



RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1000

DATE: May 10, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.3

TITLE: Review and Authorize District Correspondence

SUBJECT: Review and Consider Authorizing the General Manager to Submit a Letter to the Appropriate Agencies Requesting Assistance with the Immediate Removal of Unauthorized Encampments on the District Levee System, which Impede the District's Ability to Perform its Public Safety Responsibilities to Monitor, Maintain, Rebuild, Construct and Operate the Levee System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Reclamation District No. 1000 (District; RD 1000), is currently experiencing a rapid and unprecedented increase in unauthorized encampments along the District's Levee System. These encampments pose a risk to public safety within and around the Natomas Basin, as they impede the District from carrying out its responsibility to monitor, maintain, rebuild, construct and operate the Levee System. As a result, staff recommends the Board review and consider authorizing the General Manager to submit a letter to the appropriate agencies requesting assistance with the immediate removal of unauthorized encampments on the District Levee System.

BACKGROUND:

The District is currently experiencing a rapid and unprecedented increase in unauthorized encampments along the District's Levee System. These encampments pose a risk to public safety within and around the Natomas Basin, as they impede the District from carrying out its responsibility to monitor, maintain, rebuild, construct and operate the Levee System. Specifically, due to the nature of the encampments, the District is unable to ensure the Levee System is protected from potentially dangerous degradation of the levees.

For the majority of the two-month period from February 14, 2019 through April 11, 2019, the District was on 24-hour monitoring patrols due to elevated river elevations. During this same time period, the number of unauthorized encampments exponentially increased on the Levee System, as the flood channels swelled, the inhabitants moved to higher ground atop the levees. On March 25, 2019, the District was alerted to an excavation into the levee at an abandoned encampment near Northgate Boulevard along the Garden Highway. Figures 1 and 2, provided on the following page, show the excavation and damage at the abandoned encampment site.

Figure 1 - Abandoned Encampment along Garden Highway near Northgate



Figure 2 - Abandoned Encampment along Garden Highway near Northgate



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By April 4, 2019, when the District returned to monitor the excavation and ensure stability of the site, the site had been completely covered over again by tarps, tents and other debris. Figure 3, shows the re-established encampment, as seen by the District on April 4, 2019.

Figure 3 - Re-established Encampment along Garden Highway near Northgate



Figure 3 is typical of the encampments along the District's Levee System. Due to the nature of the unauthorized encampments, it is nearly impossible for the District to visually inspect the system. Without the ability to pull back the tarps and tents, there is no way to know if the levee system is protected. Figure 4, on the following page, is another encampment along Garden Highway. Again, while not visually apparent because the site is covered, it is suspected that excavation is occurring, note the yellow handled shovel in the middle of the figure.

TITLE: Review & Authorize Correspondence**Figure 4 - Suspected Encampment Excavation**

With limited resources and an already compressed schedule for routine maintenance, the District has not been able to perform an inventory of the total number of unauthorized encampments along the Levee System. Nevertheless, the District estimates more than 150 unauthorized encampments are currently established. The District is in desperate need of assistance to immediately remove the unauthorized encampments, whereby allowing for the critical and necessary inspection of the Levee System.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board review and consider authorizing the General Manager to Submit a Letter to the Appropriate Agencies Requesting Assistance with the Immediate Removal of Unauthorized Encampments on the District Levee System, which Impede the District's Ability to Perform its Public Safety Responsibilities to Monitor, Maintain, Rebuild, Construct and Operate the Levee System.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Unknown.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. RD 1000 Request for Assistance with Immediate Removal of Unauthorized Encampments

STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORT:

Kevin L. King, General Manager

Date: 05/01/2019



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DATE: May 10, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.4

TITLE: Discuss Development of District Policy

SUBJECT: Discuss Development of District Policy to Address Unauthorized Encampments on the District Levee System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Reclamation District No. 1000 (District; RD 1000), has a need to develop and adopt a set of policies to address unauthorized encampments on the District's Levee System. Over the last three (3) years, the District has experienced a rapid and unprecedented increase in unauthorized encampments along the District's Levee System. These encampments pose numerous risks to public safety within and around the Natomas Basin, including but not limited to impeding the District from carrying out its responsibility to monitor, maintain, rebuild, construct and operate the Levee System. As such, development of District policies to address the unauthorized encampments is appropriate.

The District acknowledges the multifaceted and complex legal, societal, and functional realities of homelessness. Nevertheless, in the absence of a comprehensive and implementable set of policies, the District may be ill-equipped to carry out its core mission and objective of flood protection for the Natomas Basin. Development of the policies may take up to six (6) months to complete. Staff is seeking Board direction and the possible establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee to work through policy development.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board consider establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee to work through development of a comprehensive set of policies and strategies to address unauthorized encampments on the District's Levee System.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Estimated \$10,000 (approximately 100 hours of Staff time, 30 hours of Committee time and 20 hours of Legal review)

ATTACHMENTS:

None

STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORT:

Kevin L. King, General Manager

Date: 05/02/2019