

From: [Cece Sellgren](#)
To: [Bowyer, Dale@Waterboards](#)
Cc: [Heilshorn, Elyse@Waterboards](#); [Lichten, Keith@Waterboards](#); [Mike Carlson](#); [Michele Mancuso](#); [Lavonna Martin \(Lavonna.Martin@hsd.cccounty.us\)](#); [Beth Baldwin](#)
Subject: RE: Contra Costa County Unincorporated Area Direct Discharge Trash Control Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 5:33:31 PM

Dale – Thanks for the feedback on our plan. Like all plans, this one will evolve as it goes. The first three questions are pretty easy for me to answer. The fourth question is a good one, which I haven't addressed adequately. I can say it will involve some kind of monitoring. But I'm not quite sure how it will work. Let me talk with a couple of folks to brainstorm some ideas and develop a proposal. In the meantime, here are responses to the first three questions:

- 1) **1. How does the City address trash from encampments before they are removed? Is there any plan to place receptacles or dumpsters for the homeless to use while they are camped, or are there policy issues with these actions?** The County and FCD do not accommodate illegal encampments. Instead County's Community Outreach and Engagement (CORE) Team staff engage those that appear homeless to find a better situation that day. The CORE Teams work from late afternoon to past midnight. Our program has a dedicated **Creek CORE Team** focused on unincorporated County/FCD properties/rights of way, five nights a week. The other CORE Teams will also check in on illegal encampments as part of their work (especially on the days the Creek CORE Team is off), but they aren't dedicated to in stream encampments. The goal of the Creek CORE Team is to get the illegal camper(s) immediately out of the creek and into some kind of housing immediately (like that night). If they refuse and are on County property or FCD right of way, the CORE Team will immediately post the mandatory 72 hour notice to vacate (which is required by law) at the site. We can't remove their stuff until the 72 hours have expired. If there is a forecast for a significant rain event that day/night, such that it represents an imminent threat to the campers' safety, we can utilize County Sheriff to immediately get the illegal campers out of the channel. And I think we have to grab any stuff left behind and store it for the mandatory three week holding period. But this can only occur if the storm is predicted to be large enough to raise stream flows such that it may endanger the illegal campers in our channels. Otherwise the County must wait 72 hours before the Sheriff cites the camper(s) for trespassing. We also take their stuff and store it for three weeks (I think) before we can through it away. We leave notice of where they can pick it up.

- 2) **2) How will the County confirm that there is thorough cleanup after all removals?** The County has dedicated maintenance crews (AKA the Flood Control Crew), that cleans up after the illegal campers have left the site and the 72 hours have expired. We also have a contractor who picks up trash (mostly on land) for the County & FCD.

They have done several creek clean-ups, often as support for a Friends of the “xyz” Creek group’s creek clean up events. They have also helped our Maintenance crews on illegal encampment clean-ups. We notify our contractor that we need them, when we post the notice to vacate the site. This company sometimes works directly with our Maintenance staff on these clean ups. But your question brings up another good question. What is the standard of cleanliness for cleanups of illegal encampments? With on-land clean ups in road rights of way, we have EOA’s protocol and reference pictures. And the cleanup area (i.e. road rights of way) is pretty clear to see. But creek clean-ups has more variable terrain with lots of vegetation. And the level of trash is often orders of magnitude greater than any on-land cleanup site (excluding illegal dumping sites). A creek “hot-spot” monitoring site is cleaned more thoroughly than a community creek clean-up site is. Realistically, I think these sites will be cleaned up to what you see after a community creek clean up. One thing we may be able to add to our program is to frequently graze known illegal encampment sites. Most of these sites are grazed toward the end of the summer already. I’ll discuss this issue with our Maintenance Managers after they get out of crisis mode caused by all of our slides and failed culverts.

- 3) **What are the County and Flood Control District primary tools for prohibiting re-encampment?** Our primary tools will continue to be patrols from County Flood Control Crew. And the work the CORE Team does to engage illegal campers daily, as needed. And we also rely on a solid network of Creek Groups who can notify us of new encampments. These organizations, which I have largely funded over the last 5 years, are critical eyes and ears in each of our communities. And, in light of your question, I think I will develop an outreach campaign to encourage folks to call in illegal encampments, by tapping Board of Supervisors’ newsletters, bringing it up creek groups at the next Watershed Forum (as well as subsequent forums). And putting together a postcard mail campaign out to business and residences near streams. The Countywide Clean Water Program runs the “1-800 no dumping” line. I think we can add illegal encampments.

I am open to RB ideas on to how best to assess the current trash levels from illegal encampments and illegal dumping. And I look forward to working with you and other RB staff to develop a protocol evaluate trash reduction from our efforts that’s comprehensive, efficient, and affordable for all involved.

Cece Sellgren
Stormwater Manager
Contra Costa County Watershed Program

925-313-2296

From: Bowyer, Dale@Waterboards [mailto:Dale.Bowyer@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Cece Sellgren; Beth Baldwin; Tom Dalziel
Cc: Heilshorn, Elyse@Waterboards; Lichten, Keith@Waterboards
Subject: Contra Costa County Unincorporated Area Direct Discharge Trash Control Plan

To Cece Sellgren,
CC: Beth Baldwin, Tom Dalziel

Subject: Direct Discharge Trash Control Plan

Hello Cece,

In the interest of speeding up our review of your proposed plan, I thought we would forward a few questions and comments to get your response. We can decide whether any of these should lead to modifications to the plan.

1. How does the City address trash from encampments before they are removed? Is there any plan to place receptacles or dumpsters for the homeless to use while they are camped, or are there policy issues with these actions?
2. Based on information presented at our Board meetings on the San Jose Direct Discharge efforts, showing what looks like trash left after homeless removal, how will the County confirm that there is thorough cleanup after all removals?
3. What are the County and Flood Control District primary tools for prohibiting re-encampment?
4. How can the County best demonstrate assessment of the current status of the waterways, and progress over the years? Is a GIS layer for the mapping or other similar steps being considered?

Please expand on reporting and tracking your efforts **per the MRP section cited below:**

C.10.e.ii.d. description of how effectiveness of controls will be assessed, including

- documentation of controls,
- quantification of trash volume controlled, and
- assessment of resulting improvements to receiving water conditions.

I think that if we address these issues, we are a long way toward an acceptable plan. Contact us if you would like to meet to discuss Contra Costa County's plan.