American River Flood Control District

District's Lathrop Way Parcel - Encampments

Staff Report

Discussion:

The camping situation on the District's parcel along Lathrop Way continues to be problematic from a public safety and public nuisance standpoint. The District office and staff receives approximately 3 to 4 calls each week from business owners and property managers along Lathrop Way complaining about the nuisance and asking for an update on the District's efforts to curtail the camping on its parcel. District staff is not clear on the desire of the Board on how to manage the parcel and the unauthorized camping situation.

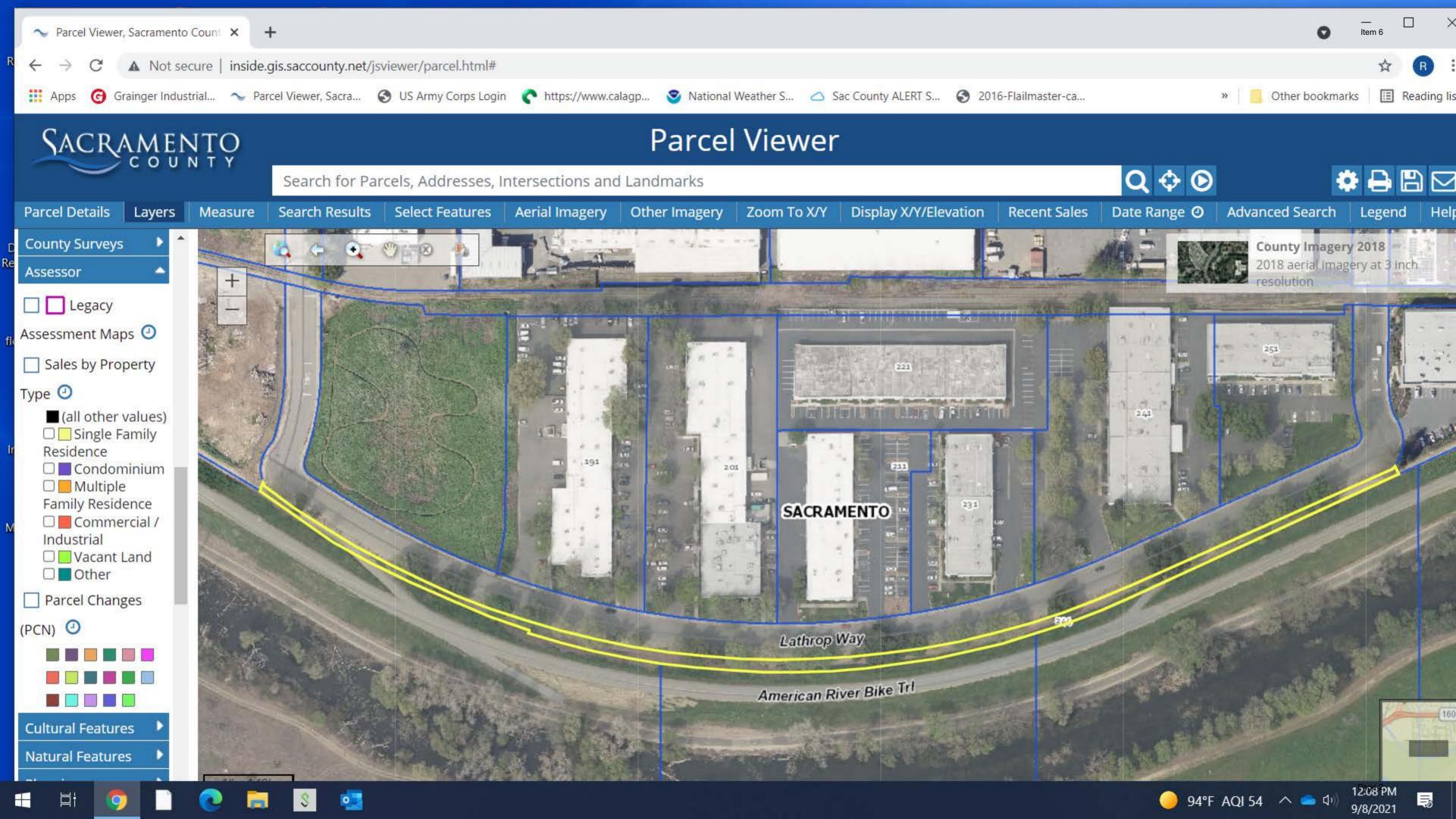
One suggestion from a Trustees is to construct a fence along the property line boundary with the City street. This would serve to delineate the boundary of the parcel and help indicate that the parcel is not intended to be used for other than levee operations. This idea has many merits but staff's experience is that fences get cut daily and are used as a wall for an encampment structure. Also, there is nothing preventing campers from accessing the parcel from the river or levee side.

One alternative approach to delineate the parcel would be to install 'No Camping/No Campfires' signs at intervals along the parcel. This would be a cost-effective way to help manage the parcel more towards the intended use of flood control rather than camping. It would also serve as an urgent warning to help prevent fires in the hot dry setting under the existing oak trees.

Attached to the staff report is an aerial map showing the parcel in consideration as well as a few photos showing the current conditions along the parcel.

Recommendation:

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Trustees direct staff to install 'No Camping/No Campfires' signs at intervals along the Lathrop Way parcel.



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