

Max Overland

Subject: Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance No. 24 - Nov 26, 2024 Meeting

From: Daniel Hansen <dhansen@mh-llp.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2024 9:45 AM

To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>; Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>

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RE: Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance No. 24

Dear Board Members,

We live on Edgewood Drive in Palo Alto along the San Francisquito Creek and are writing *in support* of the proposed Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance. The residents along Edgewood Drive have been living with unhoused encampments in the creek for years, along with the human waste, garbage, noise, open fires and crime they occasion. The proposed ordinance strikes the correct balance of notice and firm but necessary response to preserve the riparian corridor and environmental resources of the creek and prevent public nuisance and fire risk.

We assume the reference to “law enforcement” in the ordinance would include local police, such as from Palo Alto. If not, please clarify which law enforcement would have authority.

Two suggestions:

1. JPA. Because San Francisquito Creek borders San Mateo County and specifically the cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, in addition to this ordinance, the Board should take steps to form a joint powers authority to address encampments in the creek or add this to the current San Francisquito Creek JPA. A solution on the border requires a cross-jurisdictional approach.
2. Fencing. Preventing encampments in San Francisquito Creek along Edgewood is simple matter of fencing. While access on the Palo Alto side is restricted by homes, the East Palo Alto side has no barriers to entry, and anyone can walk into the creek and set up camp. The Water District should require fencing on the East Palo Alto side of the creek as a condition to its contracts for maintenance and flood control.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hansen

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