



Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

Valley Water Board of Directors
July 9, 2024

Proposed WRPZ Ordinance

- Establishes “water resources protection zones” (WRPZ) to reduce encampments and prevent re-encampments along creeks and waterways
- Prohibits other activities that negatively impact the environment, Valley Water staff safety, and surrounding communities
- Ordinance goals:
 - Protect water resources, endangered species, riparian habitat of creeks and waterways, and other ecological resources
 - Protect Valley Water investments in environmental mitigation
 - Support and improve the safety of Valley Water’s field operations staff

Collaboration on Solutions to Homelessness

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- Valley Water is committed to using its environmental stewardship power to protect our waterways in collaboration with cities and the County as they fulfill their housing and social service roles
- Holistic solutions to homelessness remain in progress; Valley Water will continue to collaborate with governmental and private partners to develop housing or shelter alternatives
- Long-term solutions are in development; but Valley Water must act now to fulfill its obligations as an environmental steward and to ensure the safety of field staff

Ordinance Enforcement

- Intent of WRPZ Ordinance is not criminalization, but rather relocation of encampments or cessation of prohibited activities to minimize water quality impacts, protect riparian habitat, and ensure field operations staff safety
- Valley Water's educational approach will include:
 - Issuance of a warning
 - Information on activities prohibited by the Ordinance
 - Help identifying Valley Water lands where Ordinance prohibitions apply
 - An opportunity to relocate or self-remedy any violations
- Even if escalated enforcement is warranted, the prosecutor may still exercise discretion to specify that an offense is merely an infraction rather than a misdemeanor

QUESTIONS



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