



Access to Sanitation for People Experiencing Homelessness:

State and Regional Water Board Roles

VM Summit

October 14, 2020



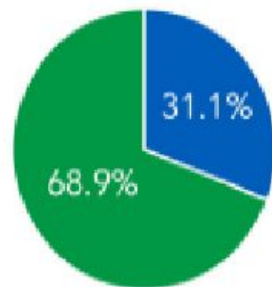
Homelessness in California

CALIFORNIA



Total Homeless, 2018
129,972

33 in every **10,000**
people were experiencing
homelessness



■ Unsheltered (89,543)
■ Sheltered (40,429)

Estimates of Homelessness

109,008 individuals

20,964 people in families
with children

12,396 unaccompanied
homeless youth

10,836 veterans

32,668 chronically homeless
individuals

sheltered is emergency shelter or transitional housing



MYTHS OF HOMELESSNESS

- **Myth:** People come to CA when they become homeless because of the weather, etc.
- **Truth:** Most people experience homelessness close to where they lost their housing.

- **Myth:** People are homeless because they choose to be or because they have a drug addiction and/or mental health issues.
- **Truth:** California has an extreme shortage of affordable housing. It is also extremely difficult to receive health services when unsheltered.

- **Myth:** If we provide toilets, washing stations, and water it will encourage unsheltered individuals to continue living on the streets and discourages housing solutions.
- **Truth:** Access to water and sanitation is a basic need that human beings have the right to. Providing for basic needs and building housing are **not** mutually exclusive

Lack of Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation

Californians Without Access to Toilets or Hot and Cold Water, 2015



From *Plumbing the Depths* (2019)

Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2015), U.S. Housing and Urban Development (2016)

Barriers in Accessing Public Toilets

Public restrooms are often:

- Shared among too many people
- Too far from place of residence
- Closed at night
- Dangerous to visit
- Poorly maintained and cleaned
- Without doors, locks, soap, or toilet paper



See *Measuring Progress* and *Plumbing the Depths* for documentation

California's Human Right to Water Law

Water Code Section 106.3.

- (a) **It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.**
- (b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the uses of water described in this section.
- (c) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may exist pursuant to subdivision (b).
- (d) This section shall not apply to water supplies for new development.
- (e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the rights or responsibilities of any public water system.
- *(Added by Stats. 2012, Ch. 524, Sec. 1. (AB 685) Effective January 1, 2013.)*



Regional Water Board Engagement

- Venues sharing ideas and information
- Water quality permits
- Participation on local task forces

Notice! Water Boards' response to COVID-19: Information about meetings, compliance, guidance, service delivery/interruption and more.

California Water Boards Central Coast, CA

Regional Board Programs News Room Board Decisions Public Notices Water Boards Search

The Central Coast Water Board strives to collaborate with local and state agencies and non-profit entities to identify and promote solutions that reduce water quality impacts associated with people experiencing homelessness. Actions such as improving access to emergency shelters, social services, clean drinking water, sanitation services, and affordable housing can help reduce impacts to central coast streams by providing interim and long-term solutions, thereby reducing the occurrence of streamside homeless encampments.

[Subscribe directly to the Homelessness Email List](#)

October 3, 2019 Workshop Quick Links

- Recorded Workshop Webcast
- Workshop Agenda
- Notice of Public Meeting
- Speaker Bio's
- Commitments

State Water Resources Control Board

STOCKTON AREA AGENCY HOMELESS TASK FORCE PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 30, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Remote Participation Only via Zoom:
<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/93108165828?pwd=S0pPWEJLSW9LcC9JT01MTzUyOHBzQT09>

Meeting ID: 931 0816 5828 Password: 246246

+16699009128,,93108165828#,,,,0#,,246246# US

RSVP to: Amanda.Ford@waterboards.ca.gov

AGENDA
Welcome and Introductions (10 mins)
Updates from last meeting: Central Valley Regional Water Board (20 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adam Laputz and Richard Muhl,• Central Valley Flood Protection Board update on MOU
Discussion: Task Force Update and Timeline (30 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Public Participation, State Waterboard
Presentations (30mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeless Coordinating and Finance, Amber Ostrander
Next Steps and Adjourn (15 mins)

State Water Board Engagement

- 2019 Workshop
 - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/assistance/
- General Permit for Caltrans
- Data collection and metric development



Climate Change Impacts

- More population
- Less snowpack
- Warmer temperatures
- More extremes (drought and flood)
- Sea level rise
- Ecosystems and communities transformed by fire



IRWM Nexus

- Supporting watershed health in concert with people living in riparian areas
- Projects that enhance water and sanitation access for people experiencing homelessness
- Improving urban stormwater quality



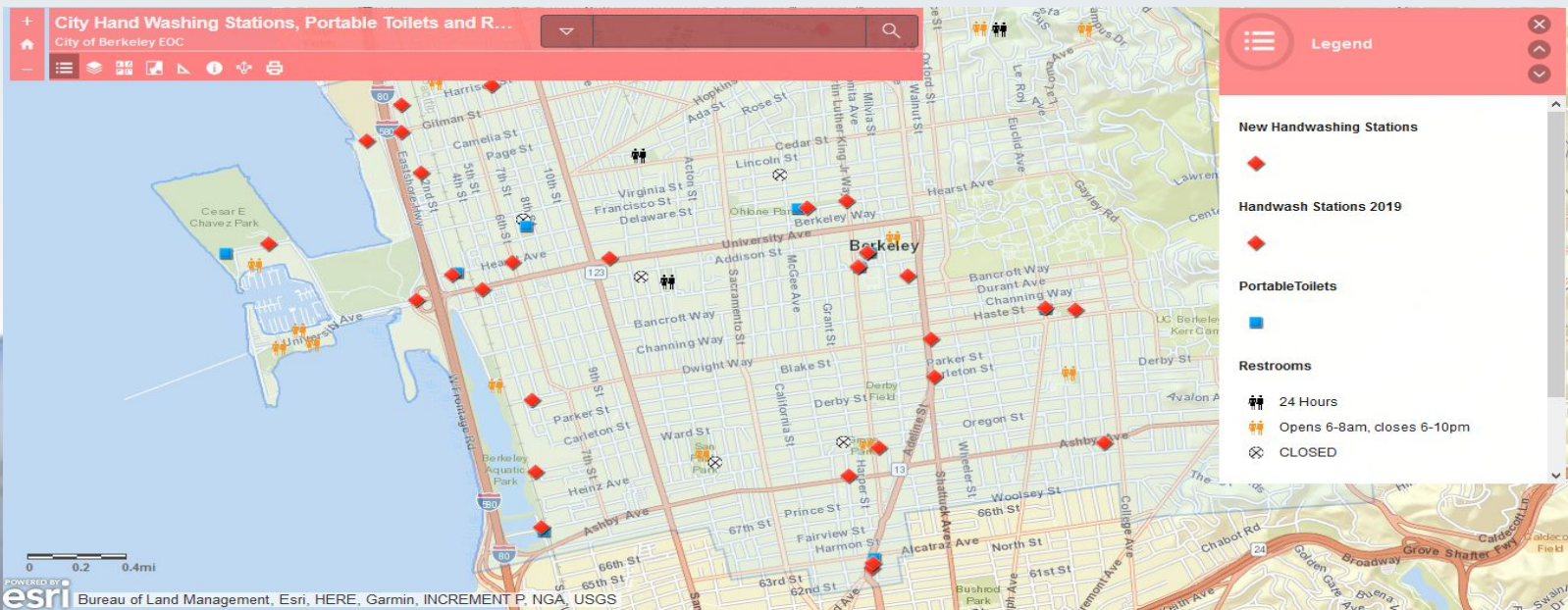
Next Steps

- Gather additional information on resources devoted to public sanitation access
 - Local government funds
 - Handwashing stations
 - Portable restrooms
 - Trash collection services for unhoused populations
 - Private sector funds
 - Mobile showers

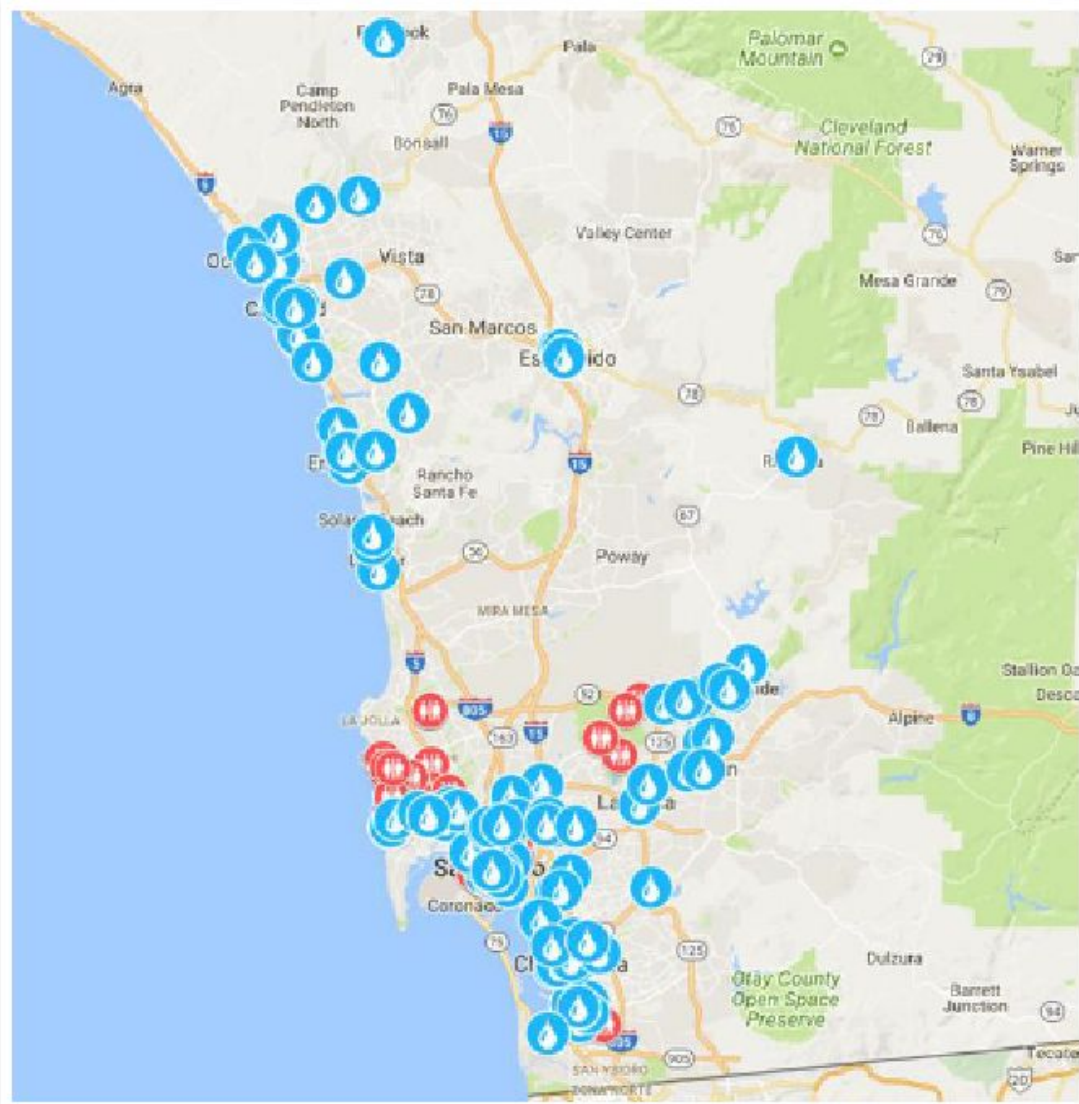


Next Steps

- Work with local governments and other stakeholders to develop and track sanitation access metrics
 - Example: geographic distribution and use of hand washing stations



ACCESS TO HYGIENE



211 San Diego



Photo by Catherine Blaser, CoSD



Contact

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Questions?

