

## Max Overland

---

**Subject:** Revised Water Resources Protection Zone Ordinance - Toothless

**From:** Elva Wilson <[elvawilson10@gmail.com](mailto:elvawilson10@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2024 10:15 PM

**To:** Jim Beall <[JBeall@valleywater.org](mailto:JBeall@valleywater.org)>; Rebecca Eisenberg <[Reisenberg@valleywater.org](mailto:Reisenberg@valleywater.org)>; Richard Santos <[rsantos@valleywater.org](mailto:rsantos@valleywater.org)>; Tony Estremera <[TEstremera@valleywater.org](mailto:TEstremera@valleywater.org)>; Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>

**Cc:** David Cohen <[david.cohen@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:david.cohen@sanjoseca.gov)>; Privitt, Mara <[Mara.Privitt@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Mara.Privitt@sanjoseca.gov)>; [beautifysj@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:beautifysj@sanjoseca.gov); City of San Jose Mayor's Office <[mayor@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayor@sanjoseca.gov)>; Ngo, Stephen <[Stephen.Ngo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Stephen.Ngo@sanjoseca.gov)>; Mike Kraus <[mkraus94@gmail.com](mailto:mkraus94@gmail.com)>; Sandra Harrison Kay <[writeousmom.com@gmail.com](mailto:writeousmom.com@gmail.com)>; robertmickanen <[robertmickanen@yahoo.com](mailto:robertmickanen@yahoo.com)>; Sharon Root <[onthegooo@gmail.com](mailto:onthegooo@gmail.com)>; E. Melson <[ermelson@gmail.com](mailto:ermelson@gmail.com)>; Joy Bettencourt <[joy\\_bettencourt@yahoo.com](mailto:joy_bettencourt@yahoo.com)>; Tom Wilson <[wilson2000t@att.net](mailto:wilson2000t@att.net)>; [sandeepptodar@gmail.com](mailto:sandeepptodar@gmail.com); Ty and Gina Greaves <[tgreaves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tgreaves@sbcglobal.net)>; Natalie Lopez <[NATcLOPEZ@gmail.com](mailto:NATcLOPEZ@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Revised Water Resources Protection Zone Ordinance - Toothless

**\*\*\* 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. \*\*\***

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors,

I attended the July 9th public meeting where Mr Beall and Ms Eisenberg vehemently opposed and blocked the original ordinance. I am appalled and deeply disappointed that following the July 9 meeting, the Santa Clara Valley Water District had several non-public meetings to gather input from homeless advocacy groups, from the nonprofit industrial complex that lobbies for the homeless, and from other unidentified "stakeholders" for the purpose of revising the ordinance. This input resulted in your staff making the ordinance toothless and useless. Was there equal residential community input?

You have forgotten the interests of those who elected you, and you have forgotten your mission of protecting our waterways and the property owners who are threatened when flooding occurs. I briefly reviewed the summary posted on your website of your "Listening Session" following the July 9 meeting. It is apparent that the needs of the community were not represented in your Listening Session.

Your revised ordinance will continue to allow the homeless to remain in encampments which have taken over public spaces and are polluting our waterways. With the revised ordinance, homeless will be cited, or offered community service work, if they chase your staff (forget the public) with machetes, or brandish firearms/explosives, or hold amplified concerts in their encampments. Is this a joke? What am I missing?

The mantra from your Listening Session with homeless advocates and the non-profit industrial complex is HOUSING FIRST before ENCAMPMENT ABATEMENTS. At the recent City of SJ Neighborhoods Conference the housing director enthusiastically announced 100-200 Tiny Home housing units coming onboard next year for the 6,000+ homeless in San Jose. Do the math. This approach will continue to fail miserably.

PLEASE HEAR THIS: The voters in California shot down Proposition 5 which would have lowered the threshold to approve bonds for low income housing. "Housing first" is not happening. Let's get real. Voters are tired of the black hole that is the place where our tax dollars go to die a fruitless, quick death at the hands of the homeless advocates and the nonprofit industrial complex that lobbies for the homeless.

Please don't ignore the will of the people: Proposition 36, which was intended to reduce mentally ill homelessness, drug addiction and retail theft (according to the ballot title) passed overwhelmingly. According to SCC Registrar of Voters data, in Santa Clara County alone, Proposition 36 passed with 69.4% of the vote. Voters have spoken, and we are fed up with the drug addicted and mentally ill homeless who have overrun our public spaces.

11/26/2024

The City of Fremont just banned RV parking in all residential areas. Milpitas already sends their RV encampments to SJ. Sacramento County just banned homeless encampments in public spaces, including parks, without offering a shelter bed. Where will these homeless people go? Likely to the cities and counties where they are given free rein and accommodated with unfettered camping and services. As more and more cities and counties outright ban encampments, the homeless will migrate to the sanctuary City of San Jose. Instead of San Jose having the 4th highest homeless population in the entire United States, are we aiming to be number 1? It's no wonder schools are closing, as families with young children flee this City.

Insane cycle of cleaning up encampments: This Water District ordinance is useless and toothless, only allowing your staff to carry out required maintenance. Good luck with keeping up with the trash and bio-waste the homeless generate. Us volunteers who help keep the waterways clear of trash have our limits. We won't continue to volunteer our time if we see the clean-ups as merely band-aid solutions, without any commitment from government entities to curtail the generation of homeless trash.

The City of San Jose's sanctuary homeless policies consist of an endless cycle of cleaning up encampments, but not protecting the progress by establishing "no return" encampment zones. It is a massive waste of our tax dollars. Taxpayers are done with funding failure!

In my neighborhood at Penitencia Creek Rd and Piedmont Rd (at Penitencia Crk Bridge), we have had a long-term, homeless encampment in the creek under the bridge (see pictures). The homeless blocked the trail underneath the bridge by boarding up one entrance and covering up the other entrance with tarp. The encampment made the trail unusable and unsafe for nearby residents and their children. This encampment amassed large quantities of trash, piles of junk and human waste destined for polluting the creek and neighborhood as rain waters rise. I've lived in this neighborhood over 35 years, and we have had flooding on Penitencia Creek Road multiple times in this area.

This Penitencia Creek Bridge encampment was finally cleaned up on November 8, 2024. (see pictures). Two weeks later, the encampment had returned, with twice the amount of homeless who are now quickly accumulating more trash (see pictures).

With the Water District's watered-down ordinance and the City of San Jose's ineffective abatement policies, how will you ever meet the 2025 SF Regional Bay Water District ultimatum to clear the waterways of pollution generated by homeless?

Elva Wilson  
Berryessa Community



OMAS

2700

2010



MIKE SHERI



buka

buka

OMMA SIM





THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK