

## **An Open Letter to the Update Citizens Advisory Committee (UCAC)**

The North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce's American River Parkway Task Force has been focusing on the problems related to illegal camping in the Lower Reach of the Parkway for many years, and wish to propose the inclusion of language regarding illegal camping to be considered in your planning.

As the major community organization representing the North Sacramento business and residential community, we have for several years assumed the role of advocating for North Sacramento to the public governing bodies about the condition of the American River Parkway, specifically the Woodlake Reach.

After having sponsored several informational meetings with local leadership, two community forums, a decades long individual advocacy effort, and maintained a pictorial and informational data base through the Chamber website, we have reached agreement on three guiding principles that will inform our future work and through which we will continue to provide community advocacy.

The first of these, related to our proposed language, is:

- **The Woodlake Reach must be safe for the community to use.**

The illegal camping on the Woodlake Reach is a criminal assault upon one of the poorest communities in the region and has virtually destroyed the ability or inclination of the majority of North Sacramento residents to safely enjoy their natural heritage.

In the spirit of that guiding principle, the language we propose by creating a new section [using existing plan] in Chapter 2, Public Safety, (page 2-14) is:

### 8.8 Illegal Camping

8.8.1 All laws against illegal camping shall be enforced in any area of the parkway, with no exceptions.

8.8.2 Any person illegally camping shall be arrested and charged with illegal camping, their property impounded and stored, to be picked up later, after paying storage fees.

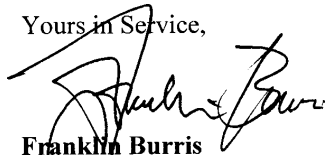
Also, create a new section in Chapter 9, Public Safety (page 9.1):

### ILLEGAL CAMPING

Illegal camping disrupts the ability of the community to use the Parkway, their natural heritage, due to the public safety threat posed by illegal campers. Human waste and other debris from illegal camping also causes downstream water quality degradation and creates water safety hazards. Effective law enforcement in the Parkway is dependent upon consistent enforcement of the laws against illegal camping.

We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions.

Yours in Service,



**Franklin Burris**

President, North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce