



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: February 16, 2022

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Natalie Teaze, Code Enforcement Officer

SUBJECT: Water Quality Code Enforcement Program Update

COMMITTEE DIRECTION – FOR DISCUSSION

That the Committee receive a status report on the Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 Storm Water/Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention and Enforcement Program and related creek clean-ups.

DISCUSSION

The overall objective of the Storm Water/Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention and Enforcement Program is to identify and eliminate sources of water pollution to the City's streets, storm drains, creeks, and ocean. In addition, the program ensures pollution is cleaned-up and items that are illegally dumped in the creek are removed.

1. Illicit Discharge Enforcement Process

Illicit Discharge Reports:

Illicit discharges are detected and reported by Creeks Division staff, other City staff, and outside agency staff, as well as community members who call the enforcement line (805-897-2688). The enforcement line is monitored during the Creeks Division's regular business hours and all calls are responded to the same day they are received. The table below shows the percentage of reports received from each group.

Enforcement Calls From	FY22	FY21	FY08-FY20
Creeks Division Staff	14.29%	12.96%	25.39%
Other City Staff	47.62%	27.78%	30.18%
Residents	30.95%	52.78%	36.19%
Outside Agency Staff	7.14%	6.48%	7.84%

Creeks Division Response:

When illicit discharges are reported, Creeks Division staff investigate to assess whether the discharge is a violation of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC). Staff's goal is to respond as quickly as possible after the reports are received in order to observe potential violations while they are still occurring. In Fiscal Year 2021 and thus far in Fiscal Year 2022, staff responded within 24 hours to reports 100% of the time, typically the same day.

Enforcement Case Data:

The table below shows enforcement data for Fiscal Years 2017 – 2022.

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
# of reported violations	140	166	142	110	108	84
NOVs issued	58	55	40	28	19	20
Citations issued (fines total in \$)	3 (\$650)	3 (\$650)	0 (\$0)	0 (\$0)	0 (\$0)	0 (\$0)
# of reported violations receiving same day enforcement response	140 (100%)	148 (100%)	146 (100%)	103 (100%)	108 (100%)	84 (100%)

Discharge Sources:

All reported violations are tracked via a computer based tracking system. When violations are entered into the enforcement database, they are classified by the discharge source type. The table below shows the distribution of discharges reported by type.

Sources of Illicit Discharges										
	Automotive	Restaurants	Construction	Commercial Industrial	Mobile Business	Illegal Dumping	Residential	City Facility	Other	Total
Number of Reports – FY22	13	9	15	12	2	4	5	1	23	84
	15.5%	10.7%	17.9%	14.3%	2.4%	4.8%	6.0%	1.2%	27.4%	100.0%

Number of Reports – FY21	6	5	15	16	6	12	18	3	27	108
	5.6%	4.6%	13.9%	14.8%	5.6%	11.1%	16.6%	2.8%	25%	100.0%
Number of Reports - FY08-FY20	149	166	350	696	127	208	436	177	192	2,501
	6.0%	6.6%	14.0%	27.8%	5.1%	8.3%	17.4%	7.1%	7.8%	100.0%

2. Creek Clean-ups

Discovery of Creek Sites Requiring Clean-up:

Similar to illicit discharges, City staff rely on reports from City residents and City employees to identify creek locations where items have been illegally dumped (including encampment locations). Although enforcement staff rarely find the individuals responsible for the creek site littering and illegal dumping, clean-up is always achieved.

Creeks Division staff discover most of the sites requiring clean-up along the City's creeks through their other work tasks (i.e. creek water sampling, project site visits, creek clean-ups, etc.) and through frequent inspections of known encampment "hot spots". These locations include Sycamore Creek from Montecito St. to the beach, Arroyo Burro North of Modoc Rd., and Mission Creek in the downtown corridor.

Encampment Clean-up:

According to City policy, encampments must be posted with a 72-hour evacuation notice before they are cleaned-up. This gives occupants a chance to remove personal possessions before they are picked up by City clean-up crews. Notices are handed to occupants or placed in prominent locations within the camps. Items that remain 72 hours after posting are taken to either the Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Offices or to MarBorg Industries (for recycling or placement in a landfill) depending on the assessed value of the items.

Clean-up Data:

The City's clean-up contractor charges \$97.80 per creek or beach "site" cleaned. During FY 21, 1,414 sites were cleaned and 100% of clean-ups were performed within 48 hours of work order. A total of 112,081 lbs. of trash were removed from creeks and beaches. Trash removed included: 219 bicycles, 38 grocery carts, 122 mattresses, 2,833 paint cans, 915 appliances, 2,523 bedding materials, 22,302 bottles/cans, 17,332 articles of clothing, 4,346 drugs/paraphernalia, 5,534 feces, 532 pieces of furniture, 26,135 plastic bags, 131,446 pieces of Styrofoam, and 64,382 cigarette/butts. Please note that these totals are estimates from the clean-up crews, not exact amounts.

cc: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director