



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Camp Paradise supporters gather signatures on Pacific Avenue on Tuesday to protest the ticketing of the camp's residents by police.

Camp Paradise supporters want police citations 'torn up'

Homeless - 2000
SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

A group calling itself Friends of Camp Paradise is in the midst of a 72-hour vigil on Pacific Avenue to protest the ticketing of homeless campers by police.

"We want those tickets torn up," Rabbi Chayim Levin said.

SANTA CRUZ

The tickets were issued Friday after residents of a homeless camp along the San Lorenzo River let a deadline to vacate the camp pass. City officials have said they understand the plight of the homeless, but don't think a illegal camp by the river is a solution.

In total, 33 tickets were issued for violating the city law prohibiting camping within city limits, police said. Other tickets were issued for illegally disposing trash near the river and environmental violations. The campers are scheduled to appear in court within 30 days.

The vigil began Monday when homeless activists parked a car with a tent on its back outside Borders bookstore on Pacific Avenue.

8-8-01
'We put this tent on the back of this ugly car to remind people that all of these campers have to sleep somewhere.'

MEG STERN,
FRIENDS OF CAMP PARADISE

"We put this tent on the back of this ugly car to remind people that all of these campers have to sleep somewhere," said Meg Stern. "They might as well have tents anywhere."

Attorney Paul Sanford, a spokesman for the camp, stopped by the vigil.

"I'm very gratified that so many people are expressing such profound support," he said.