

## **FAQ Enforcement of No-Camping Ordinance at Albany Bulb**

### **What is the Bulb?**

The “Bulb” is part of the Albany waterfront park, and is currently owned by the City of Albany. The area is a former landfill for construction material. The City worked under the Regional Water Quality Control Board to close the landfill.

### **What action did the City Council take?**

In May the Council directed staff to begin enforcement of the City’s no-camping ordinance at the Albany waterfront beginning in October 2013. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council reviewed the matter again to receive additional public comment and promote transparency in decision making. After receiving extensive public input, the Council ultimately reaffirmed their direction to begin enforcement of the no-camping ordinance beginning in October.

### **What does the Council expect to accomplish by enforcing the no-camping ordinance?**

The City Council is working to achieve the Strategic Plan Goals, adopted in 2012. The goals include maximizing park and open space for all members of the community and conducting outreach to persons who are homeless in Albany to connect them with housing and social services.

### **What will happen to the area once the homeless are relocated?**

The Bulb is a public park which is to be used for passive recreation by the community at large. The City will work with East Bay Regional Park District toward the goals of creating greater accessibility of the park for all members of the public, and having the park managed as part of the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.

### **How and when will the enforcement action occur?**

The City Council has directed the City to begin enforcement in October. People inhabiting the Bulb will need to move out of the park, along with their belongings. Camping gear and other personal property which is left in the park will be gathered up and stored by the City for 120 days. Any unclaimed property will be disposed of at the end of the storage period.

### **What notification has been provided to those at the Bulb?**

City staff has been providing verbal notice to people at the Bulb for over two weeks, and distributing flyers listing the services offered by Berkeley Food and Housing Project, encouraging them to take advantage of available services. Written notices will be posted in the near future informing Bulb inhabitants about enforcement of the no-camping ordinance.

### **What will happen to homeless people who are living on the Bulb?**

The City has entered into a contract with the non profit Berkeley Food & Housing Project to provide assistance to the homeless including temporary and permanent shelter, counseling services and other forms of assistance as needed. BFHP staff are at the Bulb several times a week to make contact with the homeless and act as a resource. City staff are working closely with Berkeley Food and Housing Project to ensure people have access to services and information about housing opportunities as they transition from the Bulb area. Although the City is making resources available to people who are homeless in Albany by contracting with BFHP, the decision to seek assistance is a matter of personal choice.

The Council has authorized an extension of the Berkeley Food and Housing Project contract to provide additional assistance to people in need of housing and/or social services. This work is ongoing and a high priority for the City.

**How can people help?**

Albany Community Foundation, <http://albanycommunityfoundation.org/>, is currently accepting cash donations: mail your donation to ACF, 1164 Solano Ave #133 Albany CA 94706

**For more information:** contact Nicole Almaguer, PIO: [nalmaguer@albanyca.org](mailto:nalmaguer@albanyca.org)  
(510) 528-5722

**Information is available on the City's website, and updated regularly:**

[www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org) – “Services” tab – scroll down to “Human Services”

<http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=961>

[www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org) – “About Albany” tab – scroll down to “Waterfront” – select “Albany Bulb”

<http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=1280>

Archived video of Council Meetings can be found on the City's website:

<http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=462>

Or via You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/AlbanyKALB>