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METRO WON'T CLOSE MIGRANT'S CAMP

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Metro has called off next week's threatened closing of the Everglades Migrant Labor Camp after growers agreed to rent half the camp's 400 trailers. Jack Campbell, secretary-treasurer of the South Florida Tomato and Vegetable Growers Association, said Monday that migrants will have to pay up or get out under the new management, which takes over next Wednesday.

Under the new arrangement, the camp will be leased for \$1 a year to the Everglades Community Association, a nonprofit corporation comprised of growers, housing specialists, migrant advocates and migrants. The association will rent half the trailers to any growers willing to put up two months' rent in advance -- roughly \$400.

Growers who rent trailers will be able to fill them as they see fit -- presumably with their own workers. The Community Association will rent the remaining 200 trailers directly to migrants. The association will manage the entire camp. The growers' money will give the Community Association sufficient cash flow to operate the camp.

Campbell said the growers were willing to rent half the trailers because the loss of 400 housing units would cause a crisis for their labor force. For years, the labor camp on U.S. 27 three miles south of Florida City was operated by Metro with a \$325,000 annual property-tax subsidy.