



ENCAMPMENT CONDITION GUIDELINES

This document provides guidance for individuals living in encampments and seeks to reduce harm toward these individuals, the surrounding community, and the environment. Valley Water recognizes that public encampments can have significant community health and safety issues. Valley Water prioritizes its encampment management and intervention activities using the below guidance.

THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Your shelter and belongings:

- Keep your shelter and belongings within a 12-foot x 12-foot area. Store personal belongings inside your shelter or no more than 2 feet outside of your tent while still within the 12' x 12' area.
- Tents should remain a minimum of 12 feet apart.
- Do not build any structures out of wood, metal, or other materials that can create a fire hazard or injury risk.
- Do not affix any object to a fence or tree for the purpose of building an encampment or any other structure.
- Keep all belongings off of Valley Water maintenance access roads and ramps at all times.
- Motor vehicles of any kind, including trailers, are prohibited along waterways, in riparian areas, or on Valley Water maintenance access roads and ramps, with the exception of Valley Water vehicles, emergency vehicles, or other vehicles expressly authorized by Valley Water.
- Storage or accumulation of combustible materials is prohibited.
- Fires, including warming or cooking fires, are not permitted on Valley Water lands.
- Do not dump trash, debris, and/or hazardous pollutants on Valley Water lands.
- Dispose of trash and food waste. To prevent vermin and pests, please keep food in closed containers and throw away food waste and scraps. To help assist with this, Valley Water staff can provide you with trash bags to help stash your trash.
- Do not accumulate, discard, or leave behind garbage, debris, unsanitary or hazardous materials, sewage, drug paraphernalia, improperly disposed of syringes, or other evidence of drug use on Valley Water lands.
- Do not keep, maintain, or accumulate multiple small vehicles, (e.g., bicycles, shopping carts, wagons) beyond what is needed for personal daily use.
- Except for repairs to your own bicycle, do not assemble, disassemble, sell, offer to sell, distribute, offer to distribute, or store multiple bicycles or bicycle parts.

Respect your neighbors:

- Do not engage in violent, harassing, or disruptive behavior.
- Do not possess, keep, or store any firearms, ammunition, or any other weapons.
- All pets and service/support animals must be kept under control at all times and must be leashed when Valley Water employees are present.
- Refrain from noisy activities that may unreasonably disturb others nearby, including using explosives, fireworks, loudspeakers, public address systems, sound amplifiers, radios, percussive instruments.
- Quiet hours must be observed from 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.
- Utilize provided portable lavatories and handwashing stations. Please call American Portables if the facilities need servicing at (866) 332-7471.

This document is intended to be a living document. It will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect new information, changes in circumstances, and the evolving needs of Valley Water.



Respect the natural environment:

- Do not dig, excavate, terrace soil, alter the ground or infrastructure, cause environmental damage or damage to vegetation or trees, or otherwise reconfigure or destroy the natural landscape.
- Do not affix any object to trees or other vegetation for the purpose of building an encampment or any other structure, or for any other reason.
- Do not erect bridges, or use objects, boulders, or trees to create a waterway crossing or obstruction.
- Do not harm or capture fish or wildlife.
- Do not move, alter, or damage boulders, fencing, gates, signs, maintenance access roads, or ramps.
- Do not discharge waste, garbage, refuse, debris, hazardous waste, or human or animal waste into a waterway, and do not store such waste in a manner that would reasonably result in its discharge into a waterway.

THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE ENFORCEMENT:

- Possessing or using firearms, ammunition, or fireworks
- Criminal activity including, but not limited to, theft, threats, acts of violence, and illegal drug sales or distribution
- Constructing encampments out of wood, metal, or other materials that can create a fire hazard or injury risk
- Destroying property or the natural environment, or modifying or vandalizing infrastructure (e.g., graffiti, digging, damaging trees and other vegetation)
- Dumping trash, debris, and/or hazardous pollutants
- Dumping of materials or liquids into waterways or that otherwise affect water quality
- Keeping or maintaining non-operable or immobile vehicles, or unregistered or expired vehicles
- Trespassing or dumping on adjacent properties
- Noisy activities, that unreasonably disturb others nearby, including using explosives, loudspeakers, public address systems, sound amplifiers, and radios
- Tapping into electrical or water utility lines

Observations or complaints regarding an encampment will be addressed with the person(s) living in the encampment where complaints or observations occur. **Failure to comply with these Guidelines may result in cleanup and removal of encampments, removal of items and debris, impoundment of vehicle(s), removal of any non-compliant person(s), citations, or monetary fines. Criminal activities can result in arrest.**

Although Valley Water may still need to intervene for other reasons not stated above, sticking to these guidelines provides straightforward parameters for encampment occupants to follow to be considered Low Priority for encampment removal or other interventions.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS: Call the Santa Clara County Suicide Hotline at 988 or (800) 704-0900, or Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services at (855) 278-4204 or text 'RENEW' to 741741.