



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** August 16, 2013

**LOCATION:** Pasatiempo Creek

**TOPIC:** Illegal Campsite Cleanup

**CASE NUMBER:** 13S-06682

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**INFORMATION:**

On Friday August 16, 2013, the Santa Cruz Police Department in conjunction with Parks and Recreation will be conducting a large-scale campsite cleanup in a wooded area near the Highway 17 and Highway 1 interchange.

Officers posted warning notices on Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup>, advising of the illegal camping and impending cleanup.

The campsite is on property that is owned by two homeowners associations in the Tanner Heights and Pasatiempo areas. Officers found a large campsite with several tents and occupants. Several bicycles and other property item were found among the tents and makeshift structures.

Also found was a marijuana garden cultivated into the hillside and rural landscape. The campsite was found to be polluting the Pasatiempo Creek which flows into the San Lorenzo River. Additionally, water was being diverted from the creek to supply the marijuana garden.

Along with the environmental destruction of this area, the campsite posed a significant fire danger to the wooded area and homes along that stretch. In June this year, Fire crews battled one blaze in this area that threatened several homes.

Santa Cruz Police Officers along with Parks and Recreation Rangers will work with a hired crew to complete the cleanup operation. Estimated cleanup costs are approximately \$15,000. The proliferation of illegal campsites continues to be a significant concern in the rural /urban interface areas of the city. Police Department and Parks crews have relentlessly been confronting and cleaning these campsites.

Attached are photos that were taken by the police department during the posting of the campsite area. Also attached is a Google map of the affected area.

Local media is invited to walk along with me as the crews begin their cleanup. We will allow you to be in the area for a limited time to get footage and photos; then, I will escort you out. If you plan to join me, you will need to email or call me to let me know. Because of security and crowding concerns, I can only take a limited number of you. You will need to meet with me here at the police department no later than 11:30 AM. If you are late, we are leaving without you. You will need to dress appropriately for taking a hike along unimproved trails. You don't need climbing gear, but you cannot wear your usual anchorperson clothing (think something between Duck Dynasty and The Apprentice).

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

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To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or use our mobile iPhone and Android App



