



Castro Valley

Homeless Encampment Cleanup
Unincorporated Alameda County
State Property
Grove Way at Eastbound 580

October 14 – 29, 2019

Initial Discoveries

- Bordered by county, parks, and water district lands Five Acres of State property,
- Cut fence lines with multiple camouflaged access points
- Twenty Encampments
- Approximately 40 persons
- Multiple dogs and cats
- Human feces and urine
- Hypodermic needles
- Extremely large piles of trash



Local Impact:

- Homeless using onramps and roadways to access site
- Destruction of property
- Polluted creek and hillsides
- Saturated crime, illicit drug use.
- Lane #2 of southbound Grove Way and eastbound 580 onramp closed during project



Environmental Impact:

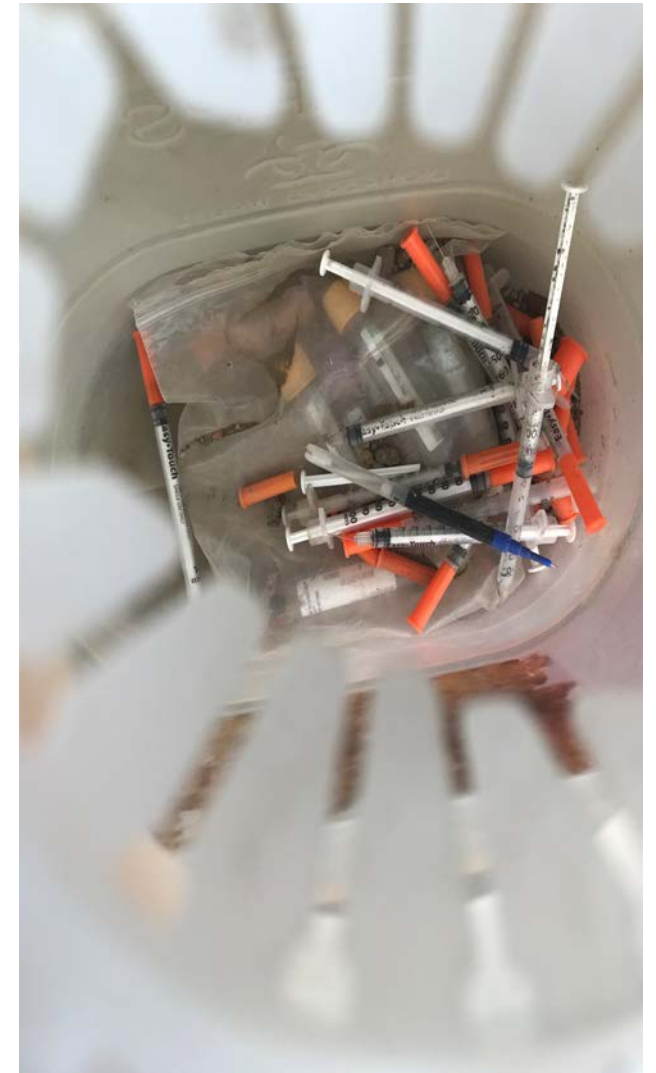
- San Lorenzo Creek altered by damming and polluted with trash
- Hill side altered by encampments
- Tunnels and dens dug under Grove Way overpass
- Trails cut into hillside and creek
- Exposed and buried hazardous materials throughout site including: hypodermic needles, feces, urine, batteries, electronics, propane bottles and controlled substances.
- Exposed and buried trash piles





Hazardous Waste removed:

Twenty-five, 55 gallon steel drums
Seven, 55 gallon plastic drums
Twenty-One, 15 gallon plastic drums
Ten 30 gallon plastic poly drums





Trash removed:

- Caltrans removed fifty-five tons of debris, which include twenty, 20 yard dumpsters
- Car tires
- Bicycle tires
- Furniture
- Mattresses

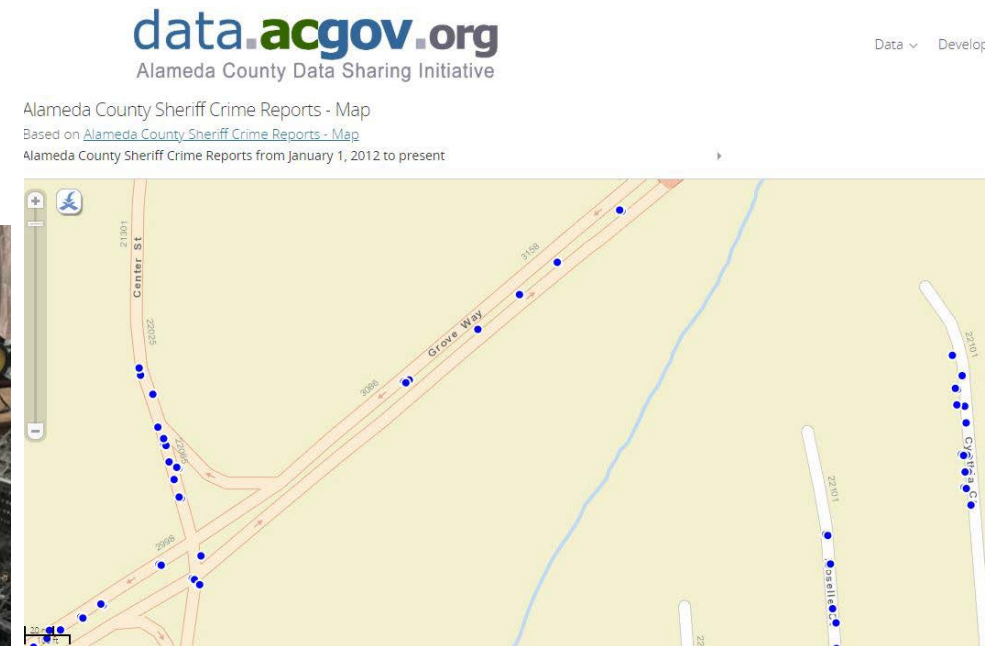
State Resources:

- Four officers per day. At least 400 CHP hours were used
- Caltrans crew at 700 hours
- About 100 feet of state fencing was repaired
- The estimate for the cleanup was \$300,000 but the actual cost after invoicing will not be available for about a month. It's safe to assume the total cost will be north of 300k.



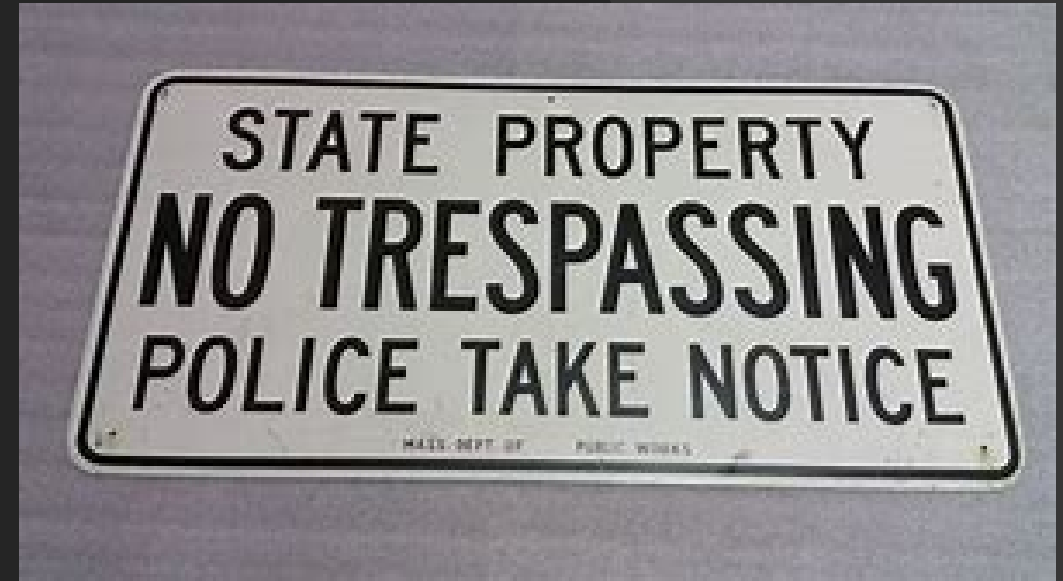
Criminal Activity

- Threats made to Caltrans during initial walkthrough.
- Knives, machetes, makeshift weapons, bows, and shooting targets discovered throughout site.
- Illicit drugs, Marijuana plants and drug paraphernalia throughout site.
- Suspected stolen property including bikes, power tools, mail, open delivery packages.
- Alameda County Crime Map showing saturated reported crimes around the surrounding area.



Moving Forward

- Caltrans has issued Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) an Open Order to enforce encampments and trespassing on State property.
- California Highway Patrol Castro Valley will maintain an open line of communication with ACSO
- California Highway Patrol Castro Valley will conduct spot checks



Recommendations:

- County ordinances prohibiting “Pan Handling” in targeted locations
- County ordinances prohibiting RV parking on unincorporated streets.
- Alameda County Human Resources, Mental Health, and other advocacy groups working along with Law Enforcement during spot checks and/or when an encampment has been noticed.

