

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 7830
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1469 (Kalra) Santa Clara Valley Water District
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your AB 1469, which authorizes the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to assist unsheltered people living along streams, in riparian corridors, or otherwise within the district's jurisdiction, in consultation with a city or the County of Santa Clara, to provide solutions or improve outcomes for the unsheltered individuals.

These solutions can take the form of the collection of waste, contracts to provide supportive services, and providing or leasing land for the purposes of constructing temporary and permanent supportive housing solutions. Currently, Valley Water has very limited authority to expend its revenue or use other resources outside of purposes listed in the District Act, leaving unaddressed some human health and safety risks on their lands.

Many unsheltered individuals take refuge on Valley Water property or land easements, which have led to encampments along waterways. These circumstances contribute to both human and environmental degradation. These watersheds are prone to flash flooding during storms (like we saw this past winter) which causes serious injury, drownings, and the scattering of litter and debris into watersheds. This impacts overall water quality and safety.

Multifaceted problem solving is needed to address the many issues communities face in properly serving our unsheltered neighbors. Expanding Valley Water's authority would allow it to partner with cities, the County of Santa Clara, and the state in assisting unsheltered neighbors. This is one of many collaborative solutions we need to provide resources to our most vulnerable.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your AB 1469.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

cc: Assembly Member Marc Berman
Senator Josh Becker