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Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Item Number: 3.1

MEETING DATE: 01/27/2026

DEPARTMENT: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Celina Stotler

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Steve Loupe

SUBJECT:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY/PUBLIC WORKS - S. LOUPE

1. Receive a presentation regarding the San Benito River cleanup project; and
 2. Provide staff direction.
- SBC File Number: 119

AGENDA SECTION:

REGULAR AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Background/Summary

On August 27, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 1607, which enacted restrictions banning the use of certain public rights-of-way as sleeping or living accommodations. On October 15, 2024, the Board of Supervisors held a special meeting to receive presentations and hold discussions on the homelessness point-in-time count and proposed enforcement/cleanup actions to address encampments in San Benito County. The Board approved the Encampment Clean Up Policy, designating Administration as lead agency, and supported formal communication with private property owners along the San Benito River to secure their consent for encampment cleanup efforts, funding a \$130,000.00 Sheriff position, and allowing one-time funds of \$352,000.00 for cleanup and storage with contingency funds. The Encampment Clean Up Policy was adopted via Resolution No. 2024-125 by the Board of Supervisors on November 11, 2024. County staff provided follow-up presentations in relation to the project on February 25, 2025, March 25, 2025, and June 10, 2025.

During the March 25, 2025, meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Tucker Construction Inc. for encampment site cleanup services in the amount of \$215,000.00. To date

\$133,510.84 has been spent on encampment cleanup services by Tucker Construction in May 2025. Furthermore, the Board approved budget adjustment transfers in the amount of \$352,000.00 for San Benito River encampment site cleanup efforts (1 Sheriff Deputy, personal property storage containers, and encampment cleanup contractor) transferring funds from the General Fund, Non-Department General (Contingency) to the General Fund, Sheriff and General Fund, Administration. Approximately \$214,000.00 was spent in FY24-25 of the allocated \$352,000.00 budget. At the June 10, 2025 meeting, staff requested Board approval for additional funding of \$20,000 for the homeless shelter and \$185,000.00 for shelter options from General Funds into the Health and Human Services budget. In response, the Board directed staff to prepare two items: one to appoint two supervisors to an ad hoc with the City of Hollister regarding the Animal Shelter, and another to bring back the contract with the Coastal Habitat Education and Environmental Restoration (CHEER). The Board also instructed staff to explore alternative funding options and took a pause on the request for additional funding for the shelter.

For the January 27, 2026, meeting, staff will provide updates on the cleanup and seek direction from the Board.

Tucker Construction Inc. - RFP and Bid History

In 2024, the City of Santa Clara conducted a competitive bidding process for homeless encampment cleanup services and awarded a contract to Tucker Construction Inc. Under Section 3 of the County's Purchasing and Contracting Policy Manual, the County may "piggyback" on existing cooperative purchasing agreements, making the City of Santa Clara contract eligible for use by the County of San Benito. Tucker Construction has extensive experience providing encampment cleanup services and is currently contracted with the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Milpitas, Campbell, and Half Moon Bay. The vendor has offered the County of San Benito the same hourly rates established under the City of Santa Clara contract, along with a mobilization rate of \$70 per person for travel to San Benito County, which is lower than their standard hourly labor rate. In addition, the contract includes a rate for skid steer equipment, which was essential for the cleanup activities in Phase 1 and 2 of the project. This equipment rate was not included in the City of Santa Clara contract but is consistent with the rate offered to the City of Cupertino. The Tucker Construction contract commenced on March 25, 2025 and expires on June 30, 2028, with a total contract amount of \$215,000.00. As of the date of this report, approximately \$81,489 remains available under the contract; however, only \$25,000 is currently budgeted for the current fiscal year, and additional funds are required to continue cleanup work.

Staff recommends continuing to utilize Tucker Construction while reducing on-site staffing to two employees. These employees will perform bagging and tagging of personal property, ArcGIS documentation, and hazardous waste handling. This approach is expected to reduce overall cleanup costs while maintaining operational efficiency.

Coastal Habitat Education and Environmental Restoration (CHEER) - One-Month Trial

CHEER support was recommended on several occasions by the Board of Supervisors and during public comment throughout the encampment cleanup policy development process. In May 2025, CHEER submitted a proposal to County Administration for an initial one-month trial period at a cost of \$8,333.00. The proposal included continuation for an additional five months at the same monthly rate if both parties agreed. Should the original contract be amended to increase funds and continue work for the additional five months, the total contract would not exceed \$50,000 and would include six months of reclamation and maintenance services provided over a one-year period from the effective date of the agreement. The scope of services includes ongoing quarterly cleanup and maintenance of previously serviced areas for up to one year, without incurring additional monthly charges, with additional cleanup and maintenance available as requested by County staff or the Sheriff Deputy assigned to the riverbed. The one-month trial conducted between July and August resulted in the removal of 18.54 tons of solid waste and 95 collected tires in the San Benito River.

Staff recommends continuing work with CHEER to provide general solid waste abatement services, encampment deconstruction following Tucker Construction cleanup, and ongoing maintenance support of the San Benito River for a total contract not to exceed \$50,000. This approach is expected to significantly reduce overall cleanup costs.

FY 2025-26 Additional Budget Considerations and Cleanup Approach

To optimize budget efficiency, staff recommends several operational and contractual adjustments:

1. Reducing Tucker Construction on-site staffing to two employees per day, who will handle encampment bagging and tagging of personal property, ArcGIS documentation, and hazardous waste handling.
2. The CHEER contract should be amendment to add additional funds, not to exceed \$50,000, to cover solid waste cleanup and encampment deconstruction beyond the initial one-month trial period.
3. An amendment to the Samuel Mason Towing contract is anticipated to address Phase 4 towing needs.
4. Public Works hazard pay should be evaluated, and the budget should account for their equipment repairs as part of operational planning.

Overall, staff recommends adding \$150,000.00 to the existing FY 2025-26 cleanup budget to support continued progress, with \$43,206 anticipated to be reimbursed through CalRecycle's Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program.

San Benito River Encampment Cleanup for FY 2025-26	
Budget (101-15-1015)	\$25,000.00
FY 2025-26 Expenditures	
Samuel Mason Towing - Vehicle Removal	\$5,250.00
CHEER Contract	\$8,333.00
Total Expenditures	\$13,583.00

FISCAL IMPACT:

The approved budget for this project in FY24-25 allocated \$352,000.00 (General Fund - Contingency), of which approximately \$138,000.00 remained unspent. For FY25-26, \$25,000.00 (General Fund - 101.15.1015.1000.619.284) is currently budgeted for the cleanup, and it is expected that 100 percent of the funding will be depleted by the end of January 2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends the Board:

1. Receive a presentation regarding the San Benito River cleanup project; and
2. Provide staff direction.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agenda Fact Sheet - River Cleanup](#)
[Presentation San Benito River Cleanup Updates 1.27.26](#)