

Max Overland

Subject: Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance No. 24-

From: Irv Port <isport1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>
Cc: Irving Rappaport <isport1@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance No. 24-

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Dear Santa Clara County Water District Board Members,

We live on Edgewood Drive in Palo Alto across the street from the San Francisquito Creek and are writing **in support** of the proposed Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance No. 24. The residents along the Creek side of Edgewood Drive have been living with un-housed 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, clarification of which law enforcement agency/s would have authority.

Here Are A Couple Suggestions we believe will more completely address the issues raised:

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 also include steps to form a Joint Powers Authority to address encampments in the creek or add this to the current San Francisquito Creek JPA. We strongly believe a complete and sensible solution on the border **requires a cross-jurisdictional approach.**
2. **Fencing.** Preventing encampments in San Francisquito Creek along Edgewood is a 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. It would make sense for The Water District to **require fencing on the East Palo Alto side of the creek as a condition to its contracts for maintenance and flood control.**

Sincerely,

Irving and Lesley Rappaport
Edgewood Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94303

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