

November 26, 2024

Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

We represent the Chambers of Commerce that promote the interests of our local business community in Santa Clara County, and we write to express our support of the proposed Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance.

Keeping our creeks clean benefits everyone—neighborhoods and local businesses alike. Due to increasing safety issues and damage from fires, vehicle traffic, trash and biohazardous materials, debris and pollutants, dangerous structures, and bank excavations along our waterways, important programs managed by Valley Water that mitigate the environmental impacts of critical stream maintenance projects in our neighborhoods and near our businesses have been delayed—or under certain circumstances, have been abandoned altogether. Valley Water’s flood risk reduction projects, and the people, businesses, and neighborhoods they protect, are at risk if this work cannot be completed.

Encampments of unsheltered people along waterways are both a human and an environmental tragedy, causing deaths and negative health outcomes for unsheltered individuals. The health and safety of those utilizing riparian corridors for shelters are at risk from unhygienic and unsafe living conditions and frequent fires, as well as exposure to the elements. Waterways are also often prone to flash floods, causing rapidly rising water that is a serious hazard to unsheltered people living in the channel. Any delays to taking action, especially as the rainy winter season approaches, could mean life-threatening situations for many seeking refuge along the creeks.

Our communities and businesses cannot thrive without addressing this ongoing public safety, environmental, and humanitarian crisis of homelessness happening along creeks, waterways, and surrounding areas. We strongly support the establishment of an ordinance to address these issues as well as Valley Water’s efforts to work with municipal partners to find solutions to address unsheltered homelessness, and therefore, we urge you to adopt the proposed WRPZ Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Leah Toeniskoetter

Leah Toeniskoetter
President & CEO
San Jose Chamber of Commerce

Ken Johnson

Ken Johnson
Executive Director
Campbell Chamber of Commerce

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danny Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Danny Mitchell – President / CEO Gilroy Chamber of Commerce

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November 21, 2024

Attn: Genevieve Yip
Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

We represent the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (of Silicon Valley) that promotes the interests of our local business community in Santa Clara County, and we write to express our support of the proposed Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Duran".

James Duran
Director, Public Policy
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley
408 893-4905
Jamesduran44@me.com