



POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5810 • Fax (831) 420-5811
Kevin Vogel, Chief of Police

July 9, 2012

Santa Cruz Police, Parks and Recreation and Public Works Create Taskforce to Address Illegal Campsites

The Santa Cruz Police Department has teamed up with Parks & Recreation and Public Works to form a task force to address illegal campsite locations in the city. Over the next 30–45 days, the team will devote additional personnel and resources to address this increasing problem. Together, we will focus on the identification and eradication of illegal campsites. The team will also focus on strict enforcement of illegal behaviors associated with the campsites.

The formation of the task force comes amidst growing concerns over increased fire dangers, sanitation, environmental degradation and public safety. Concerns include illegal campsites around West Cliff beaches, freeway interchanges, San Lorenzo River Levee and rural park interfaces.

Some individuals associated with the campsites have been cited numerous times by law enforcement, but have failed to appear in court. The court is handling these as “civil” matters as opposed to criminal. Part of our effort will include seeking warrants for anyone who has three or more “Failures to Appear” on Municipal Code citations, bringing it back into criminal court. The team will present packets on those individuals to the City Attorney’s office requesting arrest warrants. Currently there are 124 individuals identified as having 3 or more “Failures to Appear” on Municipal Code citations, with 691 outstanding violations.

The Police Department has setup a Hotline for community members to call over the next 30-45 days and report illegal campsites. Reported campsites will be put on the list in order of priority to be addressed. The Hotline number is (831) 420-5892.

###