

EMAIL/LETTER

Dear Supervisor <name>,

I am/We are writing in support of the ordinance being considered by the Board of Supervisors that would prevent illegal camping on the American River Parkway. This support is based on the contingency that the County continue to make the development of shelter and wrap-around services for the unhoused – especially for those living on the Parkway – a priority.

There are multiple crises on the Parkway driven by the presence of the 2,000–3,000 illegal campers. The environmental impact they are causing will take decades to recover from. The conditions of the camps are a public health hazard and are leading to a humanitarian catastrophe. This is in addition to the physical destruction illegal camping is causing to the critical infrastructure on the Parkway, including our levees, water quality and power lines.

While implementation and enforcement of this ordinance is essential, we will not be able to fully address the issue of homelessness without continuing to focus on the creation of shelter space that includes wrap-around services. Without this element, homelessness will continue to be a growing problem. And shelter alone has been proven to be a temporary band-aid that does not produce the results we need.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
<name>

PHONE SCRIPT

I am/We are calling in support of the ordinance being considered by the Board of Supervisors that would prevent illegal camping on the American River Parkway near critical infrastructure. This support only comes with the assurance that the County continue to make the development of shelter and wrap-around services for the unhoused – especially for those living on the Parkway – a priority. Enforcement is only part of the solution and only providing housing doesn't lead to the results we need. We must focus on an all-around approach to address the growing crisis of homelessness in the County. Thank you.