

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Xochitl Bernadette Moreno

Phone: 415-410-1784

Email: media@essentialfam.org

Event / Rally: Support not Sweeps

When: 6/22 @ 2 PM (Tuesday)

Address: CalTrans

111 Grand Ave (District 4 HQ)

Oakland CA 94612

UNHOUSED residents and liveboard mariners of the Bay Area and the state of California are converging on CalTrans HQ to demand District 4 director Dina El-Tawansy to CEASE AND DESIST from displacing people living on CalTrans land and people living anchored out on Richardson Bay.

Join us to resist evictions at a RALLY on CalTrans District 4 HQ doorstep - 6/22 @ 2 PM. Speakers and musicians will elevate the voices of the unhoused at a press conference honoring WHY people should be allowed to REMAIN IN PLACE or be offered REASONABLE, PERMANENT housing. Hosted by a statewide coalition of CalTrans and public land and water based curbside communities, encampments and anchorages, including Wood St People's Collective, Wood St Commons, Cob On Wood, Camp Cormorant, Where Do We Go Berkeley, Poor News Network/Homefulness, Marin County Homeless Union, Camp Compassion, SacSoup, Sacramento Homeless Union, Essential Food and Medicine, and Artists Building Communities. #SupportNotSweeps #StopTheSweeps #HousingIsAHumanRight #ServicesNotSweeps #BasicHumanDignity #ClearTrashNotCommunities #NoMoreDeathintheStreets

Encampments around the BioRegion have come together to resist eviction by CalTrans, the largest landholder in the state of California and the most brutal landlord. 'Sweeps' of more than 200+ unhoused residents are planned by July 1st around the Bay Area with NO ADEQUATE OFFER OF HOUSING, promising to funnel Oakland and Berkeley residents into out of sight, out of mind Safe RV Lots that have faced heavy criticism.

As the City of Oakland's Safe RV Lot on Wood St is set to open with capacity to host 40 functional, registered RVs as a justification for moving forward on sweeps around Oakland and Berkeley, residents say WE WON'T GO into out-of-sight-out-of-mind, inaccessible and unreasonable temporary housing. Even CDC officials guidelines as of June 7th, 2021, state: **"If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are."** These RV lots often do not provide space for adequate social distancing measures, do not allow cooking on site, have a curfew, and do not allow visitors or even children of residents to stay overnight.

El-Tawansy is also a commissioner on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and has supported crushing of boat homes anchored in the bay are having their homes destroyed: [tinyurl.com/SFChronicleSausalito](https://www.tinyurl.com/SFChronicleSausalito). For liveboard boat communities, no alternative housing has been offered at all.

We are calling on state, local, city, county officials and the public health department to protect our unhoused communities - provide SUPPORT and STOP THE SWEEPS! Local health officers may take any measures to ensure the safety and protection of public health - sweeps and displacement are a CRISIS. See Section 8558 of the Government Code.

This coalition has drafted an open letter to the governor, [tinyurl.com/DearGovNewsom](https://www.tinyurl.com/DearGovNewsom), demanding an end to this inhumane treatment for encampments around the state. We are asking organizational partners to endorse this letter and demanding a direct meeting with Governor Newsom himself.