

Containment Camp or Criminalization?

Resources for All Not Just Those Behind Fences & Under Curfew

On Wednesday August 5, city & county authorities bulldozed and evicted the remaining survival camps outside the fenced-and-monitored County camp destroying community there. The option: register at the camp or leave now !

The County-run encampment is fenced off on 4 sides & subject to a midnight to dawn curfew. Young inexperienced workers wield oppressive authority over elders **That camp** provides a number of positive improvements for those who chose it such as potable water, multiple meals daily, some storage, more security from theft, regular meals, a free tent, & occasional showers.

But it serves less than 100, reduces personal possessions, provides a smaller space between residents, imposes visitor restrictions, allows little resident input, treats adults like children or prisoners, & will likely increase in regimentation.

For the majority of unhoused Santa Cruzans, City & County authorities are providing only waiting lists to unsafe group shelters such as Paul Lee Loft, the Veteran's Building, the Armory, & Laurel St. and not safer motel rooms or housing under Projects Roomkey and Housekey. What about the dozens of vacant rooms?

Forcible deportations from the Benchlands violate CDC "shelter-in-place" guidelines and deny most the resources now available only to the few inside the containment camp fences. Operating a showcase camp doesn't serve the many.

Stop Police threats against all survival camps—removal threatens community health. Defund police and redirect money to local groups really serving us.

Provide the same Benchland resources to all those outside throughout the City.

Eviction Moratorium or Rent Strike ! Renters—join with elders, homeless, students, differently-abled, impoverished, and other vulnerable/abused folks !

Remove Signage along Delaware and Swanton Street illegally violating the Coastal Act as well as yellow tape & obstructive notices blocking survival parking for vehicular homes along those streets. **Help don't harass vehicular dwellers!**

Make Testing Available in the group shelters to honestly assess the spread of COVID-19 and prevent outbreaks such as happened in Watsonville recently.

While politicians Yap and Yodel, don't wait for Elections but take Direct Action to Establish Justice in Santa Cruz !

