

8608 Norwich Ave  
North Hills, CA 91343

March 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I have lived in the same house along the Pacoima Wash for about 18 years. We have never minded the occasional person who would use the wash as a shortcut to intersecting streets until the past year when many homeless people began moving into the wash. With the establishment of their encampments we noticed an increase in foot traffic in the wash at all hours, especially rowdy kids from Vista Middle School.

With the increased amount of people living and passing through came an increase in the amount of noise including loud music, people yelling or arguing, and our neighbors' dogs barking. In the 18 years that we have lived here we have enjoyed that Norwich Ave has been a fairly secluded oasis of calm and quiet within our neighborhood, because of the dead end our street has. But the commotion in the wash has taken away some of our street's peacefulness, made it uncomfortable for us to be out in our own backyard at times, and made it difficult to sleep, especially for my mom who has insomnia.

In addition to the noise we noticed more trash in the wash's stream especially clothes and shopping carts. There have also been instances where individuals in multiple encampments across from our home have started small fires underneath a tree to cook, been involved in suspiciously illegal activities, and set a mattress on fire.

The most recent removal of encampments and cleaning of the Pacoima Wash has significantly helped reduce foot traffic, noise and trash. But removing encampments from the wash and other places throughout our city is only part of the solution because individuals simply move to a new spot in another wash, park, sidewalk or freeway underpass. To solve the long term issue of encampments our city needs more shelters to provide temporary homes to homeless people and better social services to help them find permanent homes and improve their well being and livelihoods, so that they won't need to go back to living in public places.

Sincerely,

Vanessa & the Macias Family