



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

June 07, 202

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

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To: Board of Directors
From: Rick L. Callender, CEO

Weeks of May 24 – June 6, 2024

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

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1. 2024 National River Cleanup Day

In support of the 32nd Annual National River Cleanup Day (NRCD), Valley Water, in partnership with the Creek Connections Action Group (CCAG), coordinated another successful cleanup event in Santa Clara County on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 9 a.m. to noon.

This year, there were a total of 42 cleanup sites throughout the county. A total of 690 volunteers cleaned 66 miles of creeks, shoreline, and natural areas, removing approximately 17,255 pounds of litter.

Valley Water Youth Commissioners and staff hosted a cleanup site at the Guadalupe River behind Valley Water Headquarters. There were 24 volunteers at this site. Director Jim Beall attended two creek cleanup locations in District 4 including the Youth Commission-hosted site. Board Chair Nai Hsueh participated at a creek cleanup in Cupertino and Director Richard Santos visited all creek cleanup locations in District 3.

Some of the most interesting items volunteers picked up included: flip-flops, a water heater tank, a bed frame, golf balls, an iPhone, bicycles, a flat screen TV, a mini fridge, sinks, mattress, shopping carts, underwear, a Christmas tree, medication, a laundry basket, a bar jack, folding chair, a wheel chair, piano parts, car headlights, a beach ball, a desk, a hookah, and a pool floatie.

Valley Water will leverage the momentum from the event to encourage volunteers to sign up for the Adopt-A-Creek Program and other Valley Water volunteer efforts, including Coastal Cleanup Day, which will take place later this year on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

The CCAG is a consortium of public agencies that share the goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways. These agencies include Valley Water (Chair), Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, West Valley Clean Water Program Authority (Campbell, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and the Town of Los Gatos), and the cities of Santa Clara, Milpitas, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Palo Alto, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San José.

For further information, please contact Marta Lugo at (408) 630-2237.

2. Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Workshop at Valley Water

On May 10, 2024 Valley Water hosted a Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to discuss Valley Water's collaborative efforts to develop a regional DPR project in light of the new regulations being finalized, and to explore anticipated challenges and potential solutions. The workshop included a prestigious lineup of local stakeholders, subject matter experts, regulators and scientists. Over 80 attendees participated in the event including wastewater partners, water retailers, regulators from the Regional Water Board, Division of Drinking Water, experts from the National Water Research Institute, WateReuse, and Valley Water staff.

Valley Water Director Tony Estremera welcomed guests and provided opening remarks highlighting the importance of water reuse and DPR in meeting our region's future water supply needs. Keynote guest speaker Professor David Sedlak, University of California Berkley, spoke of the evolution of water reuse, from non-potable reuse projects for agriculture and irrigation to current and future projects seeking to directly augment local drinking water supplies. Valley Water Chief Operating Officer Aaron Baker and City of San José's Jeff Provenzano, Assistant Director of Environmental Services, discussed perspectives on local water supply challenges and working collaboratively to develop a regional DPR project.

The workshop also included a panel discussion on the recently approved DPR regulations, including challenges and opportunities for prospective DPR projects, a presentation on the medical community's role in addressing public concerns, as well as a presentation on managing reverse osmosis concentrate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Thomas Mumley, Assistant Executive Officer of SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Brenley McKenna, Managing Director of WateReuse California were also present virtually and expressed support of Valley Water's efforts in pursuing this regional project. This event was the start of a productive dialogue and efforts to facilitate collaboration among regional stakeholders to help move DPR projects forward.

For further information, please contact Kirsten Struve at (408) 630-3138.

3. FAHCE Water Rights Change Petition Update

On May 7th, 2024, Valley Water submitted to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 10 updated Petitions for Change for Valley Water's water rights in the Stevens Creek and Guadalupe River watersheds. The Petitions were originally filed in 2015, as directed by the Board on September 23, 2014. The Petitions address the technical aspects of the water rights subject to the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Settlement Agreement and formally request a water rights order to amend the place of use, and purpose of use to reflect current and future beneficial uses of the water, including Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, and to correctly reflect current operations. Following certification of the FAHCE Environmental Impact Report on August 8, 2023, the Petitions were updated to also include the Fish Habitat Restoration Plan (FHRP) that is part of the FAHCE Environmental Impact Report. Inclusion of the FHRP in Valley Water's licenses is a condition of the FAHCE settlement agreement and allows for adaptive management during implementation of the FAHCE program. The SWRCB officially noticed the Petitions for Change on May 23, 2024, beginning the 30-day public review process.

For further information, please contact Aaron Baker at (408) 630-2135.

4. Santos

Director Santos asked if we own any land that is currently zoned or can be zoned for residential apartments.

I-24-0004

Valley Water currently owns 3,734 parcels in fee title, with a total area of over 12,000 acres. A small number of parcels are currently zoned for higher density residential development according to city zoning maps. However, these maps provide general land use guidance only, as they may not accurately reflect adopted planning documents for the jurisdiction, nor exclude land subject to specific development restrictions. For example, within the City of San Jose, approximately 50 Valley Water-owned parcels have moderate to high-density residential or multi-family residential zoning. However, preliminary analysis determined many or all such parcels occur in undevelopable areas such as where utilities, services, amenities are non-existent, or lie along streams/creeks where development is restricted. Furthermore, Valley Water fee title properties have a direct nexus to current or planned operations and are therefore not considered excess land per California government code.

In-depth analysis of any parcels that may be considered excess, as well as consultation with the planning department of the appropriate land-use authority, is necessary to determine development potential of any properties found to be surplus by the Board of Directors. Valley Water staff estimates this analysis and consultation to require additional effort as estimated below:

1. Identify parcels with residential zoning considered to be potential surplus lands and evaluate current and future operational needs (up to 80 hours)
2. For any parcels without an identified operational purpose, determine potential for high density residential development or re-development based on general criteria (40 hours)
3. For any parcels identified in step 2, consult with appropriate land-use authority to verify, and identify those currently zoned for high-density residential or with potential for rezoning as such (staff time to be determined)

For further information, please contact John Bourgeois at (408) 630-2618.

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS and Informational Items

Report Name: Board Member Requests

Request	Request Date	Director	BAO/Chief	Staff	Description	20 Days Due Date	Expected Completion Date	Disposition
I-24-0006	06/05/24	Beall	Baker	Struve Gin	Provide Director Beall with clarification on the water demand scenarios used in the Water Supply Master Plan development, opportunities to address drought rebound, and water conservation opportunities.	06/25/24		
I-24-0007	06/05/24	Beall	Baker	Gin Kao	Provide Director Beall with information in writing to understand the full cost of imported water.	06/25/24		

TO: Marta Lugo, Acting Chief of External Affairs **FROM:** Linh Hoang, Office of Communications Manager

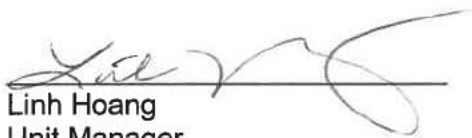
SUBJECT: Stormwater Talking Points for Directors' Use **DATE:** May 30, 2024

During the March 27, 2024, Recycled Water Committee meeting, Committee members expressed that it would be helpful to have information at the ready when they are asked by their constituents why we don't capture and use more stormwater. In response, staff has prepared talking points on the subject that can be used for these conversations:

- Valley Water has a variety of programs focusing on capturing stormwater. Stormwater capture has multiple benefits including reducing peak flows, preventing erosion, improving creek and Bay water quality, and in some areas, it can have water supply benefits. Given Valley Water's already very successful effort capturing watershed runoff in our existing 10 reservoirs, additional stormwater capture likely has a smaller water supply benefit. The 2040 Water Supply Master Plan set a goal of 1,000 Acre feet per year of stormwater capture, which is included in the water conservation goal.
- As chair of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP.org), Valley Water has been instrumental in developing long-term plans to implement stormwater treatment in the County by leading production of the [Stormwater Resource Plan for the northern part of the County](#), and producing the [Stormwater Resource Plan for the South County](#). These plans guide implementation of green stormwater infrastructure in the county and make projects eligible for grant funding. SCVURPPP members are regional leaders in stormwater treatment implementation and have produced a [Stormwater Treatment Measure Data Portal](#) to track this implementation throughout the county. As is shown in the data portal, private and public stormwater treatment projects are steadily transforming the "gray" landscape to "green." Valley water is an instrumental part of that transformation.
- The cities and the county whose stormwater drains to the San Francisco Bay operate under the [Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit](#) (MRP), issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Valley Water is a co-permittee under this permit, which is reissued approximately every five years. The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit essentially requires that stormwater runoff is as free of pollutants such as trash, sediment, chemicals, etc. as possible. The permit also has provisions that require runoff from new or replaced impervious surface in development/redevelopment projects to be captured, infiltrated, and or treated. That includes measures like directing runoff to landscaping, rain gardens, bioretention facilities, and "capture and use" facilities. South County cities have a similar stormwater permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Board.
- With respect to trash, permittees developed trash control plans, implemented outreach and trash capture devices in their storm drain systems, trash booms in creeks, and direct discharge control i.e. control of trash from encampments. San Jose's direct discharge control plan was recently rejected by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, which is being revised.
- To support stormwater capture efforts, the Valley Water Board approved \$1.5 million in grants, including mini grants, for stewardship activities, such as pollution prevention, volunteer cleanups and education, water conservation and wildlife habitat restoration, etc. through our Safe Clean

Water Program. One such project by Grassroots Ecology and San José Conservation Corps refurbished a bioretention area in Palo Alto. Also, part of Safe Clean Water, the Inter-Agency Urban Runoff Program supports Valley Water's continued participation in the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) and South County stormwater programs. These programs enable Valley Water to reduce stormwater pollution through technical support and regional leadership. In addition, this project supports stormwater pollution prevention activities in South County Watersheds and green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). Safe Clean Water also provides up to \$1.5 million over 15 years to support implementation of green stormwater infrastructure consistent with Santa Clara Basin and South County Stormwater Resource Plans.

- For existing landscapes, Valley Water has incorporated sustainable practices and stormwater capture elements into our [Landscape Rebate Program](#) requirements. Our Landscape Conversion Rebate, which offers \$2/sq ft for converting high-water using lawns to low-water landscapes includes requirements to install a certain amount of low-water-using plants and to cover all bare soil with mulch or permeable hardscape materials. These measures help to hold soil in place, reduce runoff, filter pollutants, and allow rainwater to stay onsite. Also included in the rebate program are stormwater capture elements to keep roof water runoff onsite. This includes [rain gardens](#), which can also be installed within a Landscape Conversion project for an additional \$300 rebate, rain barrels (up to \$35 each), and larger cisterns (\$0.50 per gallon). Rain gardens allow stormwater to stay onsite and the [rain barrels and cisterns](#) provide both an alternative water source and reduce runoff. Through the program requirements, resources developed by Valley Water, such as the [Sustainable Landscape Guidelines](#), and our partnership to manage [South Bay Green Gardens](#), we provide the public with the tools needed to practice sustainable landscaping.
- While short-term solutions to stormwater runoff from lawns and concrete in the urban setting will not mitigate floodwaters we are experiencing currently, which originate from the upper watershed where there is little development and/or impervious surface, Valley Water is an active leader in sustainable long-term stormwater pollution prevention management.



Linh Hoang
Unit Manager
Office of Communications

INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-24-0144	06/05/24	06/06/24	All	CHRISTINA SMILEY	Email from Christina Smiley to Dave Leon, Assistant Deputy Clerk, dated 06/05/24, requesting assistance with unsheltered people on the creek next to Alexis HOA on El Camino Real in Santa Clara.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Bilski Codianne	06/14/24	-	n/a	06/20/24
C-24-0145	06/05/24	06/06/24	All	TILLMAN FUSS	Email from Tillman Fuss to Director Eisenberg, dated 06/05/24, asking to speak with her or a Valley Water employee in order to conduct an interview for his research on the sustainable management of water resources.	Refer to Staff	Gibson	Baker Hakes	06/14/24	-	n/a	06/20/24

From: [Helen Hutchings](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Cc: [Sali Schille](#); [KATHLEEN ALMOSLINO](#)
Subject: Request to be on your meeting agenda
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 9:56:24 PM

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Board of Directors,

On behalf of our group, the Citizens For the Safety and Welfare of Willow Glen, I respectfully request that we be placed on your next meeting agenda to discuss the proposed use of Valley Water property at Willow St. And Lelong Ave for a city sanctioned homeless tent encampment. Concerned neighbors oppose any encampment in this residential neighborhood. We look forward to further discussion of this very serious issue with your board members. We request a slot at 6pm on your agenda so that our members can fully contribute to the discussion. Please confirm the date on which we can participate(June 11 may be the next meeting?).

Thank you,

Helen Hutchings

Helenhutchings@[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dorothy Dora](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 10:25:02 AM

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His pay attention to this the Ricardo Nalawagan
Connie de la Cruz

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dorothy Dora** <dorothydora665@ >
Date: Thu, May 16, 2024, 2:54 PM
Subject:
To: Lilian Dennis <ldennis@valleywater.org>

You have not responded to Mr. Ricardo Nalawagan 's concerns of WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO HIS CLAIM OF THE CREEK, FROM THE SUBMITTED CLAIM AND THE LATE CONSIDERATION FROM THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A DECISION WHEATHER THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED OR NOT.
I CONNIE DE LA CRUZ HAS, AND HAVE PERMISSION TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF. I'VE NOT RECEIVED ANY EMAILS FROM VALLEY WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FOR ALMOST A MONTH NOW AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT 14 DAYS SO SOMEBODY NEEDS TO GET ON THIS IF NOT I WILL EXERCISE MY RIGHTS. MUCH APPRECIATED BUT NOT REALLY! BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TRUE TO YOUR WORD CONNIE DE LA CRUZ

From: [Dorothy Dora](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Re: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors Auto Reply
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:00:07 PM

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I'm sending this video's and pictures for you to view, in behalf of Mr Nalawagan
Thank you Connie De La Cruz

On Thu, May 30, 2024, 10:25 AM Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District!

Please be assured that any and all emails addressed to the Board are distributed promptly. If your email necessitates a response, the Board will make every effort to do so within 14 calendar days. The Board appreciates hearing from their constituents, and thanks you for your time.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Santa Clara Valley Water District

From: [ricardo.nalawagan](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Videos of the creek concerning my case please acknowledge them as you have not acknowledged my case per Connie de la Cruces request which I get permission to do this will be my last attempt thank you Ricardo nalawagan Connie de La Cruz
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:10:13 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

From: [ricardo.nalawagan](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Mr. Nalawagan c/o Connie de la cruz
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:14:03 PM

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I hope that you pay attention to some of this videos it's appreciated

OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board Correspondence](#)
To: [Mark Bilski](#); [Shanika Richards](#); [Kathy Nguyen](#); [Jennifer Codianne](#)
Cc: [Michele King](#); [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: Follow up post townhall
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:57:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

C-24-0134 has been approved, sent and closed.

Thanks,
Candice

From: Candice Kwok-Smith **On Behalf Of** Board of Directors
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:56 PM
To: sinolean@[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Follow up post townhall

Sent on Behalf of Director Keegan:

Dear Sali Schille,

Thank you for reaching out to Valley Water regarding the encampments of unsheltered people located on Valley Water property at Willow Street and Lelong Street. The Valley Water Board has heard from many community members who have expressed strong opinions regarding the presence of this unmanaged encampment in their neighborhood.

Valley Water is committed to using the power we have as an environmental stewardship agency to protect our waterways in collaboration with cities and the County as they fulfill their public safety and social service roles. However, as with all public agencies, Valley Water must adhere to applicable federal case law, which has significantly affected how we can respond to encampments of unsheltered people. Shelter is required to be offered before unsheltered people may be relocated from public lands; however, given the unprecedented need for transitional and long-term housing in Santa Clara County, there is currently only shelter capacity for approximately one quarter of the unsheltered population. For this reason, Valley Water will continue to face challenges relocating encampments until sufficient housing alternatives are available.

Valley Water is actively working with the City of San José to find solutions to address unsheltered homelessness. Solutions that will allow us to remove unmanaged encampments along miles of our

waterways will necessarily include the creation of new interim housing or safe sleeping alternatives, with a path toward permanent options elsewhere. As you note, the City is currently exploring the potential use of the Valley Water parcel across the street from the encampment at issue for a temporary shelter site. My support for any interim use of this parcel would be contingent on the city committing to a definitive timeframe for relocation to an appropriate long-term housing site. As the City conducts its due diligence, Valley Water is assured that the City will demonstrate accountability to the community and will work through its Community Advisory Committee process to understand and respond to the needs of various neighborhoods that might be impacted.

We share your environmental and water quality concerns. And this is exactly why Valley Water and the City continue to look for ways to relocate unsheltered people who are currently living in unmanaged encampments into managed alternatives. That said, the safety of your drinking water is not at risk. As the primary wholesale water supplier in Santa Clara County, Valley Water is dedicated to assuring a reliable supply of healthy, clean drinking water. Water brought into the county through canals and pipelines from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or collected in local reservoirs, undergoes an extensive treatment process. Valley Water operates three water treatment plants that clean and disinfect imported water and/or water captured in four of our local reservoirs. Additional information on water quality is available here: <https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/water-quality>.

Finally, as you mention, on July 9, 2024, the Valley Water Board will consider adopting a proposed Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance aimed at reducing unsanctioned encampments and preventing re-encampments on Valley Water property. This ordinance is intended to address our agency's responsibility to protect water quality, fish, and wildlife as well as community concerns and concerns about the workplace safety of Valley Water's field staff. Because Valley Water does not possess police powers, local law enforcement agencies will have the authority and responsibility to enforce this ordinance. However, even if the Board chooses to adopt the Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance, the housing and shelter options discussed above will continue to be a critical and necessary component of any efforts to reduce encampments in the waterways.

More information on Board meetings and agendas can be found on our website: <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/board-directors>. You may contact Assistant Operating Officer Mark Bilski at mbilski@valleywater.org with any follow-up questions. Thank you again for your message.

Sincerely,



Barbara Keegan
Director, District 2

C-24-0134

From: Sali Schille <sinolean@>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:46 AM
To: Barbara Keegan <BKeegan@valleywater.org>
Cc: Board Correspondence <boardcorrespondence@valleywater.org>
Subject: Re: Follow up post townhall

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Dear Ms. Keegan and Valley Water Board,

Many in the Willow Glen community received an email from the mayor today stating his desire to proceed with his proposal to move the encampment on willow and belong across the street on your fenced property.

From your website - The mission of Valley Water is to "provide Silicon Valley safe, **clean water** for a healthy life, **environment**, and economy." The first two Value Statements of Valley Water are " Valley Water is entrusted to serve the public by carrying out its mission **for the benefit of the community**" and "Valley Water is committed to providing excellent service to all **customers**."

As you know, on 04/17, the mayor called a townhall to give the community two options. Do nothing or move the unsanctioned encampment across the street onto your fenced property. You heard firsthand the community's response. It was a strong response and it loudly said "**No to the move onto your fenced property**".

There was a follow up survey (you know the Mayor is data-driven) asking the same question. The city has, so far, refused to share the survey results. I have spoken to many and I am confident the survey reflects the community sentiment from

the townhall – It was another **No to the move onto your fenced property on Lelong and Willow**. I am attaching a letter sent to the Mayor post-survey for your reference.

In addition, many in the community have asked, how can the water be safe to drink when human waste and rodent infestations (and the diseases they carry) are allowed next to the water? Why is ValleyWater allowing rodents to infest nearby houses? What is ValleyWater doing for the environment?

The community has seized any opportunity it had to voice its sentiment. When the opportunity for public comments was provided during your meeting on Friday 05/17, it voiced its support of your agenda considering banning encampments. This was really encouraging and it is also in line with ValleyWater's mission and values.

Given the above, how does Valley Water justify allowing the city to use the fenced area when it is clear that a) This is not benefiting the community, b) it is not providing excellent service to all customers and c) it will not prevent new/more homeless to take root once they are removed from the current area? How can be providing clean water for a healthy life and environment?

I speak for many in the community and we are encouraging Valley Water rescinds its offer to the city to use its fenced area for housing and proceed with its proposal to ban encampments. Please let us know **how we can support you** in continuing to be nationally recognized as a leading water resources management agency.

Looking forward to your reply.

Best Regards,

Sali Schille on behalf of the Minnesota Neighbors Group

On Sat, Apr 20, 2024 at 2:48 PM Barbara Keegan
<BKeegan@valleywater.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Schille,

I saw in your email that you questioned why Valley Water couldn't use Good Neighbor Funds to clean up the Lelong encampment. The answer is that we do use those funds for that purpose. The issue is that, unlike a City, we don't have police powers. That means we cannot remove

people from encampments even when it's on our property. We need the city of San Jose to remove people from the encampment and then we can go in and clean up the site using our Good Neighbor funds. So we are unable to do any remediation until the city has cleared the site.

I did state at the meeting that I think the City needs to have a plan to provide permanent housing. An authorized encampment should not be a long term solution.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions. I want to make sure that Valley Water can provide the public with accurate information.

Best regards,
Director Barbara Keegan
District 2

1. **Valley Water District:**

1. bkeegan@valleywater.org / Barbara Keegan represented the Water District last night

1. A question I plan to ask Barbara, "Why can't they use the Good Neighbor funds to help clean up the encampment?"

1.

<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/f5-good-neighbor-program-encampment-cleanup>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sali Schille** <sinolean@>

Date: Thu, Apr 18, 2024, 6:56 PM

Subject: Re: Follow up post townhall

To:

And one more call for action. Please don't hesitate to forward

Hi Neighbors,

I'm part of another list specific to my street, Prevost, and sent the below to them as a follow up from last night. Some are repeated to what was shared earlier but I've also included who you can email to oppose the encampment.

Here are the main bullet points:

1. **The city wants to move the encampment across the street to the Water District's paved, fenced area as a sanctioned encampment.**
 1. Additional services to support the encampment will be provided as well as military style tents and cots.
 1. Today they have clean hand stations, portable toilets, and trash pick up.
 2. There will be no background checks, no drug enforcement, no Megan's Law checks, no requirements to look for work.
 3. This would be an experiment for the city, as they have never managed a homeless tent community.
 4. **The city will pull additional encampments along the creek and move them to the sanctioned encampment on Lelong/Willow.**
 5. Planning is still underway so they have no idea of how many people would ultimately be moved to the area.
2. **What happens if they don't create a sanctioned encampment?**
 1. The mayor was wishy washy going from calling it "status quo" to "marginally better" to "it may take up to a year to abate the encampment".
 2. The City will start to be fined in 2025 for allowing pollution from homeless in the creek. Likely part of their desire to move the encampment across the street away from the creek but also

means they'd have to clean up the encampment or get fined:

1.

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/south-bay/san-jose-homeless-encampments-waterways/3469132/>

3. **Arguments from Mayor Mahan and Councilmember Dev Davis:**

1. There is nowhere for the homeless to go.
2. There is a federal law (Martin v City of Boise) that requires any city to offer an alternative bed to any homeless forced to move. Note this is being challenged by California and other states at the Supreme Court. Someone mentioned it was happening next week but doing a quick Google search, I couldn't confirm that.
3. Everyone has to do their part to help with this humanitarian crisis.

4. **News report with some video of the meeting:** <https://abc7news.com/san-jose-residents-voice-opinions-on-homeless-encampment-at-community-forum-with-mayor-matt-mahan/14686164/>

5. Stay informed:

1. You can join a **neighborhood Google Group** created by our neighbor Sali on Minnesota. She's working to pull together a way to communicate with the larger neighborhood versus just our street via this email group. Here's the link to join: <https://groups.google.com/g/minnesota-neighbor-group>

Ready to take action?

YOUR voice can make the difference. Email your thoughts on sanctioning an encampment to the following people:

1. **Valley Water District:**

1. bkeegan@valleywater.org / Barbara Keegan represented the Water District

last night

1. A question I plan to ask Barbara, "Why can't they use the Good Neighbor funds to help clean up the encampment?"

1.

<https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/f5-good-neighbor-program-encampment-cleanup>

2. **Mayor Matt Mahan:**

1. mayor@sanjoseca.gov
 2. Aden.kassaye@sanjoseca.gov / I would copy Aden on an email to the Mayor's alias. He works in the Mayor's office as "Council Community Relations Representative"
1. 408.535.4856

3. **Our City**

councilmember: dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov

4. **Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors -**

1. Our Supervisor: cindy.chavez@bos.sccgov.org
 1. I did not see Cindy in attendance last night and for those that remember Hope Village, she was not present to support our community or even defend the city plans.
2. Additional County Supervisors: Why email all of them? The County also needs to be responsible for what's happening in our neighborhoods. San Jose doesn't have enough power or influence to best support our communities. Clearly, areas like Los Gatos, Saratoga, and Mountain View are not taking their share of solving the homeless crisis.
 1. District 1 - district1@bos.sccgov.org
 2. District 3

- Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org
- 3. District 4
 - supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org
- 4. District 5
 - Supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 6:51 PM Sali Schille

<sinolean@ wrote:

Hi, Thanks for joining the Minnesota Neighbor list -
Since you joined after the conversation started, I pasted it below for your reference

Additionally the point was made that there is no way to keep drugs out of the monitored camps.

They also made the point that they would keep the current area clean IF they had somewhere to put them. However the whole Lelong area was populated in the last year, there is no guarantee that more homeless would not come and occupy the space.

Very disappointed with mayor mahan. I voted for him over Davis based on his willingness to solve this issue now he's adopting dev's stupid plan from 5 years ago.

He needs to do a better job,

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

Thanks Russell first for being there and for the great summary. I have taken off a couple of names from the distribution of folks who have left the neighborhood and asked to be removed. Couple of things I would like to add:

1. The city has never managed homeless in tents. So they are asking for us to acquiesce to an unproven housing concept on a

floodplain

2. The site would be used to consolidate many other encampments - We never received an answer on how many tents the site would accommodate. I am imagining 800 tents floating away in a flood.
3. The water board is tightening its enforcement to ensure trash doesn't get in the creek - The city could be fined up to \$60K/person per day?? for having homeless by the creek. Unlike last time, the waterboard offered the land until they are ready to renovate that area 2026. A neighbor made the point that renovation start date keeps getting delayed - meaning that once established, the encampment is likely to stay there possibly for next 10 years.
4. The Mayor is very concerned about us organizing similar to last time - he shared this in his opening remarks. He also seemed surprised at the turnout
5. The Mayor made it look like he was giving us a choice: Option 1 is status quo - Keep the encampment where it is . And Option 2: move it to the larger site across the street. Dev Davis in her wording made it sound like it was decided

I hope I am right but my assessment is that this is the mayor's decision and that by the end of evening, he was smart enough politically to see that this is a tight knit community that will not easily be convinced to do something that is not likely to be managed properly by the city way after his term ends.

I wish I had been able to take everyone's contact information at the meeting so we can keep each other informed. Feel free to let me know if you would like to add anyone to the list.

- Sali

<~WRD0001.jpg>

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 12:20 PM Russell Dover

<russell.dover@<redacted> wrote:

Belmont/Minnesota neighbors,

I had to leave by 6:40pm just as they were getting into neighborhood feedback.

For any not there here is a summary of what they are proposing.

1. The city has to clear encampments along the river or be fined by the state for clean water violations.
2. They do not want to simply clear the encampment under the 280/87 bridge on Willow with nowhere for the homeless to go, and have a policy that any homeless problem in a neighborhood has to be dealt with within that neighborhood and not shuffled to someone else.
3. They want to get our neighborhood to form a community of action (COA) with the city to support moving the tents and campers to the Valley Water lot diagonally from where it is now.
4. Essentially what Dev proposed for the Tiny Homes 3 years ago, but worse, as a tent slum.
5. They are trying to spin it as 'it will be orderly with tents in a row, toilets and garbage pick-up, but it will still be essentially the blight that is under the freeway but solves the budget problem for the city.

For anyone there in person, did I miss anything?

Thanks,
Russell Dover



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<Letter To Mayor.docx>