regional Collaboration

Coordination – Police Department, Riverside County Flood Control, Park Rangers, Code Enforcement

Communication – Community Education of residents, businesses, faith-based and non-profits



Address concerns of homelessness with local businesses
Work in collaboration with local stakeholders

Regional Homeless Alliance

A Regional Homeless Alliance

Elected officials, city agencies, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations

Collaboration

City involvement overview

Silo-System



TEMECULA HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Dedicated to helping and protecting those in need by providing resources, intervention, and enforcement



- Began in 2014 with two officers
- In 2017, two additional officers joined the team
- Dedicated Sergeant, Lieutenant
- Chief of Police serves on boards of housing and domestic violence organizations
- Temecula spent \$1.4M in homelessness-related public safety costs last year

Homeless Outreach Team



The police department created this new team to work with those experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Outreach Team works closely with the homeless and the city's non-profit partner to help the people who are willing to get up and out of their situation.

Our Homeless Outreach Team employs a two-pronged approach; (1) a zero-tolerance stance on crime and (2) a concerted effort to get law abiding homeless people the resources they need so they can get out of their homeless situation.



Temecula deputies unite homeless man with family

Partners & stakeholders

Community Mission of Hope

Housing Crisis Response Center

Case Management

Outreach Teams

Mentorship

Housing Locator

Assistance League

Supervisor Washington's office

School Districts

Health care providers/hospitals

Foster Care agencies

Senior Services

Project Touch

Educators

Law Enforcement

Probation Department

Local Cities

Rotary Clubs

Chamber of Commerce

Local Realtors

Property Management Companies

Workforce Development

Department of Social Services

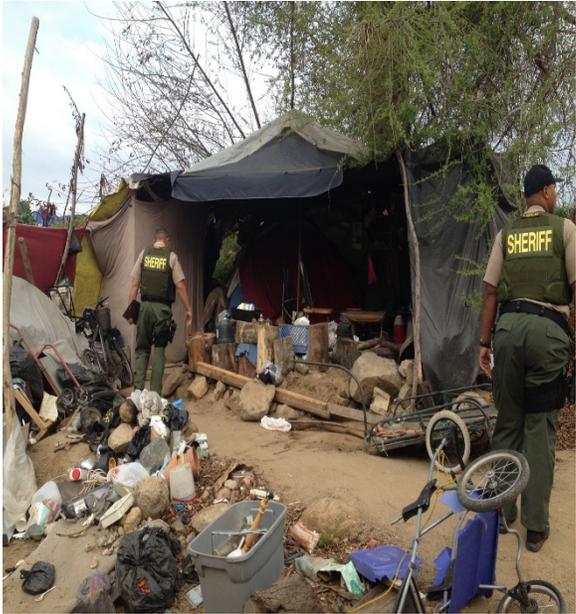
The Vet Center

US Vets

Western Riverside Council of Governments



Abatement & Clean-Up



Regulatory Challenges with Homeless Encampment Cleanup

- Trash Removal – Trash removal by hand and small equipment typically does not result in grading subject to Section 404/401 or a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA).
- If access ramps, roads and/or vegetation removal is needed, regulatory permits (e.g. Section 401) may be required
- Encampment cleanups during the nesting season may need to avoid nesting birds protected by the MBTA and/or the Endangered Species Act



**Temecula Creek
Conservation Easement**



**Murrieta Creek
Encampment**

Conclusions

- The problem of discharges of trash and human waste from homeless encampments is entwined with complex and challenging societal issues, including poverty, mental illness and substance abuse
- Local agencies and partnerships are motivated for multiple reasons to abate and clean-up homeless camps in watercourses and are doing so

Conclusions

- Regional Board can:
 - Make funding available – SEPs?
 - Support encampment/trash clean-up authorization in conservation easements and regulatory maintenance permits
 - Support efforts to work with CDFW, USFWS, USACE to streamline 404/401/1600/Section 7 permits and/or authorizations
 - Be kept apprised