

I am a Cupertino Residents, sharing my property line with Water District lands along Regnart Creek. We are aware that the district is developing a trail policy framework and trail design tool kit. We'd like to request that the board strives to ensure trail user safety, as well as the privacy & security of adjacent residential properties when developing this policy.

Santa Clara county Inter Jurisdictional Trail design guideline 1999 sets the standards for trail designs in the county. The Water District, along with 15 cities including Cupertino, are party to this design guideline. These guidelines set standards for Trail width and minimum setbacks from residential dwelling units and from private fences. This established criteria should be adhered to when developing trail design policy.

In 2018, the Water District worked with the city of San Jose to develop a Trail design tool kit for the city that sets the minimum setback of five feet from residential fences to public trails. However, we recently noticed from Jan 7th meeting minutes between the city of Cupertino and the water district, that the consultant proposed a one foot set back to property fences and no set back from bridges. This is unacceptable and should not even be entertained by the district.

We do not want individual cities to set a precedence by circumventing important standards that protect residences sharing the property line with the water district, and also compromise trail user safety.

So, when retrofitting trails into existing dense urban and suburban neighborhoods like ours, where 82 homes are affected within just a three-quarter mile long portion of the creek, we request the water district to not only look at maintenance operations, but also be considerate to adjacent residents, keeping in mind their safety, security, privacy, and desire for peaceful living.

When the water district is developing the Trail policy framework and entering into agreements with cities, please ensure that minimum setbacks from private property fences to public trails, and other trail width guidelines, are followed.

Our request is simple. Please just be a good neighbor, and follow established guidelines and requirements. Don't shirk these responsibilities just to appease the desires of private consultants and developers.

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