

## Dave Cortese

County of Santa Clara Supervisor, District Three

Santa Clara County

Board of Supervisors

70 West Hedding Street

San Jose, California 95110

Tel: (408) 299-5030

[dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org)

Fax: (408) 298-6637

[www.supervisorcortese.org](http://www.supervisorcortese.org)



## News Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Janice Rombeck**

Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese

408-299-5030 (office) 408-803-2095 (cell)

### **Cortese Calls for Immediate Response to Sanitation Needs at Homeless Camp**

As winter approaches and the City of San Jose prepares to close the area's largest homeless encampment, Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese called on Tuesday, November 4, for an immediate response to sanitation and public health issues along Coyote Creek.

During a visit on Monday to the encampment near Story and Senter roads called the "Jungle," some of the 300 or so people who lived there complained that port-a-potties on the site are only open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with no adequate alternative, causing serious sanitation problems, including contamination of the creek.

At the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Tuesday, Cortese asked County Executive Jeff Smith and County Health Officer Sara Cody to work with the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water district to address the immediate needs of the large population living there and the needs of residents in the surrounding area.

"We at the County have a great deal of expertise on how to provide facilities 24-7 and secure them so they aren't vandalized," Cortese said. "We can lend important resources to deal with the situation until we achieve the greater goal of stabilizing the homeless population through permanent housing."

The City of San Jose plans to shut down the encampment in mid-December, but it is doubtful housing will be found for all of the residents by then. Many have Section 8 vouchers for housing, but cannot find places to rent. The City has found housing for about 125 former residents of the encampment.

For more information or to schedule an interview, call the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.