HOMELESSNESS

Skid River cleanup could swamp other regions in Southland

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The gradual eviction of more than 500 homeless people from the Santa Ana River Trail in Orange County has Inland Empire leaders discussing their potential migration inland.

Orange County Sheriff's Department deputies on Monday started clearing out the county's largest homeless encampment, a three-mile stretch of the river trail near Angel Stadium in Anaheim. Orange County Public Works is to clean up what observers have called Skid River.

Many living there have said they have no place to go.

"Obviously, this is an issue that impacts communities everywhere. We're not callous to the fact homelessness is certainly something communities have to address," said Lt. Mike Madden, San Bernardino Police Department spokesman.

"If we were to hear there were people being driven out here, that would be problematic and something we would want to have a dialogue with the responsible parties. But we haven't heard that any of that is taking place and we don't anticipate that taking place."

— Lt. Mike Madden, San Bernardino Police Department spokesman