

American River Parkway Preservation Society
Annual Organizational Report
October 1, 2018- September 30, 2019

Mission

**Preserve, Protect, and Strengthen the American River Parkway,
Our Community's Natural Heart.**

Vision

**We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant,
accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all
who enter it.**

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**American River Parkway Preservation Society
Organizational Leadership**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Rushford, President
Criminal Justice Legal Foundation

Vice President/Secretary

Pete Bontadelli, Project Director/Consultant
Analytical Environmental Services

Founder/Treasurer/Senior Policy Director

David H. Lukenbill, President
Lukenbill & Associates

ENDOWMENT ADVISORY GROUP, CHAIR

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Fund Development Associates

SLOBE PARKWAY ADVOCATE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Robert J. Slobe, President
North Sacramento Land Company

Franklin Burris, President
North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Mary E. Tappel, Environmental Scientist
California State Water Board

Dave Lydick, Deputy Director
American River Parkway & Regional Parks Division

Rob Kerth, President
North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Phil Serna, Supervisor, 1st District
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Marcos Breton, Columnist
Sacramento Bee Newspaper

Introduction

This has been one of the worst years ever for the Parkway with the rampant proliferation of homeless encampments and the related problems this has caused; including fires, adjacent neighborhood crimes, polluted river water, levee weakening which could lead to flooding, as well as the continued crimes numerated in the monthly Sacramento County Parkway Ranger reports which can be accessed at <https://regionalparks.saccounty.net/Rangers/Pages/Latest-Ranger-Activity-Data.aspx> with just two data points from October 2018 to the August 2019 report (latest available at writing) being enough to justifiably shock us; total number during that time of **Camps Cleared: 6,445** and of **Garbage and debris removed: 1,358.5 tons**.

This is why we refer to the lower part of the Parkway—from Discovery Park to Cal Expo—as Parkway Skid Row rather than the long-gone and once-deserved appellation, the “Jewel of Sacramento.”

One of the major contributing factors in the illegal camping in the Parkway by the homeless is the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill that took place over the past several decades.

This important article from *The Balance* regarding a new study provides context and history.

An excerpt.

“Deinstitutionalization is a government policy that moved mental health patients out of state-run “insane asylums” into federally funded community mental health centers. It began in the 1960s as a way to improve treatment of the mentally ill while also cutting [government budgets](#).

“In 1955, the number peaked at 558,000 patients or 0.03 percent of the population. If the same percentage of the population were institutionalized today, that would be 750,000 mentally ill people. That’s more than the population of Baltimore or San Francisco.

“Effects

“Between 1955 and 1994, roughly 487,000 mentally ill patients were discharged from state hospitals. That lowered the number to only 72,000 patients. States closed most of their hospitals. That permanently reduced the availability of long-term, in-patient care facilities. By 2010, there were [43,000 psychiatric beds](#) available. This equated to about 14 beds per 100,000 people. According to the Treatment Advocacy’s Center’s report, “Deinstitutionalization: A Failed History,” this was the same ratio as in 1850.

“As a result, [2.2 million](#) of the severely mentally ill do not receive any psychiatric treatment at all. About 200,000 of those who suffer from schizophrenia or bipolar disorder are homeless. That's one-third of the total homeless population. Ten percent are veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or other war-related injuries.

“More than 300,000 are in jails and prisons. Sixteen percent of all inmates are severely mentally ill. There were about 100,000 psychiatric beds in both public and private hospitals. There are more than three times as many seriously mentally ill people in jails and prisons than in hospitals.

“Three Causes

“Three societal and scientific changes occurred that caused deinstitutionalization. First, the development of psychiatric drugs treated many of the symptoms of mental illness. These included chlorpromazine and later clozapine.

“Second, society accepted that the mentally ill needed to be treated instead of locked away. This change of heart began in the 1960s.

“Third, federal funding such as Medicaid and Medicare went toward community mental health centers instead of mental hospitals.

“History

“1946 - [Congress passed](#) the National Mental Health Act. It created the National Institute of Mental Health in 1949. The Institute researched ways to treat mental health in the community.

“1954 - The Food and Drug Administration approved Thorazine, known generically as chlorpromazine, to treat psychotic episodes. The only other treatments available at the time were electroshock therapy and lobotomies. There were only 7,000 psychiatrists, 13,500 psychologists, and 20,000 [social workers](#) in the entire country.

“1955 - The number of patients in public mental health hospitals reached a record of 558,000. They suffered from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression. Many had organic brain diseases such as dementia and brain damage from trauma. Others suffered from mental retardation combined with psychosis, autism, or brain damage from drug addiction. Most patients were not expected to get better given the treatments at the time. Congress passed the Mental Health Study Act of 1955. It established the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health to evaluate the nation's mental health situation.

“1961 - The commission published its findings in Action for Mental Health. It recommended that community health centers be set up to treat those with less severe mental illnesses. The American Psychological Association's paper, “Recognition and Prevention of Major Mental and Substance Use Disorders,” said the commission's

research estimated that 20 percent of the population suffered from some form of mental illness and distress. It focused on treating these disorders to prevent them from becoming more severe.

“1962 - Ken Kesey published "[One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)." It was a fictional story about abuses in a mental hospital. The author dramatized his experiences as a nurse's aide in the psychiatric wing of a California veteran's hospital. The book helped turn public opinion against electroshock therapy and lobotomies. These were procedures commonly used at the time.

“1963 - [President John F. Kennedy](#) signed the Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act. It provided federal funding to create community-based mental health facilities. They would provide prevention, early treatment, and ongoing care. The goal was to build one for every 125,000 to 250,000 people. That many centers would allow patients to remain close to their families and be integrated into society. But it ignored statistics that showed 75 percent of those in hospitals had no families.

“1965 - [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) signed the Social Security Amendments of 1965. It created Medicaid to fund health care for low-income families. It did not pay for care in mental hospitals. As a result, states transferred those patients into nursing homes and hospitals to receive federal funding.

“1967 - California's Governor [Ronald Reagan](#) signed the [Lanterman-Petris-Short Act](#). It limited a family's right to commit a mentally ill relative without the right to due process. It also reduced the state's institutional expense. That [doubled](#) the number of mentally ill people in California's criminal justice system the following year. It also increased the number treated by hospital emergency rooms. Medicaid covered those costs. Other states followed with similar involuntary commitment laws.

“1975 - The film, “[One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#),” hit theaters. Jack Nicholson's Oscar-winning portrayal of a mistreated patient further turned public opinion against mental hospitals.

“1977 - Only 650 community health centers had been built. That was less than half of what was needed. They served 1.9 million patients. They were designed to help those with less severe mental health disorders. As states closed hospitals, the centers became overwhelmed with those patients with more serious challenges.

“1980 - President Jimmy Carter signed the Mental Health Systems Act to fund more community health centers. But it focused on a broad range of a community's mental health needs. That lessened the federal government's focus on meeting the needs those with [chronic mental illness](#).

“1981 - President Reagan repealed the Act through the [Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act](#) of 1981. It shifted funding to the state through block grants. The grant process meant that community mental health centers competed with other public needs.

Programs like housing, food banks, and economic development often won the federal funds instead.

“1990 - The Food and Drug Administration approved clozapine to treat the symptoms of schizophrenia. That strengthened the prejudice against hospitalization of the mentally ill.

“2004 - Studies suggest approximately 16 percent of prison and jail inmates or roughly 320,000 people were seriously mentally ill. That year, there were about 100,000 psychiatric beds in public and private hospitals. In other words, three times as many mentally ill people were in jail than in a hospital.

“2009 - The Great Recession forced states to cut **\$4.35 billion** in mental health spending in three years.

“2010 - The **Affordable Care Act** mandated that insurance companies must cover mental health care as one of the **10 essential benefits**. That included treatment for alcohol, drug, and other substance abuse and addiction. Patient co-pays could be as high as \$40 a session. The number of therapist visits could be limited.”

Retrieved October 11, 2019 from <https://www.thebalance.com/deinstitutionalization-3306067>

All of that notwithstanding, we will continue our work of advocating for common sense solutions the homeless issue with our particular focus on the Parkway.

In our area, a strategy helping the homeless (and local residents and business who suffer the impacts) needs to be developed that is capable of safely sheltering up to 2 or 3 thousand homeless folks a night safely distant from residential neighborhoods and business—with available transformational services—and San Antonio's Haven for Hope program, especially the courtyard strategy they use for safe rapid shelter for large numbers, seems to offer an answer, which you can read about from their brochure at <http://www.havenforhope.org/downloads/docs/H4H%20Brochure%2010-31-2016.pdf> and you can read more about Haven for Hope applicability in our area from our news release of October 26, 2018 on our News Page at <http://arpps.org/news.html>

Public Communication & Education

Weblog

ARPPS posts regularly and maintains a public daily (on weekdays only) weblog at <http://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/> .

During our last program year, from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, we posted 198 individual messages concerning articles, reports, news items, and event information connected to our mission.

E-Letters/Newsletters

ARPPS ensures that all public leadership with some form of public participation in Parkway related issues receives our monthly e-letters and quarterly newsletters, as well as press releases, research reports, policy briefings and position papers.

Articles

Inside Publications published an article by David Lukenbill in the July 2019 issue, p. 34, online at https://issuu.com/insidepublications/docs/inside_east_sacramento_july_2019/1?e=9541663/71080829

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT #14

October 1 2018 to September 30, 2019

PART I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

Revenue

1. Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received.....	\$2,462.05
2. Program service revenue including government fees and contracts.....	\$0
3. Membership dues and assessments.....	\$0
4. Investment income.....	\$0
5a. Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	\$0
b. Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses.....	\$0
c. Gain or (loss) from sales of assets other than inventory.....	\$0
6. Special events and activities.....	\$0
a. Gross revenue (not including contributions on line 1).....	\$0
b. Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses.....	\$0
c. Net income or (loss) from special events and activities.....	\$0
7a. Gross Sales of inventory, less returns and allowances.....	\$0
b. Less: cost of goods sold.....	\$0
c. Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory.....	\$0
8. Other revenue (describe).....	\$0
9. Total Revenue (Add 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c and 8).....	\$2,462.05

Expenses

10. Grants and similar amounts paid.....	\$0
11. Benefits paid to or for members.....	\$0
12. Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits.....	\$0
13. Professional Fees and other payments to independent contractors.....	\$1,862.50
(\$1,750.00, Capacity Building Consultant) (\$112.50 Web Services)	
14. Occupancy [web], rent, utilities, and [web] maintenance.....	\$0
15. Printing, publications, postage, and shipping.....	\$355.80 (\$355.80 Postage)
16. Other expenses (describe) [Supplies, Meetings, Awards, Dues].....	\$30.00 (Parkway Blog Site Free of Advertising for one year \$30.00)
17. Total Expenses (Add 10-16).....	\$2,248.30
18. Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract 17 from 9).....	\$213.75
19. Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column A) must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return).....	\$649.14
20. Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation).....	\$0
21. Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18-20.....	\$862.89

PART II Balance Sheets

22. Cash, savings, and investments.....	\$862.89
23. Land and buildings.....	\$0
24. Other assets (describe).....	\$0
25. Total Assets.....	\$862.89
26. Total Liabilities (describe).....	\$0
27. Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column B must agree with line 21)....	\$862.89

Current Membership Status

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING MEMBERS

The membership composed of students, individuals, families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and foundations that provide financial support on an annual or one-time donation basis.

Subtotal **280 Members**

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Honorary memberships given to students, individuals, families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and foundations that have provided extraordinary support to the organization.

Subtotal: **50 Members**

HONORARY LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

Memberships given to individuals in public leadership roles related to the Parkway.

Subtotal: **373 Members**

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

The membership comprised of community members who have donated time and support working on one of several committees and/or advisory groups, or who are part of a community leadership group.

Subtotal: **32 Members**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP **735 Members**

Retention Rate: **71%**

Strategic Plan (2015-2020)

The American River Parkway Preservation Society Strategy & Implementation

Preserve, Protect & Strengthen the American River Parkway *For As Long As The River Runs Through It* 2015 – 2020

Introduction

The leadership in our community has a responsibility to create a vision that preserves, protects and strengthens the treasured resource of the American River Parkway in perpetuity.

We have invested fifteen years—since our organization was founded in 2003—pursuing a strategy of organizational capacity building and conducting research in the practical approaches, emanating from our guiding principles, we’ve determined can address the critical issues impacting the Parkway, and communicating with our members and the public those results.

Six Critical Issues & Corresponding Guiding Principles

1) Continuing depletion of public funding to provide vital ongoing maintenance, facility repair, law enforcement presence, invasive plant management, and fully restore a sense of safety for those using our priceless public resource.

Our Guiding Principle: Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it’s a necessity.

2) Continuing pressure on the river, whether through flooding, illegal sewage discharge, or taking water for new development, hurts the salmon and other aquatic life.

Our Guiding Principle: What’s good for the salmon is good for the river.

3) Continuing habitat devastation, fires, and pollution from widespread illegal camping by the homeless, primarily in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway: Social and environmental justice calls upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.

4) Continuing development pressure to build large homes along the Parkway edges, intruding on the view space, and encroaching into the commons.

Our Guiding Principle: If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.

5) Continuing exclusion of responsible usage by new Parkway user groups is contrary to the spirit upon which public ownership of a natural resource is predicated.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding new parkway usages: Inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.

6) Continuing encasement of open space, restricting suburban community development upon which a sustainable tax base funding necessary public works is built, is contrary to sound future planning.

Our Guiding Principle: The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the California Dream and whose vision is woven into the heart of the American Dream, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

Our third strategic plan—designed to guide our work from 2015 to 2020—includes retention of a stable membership base of about 700, designation of a parkway advocate when someone emerges (seven individuals have been acknowledged since 2004), and

regular communications (letters, articles, daily blogging, monthly e-letters, quarterly newsletters, annual organizational reports and five research reports covering critical issues, and periodic planning position papers).

All of this information is available on our website.

Strategic Summary

We will be investing the current five years in two directions; one major, the other ongoing.

The major work will focus around trying to encourage local government to bring into reality the one idea from our research into approaches that can most significantly impact the major critical issues—funding and management—which is the designation of a nonprofit organization to provide daily management of the Parkway, under contract with a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) consisting of Parkway adjacent governments (Cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova & Folsom, and Sacramento County).

The ongoing work will focus on continuing to help build a community knowledge base around the results of our five research reports, buttressed by new information that becomes available.

The American River Parkway is the most valuable natural resource in our community and one of the most valuable in the nation.

Because of this singular nature, it has the potential to be governed through a singular process, a nonprofit organization, as other signature park areas in the country are governed.

This type of governance will give our Parkway the dedicated management and fund raising capability that are so necessary to retain and enhance its premier local and national status.

Implementation Summary

To help in this process, ARPPS Former Executive Director, Kristine Lea, incorporated a nonprofit organization, the American River Parkway Conservancy (ARPC) to serve as an educational forum initially, and eventually, provide daily management for the Parkway.

The ARPC concept was presented to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2015, however the County went another direction, supporting the transfer of governing authority to a state agency, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/> part of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Even with that development, to help create an environment where the nonprofit policy concept we have presented becomes accepted public policy it is important to provide information about successful adaptations of the concept to other public park areas in the nation, to the public and public leadership through the following venues.

Community Information

- Daily blogging: The Parkway Blog at <http://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/> is part of the ongoing work of ARPPS public education and advocacy around public policy issues that may be related to the Parkway and the adjacent communities along the American River in Sacramento, California. (150-200 blog postings annually)
- Monthly & special e-letters to membership and public leadership: We will continue the monthly e letters, with a focus, when possible, on illegal camping in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway and JPA governance. (12 - 16 annually)
- Quarterly newsletters to membership and public leadership: We will continue the quarterly newsletters with a focus, when possible, on ARPC management and JPA governance. (4 annually)

- Regular letters to the editor: We will seek opportunities to send letters that focus on ARPC management and JPA governance, Auburn Dam & Illegal camping. (2-6 annually)
- Occasional articles in local publications: We will seek to have articles published that look at governance by a JPA and ARPC as a viable option for the Parkway. (1-2 annually)
- Occasional policy planning papers: We will, when possible, cover the viability of Parkway management by ARPC and governance by a JPA. (1-2 annually)
- Organizational report (1 annually)

Public Forums

- Presentations to local business and neighborhood organizations: We will seek the opportunity to present information, when appropriate, about JPA governance. (1-2 annually)
- Meetings with public leadership: We will meet with public leadership, when appropriate, to discuss the option of JPA governance. (1-2 annually)

Review & Update

This plan is subject to annual review and updating every five years.

Status Summary

Our Guiding Principles, Critical Issues & Suggested Solutions: Status of Progress

Guiding Principles

- 1) *Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.*
- 2) *What's good for the salmon is good for the river.*

3) *Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway: Social and environmental justice calls upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.*

4) *If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.*

5) *Regarding new parkway usages: Inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.*

6) *The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the California Dream and whose vision is woven into the heart of the American Dream, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.*

Status: These guiding principles—Number 6 was added in 2011—still animate our work, being prioritized as warranted.

Critical Issues/Solutions

We encourage policy discussions about the Parkway, addressing the five critical issues and our proposed solutions.

1) Continuing depletion of public funding to take care of the Parkway.

Solution: *Create a Joint Powers Authority and nonprofit organization for daily management and fundraising.*

Status: The nonprofit organization, American River Parkway Conservancy, created by ARPPS Executive Director, Kristine Lea, was presented to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2015.

2) Continuing pressure on the river, whether through flooding, illegal sewage discharge, or taking water for new development, hurts the salmon and other aquatic life.

Solution: *Build the Auburn Dam.*

Status: On hold, but still a congressionally approved dam site which could be revived by Congress, and the Regional Water Forum sponsored by the Auburn Dam Council in June of 2012 and 2013 was a welcome addition to the public discussion for the need for Auburn Dam.

3) Continuing habitat devastation, fires, and pollution from widespread illegal camping by the homeless in the Lower Reach.

Solution: *Strengthen and enforce laws against illegal camping.*

Status: Sacramento County continues efforts to reduce illegal camping, conducting daily searches, and with the addition of \$5 million in new money in the budget passed in September of 2017, this effort should intensify.

4) Continuing development pressure to build large homes along the Parkway edges, intruding on the view space, and encroaching into the commons.

Solution: *Prohibit such new building.*

Status: The new Parkway Plan strengthened the restrictions.

5) Continuing exclusion of responsible usage by new Parkway user groups is contrary to the spirit upon which public ownership of a natural resource is predicated.

Solution: *Give such groups an opportunity to make their case.*

Status: New groups seeking access to the Parkway, such as dogs-without-leases groups, mountain-bike groups (this group—Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates—finally got approval to develop a trail in the Parkway in the Fall of 2017, <https://sacbike.org/more-bikes-on-more-of-the-arp/>), disc-golf groups, mini-train groups, etc. are still finding little opportunity to present their proposals—which almost always includes doing the maintenance and initial set-up themselves—to the Parkway governing agency which has traditionally favored passive recreation over active.

6) Continuing encasement of open space, restricting suburban community development upon which a sustainable tax base funding necessary public works is built, is contrary to sound future planning.

Solution: *Support the growth of suburban communities.*

Status: There is an advocacy element in the Sacramento region which does not support suburban communities, and we shall continue to note that suburban communities are where the majority of people wish to live, and that planning decisions need to reflect this.

Appendix I: Monthly E-Letters

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #198, October 8, 2018

Annual Report Published & Posted Online at
[http://www.arpps.org/ARPPS Annual Report 2018.pdf](http://www.arpps.org/ARPPS%20Annual%20Report%202018.pdf)

Here is the introduction:

Introduction

This year started off pretty good with Sacramento County directing millions more dollars toward eradicating illegal camping by the homeless in the Parkway and for most of the year the results appeared positive; though many in the communities impacted most—Woodlake, North Sacramento—said that though there was increased Ranger activity, the homeless whose camps were removed just moved right back in.

Then later in the year, the bottom dropped out when the Ninth Circuit said camping outside in public could not be considered illegal as long as the community in question did not provide enough shelter for the homeless, thereby forcing them to have to camp outside.

Sacramento County immediately stopped enforcing the law against camping and recently ARPPS members have noted more camps springing up even further northeast of the traditional Skid Row of the Parkway—Discovery Park to Cal Expo—so this could become a challenging year.

Here is what Sue Frost, Sacramento County Supervisor, posted recently:

“Appeals Case Impacts Illegal Camping Ordinance

“A federal court decision has ruled that illegal camping ordinances are unconstitutional and that local governments cannot cite or arrest anyone sleeping on public property.

“On Sept. 4, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the case Robert Martin v. City of Boise, stating that enforcing anti-camping ordinances when adequate shelter beds are unavailable is unconstitutional.

“Because of that ruling, the Sacramento County Department of Parks stopped enforcing the City of Sacramento’s anti-camping ordinance and the County ordinance prohibiting camping without a permit.

“Since January 2018, Sacramento County rangers have issued 1,834 citations for unlawful camping under the County ordinance, and 224 citations for unlawful camping under the City of Sacramento ordinance.

“The County is currently evaluating enforcement options under existing laws and regulations and will provide information to the Board on next steps.

“Sacramento County Rangers will continue to enforce ordinances including but not limited to campfires, littering, dogs off leash, possession of a shopping cart and environmental degradation.

Retrieved Monday October 1, 2018 from <https://mailchi.mp/suefrost/supervisor-frost-oct18-newsletter?e=35effocfcc>

According to this October 4, 2018 story in the *Sacramento News & Review*, the latest news is:

“On September 4, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that an anti-camping ordinance in the city of Boise is unconstitutional to enforce when no other adequate sleeping options, such as shelter beds, are available. The three-judge panel’s decision in *Robert Martin v. The City of Boise* immediately forced local governments across the court’s northwest region to reassess the laws they created to push homelessness out of public view.

“The city of Stockton quickly ceased enforcing its homeless anti-camping ordinance, while Sacramento County officials ordered their park rangers to stop citing homeless campers along the American River Parkway, which came as an unpleasant surprise to county supervisors.

“As soon as I found out about the ruling, I suggested our board meet to discuss its implications, especially for my constituents who rightfully demand a clean and safe Parkway,” Supervisor Phil Serna, whose district includes the parkway, said in a statement. “I have many questions, including why County Counsel advised that park rangers not enforce the illegal camping ordinance without notifying or coordinating with board members.”

“In her own statement, Susan Peters, chair of the Board of Supervisors, called the Ninth Circuit ruling “devastating news.”

“From January through August, park rangers issued 1,834 citations for unlawful camping under the county ordinance, and 224 citations under the city’s. While park rangers aren’t, for the moment, ticketing homeless campers, some of their law enforcement counterparts will continue to do so. The city of Boise appealed last month’s

ruling to have it reheard before the entire Ninth Circuit. Sacramento City Attorney Susana Alcala Wood said her office has decided against rescinding enforcement of its anti-camping ordinance until the outcome of that appeal is known.

“The City of Sacramento’s unlawful-camping ordinance remains legally valid and in effect and any enforcement activity will continue to be in compliance with federal, state and local law,” Alcala Wood wrote in an email to SN&R.”

Retrieved October 4, 2018 from <https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/right-to-rest-holdout/content?oid=27180324>

We hope that public leadership discovers a way to protect the Parkway against these misguided decisions and the—arguably—advanced work of this year by the Parkway Rangers can be continued and expanded in the coming years.

Our annual report is at [http://www.arpps.org/ARPPS Annual Report 2018.pdf](http://www.arpps.org/ARPPS%20Annual%20Report%202018.pdf)

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American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #199, November 5, 2018

Building Dams & Thinning Forests

Two recent developments that bode well for common sense policy around water and forests are the Federal government’s focus on building new water storage in California and Governor Jerry Brown’s proposal about thinning forests.

First, sensible solutions arise regarding water, as reported by the *Wall Street Journal*.

An excerpt.

“President Trump today signed an order directing his regulators to more efficiently deliver water in California and other Western states, in a move that could help Republican incumbents in tight congressional races.

“The order applies to state and federal water delivery projects in California, and federal ones in Oregon and Washington. In order to deliver more water to farmers, as well as some urban regions, it calls on the secretaries of the Interior and Commerce departments to streamline regulatory reviews and remove “unnecessary burdens.”

“The projects covered include some of the most extensive irrigation delivery systems for farmers in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Farmers there have long complained of not being able to get enough water for their crops because of [environmental regulations to protect endangered fish](#) and other species.

“Some political observers also are likely to see today’s order as representing a political help to Republican incumbents [locked in tight congressional races in California](#) and elsewhere in the West. Shut-off of federal water supplies during times of drought has often enraged farmers in the West, and Republicans have in the past attempted to use the issue to their political advantage.

“Jessica Levinson, a law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said the timing of the announcement could hardly be coincidental. “There is no way this is a coincidence,” Ms. Levinson said. “This is better get out the vote advertising than anything you could buy on TV. We all know the balance of power in the House rests on what happens in California. And if you can sway some key voters in some key districts to vote Republican, this is a huge win.”

“Trump administration officials, though, said the order wasn’t timed to the midterms and praised it as long overdue. “Today’s action might be the most significant action taken by a president on Western water issues in my lifetime,” David Bernhardt, deputy interior secretary, said in a briefing with reporters.

“The order drew swift condemnation from environmentalists.

“This is clearly a political stunt, and Californians are going to pay the price,” said Mary Creasman, chief executive of the California League of Conservation Voters. “The danger is we are going to miss some of the important environmental protections we have in place.”

“Environmentalists have called on farmers and other water users to emphasize conservation and alternative sources in the face of frequent droughts in the region.

“Several House Republicans up for re-election in California called the order a relief for farmers across the state.”

Retrieved October 20, 2018 from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-orders-expedited-delivery-of-western-water->

[1539979539?fbclid=IwAR1qeaM2GZPlIHPFox01IglwDiWSHz-zid3YipaPXyynObUhknnPfxB5JzA](https://www.californiaeminentdomainreport.com/2018/09/articles/new-legislation/governor-brown-signs-sb-901-addressing-wildfire-cost-recovery-but-ignoring-inverse-condemnation-liability/)

And about forest thinning, the *California Eminent Domain Report* notes:

An excerpt.

“On August 31, 2018, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (“SB”) 901, which addresses a number of wildfire-related items relating to public utilities. Governor Brown signed the Bill into law on September 21, 2018.

“While the bill introduces a series of new changes, it is particularly noteworthy for what it does not include from Governor Brown’s initial June 2018 proposal for wildfire liability reform. At least for the time being, lawmakers abandoned the most controversial aspect of Governor Brown’s proposal for the bill: modifying California’s strict liability standard applied to utility companies for wildfires. SB 901 as passed by the Legislature does not make any changes to the state’s legal doctrine of inverse condemnation. However, SB 901 does makes several changes relevant to public and investor-owned utilities that are within jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”)....

“SB 901 also makes comprehensive changes to forestry management and fuel reduction under the Forest Practice Act in order to mitigate the risk of wildfires across the state. These widespread changes were negotiated in weeks of conversation by Assembly and Senate staff, CalFire, the Governor’s Office, the Board, and many stakeholders. Lastly, SB 901 allocates \$200 million per year for five years from the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in order to provide funding to CalFire for forest health and fire prevention and prescribed burns and other fuel reduction activities.”

Retrieved October 25, 2018 from

<https://www.californiaeminentdomainreport.com/2018/09/articles/new-legislation/governor-brown-signs-sb-901-addressing-wildfire-cost-recovery-but-ignoring-inverse-condemnation-liability/>

This is wonderful news on both fronts and we can hope that policy awakening on forests and water will continue to implementation, sooner rather than later.

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E-Letter #200, December 3, 2018

Solid Common Sense on Homelessness, Seattle Style

A great article from Christopher F. Rufo in Seattle describing their situation which fits Sacramento all too well, and he offers sound, researched solutions to solving the emergency.

An excerpt.

Abstract

“The City of Seattle has failed to address its current homelessness crisis. In fact, because of ideological capture and poor policy decisions, the city has created a system of perverse incentives that has only made the crisis worse. In order to truly confront the problem of homelessness, the city’s leadership must embrace a policy of realism: quickly build emergency shelter, enforce the law against public camping, and dismantle the system of perverse incentives. Ultimately, the city has enough resources to solve the crisis—it must summon the political courage to break free from its current ideological deadlock and implement better policies.

“**SEATTLE** is a city under siege. Over the past five years, the Emerald City has endured a slow-rolling explosion of homelessness, crime, and addiction. In a one-night count this winter, there were 11,643 people sleeping in tents, cars, and emergency shelters. 1

“Property crime has skyrocketed to rates two-and-a-half times that of Los Angeles and four times that of New York City. 2 Cleanup crews pick up tens of thousands of dirty needles from the streets and parks across the city. 3

“At the same time, according to the *Puget Sound Business Journal*, the Seattle metro area spends more than \$1 billion on the homelessness crisis every year. 4 That’s nearly \$100,000 for every homeless man, woman, and child in King County, yet the crisis seems to only have deepened, with more addiction, more crime, and more tent encampments staking their claim in residential neighborhoods. By any measurement, whatever the city is doing now is not working.

“The City of Seattle has failed to address ideological capture and poor policy decisions and the city has created a system of perverse incentives that has only made the crisis worse. In order to truly confront the problem of homelessness, the city’s leadership must embrace a policy of realism: quickly build emergency shelter, enforce the law against public camping, and dismantle the system of perverse incentives.

“Over the past year, I’ve spent time in city council meetings, political rallies, homeless encampments, and rehabilitation facilities hoping to understand this para-dox: how is it possible that the government spends so much money and, at the same time, makes so little impact? While most of the debate on homelessness has focused on the technical questions that make up the superstructure of our public policy— should we build more shelters, should we build supervised injection sites—I learned that in order to truly unravel this paradox, we must to examine the deeper assumptions and beliefs that have come to shape the way we think about homelessness in cities like Seattle.

“As I delved into the story, I discovered that the real battle isn’t being waged in the tents, under the bridges, or in the corridors of City Hall. Rather, there’s a deeper, ideological war that’s currently being won by a loose alliance of four major power centers: the socialist revolutionaries, the compassion brigades, the homeless-industrial complex, and the addiction evangelists. Together, these four groups have framed the political debate, diverted hundreds of millions of dollars towards favored projects, and recruited a large phalanx of well-intentioned voters who have bought into the “politics of unlimited compassion.”

“If we want to truly break through the failed status quo on homelessness in places like Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, we must first understand the dynamics of ideological battlefield, identify the fatal flaws in our current policies, and fundamentally reframe the way we understand the crisis. Until then, we’ll continue to dream up utopian schemes that end in failure and despair.”

Retrieved October 29, 2018 from <https://chrisforseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Homelessness-Report.pdf?utm>

The solutions are out there Sacramento, but we need to discover the political and cultural will to find and implement them.

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E-Letter #201, January 7, 2019

Raising Shasta Dam & Not Forgetting Auburn Dam

Though the political climate has changed in Washington D.C., the need for more water storage has not and the raising of Shasta Dam, on which work has already started, according to this story from the September 27, 2018 *Redding Searchlight*:

“Nathan Morgan has been hanging over the side of side of Shasta Dam recently — sometimes upside down — making marks on the side of the dam.

“Morgan is part of a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation crew drilling holes in the side and on the top of the dam to test the strength of the concrete.

“The drilling is part of the prep work to raise the height of the dam 18½ feet.

“The bureau plans to drill about 70 holes in the dam over the next few weeks, said Don Bader, the bureau’s area manager. The crew will also be drilling into the bedrock beneath the dam, he said.

“They need to drill the holes to test the concrete to determine whether it is strong enough to bear the weight of the 18½-foot cap on the dam.

“They’re finding out the concrete is very hard,” Bader said.

“The concrete includes 8-inch to 10-inch chunks of rock mined from the Sacramento River. The rocks were hauled by conveyer belt from Turtle Bay to the dam construction site where they were mixed with the cement.

“Crews are drilling nearly 50 holes on top of the dam and numerous holes on both sides of the dam.

“On Thursday, Morgan wore a harness and hung by a rope over the side of the dam as he and the rest of the crew determined where the rebar was in the concrete. After locating the rebar they marked a drill spot to avoid hitting the metal rebar, said Henry Garcia, construction manager for the bureau.

“Earlier this year Congress set aside about \$20 million for pre-construction work and design on the dam raise.

“Raising the height of the dam 18½ feet will allow the bureau to store an additional 630,000 acre-feet of water in Shasta Lake. The dam currently holds about 4.5 million acre-feet, so the raise would add 14 percent to the lake’s capacity.

“An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, enough water for a family of four for a year.”

Retrieved January 6, 2018 from

<https://www.redding.com/story/news/2018/09/27/work-begins-raising-height-shasta-dam/1449293002/>

And, fortunately, Congressman Tom McClintock & the Auburn Dam Council are not forgetting the need for Auburn Dam.

Congressman McClintock has been a strong Auburn Dam supporter for many years, understanding the need for the flood control, water storage, and power generation it can provide as he noted in a speech noting the Folsom Dam Spillway Project:

“This spillway project is part of a multi-billion dollar program to protect the Sacramento region against a 200-year flood. Folsom Dam stores over one million acre-feet of water and produces nearly 200 megawatts of electricity. We should note, however, that just upstream from this spot is the abandoned site of the Auburn Dam, that if completed, would have given this region nearly 2 1/2 million acre feet of storage, 800 megawatts of hydro-electricity, and 400-year flood protection for the Sacramento Delta. Two and a half times the water; four times the hydro-electricity and twice the flood protection as currently provided by Folsom. Indeed, if the Auburn Dam had been completed, Folsom Lake would be brim full today, and the Sacramento region would be safe from a 400-year flood with all the added prosperity that cheap and abundant water and electricity would have provided.”

Retrieved January 7, 2019 from

<https://mcclintock.house.gov/newsroom/speeches/folsom-dam-third-phase-completion-of-folsom-dam-improvement-project>

The Auburn Dam Council is a nonprofit organization that has been supportive of the Dam since its inception and has performed great work keeping alive the obvious reasons to build Auburn Dam against the clamor and din of the mistaken assumptions of the deep ecology inspired environmentalist movement.

As the Council notes on their website:

“The Auburn Dam is vital to California’s future for three simple reasons:

“•Dam provides water storage capacity that will support the rising water needs of our exploding population.

“•Building the Auburn Dam is vital to securing the long-term flood protection needs of Sacramento and Yolo counties.

“•Power generated by the dam will provide a reliable supply of power. This power will be available for “peaking purposes” to meet the high summer load requirements.

“The benefits that the dam will provide Californians greatly outweigh the potential economic and natural disasters the region faces if the dam is not built.

“The time to build the Auburn Dam is now!

“Support California’s continued economic prosperity and the safety of our citizens by helping us in our mission to complete the construction of the Auburn Dam.

“The population growth of California is inevitable and the benefitting five county areas are parallel to that of the State. With a current state population of 36 million, growing at half a million per year, it is anticipated that by the year 2010, the population will equal 40 million and by the year 2020 upwards of 50 million people. These future increases will impact both the private and public infrastructures. It is estimated the population increases will require about 200,000 housing units per year. A new or supplemental water supply will be needed for the housing and other associated requirements.

“In a presentation titled “ Water 2025 – Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West” sponsored in 2003 by Secretary of the Interior, Gale A. Norton, a map showing the potential water supply crises by 2025 prominently labeled the Sacramento region as “highly likely” area for water crisis and conflict.”

Retrieved January 7, 2019 from <http://auburndamcouncil.org/>

We will also continue our support of this very important project as it will provide the stabilization of the American River Parkway by controlling the damage caused when too much water has to be released from Folsom Dam for flood control and help the salmon by providing a stable supply of cold water for those dry years when the river runs too warm for the salmon, as we note in our report on the Dam, on our website at <http://www.arpps.org/Report2-AuburnDam.pdf>

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American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #202, February 5, 2019

Remembering Our Mission

In the bylaws for our nonprofit corporation filed on October 13, 2003, we specified our mission

“BYLAWS (October 13, 2003)

“ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

“SECTION 1- MISSION

“The purpose of this Corporation is; to help preserve the natural beauty and resources of the American River Parkway for the public, both present and future generations, by educating the public and other parkway related organizations, concerning the value of the Parkway to our community and the importance of preserving it for all of the members of our community, including the poorest members of our community.”

With all of the problems we have been talking about since that time, the one fact that remains indisputable is “the value of the Parkway to our community and the importance of preserving it for all of the members of our community, including the poorest members of our community.”

This is a mission shared generally by all of the Parkway related organizations, and as hard as all of us have worked, that value has indeed dropped over that time, but it is still very much there.

I don't get out to the Parkway much due to my difficulty walking long distances because of my prosthetic leg due to an accident caused amputation at the knee many years ago; but we live only a couple blocks from it, so our various drives go by it constantly and I see enough to know that the value I experienced when I was able to get out there regularly, is still pretty much there.

The natural surroundings, the wildlife, the river itself, the sounds of river and nature when walking and the generally happy faces of other Parkway visitors walking, running, biking, horseback riding, fishing, or just taking in the experience; are still a treasure shared by few other urban/suburban cities.

The Parkway is surrounded by houses, businesses and the busy activity Sacramento thrives on, yet, within its depths, we still find the sanctuary that we all know as the “Crown jewel of Sacramento”; perhaps a tad tarnished these days, but still a crown jewel.

Pete Bontadelli, ARPPS Board member, added this: “The parkway serves multi purposes including the recreational uses; the beauty and escape inside of the urban environment within the flood plain. The flood control nature of the parkway between the levees helps to keep all of us safe. The values of the river to the fishery and the sports folks who use it and the water supply source for many are all additional factors worth protecting.”

We’ll keep working to fulfill our mission.

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E-Letter #203, March 9, 2019

Suburbs Rule

As anti-suburban types continue the narrative that urban areas outperform suburban ones, the truth is the reverse, as this story by Richard Florida, from *City Lab* reports.

An excerpt.

A new study finds that suburban neighborhoods outperform urban ones across the board.

The rise of the city and the decline of the suburbs has emerged as a common meme in recent years. The young, the educated, and the affluent have come streaming back to the urban core, driving up rents, driving out the poor, and giving rise to patterns of gentrification. The story goes that the suburbs have lost their long-held position as the premier location, being besieged by poverty, economic decline, and other problems once thought to be the province of the inner city.

The trouble is that this picture does not match reality — not by a long shot, according to a [detailed new paper](#) published in the journal *Urban Studies*. Authored by Whitney

Airgood-Obrycki of Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies, it looks at the change in the economic status of urban and suburban neighborhoods from 1970 to 2010, a period that overlaps with notions of the resurgence of America's urban centers and the decline of its suburbs.

Airgood-Obrycki's study classifies neighborhoods according to three categories—urban core, inner-ring suburbs, and outer-ring suburbs — based on their proximity to the urban center and their density. It further breaks out the suburbs into three additional categories based on when they were developed: prewar, postwar, and modern. Airgood-Obrycki defines the economic status of neighborhoods according to a series of key economic and demographic indicators, including income, college education, employment in professional occupations, home values, rents, vacancy rates, older households (60 years of age and over), and female-headed households.

Her data come from the U.S. Census Longitudinal Tract Database for the period 1970 to 2010, and cover roughly 40,000 census tracts across America's 100 most populous metro areas.

In contrast to the idea of a [Great Inversion](#) — a shift of affluence back to the cities and poverty out to the suburbs — Airgood-Obrycki finds that suburban neighborhoods overwhelmingly outperformed their urban counterparts during the four-decade period spanning 1970 to 2010. Indeed, suburbs *increased* their economic advantage over urban areas during this time frame.

The share of suburbs making up the top ranks of all urban and suburban neighborhoods (measured as the top quartile) went from roughly two-thirds in 1970 to almost three-quarters by 2010. And the share of suburban neighborhoods in the top two status levels (that is, the upper two quartiles) increased from 56 percent in 1970 to 59 percent by 2010, while the share of urban neighborhoods in these top two levels fell from 41 percent to 36 percent.

The suburban advantage is clear. Across the board, suburban neighborhoods have higher incomes, higher home values, higher shares of college grads, and higher shares of professionals than urban neighborhoods. And suburbs do better than urban areas even when we compare neighborhoods in the same quartile of status.

Among America's most advantaged neighborhoods (the top quartile), the median incomes of suburban neighborhoods are roughly \$10,000 higher than those of their urban counterparts, a gap that has grown from \$5,500 in 1970. Conversely, among the nation's least advantaged neighborhoods (those in the bottom quartile), urban neighborhoods have incomes that are roughly \$5,000 lower than in their suburban counterparts—\$33,700 versus \$38,600. Among declining neighborhoods, urban neighborhoods saw income losses twice as large as those of declining suburbs, \$14,040 versus \$7,570.

Retrieved March 9, 2019 from <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-persistent-economic-advantage-of-americas-suburbs/ar-BBUv1r1?ocid=spartandhp>

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E-Letter #204, April 2, 2019

Atmospheric Rivers & Auburn Dam

Atmospheric rivers of rain will increase, according to this article from *Yale Climate Connections*, and if so, California needs more storage capacity, and for our area, that means Auburn Dam; which the Bureau of Reclamation still considers an alternative, according to Wikipedia:

“Since its inception, hundreds of millions of dollars have been poured into the Auburn Dam project, but no further work has been done since the 1980s. However, the Bureau of Reclamation continues to list the Auburn as a considered alternative for the future of its Auburn-Folsom South Unit project. As of now, massive evidence of the dam’s construction still remain in the North Fork American River canyon, specifically the excavations for the abutments and spillway, with the consequences of increased erosion.” (Retrieved March 27, 2019 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auburn_Dam#Proposals_for_resurrecting_the_Auburn_Dam)

An excerpt from the *Yale Climate Connections* article.

Imagine a river flowing through the sky – and all of its water dropping down to earth. That’s kind of what happens during many winter storms on the west coast.

A so-called “atmospheric river” is a long, flowing band of water vapor – typically a few hundred miles wide – that contains vast amounts of moisture. When it moves inland over mountains, the moisture rises, causing it to cool and fall to earth as rain or snow.

Duane Waliser of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory says atmospheric rivers are often beneficial, because they provide about half of California’s fresh water supply. But strong atmospheric river systems can also be dangerous – especially when they stall, or produce rain on top of snow.

Waliser: “Virtually all the major floods that occur along the west coast of the U.S. are associated with atmospheric rivers.”

He says as the climate warms, atmospheric rivers are projected to grow wider and longer. Powerful ones are also expected to become more frequent. That could increase water supply in some places ...

Waliser: “But on the other hand, atmospheric rivers come with flood potential as well, so they’re sort of a double-edged sword, so to speak.”

Retrieved March 27, 2019 from

<https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/03/california-could-see-intense-rains-in-the-future/>

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E-Letter #205, May 7, 2019

Seattle is Dying, Is Sacramento Next?

This is a very important article by Cecily Hastings about the documentary; Seattle is Dying, from *Inside Sacramento*.

An excerpt.

“When I heard about the hourlong documentary film “Seattle Is Dying,” I felt a certain dread. Listening to a radio interview about the film, I was struck by the bleakness of Seattle’s homeless situation. It took me a week to make time to watch the film. After viewing it, “bleak” wasn’t strong enough to describe the problem.

“The film was produced by television station KOMO in Seattle. It was the third part of an informal series developed a few years earlier as the homeless situation grew worse in that city. The film opens with a bold statement: This is about an idea. For a city that has run out of them. What if Seattle is dying? Can it ever recover?

“The documentary starts with the premise that a majority of citizens in Seattle are angry, embarrassed and deeply saddened to see one of the most beautiful cities in the world reduced to a dangerous and disgusting mess. The decisions made by civic leaders to cope with homelessness are why many residents are falling out of love with their hometown.

“Business owners and citizens are upset. They believe they have rights too. But no one seems concerned about those rights. “We have lost all power in the situation,” one business owner says. “Why can’t we enforce the laws? This is not right!”

“The film shows townhall meetings descend into rage and mockery as citizens laugh at officials who tell them to call 911 to report complaints about the homeless. Crowds cheer at the suggestion by citizens that laws should be enforced. One woman says police are frustrated and tells folks to vote out politicians who created the mess. “How can watching human beings live and die in filth and madness be the right thing to do?” asks one man. Another starts a Facebook photo page to document the filth and sadness.

“Seattle spends more than a billion dollars each year on a homeless population that is currently estimated at 16,000. In 2016, the population was 10,000, says Sacramento City Councilmember Jeff Harris, who toured Seattle three years ago.

“This year, Seattle is spending an average of more than \$62,000 on assistance to each homeless person. These costs are paid from city, county and nonprofit budgets for medical and mental health services, outreach, drug and alcohol intervention and treatment, food and supplies, trash clean up, shelters, public health intervention, needle

clean up, public property repairs, fencing, small houses, and much more. Law enforcement dollars are consumed dealing with the problem.

“The more money that is spent, the bigger the problem seems to get. Add in the horrendous human suffering, and the total cost becomes incalculable.

“Only one major city in the U.S. has more property crimes per capita than Seattle at 5,258 per thousand of population. That city is San Francisco with more than 6,000.

“But here’s a telling statistic. Of the top 100 repeat criminal offenders in Seattle, all live on the streets. This group is responsible for more than 3,600 crimes annually. As we see in the film, many are emboldened that they can flaunt the law.

“The filmmakers tracked Seattle crime from 2006 to 2016. In 2006, only 25 percent of criminal arrests were not charged by the district attorney’s office. But by 2016, more than 46 percent were ignored or never charged.

“A third of the remaining 54 percent of those crimes were dismissed. Another third were never resolved. Only 18 percent resulted in convictions. After plea deals, only a fraction resulted in serious jail time. Clearly, very few people are held accountable for their crimes in Seattle.

“The situation terrifies cops. They’re afraid for their own safety, their jobs and pensions, and retaliation. They’re frustrated because violent criminals are not kept in jail or are given ridiculously low sentences. “We arrest dangerous people for good cause and they just are bounced back on the streets like a revolving door,” one officer says. Criminals have effectively conquered the criminal justice system.

“Police believe their efforts to keep neighborhoods safe are futile because of misguided attempts by leaders to be “compassionate” to the criminal class. Good cops are leaving the force.”

Read the rest at <https://insidesacramento.com/is-sacramento-dying/>

In our area, a strategy helping the homeless (and local residents and business who suffer the impacts) needs to be developed that is capable of safely sheltering up to 2 or 3 thousand homeless folks a night with available transformational services, and San Antonio's **Haven for Hope** program <http://www.havenforhope.org/downloads/docs/H4H%20Brochure%2010-31-2016.pdf> especially the courtyard strategy they use for safe rapid shelter for large numbers, seems to offer an answer.

You can read more from our news release of October 26, 2018 on our **News Page** <http://arpps.org/news.html>

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E-Letter #206, June 3, 2019

Ideas for Solving Homelessness

This is an excellent, must-read article from *California Globe* examining the issue in a very comprehensive way and making points which Sacramento public leadership may want to consider—especially for the Parkway—in light of the recent news from Sacramento County:

“At its May 21 meeting, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution supporting the designation of the [Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail](#) as part of the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS).”

Retrieved May 31, 2019 from <http://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/Jedediah-Smith-Trail-Receives-National-Recognition.aspx>

This is something that will attract new users to the trail who might not know to be very careful on the trail between Cal Expo and Discovery Park, because of the significant presence of homeless campsites and the area we have designated, very sadly, the Parkway Skid Row.

This is a tough love approach, but maybe that is what is needed.

An excerpt.

(1) Acknowledge there's a problem. Agree that it's no longer acceptable to throw money at the homeless epidemic without questioning all the current proposals and the underlying premises. Billions of dollars are being wasted. Admit it.

(2) Recognize that a special interest, the Homeless Industrial Complex – comprised of developers, government bureaucrats, and activist nonprofits – has taken over the homeless agenda and turned it into a profit center. They are not going to solve the problem, they are going to milk it. Their PR firms will sell compliant media a feel-good story about someone who turned their life around, living in a fine new apartment. What they won't tell you is that because of the \$400,000 they charged to build that single apartment unit, dozens if not hundreds of people are still on the street with nothing.

(3) Act at the municipal and state level to set a limit on the cost per shelter "bed." This cost must represent a compromise between ideal facilities for homeless people, and what is affordable at a scale sufficient to solve the problem. There is no reason the capital costs for a shelter bed should be \$50,000 each, but that's exactly what's proposed in Venice – \$8 million for a semi-permanent "tent" with 154 beds. Similarly, there is no reason a basic apartment unit for the homeless should cost over \$400,000, but in Los Angeles, by most accounts, that's what they cost. This is outrageous. Durable tents and supportive facilities should be set up for a small fraction of that amount. Pick a number. Stick to it. Demand creative solutions.

(4) Stop differentiating between "bridge housing" (basic shelter) and "permanent supportive housing." Permanent supportive housing IS "bridge housing." Amenities better than a durable, dry, sole occupancy tent and a porta-potty can belong exclusively in the realm of privately funded nonprofits and charities. Until there isn't a single homeless person left on the street, not one penny of taxpayer money should be paying for anything beyond basic bridge housing.

(5) Accept that homeless shelters will be more cost-effectively constructed and operated if they are in industrial, commercial (where appropriate), or rural areas, and not in downtown areas or residential neighborhoods.

To read the entire article, go here: retrieved May 29, 2019 from
<https://californiaglobe.com/uncategorized/the-homeless-industrial-complex/>

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E-Letter #207, July 8, 2019

American Suburbs are Booming

That is no surprise here as that is where pretty much everybody wants to live in America today—and our town, Sacramento, is one of the most suburbanized cities in America.

This story from the *Wall Street Journal* fills us in on the national trend.

An excerpt.

“APEX, N.C.—This Raleigh, N.C., suburb was declared the best place to live in America by a national magazine in 2015, around the time Lindsay and Terry Mahaffey were [drawn by its schools, affordable housing and quaint downtown](#).

“The couple found a sprawling five-bedroom house next to a horse farm for \$782,000, half the cost they would have paid in the Seattle suburb they left behind.

“Many other families had the same idea. Apex, nicknamed the Millennial Mayberry, is the fastest-growing suburb in the U.S., [according to Realtor.com](#), and the town is struggling to keep pace with all the newcomers.

“When Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffey took their eldest daughter for the first day of kindergarten, school officials told them they didn’t have a seat. Too many kids, they said. On weekends, the family thinks twice about going downtown—not enough parking. And the horse farm next door was sold for a subdivision.

“The couple, like generations before them, soon took an active role in trying to shape their new hometown.

“In an echo of the postwar baby boom, many U.S. suburbs are again suffering growing pains: not enough schools, too much traffic for two-lane roads, and scenic farmland plowed under for housing tracts.

“After several years of surging urban growth, Apex and suburbs like it now account for [14 of the 15 fastest-growing U.S. cities](#) with populations over 50,000, according to the census.

“Millennials priced out of popular big cities are flocking to Frisco, Texas, Nolensville, Tenn., Lakewood Ranch, Fla. and Scottdale, Ga.—not exactly household names but among the fastest-growing destinations in the U.S.

“The back-to-the-city trend has reversed,” said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, citing last year’s census data.”

Retrieved July 1, 2019 from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/american-suburbs-swell-again-as-a-new-generation-escapes-the-city-11561992889>

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American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #208, August 5, 2019

The Mentally Ill, Homelessness & Violence

This was posted on our blog on August 2, <https://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/> but important enough to send out to everyone on our mailing list, and, in relation to the Parkway—we call the area from Discovery Park to Cal Expo, Parkway Skid Row—note the final sentence which I have bolded, and hope that is not the case here.

In this article from *City Journal*, the sad history of public leadership's failure to address the three effectively is outlined.

An excerpt.

“Early last month, 29-year-old Christopher Morisette [rampaged through the streets of Seattle](#), stabbing three pedestrians with a steel folding knife, then stripped off his clothes and ran naked across a freeway interchange, where he was arrested. In the past six months, [three similar “random stabbings”](#) occurred in Seattle’s downtown commercial district.

“Despite the police department’s repeated efforts—including a [block-by-block strategy](#) targeting open-air drug-dealing and violence—crime and anti-social behavior stubbornly persist. In 2018, just in the downtown precinct, Seattle police received 44,246 calls for service, including 7,215 reports of violence, 3,861 reports of narcotics and public intoxication, and 1,069 reports of mental health crises and suicidal behavior. Numerous eruptions of violence at one street intersection—3rd and Pine—have led residents to dub it “3rd and Crime”; they call the corner McDonald’s “McStabby’s.”

“Within this disintegrating social landscape, Christopher Morisette’s story is no longer atypical. According to [news reports](#), he was born to a schizophrenic mother, grew up in the foster care system, developed a methamphetamine addiction, cycled in and out of jail, lived in homeless shelters for the past three years, and suffers—in the opinion of his adoptive mother—from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Morisette was certainly groomed for failure by the familial and social conditions around him. He was also deprived of the institutions that might have provided some love, care, and restraint. “You just get to the point you’re numb and you’re not surprised when things happen,” Morisette’s adoptive mother said to reporters after the attack.

“What can be done? Seattle mayor Jenny Durkan has [admitted](#) that the city government is “unable to deal with significant mental health needs” and called for new investments in mental health facilities. She’s right—the state should have the capacity to put the dangerously mentally ill into conservatorship—but the crisis runs much deeper than public administrators comprehend.

“A century ago, French sociologist Émile Durkheim formulated the concept of anomic suicide, in which a general breakdown in social conditions influences the decision of some individuals to end their lives. Today, with age-old restraints—family, religion, community, tradition—collapsing under the forces of modernity, and homelessness, addiction, and madness on the rise, many cities are seeing what might be called anomic violence: random assaults of strangers on urban streets.

“It’s not that the United States hasn’t developed institutions to deal with these problems. We have, over several generations, vastly expanded the so-called therapeutic state, to the point that federal and state governments now spend more than \$2 trillion on [health](#) and [welfare](#) programs annually. We have constructed a vast technical apparatus that, despite its good intentions, has failed to reverse these social pathologies. In fact, in cities like Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, social scientists and political leaders have abandoned the goal of restoring the social fabric and reintegrating the addicted and mentally ill into society—shifting, instead, to a model of “harm reduction.” **The best we can hope for now, they appear to believe, is to contain widespread dysfunction in a downtown corridor.**”

Retrieved August 2, 2019 from <https://www.city-journal.org/seattle-stabbings>

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American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #209, September 4, 2019

Managing the Forests, Reducing Wildfires

Congressman McClintock gave a talk at Lake Tahoe the other day on forest management as it relates to reducing wildfires, (posted to his blog) which was excellent.

An excerpt.

“Look around at the beauty that surrounds us. By this time tomorrow, the scene could be very different: thick smoke, smoldering rubble, tons of ash falling all around us, fire crews desperately trying to stop a wall of fire moving up the basin. All it takes is one match – or a lightning strike or a chain dragging along a highway or countless other ignition sources.

“The town of Paradise began last November 8th just as we are here today. The Camp Fire was 50 times the size of the Angora fire – a similar fire here would mean the utter destruction of Tahoe’s communities.

“And beware: our forests are no different than those that surrounded Paradise. A recent survey reported the Tahoe Basin carries four times its safe fuel density.

“Six years ago, I was at the command center at the King Fire the day the fire literally exploded. That afternoon, the senior fire officials believed it would burn straight through the communities of Foresthill and Georgetown and on to the Tahoe Basin and they were powerless to stop it. One of the senior firefighters told me, “Congressman, I can’t even get to this fire on the ground. We used to have good timber roads – I could get equipment there – now all I can do is drop stuff from the air and pray to God the wind shifts.” Fortunately, it did shift, or things would be very different here today.

“A generation ago, we actively managed our forests to assure that tree density matched the ability of the land to support it. Every year, US Forest Service foresters marked off excess timber and then sold it to the timber companies that removed it. Today, well-intentioned environmental laws passed in the 1970’s make that process endlessly time consuming and ultimately cost prohibitive.

“Those who tell us we just need more money forget that before these laws, harvesting excess federal timber didn’t cost us anything. On the contrary, it brought in over a billion dollars a year – 25 percent went directly to local governments like Tahoe and the other 75 percent funded the entire U.S. Forest Service and paid for forest programs. Today, forest management costs us \$2 for every dollar it generates.

“Those who blame global warming should consider this: before the U.S. Forest Service was created, California lost between 4 ½ and 12 million acres to wildfire every year. When the Forest Service actively managed the land, that figure dropped to a steady quarter million acres. Last year, we lost 1.9 million acres. That’s not a new normal. That’s the old normal reasserting itself because we abandoned our forests to neglect.

“And lest we forget, decaying or burning forests make a mockery of all the laws aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Wildfires in the United States pump an estimated 290 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air every year. Healthy, growing forests absorb it. Milling surplus trees sequesters their carbon indefinitely and renews the forest’s ability to store still more.

“An untended forest is no different than an untended garden: it will grow and grow until it chokes itself to death and then fall victim to disease, pestilence, drought and ultimately catastrophic fire. It takes more than a century for a forest to grow back and begin the cycle again.

“The growing peril of poorly managed forests is the direct driver behind skyrocketing fire insurance premiums in mountain communities. Insurance is how a market assigns a dollar value to the risk of a catastrophic loss. As the risk goes up, the cost of insurance goes up. When the risk becomes unacceptable, insurance becomes unavailable.

“The good news is, we are turning the corner.

“Over the last few years, that’s what the debate at these Tahoe Summits has been about: whether to focus on active forest management and fire prevention. That’s why I introduced the House version of the Tahoe Restoration Act in 2015. The heart of that act was to streamline the permitting process so we could begin removing excess timber in the Tahoe Basin before it could burn. Despite fierce opposition, we won that authority.

“I want to thank Jeff Marsolais, the Forest Supervisor of the Tahoe Basin Management Unit who is superbly implementing it.

“In order for the Forest Service to treat most acreage, under NEPA it takes an average of 4 1/2 years and costs millions of dollars to produce an Environmental Impact Statement in excess of 500 pages. Under the new authority granted by our legislation, Jeff and his team permitted the first project in less than four months with a 16-page report. And the work is now proceeding.

“Our success here makes a powerful argument that the same expedited authority should be extended throughout the entire U.S. Forest Service System.

“Last week, we hosted the annual conference of the Congressional Western Caucus here. House and Senate members from across the country came here to see first-hand both the beauty and the threat to Tahoe.

“We toured the scar of the Angora Fire, where after 12 years, scrub brush has replaced what was once a forest. We saw where the fire was stopped by properly thinned acreage in the urban interface. And we saw the first 4,000 acre thinning project made possible under the new law.”

Retrieved August 28, 2019 from <http://tommclintock.com/voice-single.php?id=204>

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Appendix II: Quarterly Newsletters

American River Parkway Preservation Society Newsletter: Issue 60 – Fall 2018

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Announcement: *Annual Report Published & Posted Online*

Here is the introduction:

Introduction

This year started off pretty good with Sacramento County directing millions more dollars toward eradicating illegal camping by the homeless in the Parkway and for most of the year the results appeared positive; though many in the communities impacted most—Woodlake, North Sacramento—said that though there was increased Ranger activity, the homeless whose camps were removed just moved right back in.

Then later in the year, the bottom dropped out when the Ninth Circuit said camping outside in public could not be considered illegal as long as the community in question did not provide enough shelter for the homeless, thereby forcing them to have to camp outside.

Sacramento County immediately stopped enforcing the law against camping and recently ARPPS members have noted more camps springing up even further northeast of the traditional Skid Row of the Parkway—Discovery Park to Cal Expo—so this could become a challenging year.

Here is what Sue Frost, Sacramento County Supervisor, posted recently:

Appeals Case Impacts Illegal Camping Ordinance

A federal court decision has ruled that illegal camping ordinances are unconstitutional and that local governments cannot cite or arrest anyone sleeping on public property.

On Sept. 4, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on the case Robert Martin v. City of Boise, stating that enforcing anti-camping ordinances when adequate shelter beds are unavailable is unconstitutional.

Because of that ruling, the Sacramento County Department of Parks stopped enforcing the City of Sacramento's anti-camping ordinance and the County ordinance prohibiting camping without a permit.

Since January 2018, Sacramento County rangers have issued 1,834 citations for unlawful camping under the County ordinance, and 224 citations for unlawful camping under the City of Sacramento ordinance.

The County is currently evaluating enforcement options under existing laws and regulations and will provide information to the Board on next steps.

Sacramento County Rangers will continue to enforce ordinances including but not limited to campfires, littering, dogs off leash, possession of a shopping cart and environmental degradation.

Retrieved Monday October 1, 2018 from <https://mailchi.mp/suefrost/supervisor-frost-oct18-newsletter?e=35effocfcc>

According to this October 4, 2018 story in the *Sacramento News & Review*, the latest news is:

On September 4, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that an anti-camping ordinance in the city of Boise is unconstitutional to enforce when no other adequate sleeping options, such as shelter beds, are available. The three-judge panel's decision in Robert Martin v. The City of Boise immediately forced local governments across the court's northwest region to reassess the laws they created to push homelessness out of public view.

The city of Stockton quickly ceased enforcing its homeless anti-camping ordinance, while Sacramento County officials ordered their park rangers to stop citing homeless campers along the American River Parkway, which came as an unpleasant surprise to county supervisors.

As soon as I found out about the ruling, I suggested our board meet to discuss its implications, especially for my constituents who rightfully demand a clean and safe Parkway," Supervisor Phil Serna, whose district includes the parkway, said in a statement. "I have many questions, including why County Counsel advised that park rangers not enforce the illegal camping ordinance without notifying or coordinating with board members."

In her own statement, Susan Peters, chair of the Board of Supervisors, called the Ninth Circuit ruling "devastating news."

From January through August, park rangers issued 1,834 citations for unlawful camping under the county ordinance, and 224 citations under the city's. While park rangers aren't, for the moment, ticketing homeless campers, some of their law enforcement counterparts will continue to do so. The city of Boise appealed last month's ruling to have it reheard before the entire Ninth Circuit. Sacramento City Attorney Susana Alcala Wood said her office has decided against rescinding enforcement of its anti-camping ordinance until the outcome of that appeal is known.

The City of Sacramento's unlawful-camping ordinance remains legally valid and in effect and any enforcement activity will continue to be in compliance with federal, state and local law," Alcala Wood wrote in an email to SN&R."

Retrieved October 4, 2018 from
<https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/right-to-rest-holdout/content?oid=27180324>

We hope that public leadership discovers a way to protect the Parkway against these misguided decisions and the—arguably—advanced work of this year by the Parkway Rangers can be continued and expanded in the coming years.

Our annual report is at http://www.arpps.org/ARPPS_Annual_Report_2018.pdf

Essay: *Illegal Camping: Is New Effort Really Helping ?*

In our September E Letter we noted an apparent improvement in clearing illegal camps in the Parkway and for those of you who haven't read it, here it is:

E-Letter #197, September 10, 2018

The new—and well financed—work on reducing illegal camping by the homeless, appears to be working

And the primary evidence for that is the latest—as of today, August 31—Parkway Ranger Report, which (year to date figures) shows a huge number of camps cleared (1,597) and citations issued for illegal camping (1709) as well as 796 tons of garbage and debris removed. (p. 3)

Retrieved August 31, 2018 from
<http://www.regionalparks.saccounty.net/Rangers/Documents/June%202018%20Monthly%20Report.pdf>

In the same six month period of 2017, a total of 790 camps were cleared and removed, so that has more than doubled for this year; and that is real good news.

Broken down by month 2017:

January: 101 camps cleared and removed
February: 105 camps cleared and removed
March: 167 camps cleared and removed
April: 133 camps cleared and removed
May: 141 camps cleared and removed
June: 143 camps cleared and removed

Total 790 camps cleared and removed January through June 2017

Broken down by month 2018:

January: 208 camps cleared
February: 80 camps cleared
March: 158 camps cleared
April: 295 camps cleared
May: 502 camps cleared
June: 354 camps cleared

Total 1,597 camps cleared January through June 2018

It is obvious that the Rangers are getting better at what they do and they also have more help doing it.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Parkway Rangers who are doing this tedious and often dangerous work and to the Board of Supervisors who approved the extra funds.

However, we cannot end this e letter without remembering the neighborhoods still being negatively impacted by the Parkway's Skid Row—Discovery Park to Cal Expo—including the ground zero neighborhoods of Woodlake & North Sacramento; who are (and have been for years) still reeling from Sacramento's—city and county—public leadership's decisions that have drawn more homeless to their neighborhoods which this *Facebook* site notes: see the August 14 post (and others) at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanRiverParkwayWoodlakeArea/>

Until these canary-in-the-coalmine neighborhoods can look out the doors of their homes and businesses and feel safe from the degradation too often caused by illegal camping by the homeless, the work of removing—and keeping removed—all illegal campsites from the Parkway is not complete.

I don't live close to the areas impacted the most—Woodlake & North Sacramento—nor venture into that part of the Parkway; but long time ARPPS members who do were quick to respond to the e letter, one member who lives in Woodlake writes:

They have moved into the periphery of the parkway – as in my neighborhood. Thanks to the new homeless shelter opened on Railroad drive without noticing us – they opened it then told us about it – the homeless are flocking in droves to the Woodlake area. The city had been paying the homeless to clean up trash on a weekly basis but I’ve noticed that no trash has been picked up in over a week now along Del Paso, Northgate and the Garden highway – most likely the funding has run out, so up go the piles and mounds of trash. A huge homeless camp – mushrooming by the day, has sprung up literally 50 feet from the parkway edge on Del Paso and Northgate. More camps creeping back again along the Garden Highway – the county is supposed to clear the ones along the Garden Highway but has not. So essentially, although it is fantastic that the County has been “moving” the camps, they have merely shifted the problem to the City and the City does little to nothing to take care of the tax payer.

Essentially the City is incapable of dealing with the problem. Their solution is to tax more in order to provide more for the homeless. The tax payer – me for example, is very tired of paying for the woefully inadequate ill-spent and misdirected narrow-minded debacle that both the city and the county have facilitated. If you build it they will come and oh boy, have they come....

It’s time for the rest of the city and the county to take their fair share. We are saturated beyond our 100%.

Also – the County is being very deliberately deceptive with their numbers. I notice when they are moving the camps along the Garden Highway, literally the next day, sometimes just hours later, the same homeless are back in the same spot. As you know, I drive from Woodlake to I-5 along Del Paso, Northgate and the Garden Highway on a daily basis, so I have come to recognize many of the homeless. It is a blatant lie to say they have cleared the camps. They clear them temporarily only to have the same campers return. So we as tax payers are paying double and triple to have the same campers repeatedly removed. The citations are meaningless and a waste of time. What good does it do to cite someone when they have zero ability to comply with a citation? It’s a joke and embarrassing.

(Received September 10, 2018 from ARPPS member)

Whatever the truth of the matter is—I tend towards the folks on the ground who are reporting on what they are seeing—the fact remains that the illegal camping problem in the Parkway has been getting worse for the entire time ARPPS has been calling for it to be dealt with (since 2003) and even with the brief statistical improvement, there is very little Sacramento County or the City of Sacramento can feel proud about.

We can do a lot better:

In our area, a strategy helping the homeless (and local residents and business who suffer the impacts) needs to be developed—capable of safely sheltering up to 2 or 3 thousand homeless folks a night—and we have long suggested basing it on the **Haven for Hope**

program <http://www.havenforhope.org/downloads/docs/H4H%20Brochure%2010-31-2016.pdf> in San Antonio, Texas; especially the courtyard strategy they use for safe rapid shelter for large numbers, see our news release of September 28, 2015 on our **News Page** <http://arpps.org/news.html>

Society Information

The American River Parkway Preservation Society is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. As a member, you will receive a monthly e-letter, quarterly newsletter, and periodic planning position papers.

Federal ID # 20-0238035

Board of Directors: *President*, Michael Rushford, President, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation;
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Our Mission

Preserve, Protect, & Strengthen the American River Parkway, Our Community's Natural Heart.

Our Vision

We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant, accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all who enter it.

Our Guiding Principles

- (1) Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.
- (2) What's good for the salmon is good for the river.
- (3) Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, social and environmental justice call upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.
- (4) If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.
- (5) Regarding new Parkway usages, inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.
- (6) The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the *California Dream* and whose vision is woven into the heart of the *American Dream*, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

The Society depends solely on its membership to continue our advocacy to preserve the Parkway in perpetuity, and we deeply appreciate any additional financial support you can provide, or by encouraging others to become members. Thank You!

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American River Parkway Preservation Society Newsletter: Issue 61 – Winter 2018/2019

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Michael Rushford, ARPPS President, has given us permission to publish this article he wrote for his organization, the *Criminal Justice Legal Foundation*.

TIME FOR A RATIONAL APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS

The magnitude of America's current homeless problem is comparable only to the Great Depression. Not since 1929 have we seen so many people living under freeway overpasses and taking over city parks, sidewalks, and wooded areas along urban rivers, streams, and ditches. In Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and a dozen other west coast cities, thousands of people live full-time on downtown streets, many of which qualify as open sewers. Over 30 percent of the nation's entire homeless population live in California, Oregon, and Washington.

How did we get here?

There has always been a homeless population in the U. S. consisting mostly of unemployed men. Prior to the 1970s, they were the hobos or bums who lived by their own rules and refused most help other than donations of cash. Many were alcoholics who, if caught wandering the streets drunk, were arrested and thrown in the "drunk tank" overnight. Those caught with drugs were arrested and spent time in jail. Mentally ill people behaving radically in public were usually committed by a judge or family members to institutions for care and treatment. But, the quality of government-funded mental hospitals varied, and in the 1960s, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), backed by some prominent psychologists, exploited this by filing lawsuits on behalf of patients involuntarily committed to mental institutions. Court rulings in these lawsuits, along with political pressure by mental health experts, eventually led to the demise of most government mental hospitals. Over the same decade, the ACLU won court rulings creating

a moratorium on the arrest of vagrants and panhandlers. The ACLU and several leading criminologists also successfully encouraged many state legislatures to implement “sentencing reforms” which diverted thieves and addicts to government-funded rehabilitation programs rather than prison or jail. These developments, coupled with a national economic recession, created the homeless crisis of the 1980s.

By the end of the Carter administration in 1981, the “misery index,” which combined the rates of unemployment and inflation as a gauge of national well being, was the highest it had been since the Great Depression. The numbers of unemployed, joined by the destitute mentally ill, and a growing population of drug addicts living on the streets in American cities became unmanageable. Activist groups blamed this on capitalism, and a sympathetic national media renamed the vagrants as “the homeless.”

In a 1982 article in the Atlantic, Harvard Professors James Q. Wilson and George Kelling introduced the “Broken Windows” theory of policing, which correlated the infusion of vagrants and low-level criminals into urban neighborhoods with an increase in serious crime. The article appeared at about the same time that the American people were demanding an end to the failed soft-on-crime policies which had driven crime rates up, replacing them with new laws that increased punishment for repeat offenders. Over the next three decades, responding to public demands for safer communities, states adopted and enforced these tough-on-crime laws and cities engaged in efforts to restore public order. The most effective public order programs moved the homeless off the streets to places where they could receive treatment, necessities, and help finding work or locating families. Those who wanted and needed help, got it. Those who did not, moved on. Following this model, and a surging national economy, crime and homelessness dropped sharply. The most dramatic results regarding cleaning out vagrants from city parks and streets were observed in New York and San Francisco in the 1990s.

Starting in the 1970s and continuing into the new century many organizations serving the homeless, mostly volunteer and often church-supported groups, were supplemented by government programs and government-funded social service institutions. Among these government sponsored programs, the original objective of helping street people to become self-sustaining and productive became secondary to securing government contracts and maintaining programs. For example, the Puget Sound Business Journal reports that the Seattle metro area, with an estimated 11,600 homeless, currently spends more than \$1 billion on homeless programs annually—nearly \$100,000 per homeless person—and the street population is not declining. According to the Los Angeles Times, a Los Angeles city/county partnership spends roughly \$480 million per year on the estimated homeless population of 58,000. This does not include what the county’s other 87 cities spend. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the city by the bay spends \$305 million per year on its estimated 7,500 homeless with no visible impact. San Francisco actually pays \$185,000 per year for each of its human-feces-removal employees.

A rational approach to homelessness must look beyond the political narratives which blame it on poverty, corporations, a lack of compassion, and the housing shortage. In their book “A Nation in Denial,” researchers Alice Baum and Donald Burns observe that “homelessness is a condition of disengagement from ordinary society—from family, friends, neighborhood, church and community.” The decline of American culture, which used to be based upon those things, the closing down of mental institutions, the decriminalization of drug use, and the Bush/Obama economy have helped create today’s homeless crisis.

It is unlikely that America will be restoring the cultural guardrails that pulled the country out of the Great Depression any time soon. But the homeless population can be reduced and better served by replacing the current multiplex of soup kitchens and ineffective government-funded programs that sustain it with one that will actually make a difference.

The Haven for Hope in San Antonio, Texas, is the model. Its Transformational Campus sits on 22 acres and shelters roughly 1,700 people each night. Of the thousands that have left the campus, 90% have not returned to the streets after one year.

How does it work?

Consolidation of Services: Most homeless don't have cars or bus fare, so finding the services they need involves roaming around the county from program to program. The homeless who walk or are brought to the Haven for Hope campus receive housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, job skills training and placement, life skills training, legal services, child care, healthcare, and even a kennel for pets.

Accepting Everyone: The campus offers several levels of service, including an open outdoor security-patrolled area where those who do not want most services or to obey rules can have a safe place to sleep, receive regular meals, bathroom and laundry access, sleeping pads, lockers and health care triage, and mental health services. People at this entry level can come and go as they please and sobriety is not a requirement. Those willing to obey more stringent rules are admitted for detox treatment, temporary housing, regular medical care, and programs to provide education, job skills and help locating family and friends.

An Alternative to Jail: In most cities today, when police come across a drunk or drugged vagrant blacked out on a sidewalk or people camping in front of City Hall, they have few good choices regarding where to take them. The drunk tank at the local jail or the hospital emergency room does not have the space or the services that the homeless need. Because Haven for Hope provides comprehensive services including detox and drug recovery programs, and a secure area for the homeless to sleep, it is the facility of choice for the San Antonio police, treating over 50,000 since opening in 2011. Any worthwhile effort to clean up a city's neighborhoods, business districts, and public spaces requires a place to take the homeless where they are welcomed and provided with help.

Many urban counties have abandoned and vacant properties that could be converted to serve as campuses for the homeless. If government property is used, service providers could be located rent-free on a campus, allowing more funds to be used for services. Such campuses would undoubtedly attract both charitable foundation and private sector grants.

Clearly the millions of tax dollars currently going to maintain the homeless in tent cities, housing compounds, or on city streets and parks would be better spent on a serious effort to help them rejoin society following the Haven for Hope model.

Michael Rushford
President & CEO

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Follow Up Notes: Homelessness, A Crisis with Solutions

The previous article explains the common sense solutions that have been proven to work, and as we note the increasing degradation of communities in California, it is becoming urgent that we begin to adopt them here in Sacramento.

Here is another horror story coming from Venice, California as reported by the *Hollywood Reporter* just a few days ago.

Excerpts.

Venice is now home to the largest concentration of homeless anywhere on L.A.'s Westside, with nearly 1,000 non-domiciled people. During the past 18 months, several encampments have swelled in more residential areas where homes can easily sell for eight figures and up. Tents, many of them equipped with mini refrigerators, cupboards, televisions and heaters, vie with pedestrian traffic.

Residents who live near the encampments say mail regularly goes missing. Break-ins have jumped. Hypodermic needles and human waste are appearing on sidewalks and at local playgrounds. Residents have complained to police about harassment and even physical assaults. "This is more of a criminal problem than a homeless problem," says nonprofit worker Carly Voge, who lives next to the so-called Frederick camp adjacent to the Penmar Golf Course.

"There are crime problems in Venice," concedes Mike Bonin, whose Council District 11 includes Venice Beach. Bonin has come under intense criticism for his handling of the homeless crisis by Venice residents displeased with his support of a measure to introduce a massive, \$5 million transitional housing project in their city. At the same time, Bonin says, "I can't accept the idea that there is an inextricable link between crime and homelessness. It is wrong, it is not backed up by the data, and it leads to bad policy."

Disagreements over the potential causes of the crimes have begun to factionalize Venice's neighborhoods. "It was six months of terror, absolute terror," says radiologist Maria Altavilla, who lives in east Venice. She says that the period of increased health and safety concerns coincided with the expansion of the homeless encampments the past year. She recently arrived home with her two children to find a woman shooting up in her yard. Lately, her husband has expressed a desire to move because of his frustration with the encampments. Several residents shared an unconfirmed theory — suggested to them by a local patrolman — that certain assailants were using the social media app NextDoor to monitor which residents are most vocal about their opposition to encampments and then targeting those individuals for retribution....

The most common refrain heard when discussing the cause of L.A.'s homeless crisis is soaring housing costs. But there are other forces at play in Venice and throughout the city involving various laws and ballot measures that date back more than a decade. A 2006 ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*

required that law enforcement and city officials no longer enforce the ban on sleeping on sidewalks anywhere in the city until a sufficient amount of permanent supportive housing could be built. Further complicating matters were two state ballot measures that voters overwhelmingly approved in 2016 — Propositions 47 and 57 — which decriminalized certain felonies to misdemeanors in an effort to address the state's overburdened prison system. Officials, including Bonin, admit that those measures have complicated matters for law enforcement, who make arrests only to see the same perpetrators back on the street days later.

The people living in the encampments say they have been unfairly maligned, even as they admit there is little policing when they do break the law. City rules dictate that tents be taken down between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. But police rarely enforce the code, say several members of the Frederick homeless encampment. "We get away with a lot," says Randy "Dee" Collins, 25, who adds his family has long owned property in Venice and that he has chosen a life on the street against their wishes. The Frederick camp, home to about a dozen tents and twice as many people, is littered with nine weeks' worth of trash. These homeless people say neighbors are openly hostile to them. Collins says he offered one resident money for water but "she didn't want to participate in anything that would help us."

Retrieved January 11, 2018 from <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/las-homeless-surge-puts-hollywoods-progressive-ideals-test-1174599>

As noted in the above, the Ninth Circuit rulings—though admirable in their intent—have caused some havoc on the ground—as well as the emergence of those who are homeless by choice, noted in the last paragraph of the excerpt—especially along the Parkway, but this reality calls on us to examine the type of homeless service provided by the Haven for Hope model; which we have consistently called for, most recently in our October 2018 Press Release:

PRESS RELEASE #34, October 26, 2018

Homeless Transformation Campus

A primary question being asked right now when discussing removing the homeless illegally camping in the Parkway or anywhere in the region is, "Where will they go?"

Though our concern is with the devastation illegal camping has been causing to the Parkway, rather than determining the fate of the homeless when and if they are ever fully removed from the Parkway; like everyone else, we suffer when thinking about the misery and destitution that is part of the fabric of living without a home.

Over the past several years we have researched a possible strategy, based on our practice of examining working models in use somewhere else, that will answer the question of where will they go.

Sacramento County could consider creating a homeless transformation campus capable of handling the majority of homeless in the County based on the model of Haven for Hope in San Antonio, Texas which is the largest and most comprehensive homeless transformation campus in the United States, providing residence to approximately 1,600 individuals on any given night.

The Haven for Hope campus is composed of fifteen buildings on 37 acres with almost five hundred thousand square feet of service space under roof.

A Sacramento location would need to have at least this much space and be capable of accommodating the types of homeless services needed for a homeless transformation campus, including encouraging relocation to the chosen site two of the most important and largest homeless service organizations in Sacramento: Loaves and Fishes and Sacramento Steps Forward, as well as some of the programs providing residential service.

And, to deal with NIMBY a location outside of dense residential/business areas is optimal.

A perusal of the Haven for Hope brochure at their website <https://www.havenforhope.org/downloads/docs/H4H%20Tri%20Fold.pdf> will provide more information about these specific strategies.

This Press Release is also online on our website News Page at <http://www.arpps.org/news.html>

The point is, we can fix this, but it takes political will for the duration, and Sacramento certainly has the talented public leadership with the tools needed for this strategy.

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Essay: *Sacramento, A Great Place to Live*

Like many Sacramentans, when I was old enough to leave I did, and when I was old enough to know better, I returned.

When I was gone, I lived in Seattle, Washington; Madison, Wisconsin and Santa Cruz, California. Seattle did not have enough sunshine and too much rain, Madison had too much cold and snow, and Santa Cruz had too little freedom of movement—if Highway 17 went out, which it often did, you were stuck.

Sacramento is perfect, plenty of sun; just enough rain most of the time, rarely too cold and hardly ever any snow and an abundance of roads going in all sorts of directions means you are never stuck.

The cost of living is also pretty great considering coastal comparisons and our rush hour traffic is a dream compared to the Bay Area or Los Angeles.

Of course, finally, it is the ambience here, the almost Midwestern feel of family, place, ease and aspiration.

And, we have the Parkway; and though the area from Discovery Park to Cal Expo is now a center of too much illegal camping, pollution, and general environmental degradation—the fault of ineffective public leadership whose decades of failure to solve the issue have severely endangered the adjacent suburban neighborhoods—which we have labeled the Parkway's Skid Row; much of it still provides a great amount of pleasure and sanctuary to thankful residents.

A large part of the reason we love living here is that Sacramento is a suburban city, fully 98% suburban, according to this article from *New Geography*:

There are a total of 34 metropolitan areas that are 95 percent or more suburban. These include examples such as Atlanta, at 99.2 percent San Diego at 98.9, **percent Sacramento at 98.3 percent**, Austin at 97.9 percent, Denver at 96.9 percent and Portland at 90.0 percent.

Retrieved April 4, 2019 from <http://www.newgeography.com/content/005640-us-metropolitan-areas-from-polycentricity-dispersed>

Though anti-suburban types wishfully continue the narrative that urban areas outperform suburban ones, the truth is the reverse, as this story by Richard Florida, from *City Lab* reports.

A new study finds that suburban neighborhoods outperform urban ones across the board.

The rise of the city and the decline of the suburbs has emerged as a common meme in recent years. The young, the educated, and the affluent have come streaming back to the urban core, driving up rents, driving out the poor, and giving rise to patterns of gentrification. The story goes that the suburbs have lost their long-held position as the premier location, being besieged by poverty, economic decline, and other problems once thought to be the province of the inner city.

The trouble is that this picture does not match reality — not by a long shot, according to a detailed new paper published in the journal *Urban Studies*. Authored by Whitney Airgood-Obrycki of Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies, it looks at the change in the economic status of urban and suburban neighborhoods from 1970 to 2010, a period that overlaps with notions of the resurgence of America's urban centers and the decline of its suburbs.

Airgood-Obrycki's study classifies neighborhoods according to three categories—urban core, inner-ring suburbs, and outer-ring suburbs — based on their proximity to the urban center and their density. It further breaks out the suburbs into three additional categories based on when they were developed: prewar, postwar, and modern. Airgood-Obrycki defines the economic status of neighborhoods according to a series of key economic and demographic indicators, including income, college education, employment in professional occupations, home values, rents, vacancy rates, older households (60 years of age and over), and female-headed households.

Her data come from the U.S. Census Longitudinal Tract Database for the period 1970 to 2010, and cover roughly 40,000 census tracts across America's 100 most populous metro areas.

In contrast to the idea of a Great Inversion — a shift of affluence back to the cities and poverty out to the suburbs — Airgood-Obrycki finds that suburban neighborhoods overwhelmingly outperformed their urban counterparts during the four-decade period spanning 1970 to 2010. Indeed, suburbs *increased* their economic advantage over urban areas during this time frame.

The share of suburbs making up the top ranks of all urban and suburban neighborhoods (measured as the top quartile) went from roughly two-thirds in 1970 to almost three-quarters by 2010. And the share of suburban neighborhoods in the top two status levels (that is, the upper two quartiles) increased from 56

percent in 1970 to 59 percent by 2010, while the share of urban neighborhoods in these top two levels fell from 41 percent to 36 percent.

The suburban advantage is clear. Across the board, suburban neighborhoods have higher incomes, higher home values, higher shares of college grads, and higher shares of professionals than urban neighborhoods. And suburbs do better than urban areas even when we compare neighborhoods in the same quartile of status.

Among America's most advantaged neighborhoods (the top quartile), the median incomes of suburban neighborhoods are roughly \$10,000 higher than those of their urban counterparts, a gap that has grown from \$5,500 in 1970. Conversely, among the nation's least advantaged neighborhoods (those in the bottom quartile), urban neighborhoods have incomes that are roughly \$5,000 lower than in their suburban counterparts—\$33,700 versus \$38,600. Among declining neighborhoods, urban neighborhoods saw income losses twice as large as those of declining suburbs, \$14,040 versus \$7,570.

Retrieved March 9, 2019 from <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-persistent-economic-advantage-of-americas-suburbs/ar-BBUv1r1?ocid=spartandhp>

We love Sacramento and we love living in its suburbs joining the majority for whom suburban living—though becoming more expensive—is still a central part of the American Dream, as noted in this article from *New Geography*.

The suburban house is the idealization of the immigrant's dream—the vassal's dream of his own castle. Europeans who come here are delighted by our suburbs. Not to live in an apartment! It is a universal aspiration to own your own home. —Los Angeles urbanist Edgardo Contini

For the better part of the past century, the American dream was defined, in large part, by that “universal aspiration” to own a home. As housing prices continue to outstrip household income, that's changing as more and more younger Americans are ending up landless, and not by choice.

The share of homeownership has dropped most rapidly among the key shapers of the American future—millennials, immigrants, minorities. Since 2000, the home ownership among those under 45 has plunged 20 percent. In places like Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and Indianapolis, and elsewhere, households with

less than the median income qualify for a median-priced home with a 10 percent down payment, according to the National Association of Realtors. But in Seattle, Miami, and Denver, a household needs to make more than 120 percent of the median income to afford such median-priced house. In California, it's even tougher: 140 percent in Los Angeles, 180 percent in San Diego, and over 190 percent in San Francisco.

Rents are rising as well. According to Zillow, for workers between the ages of 22 and 34, rent costs claim upwards of 45 percent of income in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and Miami, compared to closer to 30 percent in Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.

The basic reality: America's new generation, particularly in some metros, increasingly seems destined to live as renters, without ever enjoying equity in property.

The Housing Crunch

Last year, the gap between new builds and demand was estimated at 330,000 houses. Nationally, the inventory of homes for sale has been shrinking for 24 straight months, and supply, according to the National Association of Realtors, is nearing its lowest level ever.

Given the surging demand among millennials and immigrants, why are builders not meeting the demand? The reasons vary, but, according to the National Association of Homebuilders, they include higher material costs, long permitting waits, labor shortages, and too few inexpensive lots.

Not all the difficulties, however, can be traced to market forces. In many regions of the country, conscious government planning discourages single-family home construction, a policy often described oddly enough as "smart growth." Advocates of this approach suggest that most people, particularly millennials, do not want single-family homes, and prefer to live chock-a-bloc in dense multi-family units.

This does not reflect reality. In survey after survey, an overwhelming majority of millennials, including renters, want a home of their own. A Fannie Mae survey of people under 40 found that nearly 80 percent of renters thought owning made more financial sense, a sentiment shared by an even larger number of owners

(PDF). They cited such things as asset appreciation, control over the living environment, and a hedge against rent increases. Roughly four in five purchases made by people under 35 are for single-family detached homes (PDF).

The real problem is a growing gap between what people want and what they can afford.

Jason Furman (PDF), the former chairman of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, has warned that price escalations associated with strong housing regulation push many people "out of the market entirely."

Retrieved April 3, 2018 from <http://www.newgeography.com/content/005923-landless-americans-are-new-serf-class>

Yes, we love living in Sacramento, close to the Parkway, and hope you do also.

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Build Auburn Dam!

Posted on July 10, 2019

This new study from Scripps, reported by *Channel 10 News*, gives us the reasons why that is even more important now than before to protect us from floods and droughts.

An excerpt.

LA JOLLA, Calif. (KGTV) – Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography say atmospheric rivers will be the main source of California’s rainfall over the next 80 years.

The study , released Tuesday morning, says that could lead to more flooding, more drought and longer wildfire seasons.

“This region is becoming more sub-tropical and the dry season is expanding,” says Alexander Gershunov, a research meteorologist at Scripps. “That is the case with all of the Mediterranean climate regions around the world.”

Right now, the study says California gets 40-50% of its annual rainfall from atmospheric rivers. Those are long, drawn out rain events that last for days. San Diego experienced several of them this past winter, leading to record rainfall.

“These are warm storms,” says Gershunov. “The mountains squeeze the rain out of them.”

“In California, most of the floods, historically, are associated with atmospheric rivers,” says Gershunov. “So stronger atmospheric rivers definitely means more floods.”

The study says the dry periods between the storms will also be longer, leading to more dead brush and drought-like conditions. That could raise the likelihood of brush fires extending well into the winter.

The study looked at atmospheric river data from the last 70 years and also predictive models for the next 80 years.

Gershunov says this new information means the state will need to increase the amount and type of tools we use to manager water.

Retrieved July 9, 2019 from <https://www.10news.com/news/local-news/scripps-study-says-california-will-get-more-rain-from-atmospheric-rivers>

Salmon Stock Booming

Posted on July 3, 2019

That is the subject of this superb article from the *Wall Street Journal*.

An excerpt.

MORRO BAY, Calif.—The phones began ringing at Giovanni’s Fish Market & Galley a week after salmon season opened in May and have barely let up since.

“It’s all day, every day,” said Giovanni DeGarimore, the owner. “Fishermen are calling saying they have salmon to sell.”

Following the fifth snowiest winter on record in California, which has filled streams with cold water in which the fish thrive, the number of Chinook salmon forecast to begin their return to the Sacramento River is about 400,000 this year, state officials estimate. In each of the past four years, by comparison, that figure was under 256,000.

That increase has fueled a fishing boom along the California coast that is turning around the fortunes of fishing villages from Santa Barbara in the south to Crescent City in the north after decades of decline caused by drought and environmental regulations.

Boats are coming in with 1,300 to 1,700 pounds after a four-day trip, said Larry Collins, president of the San Francisco Community Fishing Association. “Everybody’s happy.”

The numbers of salmon are still far below the nearly one million that spawned annually between 2012 and 2014, from runs that started before those drought years.

But this year’s catch is a bonanza for what is left of California’s salmon-fishing industry, which is down to about 400 boats from 4,000 in the early 1980s, according to Noah Oppenheim, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations.

In prior recent boom years, the California commercial-salmon business has been valued as high as \$150 million, said Mr. Oppenheim.

The average retail price for a pound of salmon filet has fallen in half from \$39.99 a year ago to \$19.99 now, according to Mr. DeGarimore, but fishermen said they are still making more money than they have in several years thanks to the higher catch.

During the five-year drought that ended in 2017, water in streams was too low and warm for salmon to thrive, said Brett Kormos, an environmental scientist at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Pacific Ocean also happened to be warmer than normal at the time, cutting down on food there for the fish and damaging the industry along the West Coast, where salmon still live wild. On the Atlantic Coast, only farmed salmon are harvested.

The shortfall led to severe restrictions by California officials on commercial fishing the last two years. Some parts of the California coast had commercial-salmon seasons as short as 12 days in 2018, compared with a full three months beginning in the spring of this year.

Communities such as Morro Bay, population 10,600, were hard-hit by the curbs on not only salmon but also on other mainstay species, including crab and rockfish. The town, located about 200 miles northwest of Los Angeles, no longer has fish-processing plants and is down to about 90 fishing boats from about 200 three decades ago, said longtime local boat captain Bob Maharry.

In April, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife ordered the Dungeness crab season closed three months early as part of a legal settlement with an environmental group to protect whales

and sea turtles from being entangled in fishing gear. The closure threw Morro Bay's close-knit fishing community into a deep funk.

"You can plan for bad years, but it's hard to navigate when you're totally closed," said Lori French, wife of a commercial fisherman who has permits for both crab and salmon.

But then the salmon season opened on May 1. "This is a "Thank you, Jesus"" moment, Ms. French said over a salmon lunch on the waterfront one day in mid-June, as her husband was out at sea.

Retrieved June 28, 2019 from https://www.wsj.com/articles/california-is-overflowing-with-salmon-boosting-coastal-towns-11561719603?mod=hp_listb_pos1

Tragic What's Happened to San Francisco

Posted on June 27, 2019

For years we used to love to drive to San Francisco, park somewhere around Union Square and just wander around, shopping, dining, enjoying the people and the views; but those days have long gone and this article by *Michael Snyder* tells the tragic story.

An excerpt.

Once upon a time, some of the most beautiful cities in the entire world were on the west coast, but now those same cities are degenerating into drug-infested cesspools of filth and garbage right in front of our eyes. San Francisco is known as the epicenter for our tech industry, and Los Angeles produces more entertainment than anyone else in the world, and yet both cities are making headlines all over the world for other reasons these days. Right now, nearly a quarter of the nation's homeless population lives in the state of California, and more are arriving with each passing day. When you walk the streets of San Francisco or Los Angeles, you can't help but notice the open air drug markets, the giant mountains of trash, and the discarded needles and piles of human feces that are seemingly everywhere. If this is what things look like when the U.S. economy is still relatively stable, how bad are things going to get when the economy tanks?

In San Francisco, the homeless population has grown by 17 percent since 2017, and when a UN official recently walked the streets she was absolutely horrified by what she witnessed...

When Leilani Farha paid a visit to San Francisco in January, she knew the grim reputation of the city's homeless encampments. In her four years as the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Adequate Housing, Farha has visited the slums of Mumbai, Delhi, Mexico City, Jarkarta, and Manila. The crisis in San Francisco, she said, is comparable to these conditions.

I have never been to Mumbai, Delhi, Mexico City, Jarkarta or Manila, and so I will just have to take her word for what the conditions are like there.

But how can this be happening in one of the wealthiest cities in the entire country?

Sadly, to a large degree San Francisco has done this to itself. Every single day drugs are openly bought and sold at "an outdoor market of sorts" right in the heart of the city, and authorities know exactly where it is happening...

To drill down on the epicenter of the crisis, a recent New York Times inquiry set out to find the dirtiest block in San Francisco. After asking statisticians to compile a list of streets with the most neighborhood complaints regarding sidewalk cleanliness, the Times landed on a winner: Hyde Street's 300 block, which received more than 2,200 complaints over the last decade.

A visit to the block yields a harrowing sight of drug addicts and mentally ill residents, many of whom are part of the city's overwhelmingly large homeless population. During the day, drug users host an outdoor market of sorts, selling heroin, crack cocaine, and amphetamines along the sidewalks.

They could shut down the drug dealing if they really wanted to do so.

And anywhere the illegal drug trade is thriving, you are also going to have a lot of property crime. At this point, no city in America has a higher rate of property crime than San Francisco does...

Retrieved June 25, 2019 from <http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/conditions-on-the-streets-of-san-francisco-are-comparable-to-the-slums-of-mumbai-delhi-mexico-city-jakarta-and-manila>

Spinning the Facts to Create Fantasy

Posted on June 6, 2019

The Anti-Suburbanites are at it again, as this story from *New Geography* reports.

An excerpt.

For some time, the mainstream press and conventional urban planners have been obsessed with a “dense urban” narrative. This is largely a myth, as has been demonstrated by resurgent growth in suburbs and exurbs.

The Dense Urban Narrative

The “dense urban narrative” emerged most recently from New York Times columnist Farhat Manjoo, who criticizes the failures of progressive governance in core cities (to his credit). Manjoo also lamented the failure of Senate Bill 50 (SB 50), which sought to densify urbanization in California, already home to the three densest large urban areas in the nation, as well as the overall highest urban density. Joel Kotkin and I recently expressed an opposite view on SB 50 in the Orange County Register, suggesting the bill ignored the fundamental causes of California's severely unaffordable housing, notably radical restrictions on new greenfield development.

Clarifying Urban Geography

Manjoo offers this view of cities and their role in economic production, but uses two incompatible definitions of cities in his analysis:

“Cities are the standard geographical unit of the global economy. Dense urban areas are quite literally the “real America” — the cities are where two-thirds of Americans live, and they account for almost all national economic output.”

Manjoo's point that that nearly all of America's economic output is produced in cities, comes from the McKinsey Global Institute. In *Urban America: US cities in the Global Economy*, McKinsey found that 85 percent of economic output in 2010 was produced in "large cities." But these are not dense cities or dense urban areas, but metropolitan areas, which all have more rural land than urban. McKinney defines "large cities" as the 259 metropolitan areas (labor markets) with more than 150,000 population. This includes not only the megacities of metropolitan New York and Los Angeles, also such places as Madera, California, Joplin, Missouri, Elkhart, Indiana and Bangor, Maine. By neither historical or international standards does America have any dense urban areas and none of these 259 metropolitan areas is characterized by dense urbanization.

To be sure there are pockets of high density in some urban areas, but overall densities are low in every urban area. Data from the premier urban area, New York, makes the case. The four densest boroughs of New York city (Manhattan, Brooklyn, The Bronx and Queens) each have higher densities than all of the largest 100 incorporated cities in the United States. The other borough, Staten Island, is largely post-War suburban and is less dense than at least 75 municipalities in California. Outside the city of New York, suburban densities average about one-half that of Los Angeles suburbs. These low suburban densities more than neutralize the hyper-densities of Manhattan and the rest of the urban core — so much so that the New York urban area, as defined by the Census Bureau, has a lower density than Los Angeles, San Francisco and even San Jose (itself nearly all post-War suburban, with only a negligible urban core).

Pre-World War II American urban areas were far more dense than today. In 1940 the urban cores (central cities) in metropolitan areas (then called metropolitan districts) of over one million population were home to two-thirds of the their corresponding metropolitan area population, more than four times the current rate. Today, urban cores constitute only 14.5 percent of metropolitan areas with over 1,000,000 residents (Figure 7 and Note).

In addition, the column mentions that "cities are where two-thirds of Americans live." This is a vivid example of the semantic problems with the term "city." These "cities" are not the same thing as the cities (metropolitan areas) cited by McKinsey. They are from a Census Bureau report totaling the 2010 population of incorporated municipalities, popularly called cities. These include "cities" of every size, from the city of New York (as opposed to the New York metropolitan area) with its 8.5 million residents to the village of Monowi, Nebraska (population 1), and about 19,500 jurisdictions in between. Many of these "cities" are in rural areas, outside urban areas. Indeed, many residents of the cities defined as metropolitan areas live in unincorporated areas, not in incorporated municipalities. For example, in 2010, nearly 6,000,000 residents of the New York metropolitan area lived outside cities as defined in the Census Bureau report (there is nothing wrong with the Census Bureau report, but proper use requires understanding what it means by "cities"). This is as many residents and lived in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, which was the fifth largest in the nation in 2010.

Pages 4 through 9 of *Demographia World Urban Areas* provides detailed definitions of these and other urban terms.

Retrieved June 4, 2019 from <http://www.newgeography.com/content/006318-from-madera-and-joplin-new-york-dispersed-not-dense-urban-areas-dominate-gdp>

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Our Mission

Preserve, Protect, & Strengthen the American River Parkway, Our Community's Natural Heart.

Our Vision

We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant, accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all who enter it.

Our Guiding Principles

- (1) Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.
- (2) What's good for the salmon is good for the river.
- (3) Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, social and environmental justice call upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.
- (4) If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.
- (5) Regarding new Parkway usages, inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.
- (6) The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the *California Dream* and whose vision is woven into the heart of the *American Dream*, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

The Society depends solely on its membership to continue our advocacy to preserve the Parkway in perpetuity, and we deeply appreciate any additional financial support you can provide, or by encouraging others to become members. Thank You!

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