Homelessness: Moving Beyond Streets and Parks

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• 30+ Years of Public Service

• Oversees Operations & Maintenance Service Area and 140+ staff
SUMMARY

• OC Public Works Role in Public Safety

• Impacts

• Environmental Remediation and Encampments

• Coordination and Outreach

• Moving Forward

OC Public Works is responsible for:

Maintenance throughout the year

• **380 miles** of regional flood control channels
  • Channel types: improved, underground & natural
  • Most closed to public, some have public trails and/or bikeways

• **326 miles** of unincorporated County roadways
Environmental remediation & encampments:

**Impacts**

- Trash, debris & hazardous waste
- Damage to flood control facilities / levees
- Displaced riprap, holes, and damaged cameras, fencing, gates & locks
- Blockage of water flow / obstructions
- Fires
- Delay in routine maintenance activities
- Water quality considerations
- Safety (public and crews)
- Increased workload & costs beyond typical requirements for flood control maintenance
- Public complaints

**Trash, Debris & Hazardous Waste**

- Santa Ana River (E01) under the 405 Freeway
- Santa Ana-Delhi Channel (F01) under Warner Ave.
- Anaheim-Barber City Channel (C03)
Trash, Debris & Hazardous Waste

Trash, Debris & Hazardous Waste
Illegal drug use is prevalent among the homeless. Here the invert of a concrete flood control channel is used to dry out marijuana.

Trash, Debris & Hazardous Waste

Damage to Flood Control Facilities & Levees
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Stanton Storm Channel (C02S01) u/s of Katella Ave

Damage to Public Infrastructure

Garden Grove Blvd. over the Santa Ana River
Damage to Private Property

Blockage of Water Flow/Obstructions
Delay in Routine Maintenance Activities

Water Quality Considerations
Water Quality Considerations

Safety of Public & Crews
Illegal drug use is prevalent among the homeless. Here the invert of a concrete flood control channel is used to dry out marijuana.
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Remediation Project at Santa Ana River
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**Coordination & Outreach**

- Orange County Sheriff’s Department (OCSD) Homeless Outreach Team
  - Memorandum of Understanding between OCPW and OCSD
- County of Orange Health Care Agency (HCA)
- Community Services / Social Services
- County Counsel
- Enforcement of No Trespassing
  - Managed collaboratively by OCSD and local agency police

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**Coordination and Outreach**
**Environmental Remediation & Encampments:**

**County Remediation Project: January - March 2018**

- By the numbers, approximately:
  - 14,000 hypodermic needles
  - 404 tons of debris
  - 5,279 lbs. of bio-hazardous waste
  - 700 people in 2-mile area
- 30-day motel lodging during HCA assessments
- Referrals to partner agencies
  - Social Services, Veterans Services, Public Health, Behavioral Health

**Environmental Remediation & Encampments:**

**County Remediation Project: January - March 2018**

- Public Works Expenditures (approximately):
  - $765k clean-up costs for project
  - $60k on-going monthly monitoring costs
  - $2.4m annual encampment/debris removal costs
  - $1.2m OCPW's annual cost-share for OCSD public safety support
2019 Point in Time Count:

- Over 1,150 Community Volunteers, non-profit and faith based organizations, 34 cities, and County government
- 6,860 individuals experiencing homelessness counted (2,899 sheltered, 3,961 unsheltered)
- 2,200 people completed surveys for information about needs, etc.
- Orange County saw a 121% increase in the number of emergency shelter beds from 2017 to 2019 (1,390 beds increase).

System of Care:

- Collaboration of multiple County and local entities to provide customized care to individuals
- Behavioral Health
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Community Corrections
- Public Social Services
Settlement Agreement for Two Lawsuits

Summary:

- Standards of Care
  - Intake procedures, shelter staff training, ADA compliance and grievance procedures
- Allows enforcement of anti-camping and anti-loitering ordinances
  - County unincorporated areas, on County-owned or leased properties
- Restricted Zones:
  - Orange County Flood Control District Property
  - John Wayne Airport Property
  - Interior spaces of County public libraries outside of posted hours of operation
  - Custody facilities or other areas where in-custody subjects are taken
  - Contracted right-of-way railroad areas
  - Special use properties as approved by the Court
  - Any County property or facilities not open to the general public

Continuous Inspections
Ongoing Activities

- OCSD Homeless Outreach Team
  - Relocated to OCPW office
  - Provides 7-day coverage of Flood Control Property

- Team approach
  - Increased communication and improved execution

- Daily strategy meetings

- Policy for addressing encampments
  - Personal item storage criteria, duration of storage and how items are reclaimed

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM)

https://myOCeservices.ocgov.com
Balancing public safety and recreational needs

Current status
• Trails open to public during access hours
• Gates installed for trail areas
• Routine inspections by dedicated inspectors
• Routine debris removal by In-house & contract crews
• Upgraded fencing
• Enforcement of No Trespassing

Key Takeaways to Maintain a Safe Environment
• Partnerships/Inter-Agency Collaboration
• Outreach & Engagement
• Routine & Proactive Work
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Thank You!