Dumping the San Lorenzo Campers Without Options Alternatives For Organizing and Fighting Back!

EVICTION TO NOWHERE

Cops and rangers have said they'll be driving survival campers away from San Lorenzo benchlands. The only immediate campground alternatives is a barbed wire-ringed fenced-off space at the edge of town. It looks to be 1/3 the size of the current San Lorenzo campground. Homeless people are considered too dangerous to be able to walk to and from the campground. It is reportedly already almost completely filled.

The other "shelter alternative" is the Winter Shelter program slated to end in mid April. It involves body searches, strict entering and leaving times, and other aspects that make it unsuitable for many outside. It is current limited to around 110 people. There are no plans for a summer shelter program other than the "have your 'Path to Housing' cash or vouchers" ready program of the Homeless (Lack of) Services Center.

Given these sober facts, it's nonsense to believe government claims that San Lorenzo campers are being given a real alternative --at least for most. Much of the ballyhoo around these "shelter proposals" seems simply to be a way of dressing up mass eviction & possible crackdown city-wide.

RETURN OF THE SLEEPING BAN AND OTHER ANTI-HOMELESS LAWS?

In a 2-26 e-mail, Chief Andy Mills has stated "my policies still stand, with the exceptions as previously noted." What does this mean? That folks after dark on public property will be allowed to hoist tents unless they're downtown or in a residential neighborhood? Unless a complaint is received whatever the location? Unless they're in a park, the greenbelt, or the Pogonip after dark? What about other anti-homeless laws such as tickets for "being in a park after dark"?

SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVIVAL:

If you don't want to organize with others, turn over this flyer for ideas.

If you are considering organizing with others, consider the example of Berkeley's *First They Came for the Homeless* and the possibility of organizing a solid

First They Came for the Homeless is a group of several dozen campers who began and continue as a protest camp, which was first repeatedly harassed by the police and moved from place to place. Their strategy was to stay as long as they could in one place, then pack up their stuff and move together to another public place and set up again. They are a group that bans public drug and alcohol use, but successfully kept their tents up wherever they went. For more than 8 months they stayed in one place, were able to obtain their own portapotty, establish good relations with the neighbors, & assist newcomers to come off of hard drugs. They embarrassed & exhausted police who now leave them (mostly) alone.

Though moved again twice since October, they still have two established camps in Berkeley. They have repeatedly overcome government deportation and property seizure. They have reestablished themselves as a viable campground and provided emergency shelter to its participants over the last 15 months. They have effectively formed alliances and used legal tools to challenge those who would sweep them away without a trace. Their example and their presence has pressured unwilling "progressives" on the Berkeley City Council to lessen their attacks on other encampments.

For groups who trust each other, there is greater safety and strength in numbers.

This flyer is a *HUFF* production; its views are not necessarily shared by *The Warming Center* or *Food Not Bombs*. Flier by HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 2-27-18 *HUFF* meets Wednesdays 11AM-1 PM next to the Bike Church at Sub Rosa 2-28, 3-7, 3-21, & every other Wednesday thereafter.