



# Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

Valley Water Board of Directors  
November 26, 2024

# Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

- Establishes “water resources protection zones” to reduce encampments and prevent re-encampments along creeks and waterways
- Ordinance goals:
  - Protect water resources, endangered species, riparian habitat of creeks and waterways, and other ecological resources
  - Protect Valley Water investments in environmental mitigation projects
  - Support and improve the safety of Valley Water’s field operations staff



# Response to Stakeholder Input

- Stakeholders raised concerns about Ordinance implementation, including lack of places for relocation and possible criminalization of unsheltered individuals
- Revised Ordinance, proposed Ordinance Implementation Plan, and Encampment Condition Guidelines address stakeholder concerns and incorporate recommended ideas and solutions



# Response to Stakeholder Input: Ordinance

## Stakeholder recommendations for Ordinance implementation:

- Create an implementation plan
- Have a pilot and/or phased implementation and evaluate impacts and effectiveness over time
- Target and prioritize problem areas
- Ordinance should not harm or criminalize unsheltered people living in encampments
- Ordinance should not be implemented until safe relocation sites are available

## Valley Water's Ordinance Implementation Plan:

- Provides a framework and timeline for implementation, including education, review, monitoring, and evaluation
- Establishes High Priority enforcement level: 1) ensure VW facility access, and 2) address most harmful environmental, health, safety, and community impacts
- Includes non-harm principles, progressive enforcement approach, and Encampment Condition Guidelines to help avoid violations and be deemed Low Priority for enforcement

# Response to Stakeholder Input: Solutions to Encampment Issues and Unsheltered Homelessness

## Stakeholder Ideas

Valley Water staff should:

- Partner with nonprofits and other agencies to solve homelessness
- Build positive relationships with unhoused people and receive sensitivity, compassion, and de-escalation training
- Provide porta potties and wash stations at encampments
- Use its resources to provide housing and services to prevent homelessness under Assembly Bill (AB) 1469, including offering Valley Water properties

## Valley Water Current and Planned Efforts

- Outreach and offers of available housing, shelter, and services in collaboration with City of San José and County of Santa Clara
- Mandatory field staff training on “Calming and De-escalation Strategies”
- Portable Toilet Facilities Program for toilets and wash stations along creeks
- AB 1469 efforts: exploring use of Valley Water-owned properties for potential temporary and supportive housing in partnership with nonprofits and local government agencies

# Ordinance Implementation

- **Ordinance Implementation Plan** includes stakeholder education and outreach, implementation timeline, enforcement priority levels, and progressive enforcement approach
- **Encampment Condition Guidelines** provide basic parameters for unsheltered individuals living in encampment to avoid violations that could result in high priority enforcement



# Valley Water’s Approach to Addressing Urgent, Immediate-Term Challenges Related to Encampments



# Valley Water's Response Strategy for Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments

**Valley Water Board of Directors  
and Environmental Creek  
Cleanup Committee:**  
Leadership and Oversight

**Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood  
Protection Program Project F5  
Good Neighbor Program:** Collaborative  
Encampment Cleanup and Safety Measures

**Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance and  
Implementation Plan:** Priority Cleanup Areas,  
Encampment Condition Guidelines, Education and  
Outreach, Progressive Enforcement and Implementation

**Shelter and Housing Solutions under Assembly Bill 1469:**  
Valley Water-owned properties to be used for potential  
temporary and permanent supportive housing in collaboration  
with nonprofit organizations and local government agencies





# QUESTIONS



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