

Michele King

Subject: FW: Proposed Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

From: Ed Maurer <emaurer@scu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Barbara Keegan <BKeegan@valleywater.org>
Cc: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>
Subject: Proposed Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance

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Dear Director Keegan and Board Members,

As someone who has worked in the water field my whole professional life, and has organized creek cleanups for about 20 years, I am keenly aware of the issues of urban pollution and the added stress encampments of unhoused people place on the quality of our waterways. I also understand the complications this creates for Valley Water staff.

Approximately 10,000 unhoused people in our county have been priced out of safe and secure shelter by our ruthless and uncontrolled [housing](#) market. They have few options, and have out of necessity tended to congregate in the few accessible spaces, largely along waterways. However, until we come together to provide the services needed to allow everyone, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, to live in dignity, we should not be creating policies that make life even more precarious and difficult for them. The proposed ordinance does not have adequate assurances that the lives of these county residents will be respected. Unless we can guarantee safe and secure housing for those affected, a policy like the proposed ordinance will have cruel and inhumane impacts. Please do not support this in its current form.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.
Ed

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