

From Arthur George, chair of West County Homeless Advocates. Heightened concerns have emerged about the condition of portable toilets and overflowing garbage on Morris Street, with a companion suggestion from within the Council for a 3-hour parking limit on Laguna Parkway to address claimed "Barlow/Theater parking conflicts."

In budget hearings in July, I suggested as many as five portable toilets for Morris; there are presently three. There is a maintenance contract for servicing and cleaning twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The present number and/or maintenance schedule may be insufficient, particularly after the recent sweep of the Laguna.

Some former Laguna dwellers are sheltering in RVs, with overcrowding adding to the burden. Certainly, they must take housekeeping responsibility, and that message is communicated through volunteers, police, and the outreach caseworker. However, Public Works confirms that "drive and drop" garbage is dumped there from elsewhere, which overflows and makes a mess within just one night, separate from Morris campers.

Regular garbage can service on Morris is on Monday and Thursday, and Public Works states that Recology will add an additional pickup on Saturday. Even as Morris presents particular problems, that service is less frequent than the four days a week for city parking lots.

A suggestion of camping use of the gravel lot behind and northwest of the Teen Center is under staff review, but with no *present* plan. Had more urgent placement been made, we might be seeing fewer of the problems claimed.

As to Laguna Parkway, there are typically only +/- five camper vehicles on the north side, generally below/east of the Skate Park, well east of Johnson Street nearest to the Rialto Theater and east of Flynn Street and the Skate Park, thus not at all near the theater. The entire north block between Johnson and Flynn, east of the police station and closest to the Rialto, is already a red zone, with no parking there whatsoever. I venture that few patrons *ever* seek to park, and walk, the distance to the theater from east of Flynn and the Skate Park with much frequency, suggesting there is little actual "theater parking conflict," except for the mere presence of the unhoused.

As to the claimed "Barlow parking conflict," the involved block is behind The Barlow, generally opposite an industrial service area for loading and shipping of beverage manufacturing, a long block distant from the prime properties along McKinley Street, and thus not a premium spot for Barlow guests in the first place. The Barlow already has its own overflow lot which it can use and improve, rather than limit the City's parking supply.

I understand business concerns, but further limits on Laguna Parkway and negative assessments of Morris Street chips away at necessary "Safe Parking," pushing these campers randomly elsewhere, expanding onto doorways and properties and beyond, into neighborhoods, around parks, and away from the relatively confined sector with services provided. Thank you.