



SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NON-AGENDA

October 03, 2025

Board Policy EL-7 Communication and Support to the Board
The BAOs shall inform and support the Board in its work.

Page	<u>CEO BULLETIN & NEWSLETTERS</u>
	CEO Bulletin: None
	<u>BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</u>
	BMR/IBMR Weekly Reports:
3	Memo from Marta Lugo, Deputy Operating Officer, to Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs, providing a letter from Vice Chair Richard Santos and Director Shiloh Ballard to Mayor Lisa Gillmor regarding the recent Mayor-City Manager Meeting.
	<u>INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	Board Correspondence Weekly Report:
8	Email from Swanee Edwards to Director Varela, dated 09/24/25, inquiring about cleanup services at Llagas Creek. C-25-0127
9	Email from Litko Chan to the board, dated 09/26/26, sharing an email from the City of San Jose regarding neighborhood concerns with the encampment on Los Alamitos Creek. C-25-0128
12	Letter from Karla Nemeth, Director at the Department of Water Resources, to Melanie Richardson and Chair Estremera, dated 09/15/25, relaying that the governor is fully committed to advancing the Delta Conveyance Project. C-25-0129
14	Email from Ed Tewes, dated 9/26/25, to Director Varela requesting a tour of Anderson Dam by the Civil Grand Jury. C-25-0130
16	Letter from Doug Peterson, dated 9/17/25, to Chair Estremera withdrawing formal complaints submitted on 2/13/25 and 3/4/25.
	<u>OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE</u>
18	Letter from Chair Estremera to Peter Drekmeier, dated 09/25/25, responding to their inquiry regarding the substantial difference between Valley Water and SFPUC drought planning.
19	Email from Director Beall to Malcolm Borderlon, dated 09/25/25, responding to their inquiry about the encampment under the Graystone Lane bridge at Alamitos Creek.
24	Email from Director Beall to Jay Kidambi, dated 09/25/25, responding to their inquiry about the encampment under the Graystone Lane bridge at Alamitos Creek.
28	Letter to Karla Nemeth from Chair Estremera, dated 09/29/25, thanking her for her recent correspondence and continued leadership in advancing the Delta Conveyance Project.

29	Email from Director Varela to Ed Tewes, dated 9/30/25, responding to his request for a tour of Anderson Dam by the Civil Grand Jury.
-----------	--

TO: Rachael Gibson, Chief of External Affairs**FROM:** Marta Lugo, Deputy
Administrative Officer**SUBJECT:** Letter from Vice Chair Richard Santos and
Director Shiloh Ballard to Mayor Lisa
Gillmor regarding Recent Mayor-City
Manager Meeting**DATE:** September 22, 2025

Attached to this memorandum is the letter from Vice Chair Richard Santos and Director Shiloh Ballard to Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor regarding the recent Mayor-City Manager meeting.

The letter was sent out via email and postal mail on September 15, 2025.



Marta Lugo, Deputy Administrative Officer
Offices of Government Relations and REDI

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Gillmor
Mayor, City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Mayor Gillmor,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), we would like to thank you for the recent meeting with you and the City of Santa Clara's executive leadership team to discuss key Valley Water projects, legislative policy priorities, and other water-related issues impacting both the City of Santa Clara and the broader region. The City has been a strong partner to Valley Water, and we greatly value our collaborative relationship.

We appreciated the opportunity to share the latest developments on the Purified Water Program. We are especially grateful for your expressed support of purified water and for your commitment to continued collaboration with Valley Water. Your leadership is critical as we work together to advance this important regional priority. Our staff will remain engaged with City staff to ensure alignment as these efforts move forward.

We also appreciated the discussion regarding implementation of the Water Resources Protection Zones (WRPZ) Ordinance. As part of that conversation, City Manager Grogan shared that the City is evaluating potential sites for interim housing or a designated RV safe parking program. Valley Water has similarly reviewed our land holdings and, unfortunately, we do not own any property within the City of Santa Clara that would be suitable for these purposes. However, we will remain attentive to multijurisdictional partnership, potentially with the County, and will be in touch should such opportunities arise.

In addition, we are grateful for your recognition of the importance of completing Phase I of the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project, particularly given its proximity to the San Jose–Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility.

We were especially appreciative of your suggestion that Valley Water present at a future Santa Clara City Council meeting. Residents frequently ask about water rates, and we agree that a presentation will provide a meaningful opportunity to share an overview of our work and demonstrate how ratepayer dollars are invested. Our staff has been working closely with the City Clerk, and the presentation is now scheduled for October 21, 2025. We sincerely value the opportunity to engage directly with the full Council and community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[John L. Varela](#) (District 1)

[Shiloh Ballard](#) (District 2)

[Richard P. Santos](#) / Vice Chair (District 3)

[Jim Beall](#) (District 4)

[Nai Hsueh](#) (District 5)

[Tony Estremera](#) / Chair (District 6)

[Rebecca Eisenberg](#) (District 7)

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

[Melanie Richardson, P.E.](#)

CLERK OF THE BOARD

[Candice Kwok-Smith](#)

The Honorable Lisa Gillmor
Page 2
September 15, 2025

Once again, thank you for your leadership, support, and continued partnership. We appreciate you making the time to discuss these important issues, and we look forward to our continued partnership.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Ms. Marta Lugo, Deputy Administrative Officer for External Affairs, at (408) 630-2237 or by email at mlugo@valleywater.org.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Santos
Vice Chair, District 3



Shiloh Ballard
Director, District 2

cc: Board of Directors (7), Melanie Richardson, Jovan Grogan

gy:sg
0910a-l

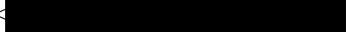
Board Correspondence (open)

Correspond No	Rec'd By District	Rec'd By COB	Letter To	Letter From	Description	Disposition	BAO/ Chief	Staff	Draft Response Due Date	Draft Response Submitted	Writer Ack. Sent	Final Response Due Date
C-25-0127	09/24/25	09/25/25	All	SWANEE EDWARDS	Email from Swanee Edwards to Director Varela, dated 09/24/25, inquiring about cleanup services at Llagas Creek.	Refer to Staff	Hakes	Codianne	10/03/25	-	n/a	10/09/25

INCOMING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: Llagas Creek
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:29:38 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Swanee Edwards <swanee@garlic.com>
To: 'John Varela' <jvarela@valleywater.org>; 'JOHN L. VARELA' <jlwarela@aol.com>
Cc: 'Gary Jensen' <>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 02:11:15 PM PDT
Subject: Llagas Creek

Hi John,

As you know, Llagas Creek runs behind the Woodland Estates Clubhouse. I have been told that the City owns the strip of land from the top of the creek bank, to Woodlands property line. Last year's storms left a lot of debris in the creek bed that is a very real fire concern for our board and management. Since we are aware that we need habitat for wildlife, and other concerns, we need help!

Who would I contact at Valley Water about our concerns? Does Valley Water offer clean up services for the Creeks you own? There is enough debris in the creek that it also increases flooding in the winter time, although it has improved since the flood control project was completed. So if you can direct us to the proper person or department at Valley Water that could come out, meet with our board member Gary Jensen, take a look at our concerns in the creek, we would be very grateful!

Gary is copied on this e-mail. He is our point person for this issue.

My best to you!

Swanee

From: [Litko C](#)
To: [Olympia Williams](#)
Cc: beall@valleywater.org; [Anthony Gonzalez](#); [Mark Bilski](#); [Malcolm Bordelon](#); [Joe Del Rio](#); [Janice Rose](#); [Julia Alloggiamento](#); [Ron Mak](#); [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: Re: Alamitos Creeks homeless encampment
Date: Friday, September 26, 2025 2:46:57 PM

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

Resend this email with correct “board@valleywater.org” email address

On Sep 26, 2025, at 2:38 PM, Litko C [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Olympia and Anthony,

Thank you for your attention and prompt response. We have a large group of neighbors sharing the same concerns. Several of them are also copied on this email thread.

We believe the encampment issue might have been addressed at one point. However, this location under the bridge on Graystone Lane seems to be a hot spot due to various reasons. If we can maintain this channel of communication in case of future re-occurrence, we will greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your efforts of keeping our city and our community beautiful and safe!

Thanks

Litko Chan

On Sep 26, 2025, at 10:54 AM, Williams, Olympia
<Olympia.Williams@sanjoseca.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Chan and thank you for your email. The area that is referenced below is within the City of San Jose's jurisdiction. The BeautifySJ Encampment Management Team has tentatively scheduled this site for abatement in mid-October.

If you have additional questions, you can reach out to Anthony Gonzalez, I have added him to this email, at Anthony.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov

-Olympia

Olympia Williams, MPA

Deputy Director | Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
Department
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 9th Floor
San José, CA 95133
Office: 408.535.3571
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)
<Outlook-City of Sa.png>

From: Litko C [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 7:35 PM
To: beall@valleywater.org <beall@valleywater.org>; board@valleywater.or <board@valleywater.or>
Cc: Williams, Olympia <Olympia.Williams@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Alamos Creek homeless encampment

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from racer_951@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Valley Water board members / Jim Beall

“My name is Litko Chan, a resident in the Graystone area, abutting the Alamos Creek area of Valley Water district 4. There is a homeless camp entrenched under the Graystone Lane bridge for a protracted period. This presence is a danger to our children who cross the bridge daily to and from school, a serious sanitation risk to our watershed and a risk to the public at large. Weather is getting cooler. In the past, fires have been started under the bridge. The mayor’s office indicated this area is Valley Water jurisdiction and I expect

nothing less than Valley Water take responsibility and remove it immediate

Thanks

Litko Chan

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



September 15, 2025

Melanie Richardson, Interim CEO
Tony Estremera, Board President
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expy
San Jose, CA 95118
mrichardson@valleywater.org
tonye@legalaidssociety.org

Dear Ms. Richardson & Mr. Estremera:

The Governor remains fully committed to advancing the Delta Conveyance Project. It moves forward as planned.

In the spirit of the Governor's legislative proposals, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority continues to fine tune project designs to optimize efficiencies, reduce cost, reduce delay, and minimize uncertainty and risk. The water agencies identified the importance of using the next few years to develop additional information needed to decide on project implementation, and this need remains unchanged. We will be prepared to present an updated cost estimate and financing plan before you consider implementation in 2027. As you may recall, our planned schedule is to conclude major permitting activities by the end of 2026.

We continue to move expeditiously through the State Water Resources Control Board's hearing process for a water right change-in-point-of-diversion application. We are set to submit a Delta Plan consistency determination to the Delta Stewardship Council this fall as planned, with a comprehensive record demonstrating that the project is consistent with all relevant policies of the Delta Plan. Your agency will be well-positioned to decide in 2027 whether to invest further in the project.

Overwhelming science shows that sea level rise, more intense drought, and more powerful storms threaten State Water Project deliveries with both catastrophic and gradual long-term disruption. By allowing for additional high-flow diversions, the Delta Conveyance Project would recoup some of those losses and secure the stability of SWP supplies. Lost opportunities continue to amass, with more than 2-million-acre feet missed in the past four years. This missed opportunity to collect high flow water will no doubt continue in coming years.

As we work together on matters of affordability, we will have abundant opportunities to build in contingencies to mitigate the Legislature's missed opportunity to cut red tape. On a parallel track, the state is committed to continue working to make the State Water Project more affordable overall.

I have every confidence in our path, and I look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karla Nemeth in black ink.

Karla Nemeth
Director

cc: Jennifer Pierre, GM of the State Water Contractors
Carrie Buckman, Office Manager, Delta Conveyance Office
John Yarbrough, Deputy Director, State Water Project

From: [Candice Kwok-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Directors](#)
Subject: FW: tour? briefing?
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:22:02 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ed Tewes <etewes.CGJ@scscourt.org>
Date: September 26, 2025 at 2:48:09 PM PDT
To: John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>
Subject: tour? briefing?

*** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

John: I am currently serving on the Civil Grand Jury and we are always looking for opportunities to receive a general background briefing from agencies and visit key sites.

Ten or so of my colleagues will be in the Morgan Hill area on Monday, October 6 and wonder if we could visit the Anderson Dam construction project. Your agency could describe the function of the dam and reservoir in flood control and water supply, and even provide a general orientation to the other responsibilities of the District.

I realize that this is very late notice, but we could be available for 90 minutes or so at 1pm on October 6.

If this cannot be arranged I completely understand. There is no obligation. It is possible that other of my colleagues might reach out at a later date for an opportunity for a briefing at headquarters. But no guarantees!

Thanks for considering...

ED TEWES

J. Edward Tewes
2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara
191. N. First Street
San José, CA 95113
Office - 408.882.2721 | Cell - 408.623.0533
etewes.cgj@scscourt.org | <https://santaclara.courts.ca/CGJ>

Notice to Recipient: The information in this email is confidential and privileged and may not be redisclosed unless specifically authorized by law. If the recipient has received an admonition administered by the Civil Grand Jury, a violation of that admonition may constitute contempt of court. Grand Jury records are not subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act. If you received this email in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of it is strictly prohibited. Please notify the Office of the Civil Grand Jury of any disclosure immediately at 408-882-2721 and delete this communication and any attached documents from your system.

September 17th, 2025

The Honorable Tony Estremera
Board Chairperson
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95118

Dear Chairperson Estremera,

After much reflection, I am writing today to withdraw my two formal complaints against Director Eisenberg that were submitted on 2/13/25 and 3/4/25. The Board of Directors continues to enforce substantial penalties associated with her censure on 3/14/24, and the primary purpose of my complaints was to support the already strong argument that those penalties should remain in place. The Director was given one year to conform her behavior to the Code of Ethics and Conduct, and there was little in the way of improvement when I submitted my complaints. It now appears that the penalties will continue to be enforced until the end of her term of office. I am satisfied that the Board is holding Director Eisenberg accountable for her ongoing misconduct to the best of its ability, and it is difficult to see a significant benefit in pursuing the formal complaint process any further.

It is also worth noting that many violations of the Code of Ethics and Conduct detailed in my complaints involved egregiously dishonest public statements and unfair personal attacks on Valley Water staff members related to the controversial Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. It is somewhat satisfying to me that, in the end, Director Eisenberg's ugly tactics did not contribute in any meaningful way to the decision to suspend the project. Due to recent unforeseeable developments, the project was no longer viable, and the Board's unanimous vote was entirely understandable. I remain extremely grateful to the dedicated members of the Valley Water staff who worked hard on the PREP, and I am confident that they will continue to pursue all feasible water storage solutions with the same admirable perseverance. I am also grateful to the open-minded Directors who gave the ambitious project a reasonable chance to succeed.

It seems like an appropriate time to move on. I will continue to look for opportunities to contribute to Valley Water's efforts in a positive, collaborative way, and I encourage Director Eisenberg to do the same.

Sincerely, Doug Peterson

OUTGOING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

September 25, 2025

Peter Drekmeier
Tuolumne River Trust
Policy Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John L. Varela (District 1)

Shiloh Ballard (District 2)

Richard P. Santos / Vice Chair (District 3)

Jim Beall (District 4)

Nai Hsueh (District 5)

Tony Estremera / Chair (District 6)

Rebecca Eisenberg (District 7)

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Melanie Richardson, P.E.

Re: Substantial Difference between Valley Water and SFPUC Drought Planning.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Candice Kwok-Smith

Dear Peter Drekmeier,

Thank you for your interest in Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) 2050 and your comments on the drought analyzed in this plan.

As you mentioned, Valley Water's WSMP 2050 analysis focused on the 1987-1992 drought modified by future climate changes. We chose this multi-year drought because in the 94 years (1922-2015) of the historical record used in the modeling analysis, this drought represents the longest that Santa Clara County has experienced. This extended drought has been analyzed in our prior master planning efforts as well. Our modeling analysis also shows that any water supply portfolios that can mitigate this extended dry period will also likely be able to mitigate other shorter droughts. In addition, the length of this drought is in line with the State guideline for the Urban Water Management Plan, which requires a drought risk assessment for a five-year drought. But ultimately, the selection of any particular drought for future water supply planning is a policy decision that reflects an agency's approach toward risk management, balancing the need to provide water supply reliability with affordability and risk of overinvestment. And we believe the modified 1987-1992 drought strikes a good balance.

Valley Water regularly coordinates with BAWSCA and SFPUC on water supply planning. For the WSMP 2050 development, we worked with BAWSCA on estimated future SFPUC supply to Valley Water retailers. We also collaborate with SPUFC through the Bay Area Regional Reliability (BARR) Partnership, a collaboration of eight Bay Area water agencies working together to improve regional water supply reliability, on information sharing and regional collaboration.

Thank you again for your interest in our long-range planning effort. If you have any questions or additional comments, please contact Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer of Water Supply, at kstruve@valleywater.org.

Sincerely,



Tony Estremera
Chair, District 6

C-25-0122

Adelina Del Real

From: Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board Correspondence
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Jennifer Codianne; Mark Bilski; Breanne Roderick
Cc: Board of Directors
Subject: FW: Homeless encampment/ Graystone bridge at Alamos Creek
Attachments: Encampment Response Protocol FAQ.pdf

From: Candice Kwok-Smith On Behalf Of Board of Directors
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:07 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Homeless encampment/ Graystone bridge at Alamos Creek

Sent on Behalf of Director Beall:

Dear Malcolm Bordelon,

Thank you for reaching out to Valley Water regarding your concerns about the encampment under the Graystone Lane bridge at Alamos Creek.

After reviewing the location, we've confirmed the site is not on Valley Water property. It lies within roadway right-of-way that is under the City of San José's jurisdiction. As a general note, roads typically do not appear as stand-alone "parcels" on assessor maps; they are public rights-of-way owned and/or maintained by a local agency. Depending on the location, that can be a city (like San José), Santa Clara County, or Caltrans.

Valley Water staff did reach out to Beautify San José regarding your concern and they confirmed they will conduct an abatement at this location. In the future you can report encampments concerns to City of San Jose at: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services/report-an-encampment>

Valley Water owns and manages 333 miles of the more than 800 miles of creeks in Santa Clara County, and we address encampments on our lands by performing large scale trash cleanups throughout jurisdictional areas countywide to prevent encampment-generated trash and debris from polluting the waterways. Our crews also conduct encampment abatements when necessary to respond to harmful operational, environmental, or safety impacts on our property. For reference, this GIS map shows Valley Water-owned lands in green: <https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/>. More information on Valley Water's efforts to address the impacts of encampments is available on our Good Neighbor Program webpage, including info about Valley Water's recently adopted Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/good-neighbor-program-valley-water-addressing-encampments-unsheltered-people>. I have also attached our Encampment Response Protocol FAQ.

Thanks again for your message. Please contact Assistant Operating Officer Mark Bilski at mbilski@valleywater.org with any follow-up information. You can also report concerns to Valley Water via our online system at <https://access.valleywater.org/s/>.

Sincerely,



Jim Beall
Director, District 3

C-25-0124

From: Malcolm Bordelon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 3:47 PM
To: Board of Directors <board@valleywater.org>; Jim Beall <JBeall@valleywater.org>
Cc: olympia.williams@sanjoseca.gov
Subject: Homeless encampment/ Graystone bridge at Alamitos Creek

***** This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. *****

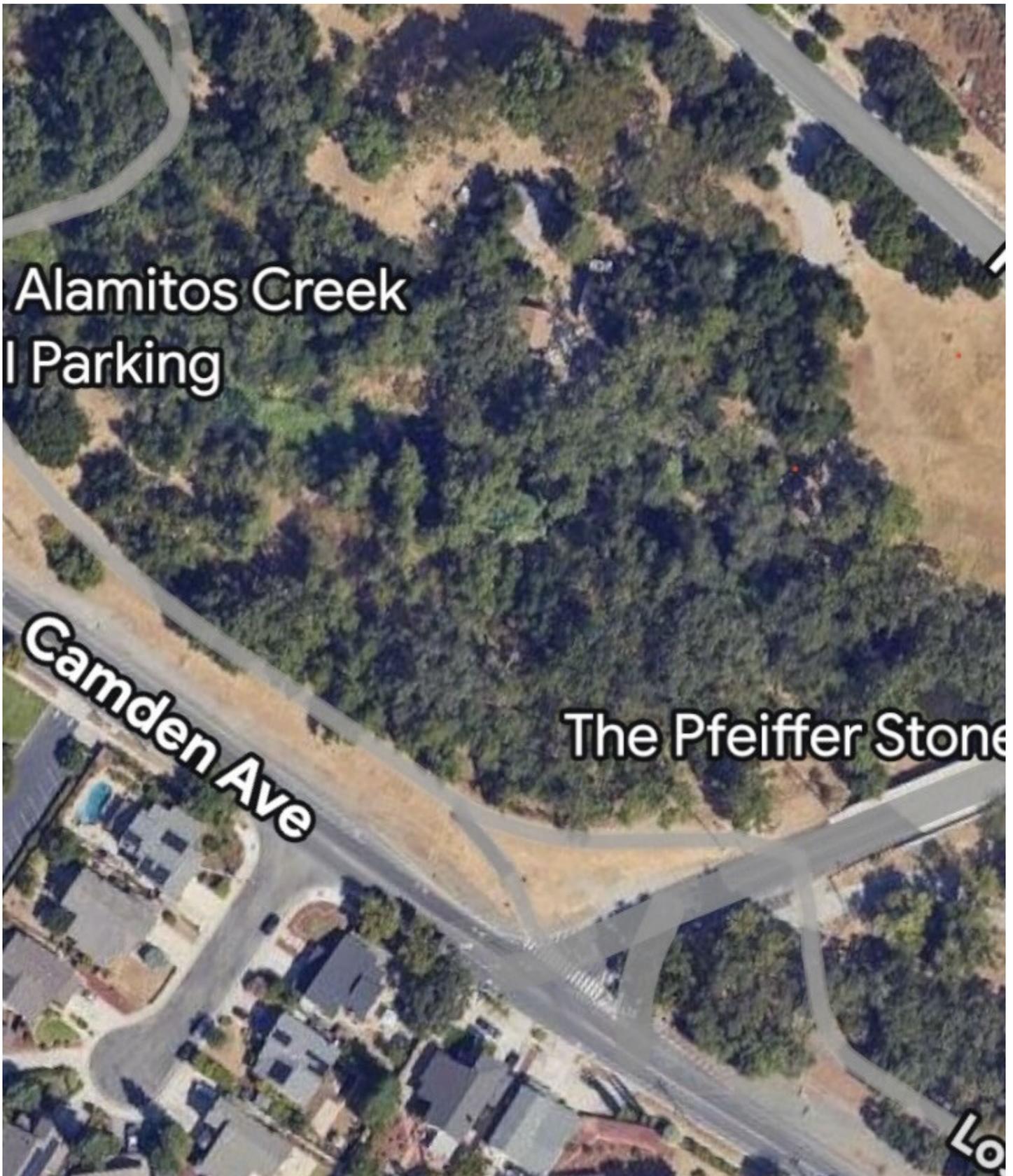
My name is Malcolm Bordelon , a resident in the Graystone area of Almaden, abutting the Alamitos Creek area of Valley Water district 4. There is a homeless camp entrenched under the Graystone Lane bridge for a protracted period (see photo below with red arrow indicating site). This includes tarps covering entrance to the site and solar power panels.

This presence is a danger to our children who cross the bridge daily to and from school, a serious sanitation risk to our watershed and a risk to the public at large. In addition - once cooler weather arrives the potential threat of fires being set for warmth can present a serious concern as well. (I understand there may have been a fire incident at this site some time in the past)

I many cases, some who are unhoused suffer from mental illness and may not be properly medicated. This can create a dangerous situation for all involved as they may now be fully aware of their surroundings. The desire is to have them removed from the encampment for the safety of all and in the hopes to secure them the assistance they need.

The mayor's office has indicated this area is Valley Water jurisdiction and I would hope that Valley Water will take responsibility and remove this person (or people) immediately.

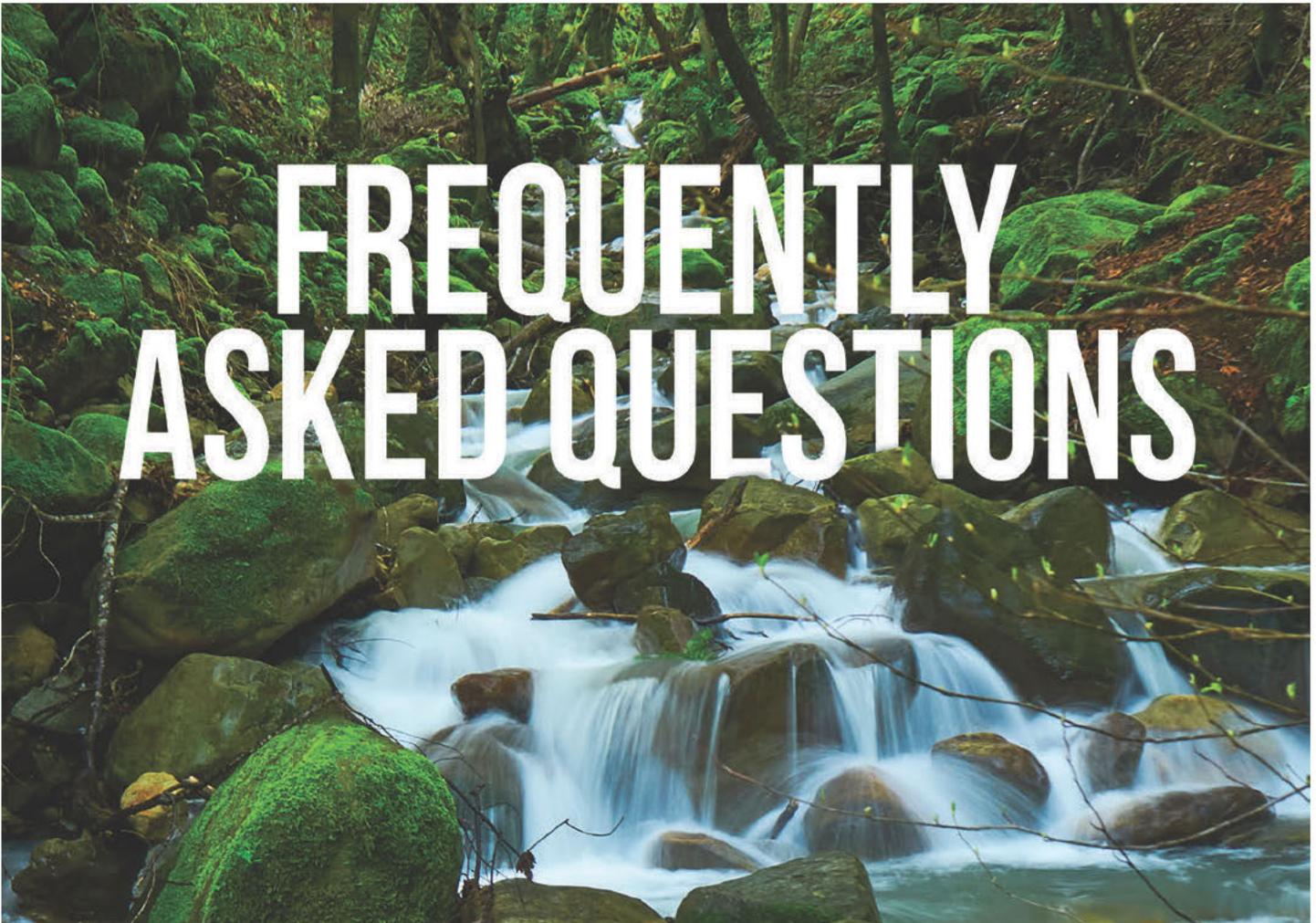
Thanks,



Thanks,



~~~~~  
Malcolm M Bordelon



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS AN ENCAMPMENT?

Valley Water's **Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance** defines an encampment as one or more structures operating as a single entity, occupied by an individual or group of individuals, that is located illegally on Valley Water or other public property. An area where there are no structures, but where personal property is stored or where animals are kept and or maintained without authorization from Valley Water, is also considered an encampment.

## WHAT IS VALLEY WATER DOING TO ADDRESS ENCAMPMENTS?

Valley Water collaborates with local agencies, social service providers, and law enforcement officers to address the challenges posed by encampments located on Valley Water property and their impacts to waterways and water supply and flood protection facilities.

Valley Water's **Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance** was adopted on Nov. 26, 2024, to address the environmental, health, and safety impacts of encampments. The ordinance established new regulations prohibiting encampments and encampment-related activities on Valley Water lands and outlining Valley Water's approach to encampment cleanup, removal, and enforcement related to violations of the regulations.

Enforcement of the ordinance using an educational approach and progressive enforcement model will begin Jan. 2, 2025. You can read the ordinance and Ordinance Implementation Plan and view a map of Valley Water lands at: [valleywater.org/encampments](https://valleywater.org/encampments).

## HOW DO I REPORT A POTENTIAL ENCAMPMENT?

You can report encampment-related concerns to Valley Water via our online system at: [access.valleywater.org/s/](https://access.valleywater.org/s/). If you have an immediate safety concern, call 911.

## WHEN WILL VALLEY WATER REMOVE AN ENCAMPMENT?

Valley Water will prioritize encampment cleanup and removal as necessary to protect employee and public safety and to carry out Valley Water business.

Implementation of the ordinance uniformly across all Valley Water lands would displace unsheltered people from encampments before adequate safe relocation sites, shelter, and housing options are available in Santa Clara County. In consideration of this reality, Valley Water will establish priority levels for encampment cleanup and removal under the ordinance.

## HOW DOES VALLEY WATER PRIORITIZE ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP?

### HIGH PRIORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT

An encampment will be prioritized as high priority for cleanup and removal under any of the following conditions.

- The encampment is located in the path of or obstructing access to flood protection or water infrastructure facilities or projects; or designated restoration or vegetation management sites.
- The encampment is located within an area with posted signage listing restrictions on camping or re-encamping.
- The encampment poses an immediate safety risk, including situations that involve Valley Water staff safety or public safety issues, as determined by government agencies and their police or fire departments.
- The encampment is associated with extreme environmental hazards, including impacts to fish and wildlife or imminent human health or fire hazards.

In addition, unauthorized motor vehicles and trailers located within a Water Resources Protection Zone will be classified as high priority for cleanup and removal.

### LOW PRIORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT

Valley Water's **Encampment Condition Guidelines** establish basic parameters by which unsheltered individuals living in

encampments on Valley Water lands can minimize negative environmental, health, and safety impacts by promoting positive camping practices and discouraging harmful actions.

Encampments that do not create operations or maintenance access issues and that meet the **Encampment Condition Guidelines** will be considered low priority for cleanup and or removal. You can read the Encampment Condition Guidelines at: [valleywater.org/encampments](http://valleywater.org/encampments).

## WHAT IS VALLEY WATER'S ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL?

When cleanup and removal action is warranted, per the priority levels described above, Valley Water staff will follow an **Encampment Response Protocol**:

|                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Post the encampment for cleanup and removal.</p>                                              |  <p>Provide 72 hours notice before cleanup and removal.</p> |
|  <p>Collaborate with local agencies for offers of available services and or housing or shelter.</p> |                                                                                                                                                |
|  <p>Arrange for processing and storage of personal belongings.</p>                               |  <p>Perform encampment cleanup and removal.</p>            |

Valley Water may take one or more of the following enforcement actions in response to activities prohibited by the ordinance:

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Request the violator cease the prohibited activity or activities.</p> |  <p>Request the violator relocate an encampment.</p>                      |
|  <p>Prioritize an encampment for cleanup and or removal.</p>              |  <p>Request law enforcement involvement to address unlawful activity.</p> |

## CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at [access.valleywater.org](http://access.valleywater.org).



### FOLLOW US



scvwd



valleywater



valleywater



Join our mailing list:  
<https://delivr.com/2uz9z>



## Adelina Del Real

---

**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith on behalf of Board Correspondence  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Codianne; Mark Bilski; Breanne Roderick  
**Cc:** Board of Directors  
**Subject:** FW: Illegal encampment under the Graystone lane bridge over the Alamos creek  
**Attachments:** Encampment Response Protocol FAQ.pdf

---

**From:** Candice Kwok-Smith On Behalf Of Board of Directors  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Illegal encampment under the Graystone lane bridge over the Alamos creek

### **Sent on Behalf of Director Beall:**

Dear Jay Kidambi,

Thank you for reaching out to Valley Water regarding your concerns about the encampment under the Graystone Lane bridge at Alamos Creek.

After reviewing the location, we've confirmed the site is not on Valley Water property. It lies within roadway right-of-way that is under the City of San José's jurisdiction. As a general note, roads typically do not appear as stand-alone "parcels" on assessor maps; they are public rights-of-way owned and/or maintained by a local agency. Depending on the location, that can be a city (like San José), Santa Clara County, or Caltrans.

Valley Water staff did reach out to Beautify San José regarding your concern and they confirmed they will conduct an abatement at this location. In the future you can report encampments concerns to City of San Jose at: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services/report-an-encampment>

Valley Water owns and manages 333 miles of the more than 800 miles of creeks in Santa Clara County, and we address encampments on our lands by performing large scale trash cleanups throughout jurisdictional areas countywide to prevent encampment-generated trash and debris from polluting the waterways. Our crews also conduct encampment abatements when necessary to respond to harmful operational, environmental, or safety impacts on our property. For reference, this GIS map shows Valley Water-owned lands in green: <https://gis.valleywater.org/FeeEasement/>. More information on Valley Water's efforts to address the impacts of encampments is available on our Good Neighbor Program webpage, including info about Valley Water's recently adopted Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/good-neighbor-program-valley-water-addressing-encampments-unsheltered-people>. I have also attached our Encampment Response Protocol FAQ.

Thanks again for your message. Please contact Assistant Operating Officer Mark Bilski at [mbilski@valleywater.org](mailto:mbilski@valleywater.org) with any follow-up information. You can also report concerns to Valley Water via our online system at <https://access.valleywater.org/s/>.

Sincerely,



Jim Beall  
Director, District 4

C-25-0125

---

**From:** jkidambi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 22, 2025 9:42 PM  
**To:** Jim Beall <[JBeall@valleywater.org](mailto:JBeall@valleywater.org)>; Board of Directors <[board@valleywater.org](mailto:board@valleywater.org)>  
**Cc:** [Olympia.william@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Olympia.william@sanjoseca.gov)  
**Subject:** Illegal encampment under the Graystone lane bridge over the Alamitos creek

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

### **To Valley Water board members / Jim Beall**

My name is Jay Kidambi, a resident in the Graystone area, near the Alamitos Creek area of Valley Water district 4. There is a homeless camp entrenched under the Graystone Lane bridge for a protracted period. This presence is a danger to our children who cross the bridge by themselves frequently, a serious sanitation risk to our watershed and a risk to the public at large. In the past, fires have been started under the bridge causing major inconvenience to traffic (as the bridge is the only practical way in and out of our community), not to speak of the danger it posed to people and property nearby. Just over the past weekend a homeless man suddenly walked up from the side of the bridge onto the road as I was driving home, and although he stayed on the sidewalk, it startled me and could have caused me to veer off if it was any more abrupt. The mayor's office indicated to us that this area is Valley Water jurisdiction. I urge Valley Water to take responsibility and remove it immediately.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Jay Kidambi



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS AN ENCAMPMENT?

Valley Water's **Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance** defines an encampment as one or more structures operating as a single entity, occupied by an individual or group of individuals, that is located illegally on Valley Water or other public property. An area where there are no structures, but where personal property is stored or where animals are kept and or maintained without authorization from Valley Water, is also considered an encampment.

## WHAT IS VALLEY WATER DOING TO ADDRESS ENCAMPMENTS?

Valley Water collaborates with local agencies, social service providers, and law enforcement officers to address the challenges posed by encampments located on Valley Water property and their impacts to waterways and water supply and flood protection facilities.

Valley Water's **Water Resources Protection Zones Ordinance** was adopted on Nov. 26, 2024, to address the environmental, health, and safety impacts of encampments. The ordinance established new regulations prohibiting encampments and encampment-related activities on Valley Water lands and outlining Valley Water's approach to encampment cleanup, removal, and enforcement related to violations of the regulations.

Enforcement of the ordinance using an educational approach and progressive enforcement model will begin Jan. 2, 2025. You can read the ordinance and Ordinance Implementation Plan and view a map of Valley Water lands at: [valleywater.org/encampments](https://valleywater.org/encampments).

## HOW DO I REPORT A POTENTIAL ENCAMPMENT?

You can report encampment-related concerns to Valley Water via our online system at: [access.valleywater.org/s/](https://access.valleywater.org/s/). If you have an immediate safety concern, call 911.

## WHEN WILL VALLEY WATER REMOVE AN ENCAMPMENT?

Valley Water will prioritize encampment cleanup and removal as necessary to protect employee and public safety and to carry out Valley Water business.

Implementation of the ordinance uniformly across all Valley Water lands would displace unsheltered people from encampments before adequate safe relocation sites, shelter, and housing options are available in Santa Clara County. In consideration of this reality, Valley Water will establish priority levels for encampment cleanup and removal under the ordinance.

## HOW DOES VALLEY WATER PRIORITIZE ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP?

### HIGH PRIORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT

An encampment will be prioritized as high priority for cleanup and removal under any of the following conditions.

- The encampment is located in the path of or obstructing access to flood protection or water infrastructure facilities or projects; or designated restoration or vegetation management sites.
- The encampment is located within an area with posted signage listing restrictions on camping or re-encamping.
- The encampment poses an immediate safety risk, including situations that involve Valley Water staff safety or public safety issues, as determined by government agencies and their police or fire departments.
- The encampment is associated with extreme environmental hazards, including impacts to fish and wildlife or imminent human health or fire hazards.

In addition, unauthorized motor vehicles and trailers located within a Water Resources Protection Zone will be classified as high priority for cleanup and removal.

### LOW PRIORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT

Valley Water's **Encampment Condition Guidelines** establish basic parameters by which unsheltered individuals living in

encampments on Valley Water lands can minimize negative environmental, health, and safety impacts by promoting positive camping practices and discouraging harmful actions.

Encampments that do not create operations or maintenance access issues and that meet the **Encampment Condition Guidelines** will be considered low priority for cleanup and or removal. You can read the Encampment Condition Guidelines at: [valleywater.org/encampments](http://valleywater.org/encampments).

## WHAT IS VALLEY WATER'S ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL?

When cleanup and removal action is warranted, per the priority levels described above, Valley Water staff will follow an **Encampment Response Protocol**:

|                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Post the encampment for cleanup and removal.</p>                                              |  <p>Provide 72 hours notice before cleanup and removal.</p> |
|  <p>Collaborate with local agencies for offers of available services and or housing or shelter.</p> |                                                                                                                                                |
|  <p>Arrange for processing and storage of personal belongings.</p>                               |  <p>Perform encampment cleanup and removal.</p>            |

Valley Water may take one or more of the following enforcement actions in response to activities prohibited by the ordinance:

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Request the violator cease the prohibited activity or activities.</p> |  <p>Request the violator relocate an encampment.</p>                      |
|  <p>Prioritize an encampment for cleanup and or removal.</p>              |  <p>Request law enforcement involvement to address unlawful activity.</p> |

## CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at [access.valleywater.org](http://access.valleywater.org).



### FOLLOW US



scvwd



valleywater



valleywater



Join our mailing list:  
<https://delivr.com/2uz9z>



September 29, 2025

Ms. Karla Nemeth  
Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Nemeth:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, I wish to thank you for your recent correspondence dated September 15, 2025, and for your continued leadership in advancing the Delta Conveyance Project.

We appreciate the Governor's steadfast commitment to this critical effort and acknowledge the thoughtful approach being taken to refine project design, manage costs, and reduce risks. Progress has been made in the ongoing permitting processes, including the State Water Resources Control Board's change-in-point-of-diversion proceedings and the forthcoming Delta Plan consistency review by the Delta Stewardship Council. We are hopeful the regulatory agencies will move the project forward quickly to minimize delays and allow our agencies to make a decision on the project.

The District shares your view that the Delta Conveyance Project is essential to addressing the long-term challenges posed by climate change — including sea level rise, prolonged droughts, and increasingly volatile storm events — and to safeguarding the reliability of the State Water Project. We look forward to our continued partnership with your department and other participating agencies to ensure both the resilience and affordability of water supplies for the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Tony Estremera  
Chair, Board of Directors

rs:sg  
0922a-l  
C-25-0129

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

[John L. Varela](#) (District 1)

[Shiloh Ballard](#) (District 2)

[Richard P. Santos](#) / Vice Chair (District 3)

[Jim Beall](#) (District 4)

[Nai Hsueh](#) (District 5)

[Tony Estremera](#) / Chair (District 6)

[Rebecca Eisenberg](#) (District 7)

**INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

[Melanie Richardson, P.E.](#)

**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

[Candice Kwok-Smith](#)

**From:** [Candice Kwok-Smith](#) on behalf of [Board of Directors](#)  
**To:** [etewes.cgj@scscourt.org](mailto:etewes.cgj@scscourt.org)  
**Subject:** FW: tour? briefing?  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:19:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**Sent on Behalf of Director Varela:**

Dear Ed Tewes,

Thank you for your interest in visiting Anderson Dam on Monday, October 6 at 1pm. Ryan McCarter, Deputy Operating Officer, Dam Safety and Capital Delivery Division, will be contacting you to coordinate this tour. He can be reached at [rmccarter@valleywater.org](mailto:rmccarter@valleywater.org).

We look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,



John Varela  
Director, District 1

C-25-0130

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ed Tewes <[etewes.CGJ@scscourt.org](mailto:etewes.CGJ@scscourt.org)>  
**Date:** September 26, 2025 at 2:48:09 PM PDT  
**To:** John Varela <[jvarela@valleywater.org](mailto:jvarela@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** tour? briefing?

\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

John: I am currently serving on the Civil Grand Jury and we are always looking for opportunities to receive a general background briefing from agencies and visit key sites.

Ten or so of my colleagues will be in the Morgan Hill area on Monday, October 6 and wonder if we could visit the Anderson Dam construction project. Your agency

could describe the function of the dam and reservoir in flood control and water supply, and even provide a general orientation to the other responsibilities of the District.

I realize that this is very late notice, but we could be available for 90 minutes or so at 1pm on October 6.

If this cannot be arranged I completely understand. There is no obligation. It is possible that other of my colleagues might reach out at a later date for an opportunity for a briefing at headquarters. But no guarantees!

Thanks for considering...

ED TEWES

J. Edward Tewes  
2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury  
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara  
191. N. First Street  
San José, CA 95113  
Office - 408.882.2721 | Cell - 408.623.0533  
[etewes.cgj@scscourt.org](mailto:etewes.cgj@scscourt.org) | <https://santaclara.courts.ca/CGJ>

**Notice to Recipient:** The information in this email is confidential and privileged and may not be redisclosed unless specifically authorized by law. If the recipient has received an admonition administered by the Civil Grand Jury, a violation of that admonition may constitute contempt of court. Grand Jury records are not subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act. If you received this email in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of it is strictly prohibited. Please notify the Office of the Civil Grand Jury of any disclosure immediately at 408-882-2721 and delete this communication and any attached documents from your system.