



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER HENRY L. FOSTER III
FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 7, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego

FROM: Henry L. Foster III, Councilmember, City of San Diego, Fourth District

SUBJECT: Urgent Request for Stormwater Debris Clearance in the Imperial 1 Channel

My office's November 18, 2024, memo emphasized the urgent need for proactive stormwater management and flood preparedness in District Four, including regular maintenance and timely debris removal in stormwater channels. This was in response to the flooding event on January 22, 2024, which caused significant property damage and resident displacement across San Diego.

A follow-up memo on February 11, 2025, reiterated this need, formally requesting debris clearance at key flood-prone sites along Stevens Way and Akins Avenue, as documented in the previous Get It Done reports. Due to the continued accumulation of debris, these areas continue to face recurring flooding risks.

This memo requests that the Stormwater Department clear debris from the Imperial 1 Channel, which runs between Stevens Way and Imperial Avenue, including the area behind the Earl B. Gilliam Post Office (see attached). During a recent site visit with Stormwater Department staff, it was confirmed that this area falls under the City's responsibility. I also want to acknowledge and thank Environmental Services for their prompt response in addressing nearby encampments. Given ongoing concerns, please provide an estimated timeline for debris removal in the referenced channel. Additionally, to help deter further illegal dumping, please provide "No Illegal Dumping" notices to the adjacent property owners at the *Acacia Mobile Home Park*.

The debris-filled channels identified in this memorandum pose preventable threats to public safety and infrastructure. Their current condition allows the continued accumulation of materials that can compromise water quality, obstruct flow, and increase the risk of flooding. Addressing these sites is essential to meeting stormwater compliance standards, strengthening flood resilience, and protecting public health—particularly in historically underserved areas like District Four.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Attachments: 1. IMPERIAL 1 CHANNEL DEBRIS IMAGES

cc: Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
Kris McFadden, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Infrastructure
Alia Khouri, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Operational Support
Todd Snyder, Director of Stormwater, City of San Diego
Kirby Brady, Interim Director of Environmental Services, City of San Diego
Daniel Horton, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Henry L. Foster III

IMPERIAL 1 CHANNEL DEBRIS IMAGES

Attachment 1

1. Imperial 1 Channel Map



2. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the West



3. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the West Image 2



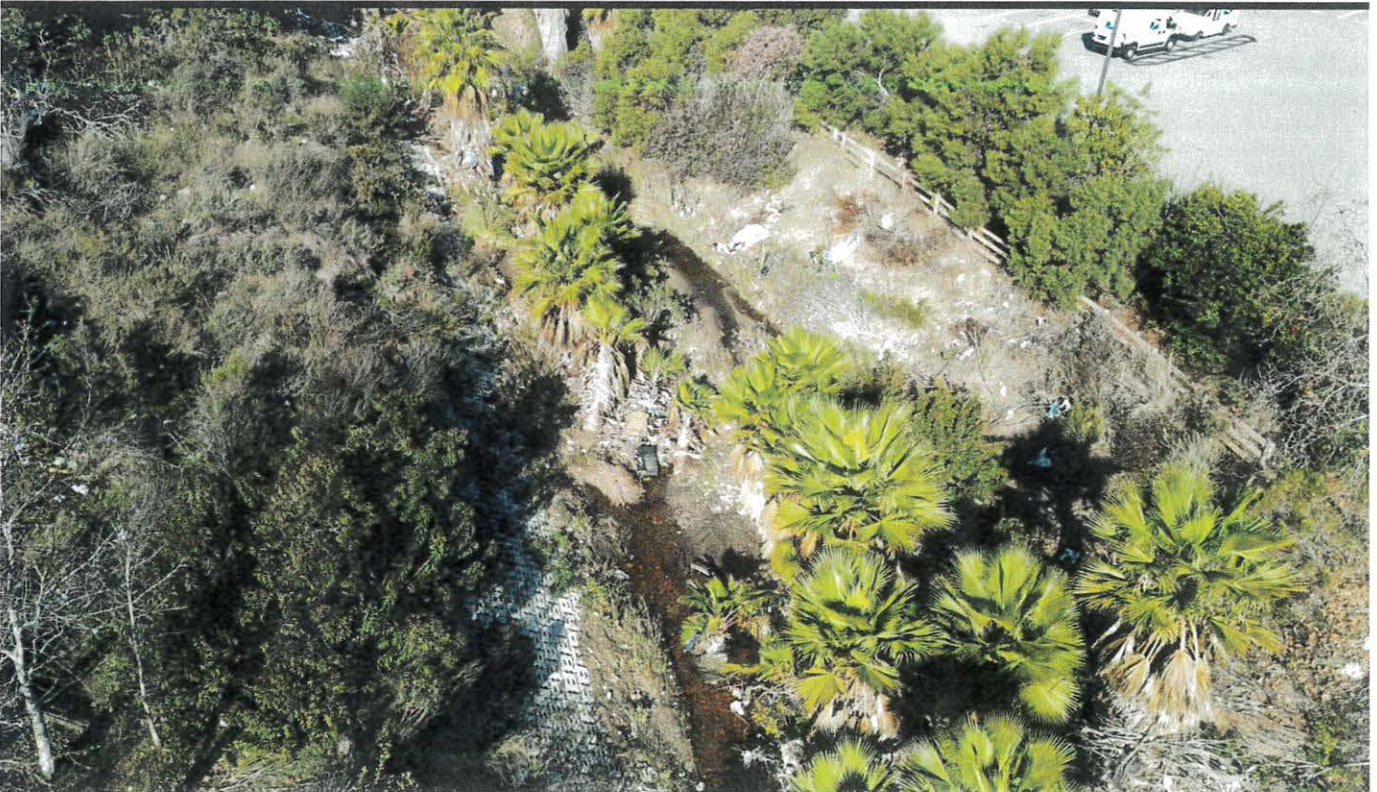
4. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the West Image 3



5. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the South Image 4



6. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the South Image 5



7. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the South Image 6



8. Channel Debris Behind Earl B. Gilliam Post Office to the South Image 7

