

June 9, 2023

MEMO

To: San Diego Mayor and Councilmembers

Re: Homelessness Encampment Ban as it Relates to the Environment

It has come to our attention that one of the San Diego City Council Offices has been seeking support from local organizations for the homeless encampment ban ordinance due to purported environmental impacts.

The undersigned organizations oppose the homeless ordinance and want to state clearly that this ordinance has nothing to do with environmental justice. We believe in centering those most impacted by the climate crisis and environmental racism, while this ordinance only serves to further harm those who are most vulnerable. This is a policy on how we treat people, not a policy addressing the environment, and we support our community partners in opposing this violation of human rights.

We have far too many environmental justice and climate concerns to be scapegoating those in our community who are experiencing homelessness - who have so little and need our support. Do the right thing, continue to invest in our climate resolutions, and stop moving forward on this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Masada Disenhouse
Executive Director &
Joshua Piedra
Board Member
SanDiego350



Mikey Knab
Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign



Tama Becker-Varano
Organizer
Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)



José Franco García
Executive Director
Environmental Health Coalition

