Mission Valley

Multi-Year Volunteer-Based Program
In October 2017 we got some terrible news.
2017 Annual Survey Results

• Nearly 100% of trash now sourced to encampments

• 84% increase in number of encampments along the River in one year.
Problem:

We estimated nearly one million pounds of trash is annually deposited in the riverbed by encampments along the River.
Hepatitis A Outbreak

- 20 deaths
- 401 Hospitalizations
- Significant percentage homeless
Media Focus on the River

• “Tijuana Sewage is not Fueling the Hep A Outbreak, but the San Diego River might be”

  » 9/22/17
  » Voice of San Diego
Heightened Media Attention

- “Many worry trash will pile up around the San Diego River after a local non-profit stops cleanups…”
  - 10/10/2017, NBC San Diego

- “Water board records show studies tying health danger to homeless camps went unaddressed for years”
  - 10/09/2017, Union Tribune
STRATEGY

• Increase data collection

• Advocate for resources and collaborate more

• Increase clean-ups

• Willing to be a visible leader on a largely social issue
Collecting Critical Data: Community Science

Regular Focused Surveys: 2-3 per week

Annual Point in Time Count

Annual River Blitz

Protocol-Based and Reliable Developed Phone-based App

Goal: Problem Areas Surveyed Every 2 Weeks or Better
Public Data Portal

www.immappler.com/sandiegorivertrash
DATA used to coordinate cleanups. Shared with multiple partners and support research. Used by landowners and agencies.


http://immappler.com/sandiegorivertrash/
Over the years, we have organized volunteers to remove close to 3 million pounds of trash from in and along the River.

The River is healthier and the public is safer.
Going Forward...

1. We need to better understand the risks of latrine sites in an alluvial floodplain
2. Private property owners cannot address encampments by themselves
3. Ongoing coordination of key stakeholders is vital
4. Encampments continue to generate trash, and therefore, a sustained program is needed
5. Financial Support of Nonprofit Coordination Efforts Can Be Highly Effective
Our Amazing Volunteers

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