



Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance One-Year Implementation Update

Environmental Creek Cleanup Committee
January 20, 2026

Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

- Prohibits camping and related activities in areas where Valley Water owns or manages land
- Implemented to protect water quality and environmental and ecological resources and to enhance Valley Water field staff safety
- Establishment of designated Water Resources Protection Zones

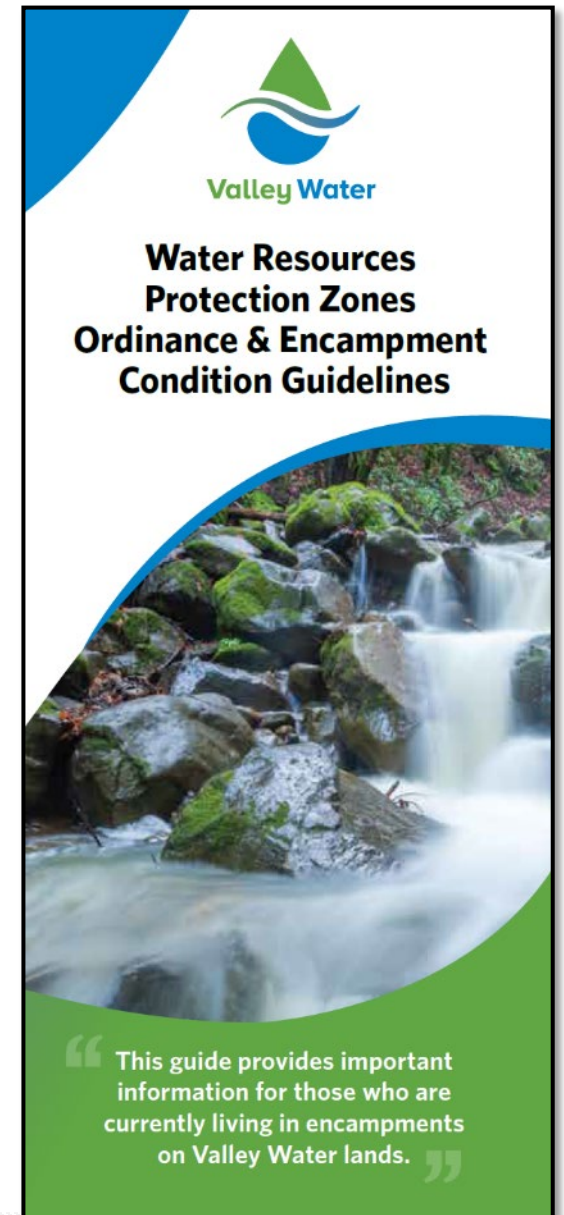
Ordinance Implementation Plan

- Outlined phased implementation with progressive enforcement (January – December 2025)
- Established enforcement priority levels (High and Low Priority)
- Adherence to Encampment Condition Guidelines enables encampments to be designated as low-priority for enforcement
- ECCC to evaluate outcomes at completion of 2025



2025 Ordinance Implementation Activities

- Developed education and outreach communication materials
- Administered 3 nonprofit outreach contracts to provide on-site education to unsheltered individuals
- Coordinated with city, county, and law enforcement partners
- Convened monthly Ordinance Adaptive Implementation Team (OAIT) meetings to receive ongoing feedback on Ordinance implementation
- Developed new Encampment Inspection & Response Protocol + Encampment Inspection Report to guide encampment management
- Emphasized education and voluntary compliance with Encampment Condition Guidelines across multiple visits with unsheltered individuals
 - High Priority violations → immediate enforcement
 - Low Priority violations → education + follow-up



Implementation Outcomes

- Ordinance successfully implemented through progressive, education-first approach as outlined in Implementation Plan
- Expanded outreach engagement via nonprofit partners and Ordinance Adaptive Implementation Team (OAIT) feedback
- Reduced environmental, health, and safety risks at high-impact encampments using the Encampment Inspection & Response Protocol + Encampment Inspection Report
- Established 66 miles of WRPZs (of 333 miles of waterways owned or managed by Valley Water throughout SCC)
- Balanced environmental protection with compassion for unsheltered individuals without safe relocation options
- Achieved primary intent: protect water quality and riparian habitat as well as health and safety for staff and the public



Next Steps

Encampment Management

- Maintain encampment cleanup operations under WRPZ Ordinance with ongoing ECCC oversight
- Continue managing harmful impacts and addressing re-encampment within established WRPZs

Broader Housing Solutions

- Leverage AB 1469 authority to support broader housing solutions within Santa Clara County
- Utilize Valley Water land for housing partnerships (temporary, no-cost; e.g., Cherry Ave EIH)
- Continue collaborating with San José and Gilroy on temporary housing/safe sleeping sites



QUESTIONS

