

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12
Locals 3, 39 & 501, AFL-CIO

IUOE Unit 12 files Health and Safety grievances against Caltrans, Department of General Services (DGS), and State Parks for potentially exposing the Maintenance Workers and Groundskeepers to the Coronavirus while performing homeless encampment cleanups – March 12, 2020

In three separate health and safety grievances filed by the IUOE BU 12 this morning, the IUOE is asking that Caltrans, DGS, and State Parks suspend all homeless encampment cleanups until such time the Coronavirus Pandemic subsides, and it is safe to perform that type of work again.

With a homeless population of over 125,000 in California, many of the homeless find shelter in our State Parks, under freeway and highway overpasses, and on the grounds of many state buildings. These are areas that our members work at on a regular basis and come in contact with the homeless more often than not.

Infectious disease experts are predicting that if the Coronavirus gets into the homeless populations and camps it will spread more rapidly and be more dangerous than in other groups due to their reduced immunity against it.

Hopefully, these three Departments will take swift action and cease these cleanup operations immediately.

UNION STRONG!

Steve Crouch
Director of Public Employees, and Chief Negotiator for IUOE Unit 12