

Prepare For Police Sweeps This Summer

- Previous Benchlands **survival camps were swept away** with little notice. Police repeatedly broke promises to provide alternate shelter or legal campground space, destroying as they go.
- The **new Camping Ban** gives police cover to harass and threaten in early July with false claims of “available shelter” to slip past the *Martin v. Boise* “no tickets without shelter” decision.
- The attacks on the Harvey West Agreement Camp, the “Hell’s Hiway” encampments and the attacks on the Hiway 1 camps near the river with no place to go show **the City’s bad faith**.
- The **successful December resistance** to the San Lorenzo Park evictions show community support and camper solidarity along with legal backing can **Stop the Sweeps**.
- Even if there is no move on the Benchlands encampment if the Injunction is dissolved, campers face **life-threatening hot weather** this summer and the need to unite in demanding relief.
- The **campground community has the strength of many voices** and common needs. The City must not be allowed to disperse it illegally without providing real housing alternatives.
- Many such as *HUFF, Food Not Bombs, Santa Cruz Homeless Union, Westside Cares, NOMAD, Stop the Sweeps, Sanitation for the People, People’s Kitchen, Loveboat, Harm Reduction Coalition, Copwatch, Democratic Socialists, Footbridge Services* support decent camp services & security.
- Among those you trust, **form your own homeless protection or housed support group, organize with other groups, develop action strategies** to resist & preempt the coming summer sweeps.

THERE IS POWER AND NUMBERS AND ORGANIZATION. UNITE IN SELF-DEFENSE

DEFEND THE SURVIVAL CAMPS: June 29th Rally !

- The City is reportedly urging **the end of Federal protection** for the 150+ tent Benchlands encampment on June 29th with the Injunction lifted due to false claims of alternate shelter.
- The Federal Judge will likely believe **the City’s historically false narrative** in spite of the lack of adequate shelter & storage & the incoming city-wide 24-hour Camping Ban with no safe spots.
- Cal-Trans crews demolished camps on June 21st. Meyers Santa Cruz City Council pressured Gov. Newsom’s June 4th and June 21st “evict-and-demolish” sweeps along Hiway 9/1 Homeless campcrusher Lee Butler promises Pogonip evictions by July 1st prompting a flood of refugees.
- **DEFEND THE BENCHLANDS CAMP Tuesday, June 29, 2021 7:00 pm San Lorenzo Park south of the foot bridge** Demands: **Fire extinguishers** for our fire brigade **Canopies** against the Heat **A Kitchen set-up** for safe cooking **Restored Regular Showers** **Hot Water Access** **Shade & Benches** at the Charging Station **More survival camping space** to replace those demolished in the recent ongoing evictions
- ***HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom)*** meets 11 AM Thursdays in June at the benches between the Courthouse & the Benchlands
- **The *Santa Cruz Homeless Union*** and its Benchlands Camp Council meets 5 PM Fridays under the Footbridge to defend the rights of those in the Camp and across the city.
- **Jeremy Leonard** holds city-sponsored meetings 6 PM Thursdays in the middle of the Camp.

EXTEND THE EVICTION MORATORIUM ! REAL RENT FREEZE! RESPECT ENCAMPMENTS !

RESIST EVICTIONS ! STOP THE SWEEPS ! PREPARE NOW OR REGRET LATER !

Flyer by HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 6-21-21