

Thank you Elizabeth for confirming that in order to distribute sealed water bottles at the Scoop Scoot event we are required to have a TFF (Temporary Food Facility) Permit from the Sacramento County Environmental Health Division of the Environmental Management Department (email chain below*).

Based on that info, I will cancel the event.

To all other City and County leaders CC'd on this email: let this serve as the "canary in the coal mine" - established events will not continue and new events will choose other jurisdictions. The cancellation of the Scoop Scoot is the result of death by a thousand government cuts.

This isn't about a simple permit for bottled water. This is about a process that has gone awry, become overburdensome, increased costs, reduced ease, and is extremely inefficient. I now spend more time on government requirements (paperwork, permits, approvals, etc) than planning and executing the event!

The application of laws and administration of regulations has thresholds; the enforcement has discretion. The burden of compliance has tipped the scales to no longer serve the public, but rather the government agencies entrusted with the responsibility to maintain balance.

I'm Zack Wandell, creator and organizer of the Donut Dash (18 years) and Scoop Scoot (9 years) events that have donated over \$2 million to local nonprofits and spent over \$500,000 with local businesses and government. Primary beneficiaries have been the Child Life Programs at Sutter and UC Davis Children's Hospitals. Other beneficiaries have been Front Street Animal Shelter, Saint John's Program for Change, Ronald McDonald House Sacramento, and Project R.I.D.E.

I am a 27-year owner of the Allstate Insurance Agency near Kaiser South Sacramento. Born and raised in Sacramento, currently a resident of Elk Grove since 2003. I do these events on a volunteer basis to help others and bring the community together. This 5-minute video produced by Allstate Insurance captures the intersection of my business and nonprofit work.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0hj__clmlc

Once upon a time, we would coordinate with one person at the City, do an event review with all the stakeholders (parks, fire, police, traffic, RT, etc) at the table, and have a plan of what was required. There was a clear (and minimal) fee

structure, all concerns were addressed well in advance of the event. This allowed event organizers to plan the event knowing expectations and timelines, promote the event, and have certainty that the one permit needed, would be issued.

Now, an event review sometimes happens, not all stake holders are at the table, and multiple government agencies, with different timelines, fees, and expectations, must all issue their own approval or permit. I now must coordinate directly with multiple government agencies: events, fire, traffic, police, ABC, waste, parking, and now health (I'm sure I forgot 1-5 others). Each entity retains the power and authority to prevent the final event permit with zero motivation or incentive to help. Response times vary, are sporadic, and there is no accountability if timelines are missed.

As an event organizer, I have no certainty that all permits will be issued and therefore cannot in good conscience promote an event and incur expenses.

I'll give you one current example. To the Sacramento Chief of Police, your department requires form SPD595 to be filled out for a one-day alcohol permit. The form cannot be submitted more than 30 calendar days in advance of the event and is required before I can apply for a Daily License from Alcohol Beverage Control (form ABC-221). The SPD email auto reply indicated 3-5 business days (aren't you a 24/7/365 agency?) to return the form.

In years past (8 times), I typically received the approved form back within 1-2 days. This allowed maximum time for ABC to review, approve, and issue their permit. This year, on business day 7, I inquired about the form approval. Esperanza at JERPF replied that she "cannot guarantee processing timelines" and "We are currently waiting for our executive lieutenant to be back in office to review and finalize any ABC that have been submitted to him."

Today, Monday, May 18th, is business day 10 and I still do not have the approved form nor any follow up communication. Whenever I receive the approved SPD form, I have no certainty that ABC will have sufficient business days to review, approve, and issue their approval. Additionally, May has a holiday and beer donors will not donate beer until the ABC daily license is issued.

If I submit to ABC less than 14 days before the event, I incur additional late filing fees. This is true of almost every other government agency. If SPD receives less than 14 days before the event, you "will try to accommodate the applicant but

cannot guarantee the application's approval." This non guarantee is also true of almost every other government agency. Yet, in some cases the approval of one agency is required before submitting to the next.

The process has become so cumbersome that in 2025 the City Special Events Department created "town hall" style trainings on how to navigate the process. My best guess is they are powerless to simplify the process, so they created multiple trainings on how to navigate the growing bureaucracy. Is this the best use of their time, resources, and experience?

These burdensome and increasingly stringent requirements seem to only apply to special events. Protests, marches, youth sports leagues, and the good citizen that distributes sealed items such as bottled water to the homeless are not required to obtain a TFF Permit from the Sacramento County Health Division, submit a waste plan, or comply with fire codes for canopies, to name a few.

I'll repeat an earlier paragraph - The application of laws and administration of regulations has thresholds; the enforcement has discretion. The burden of compliance has tipped the scales to no longer serve the public, but rather the government agencies entrusted with the responsibility to maintain balance.

For every government agency listed above I can pose multiple valid questions that would tip the scales back to serving the public. Do we need a Lieutenant to review and rubber stamp a form? Can each entity update their thresholds to make sure they are appropriate and serve the greater public interest? Should we treat local nonprofits benefiting the Sacramento area the same (or worse) as outside for-profit promoters that take their profits with them when they leave Sacramento after one, or a handful, of events?

There are other jurisdictions and paths to accomplish the simple goal of bringing people together to raise money for worthy causes. I'm a problem solver and a doer. I won't let nonprofits and the community suffer because of government.

I am happy to work with any and all leaders that want to work toward near term and long-term solutions. I don't need apologies or explanations of "what's coming". The process is broken, the discretion has been abused, and the administration of regulations has become punitive. The solutions are not an online portal for permits, town hall trainings, or another government employee. There are

immediate things that can be done to solve these problems. Please reach out anytime, my cell is 916-802-9225.

Zack Wandell

5/18/2026

*On Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 04:02:43 PM PDT, EMD. EH-TFF <eh-tff@saccounty.gov> wrote:

Hello,

Yes, you will need to file at least the paperwork and that would permit that water bottles.

Thank you

Elizabeth

Sent to:

Mayor – Kevin McCarty – mayor@cityofsacramento.org

District 1 – Lisa Kaplan – district1@cityofsacramento.org

District 2 – Roger Dickinson – district2@cityofsacramento.org

District 3 – Karina Talamantes – district3@cityofsacramento.org

District 4 – Phil Pluckebaum – district4@cityofsacramento.org

District 5 – Caity Maple – district5@cityofsacramento.org

District 6 – Eric Guerra – eguerra@cityofsacramento.org

District 7 – Rick Jennings – rjennings@cityofsacramento.org

District 8 – Mai Vang – district8@cityofsacramento.org

District 1 – Phil Serna – SupervisorSerna@saccounty.gov

District 2 – Patrick Kennedy – SupervisorKennedy@saccounty.gov

District 3 – Rich Desmond – richdesmond@saccounty.gov

District 4 – Rosario Rodriguez – rodriguezros@saccounty.gov

District 5 – Pat Hume – PatHume@saccounty.gov

City Manager - Maraskeshia Smith - CityManager@cityofsacramento.org

Sacramento Interim Police Chief - Zachary Bales -

zbales@pd.cityofsacramento.org

Sacramento County Executive - David Villanueva - [CountyE](mailto:CountyExecutive@SacCounty.gov)

xecutive@SacCounty.gov

Special Events Manager – Amber Jones – amjones@cityofsacramento.org