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April 5, 2023

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Member, California State Assembly
1020 O Street, Suite 4610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1469 (Kalra) Valley Water – Assisting Unsheltered People.
Notice of Support

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

The City of Cupertino would like to express our strong support for AB 1469, which makes changes to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Act to allow the agency to do more to assist unsheltered people living along creeks and streams, including providing housing or improved outcomes for unsheltered individuals.

Santa Clara County is currently experiencing unprecedented increases in the number of unhoused people taking refuge along waterways that run through neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces, as well as through commercial districts and industrial areas. As the regional agency responsible for water supply, flood protection, and the environmental stewardship of creeks and streams, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (“Valley Water”) owns hundreds of miles of property along waterways as well as other public lands. These locations are a preferred refuge for unsheltered people because of their proximity to surface water and the sheltering effects of riparian vegetation, canyons, and creek banks. Valley Water estimated in February 2023 that more than 2,000 unsheltered people were taking refuge on the agency’s properties and easements.

AB 1469 would provide Valley Water with the statutory authorization to use its land and a portion of its general tax revenue to humanely assist unsheltered people living along waterways to provide outreach, transitional housing, or other supportive services through contracts with cities, the County, or non-governmental organizations. The goal is to bring

more resources to the table to facilitate solutions to serious environmental and operational impacts of large numbers of unsheltered people living along creeks and streams.

The City of Cupertino strongly supports AB 1469 because it will enable Valley Water to do more to assist unsheltered people taking refuge along waterways, provide more resources to support the efforts of cities, the County, and non-governmental organizations to address the homelessness crisis in our region, and will give Valley Water the tools it needs to improve water quality and protect sensitive, threatened, and endangered species. We urge the Legislature and the Governor to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hung Wei".

Hung Wei
Mayor, City of Cupertino

cc: Senator Dave Cortese
Assemblymember Evan Low