

WATERSHED HEALTH AND THE UNHOUSED COMMUNITY

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES



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THREE STATEWIDE CHALLENGES

Challenge #1

Finding, documenting, and integrating the homeless disadvantaged community (DAC).

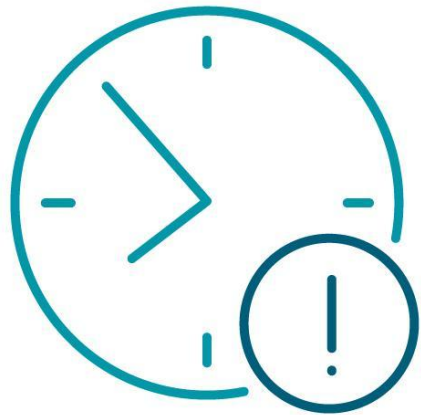
Challenge #2

An immediate need: the homeless community's lack of access to sanitation.

Challenge #3

Gaining access to funding for un-conventional strategies.

**Time is running out.
Respond now.**



Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020

CHALLENGE #1:

FINDING & DOCUMENTING THE HOMELESS DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.

- Census includes a process to count the unhoused homeless.
- Unhoused community is mobile, harder to reach.
- Do the DAC criteria accurately capture this group?

OPPORTUNITY: HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DATA SOURCE

- The Housing and Urban Development Point-In-Time count.
 - Standardized data collection methods, updated more frequently than the census.
 - Singular focus on reaching the sheltered and homeless community.



Let's Make Everyone Count!

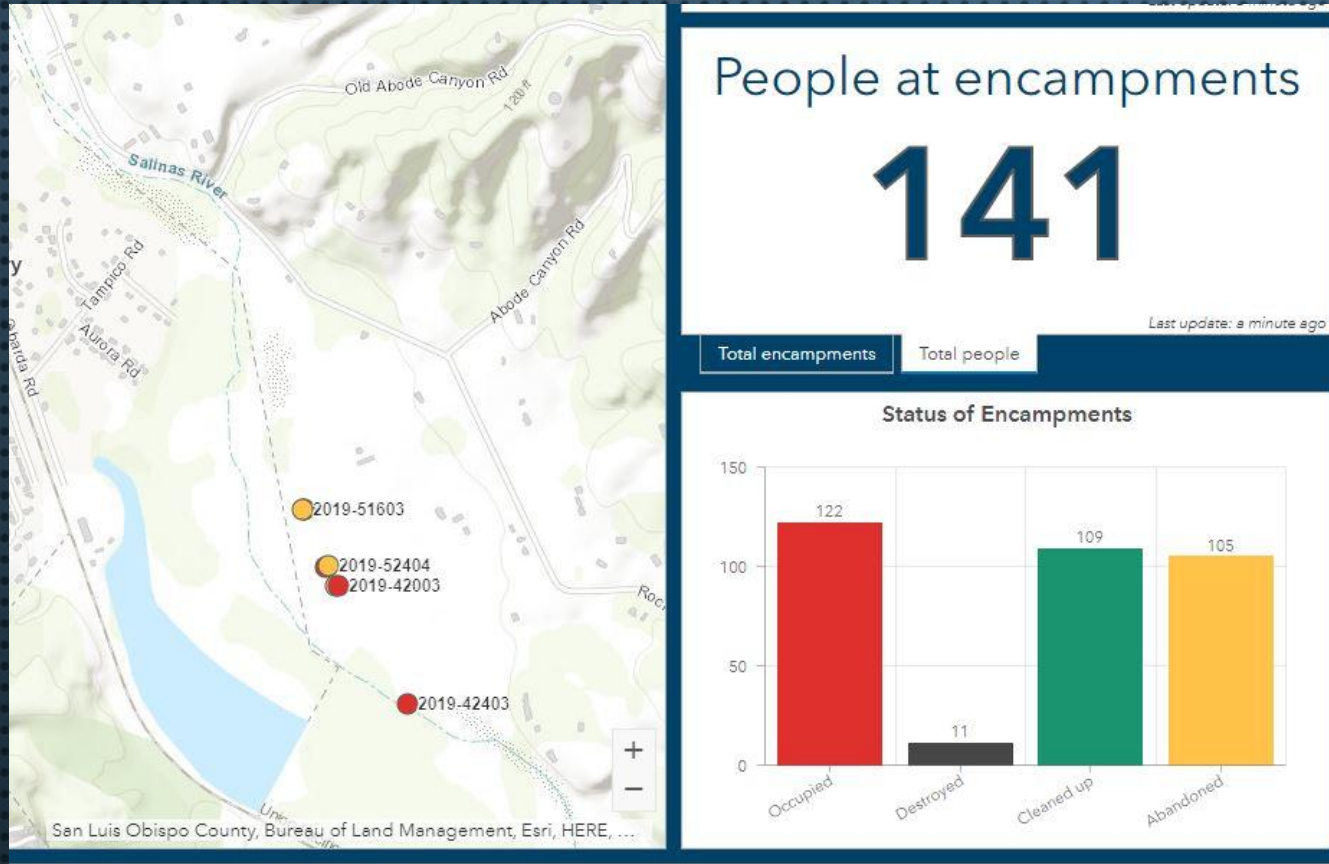
National Street and Shelter Point-in-Time Count

JANUARY 2019



The U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

For additional information,
visit the HUD Exchange at
www.hudexchange.info



OPPORTUNITY: LOCAL DATA SOURCES

- Local datasets may be more current and more detailed
 - County of San Luis Obispo developed the Transient Encampment Mapping Program (TEMP) based on the work of San Bernardino County.
- Locating encampments in rural vs. urban areas.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN:

- Where are encampments potentially impacting watershed health?
- Do encampments overlap with areas covered by municipal stormwater permits?
- How are the demographics of this DAC changing?





CHALLENGE #2:

HOMELESS COMMUNITY'S LACK OF ACCESS TO SANITATION.

- No legal location to dispose of trash.
- Municipal stormwater permits require reducing discharge of trash to waterways.



“To dispose of trash from a homeless camp in SLO, logistics is everything. You have to sort, load, and haul the trash to a trash receptacle where it can legally be thrown out. It’s a time-consuming activity that can take 3 or 4 hours, and is embarrassing and intrusive.”



OPPORTUNITY: **INTEGRATE THE NEED FOR SANITATION INTO IRWM PLANS**

- There is a widespread and immediate need for sanitation and hygiene support for this DAC.
- Addressing this need has multiple benefits for watershed health.

OPPORTUNITY: EXPLORE SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES THAT PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION

- County led interagency partnership to launch the 2019 Blue Bag Pilot effort.
 - 4 weeks of weekly trash collection and safe sharps disposal from creek-side homeless encampment.



20 yards of trash removed in first 6 hours.

- Partnership with syringe exchange program for safe disposal.
- Increased engagement with service providers and sense of community.
- Positive interactions with law enforcement and community members.



“The convenient location of the program dumpsters allowed us to not only get rid of all the trash and items we did not need, but allowed us to dispose of trash left in the area by other homeless people that came before us.”



WHAT WE CAN LEARN:

- There is an immediate need for affordable, short-term strategies that offer sanitation support.
- Strategies aren't meant to be permanent.
- Valuable opportunities for DAC engagement.





CHALLENGE #3:

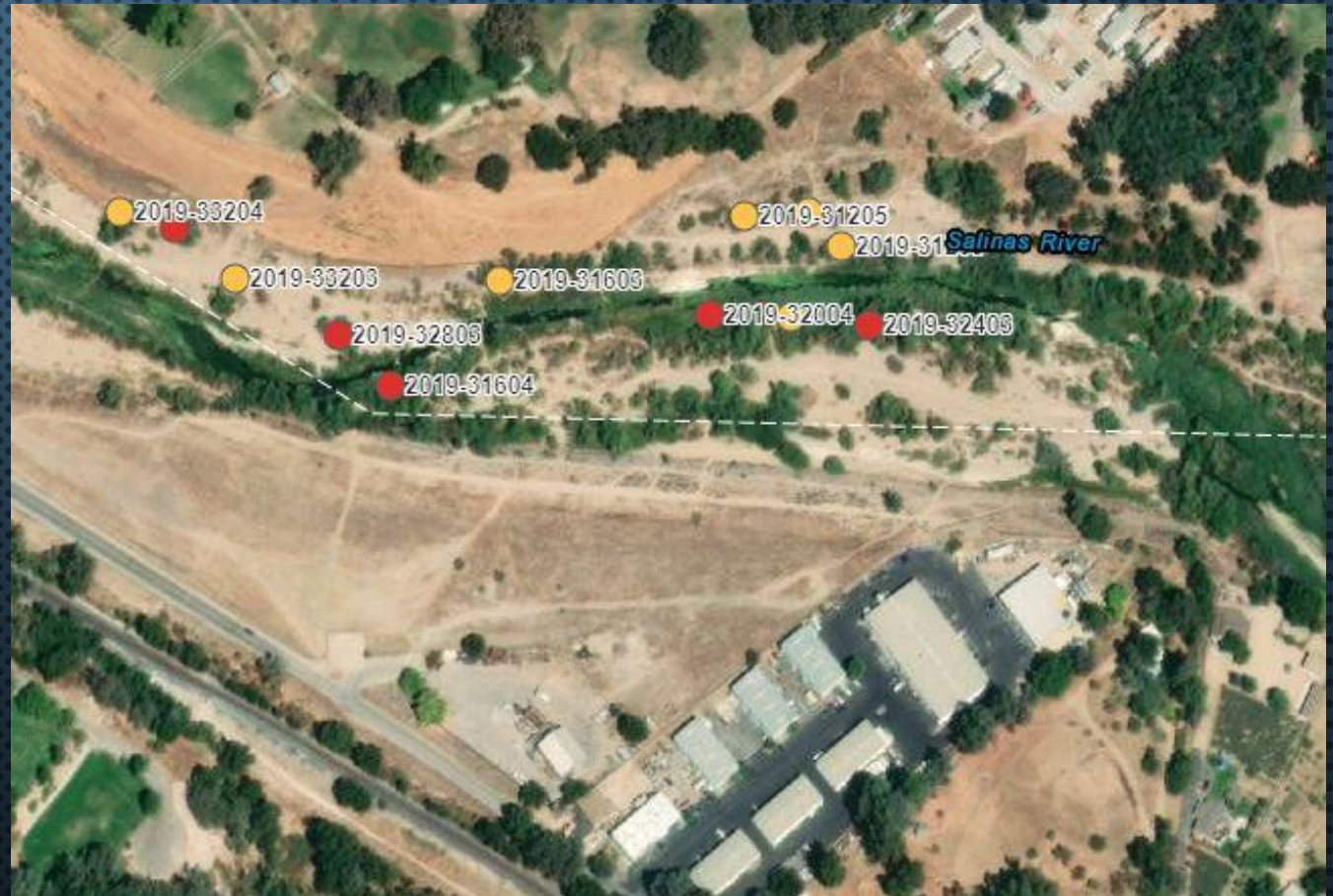
GAINING ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR UNCONVENTIONAL STRATEGIES.

- Housing first preference.
- Waste diversion preference (SB1383).
- 'Useful Life' is short.



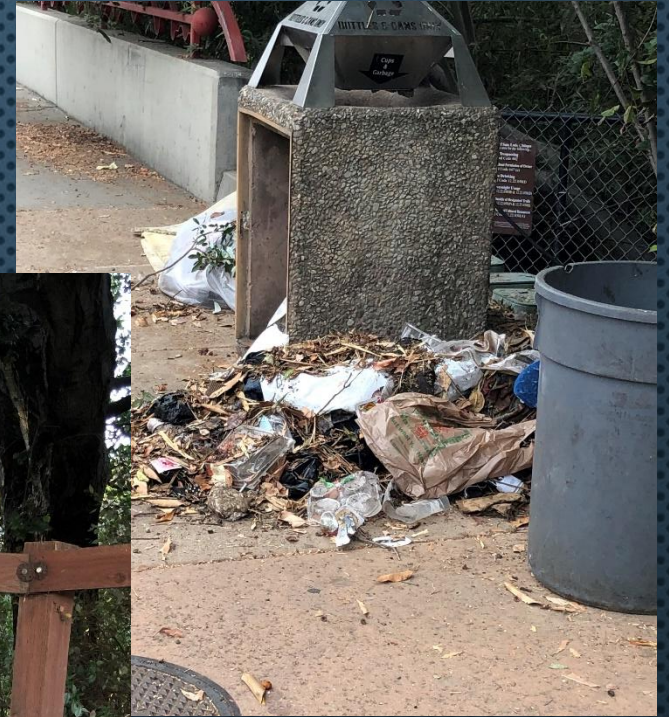
OPPORTUNITY: FUNDING AGENCIES CAN INCORPORATE CREATIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY

- Consider broader geographic project areas.
- Not a traditional IRWM 'Project Type'.
- Be creative in determining metrics for project impact.



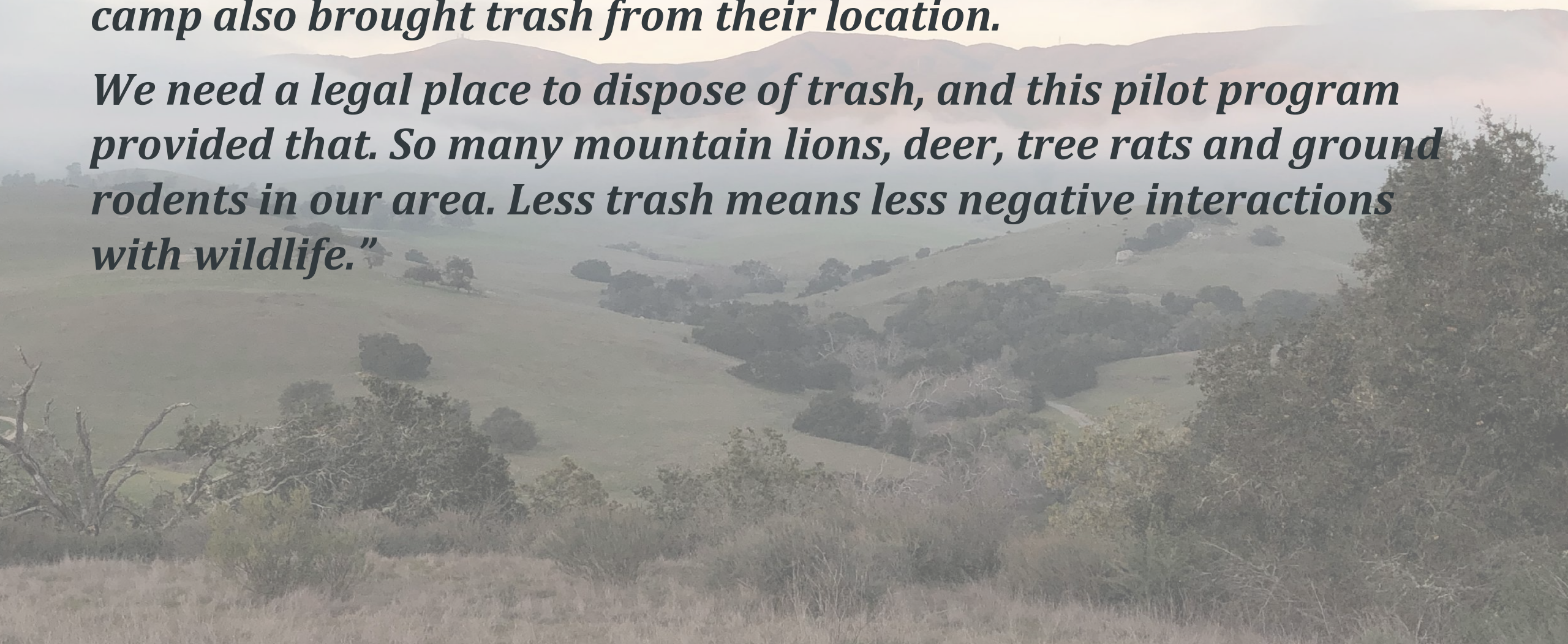
OPPORTUNITY: LEARN FROM SMALL SCALE AND PILOT EFFORTS

- Lower barrier grants that explore pilot efforts with potential scalability.
- Unconventional projects can yield unexpected benefits.
- Maintain simplicity in measuring success.



“The ‘Pilot Program’ was somewhat like residential curbside trash pickup. Helps keep our camp tidy, and keeps rodents away. Was a great morale boost for everyone. Homeless people adjacent to our camp also brought trash from their location.

We need a legal place to dispose of trash, and this pilot program provided that. So many mountain lions, deer, tree rats and ground rodents in our area. Less trash means less negative interactions with wildlife.”



THREE VERY WORTHY CHALLENGES

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THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

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