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By James Feenan at 12:45 pm, Nov 06, 2024

From: <u>Hubs & Routes Coordinator</u>

To: <u>pbscommissions</u> **Subject:** Campgrounds are needed

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:14:00 AM

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Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for taking the next steps in preparing our County to receive more and more refugees as temperatures rise and storms lengthen.

I'm a physician in Fort Bragg.

Many patients who come to me are unhoused. Many others are housed but are having to work very challenging jobs despite illness and injury in order to stay housed.

Some of my neighbors want to keep things as they are. This is tempting!—as our empty land is so beautiful—but not realistic.

As the lowlands flood and the inland aquifers collapse, we will need to absorb more people whether we love our peace and quiet or not.

Once we have faced and accepted that reality, we can look at the details of how to absorb them: prepared or unprepared?

I would much rather we be prepared. I'd much rather that we had already built bathrooms, three-minute-shower rooms, playgrounds,

and trails, and developed gentle regulation combined with support for hardworking campground owners, than

simply have people live in their cars and poop along the trailside as more and more of our fire and smoke refugees have to do now.

I would much rather spread out the work of running campgrounds among all the neighborhoods of our county and all the "islands" of our Coast than build centralized, enormous, impersonal refugee camps in just a few areas. We should share widely the work of welcoming and integrating new refugees into our community,

including helping them find useful work of the kind that helps things go well for the people around them in their new place.

Thank you for thinking these things through.

Jennifer Kreger MD Fort Bragg, CA