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| **From:** | Elizabeth Miller |
| **To:** | CACH |
| **Cc:** | Jason Miller |
| **Subject:** | Camping Ordinance |
| **Date:** | Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:49:47 PM |

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To: Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH)

Regarding: Santa Cruz citizen input on new camping ordinance

Thank you for asking for input on the proposed new camping ordinance for Santa Cruz. It is true that we need to find a location for allowable camping until enough shelter spaces have been built. The current lack of camping ordinance has resulted in homeless people camping all over the city: on sidewalks, in doorways, under bridges, in parks, beside highways, etc.

My primary criteria for choosing an allowable camping location is that it not be near a playground. The city's playgrounds are for children, many of whom are too young to know not to pick up a discarded syringe. Even with our best efforts, there is just too much risk that a child could become hurt or infected by detritus left around an encampment.

As a result, my strong recommendation for the allowable camping location is Pogonip. It is not as close to services as some locations, but a shuttle would get people downtown in five minutes. Pogonip is large enough that the encampment could be moved every month within the forest in order for the city to do a thorough cleanup of the area. The trees provide shade and rain protection, as well as privacy. An appropriately sized area near Highway 9 could be marked out, portable toilets and hand washing stations could be provided, and a dumpster supplied.

Thank you again for allowing my input.

Lizzy Miller
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