

**Comments on Agenda [Item 62](#)- Policy on Homeless Encampments
For State Lands Commission (SLC) meeting 10/17/2024**

10/14/2024, Paul Burke, author of "[Housing the Homeless](#)" (1984) [REDACTED]

The proposed policy is extreme. It leaves people more wounded, with more impact on the environment at their next location.

My requested <u>additions and deletions</u>	Reasons
<p>Definitions Encampment: Unauthorized use of state land ranging from rudimentary shelter to more complex groups <u>if they harm the environment or access of individuals experiencing homelessness unlawfully residing or temporarily seeking shelter on State property. This does not apply to campers, backpackers, or other recreational occupants whose intent is to shelter on State lands for a temporary period (ex. Seven days or less, unless otherwise authorized).</u></p>	<p>SLC wording directly penalizes homeless status. Requested wording addresses SLC’s stated concerns.</p>
<p>A. Site Assessment When feasible, a site assessment should be performed to determine whether the Encampment poses an imminent or near term threat to life, health, safety, infrastructure, or the environment. Encampments that pose such threats will be prioritized for removal, <u>unless provision of trash collection, toilets, and/or showers is feasible and avoids such threats...</u></p>	<p>Justification is to protect environment and public access. These can often be protected by methods cheaper and less environmentally harmful than pushing people elsewhere.</p>
<p>B. Posting of Notice Notices for vacating Encampments should be clearly posted at least <u>4 weeks</u> 72 hours prior to any planned removal action...</p>	<p>No one should have to leave home in 72 hours, except in exigent circumstances, already allowed.</p>
<p>Staff <u>shall leave trash containers</u> may consider leaving litter bags at the Encampment when posting the notices...</p>	<p>Trash containers are needed for well-ordered removal.</p>
<p>D. Personal Property Storage and Reclamation ...The following items will be collected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items having an apparent value of \$50 or more... 	<p>Toys, blankets, etc. are worth keeping, even at \$5.</p>
<p>Items that present an immediate health or safety risk will not be collected, including:...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items that are <u>may be</u> infested by rats, mice, fleas, lice, bed bugs, or other similar infestation... 	<p>Anything “may” be infested. Staff can judge if it is or isn’t.</p>
<p>Other items that will not be collected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulky items, including furniture, mattresses, sheds, or structures • Perishable items, and food • <u>Controlled substances shall be taken by law enforcement,</u> drugs, or medications without prescriptions... 	<p>There will be enough trucks and staff to collect the few chairs and other non-moldy furniture. Canned food, Tylenol etc. are valuable to the occupants. Medicines keep people alive, and may not have Rx attached.</p>
<p>Backpacks or closed containers may not be opened, searched, or collected unless a hazmat trained contractor shall be is present for the safety of workers. If a hazmat trained contractor is able to safely open a backpack or container, and there are items inside of the container that are listed above as the type that will not be collected, the <u>items entire container or backpack</u> will not be collected...</p>	<p>Blanket destruction because a backpack has Tylenol or a can of beans is an unreasonable seizure.</p>
<p>Occupants should be able to make arrangements to <u>have property delivered, including drugs they have Rx for</u> reclaim property...</p>	<p>Delivery avoids need for SLC to keep property near.</p>
<p><i>“unless the property was found in the course of employment by an employee of any public agency, in which case the property shall be sold at public auction.”</i> (Emphasis added.) Property will be stored in a secured location for not less than 60 days, then <u>sold at public auction</u> discarded if not claimed.</p>	<p>If that’s the law as quoted, it needs to be followed.</p>
<p>3. The proposed action <u>seeks in a small way the “correction of historic actions that displaced populations”</u>, is consistent with ... “Prioritizing Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice” ...</p>	<p>SLC promised to correct, not worsen, historic displacements, such as of minorities & veterans.</p>
<p>CEQA FINDING: Find that the policy adoption is subject to exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304.</p>	<p>14 CCR 15304 does not allow permanent “fencing, reducing vegetation growth” in section E of the policy, nor pushing people further into wilderness.</p>