

Michele King

Subject: FW: To: Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Water District

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To: Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Water District
From: Jim Beall, Director, District Four
Re: Valley Water's Approach to Addressing Encampments of Unhoused People Along Waterways and on Valley Water Property (1/18/2023, item: 2.1)

Recommendations:

1. Proceed with a District Act amendment to address encampments of unhoused people separately, or in conjunction with a proposed District Act bill.
2. Establish an intergovernmental discussion with Santa Clara County, city of San Jose and other cities to develop a strategy. Consider creating an entity to facilitate this discussion.
3. Consider district owned properties that could be used for the development of housing and create an inventory of those properties. Discuss with the county and/or cities using those properties for housing developments. Include the possibility of trading properties for parcels that are needed by the water district in more directly fulfilling its mission.

Discussion:

Santa Clara Valley Water District's stated mission is seriously compromised by pervasive, ongoing encampments of unhoused people. The special district laws creating the District are inadequate to address the issue. Straight forward, clear, enabling legislation can be proposed to allow the District to assist in development, or providing for, emergency, transitional, or permanent housing for persons unhoused and living within the domain of the District.

The consequence of such action will allow the District to participate and receive state funds, and assist other local governments in fulfilling their obligations to provide affordable housing. (see HSC 50079). This will also reduce District operating and capital costs by having a coordinated strategy to systematically reduce homelessness overall.

To avoid this direction will put the District's mission at risk by slowing down capital projects, thus increasing costs and delaying results promised to the taxpayers. Avoiding this action will result in increased clean-ups, public safety problems and continued environmental degradation

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