

From: Tanya Boyce

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 5:32 AM

To: BCDC PublicComment <publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov>

Cc: Loren

Subject: Encampment Impact on the Oakland Estuary- Tidewater Area Photos Attached

Dear BCDC Commission Members,

Environmental Democracy Project is an Environmental Justice organization focused on improving the quality of life and health of historical undeserved Californians particularly in East Oakland.

In addition to being the EDP executive director, I am also a rowing coach with Oakland Strokes.

Several weeks ago while parking my launch, I fell into the Estuary. The day after being submerged in fecal matter laced water (see photo), I became very sick and ultimately "passed" a long black eel looking parasite .

As a regular user of the Estuary I have watched the homeless encampment population explode along the Oakland waterfront including along the MLK and Tidewater shoreline areas (see photo). Increasing amounts of untreated human waste is being discharge directly into the Estuary from the dozens of RVs parking within 100 ft of the shoreline. Furthermore there is a growing dump right on the water near the High Street Bridge (see photo).

The City of Oakland is aware of these waterfront encampments and the lack of toilets facilities at these sites as well as the high level of direct water dumping, yet seems unable or unwilling to enforce a buffer or remove the garbage and dismantled vehicles that litter the Oakland shoreline.

Tent cities do not go through a permit process. Oakland has miles of shoreline serving as " (un) housing" for people living on and polluting the Estuary to the detriment of the environment, wildlife and the health of the people living there and using the water as recreation. In addition to floating fecal matter, there are regular releases of motor oil and other car fluids as a result of copius dismantled cars. As a coach, I've seen children reaching into the "pretty rainbow" water or puddles of oil slicks.

This is a public health disaster. Please let me know what steps BCDC can and will take to rectify this situation, or at less stop it from getting even worse.

Thank you kindly,

Tanya Boyce















