

San Francisco scooter protesters block Silicon Valley buses

Dave Lee, BBC News, 31 May 2018

The streets of San Francisco saw angry protests on Thursday morning - and once again, the target was the technology industry many people here think is causing great harm to the city.

A group of around 50 demonstrators, according to local reports, blockaded at least nine buses ferrying workers to Silicon Valley giants such as Apple and Google.

The barricade was carried out using some of the many on-demand electric scooters that can be seen on the city's streets, a trend seen here as the latest symbol of tech arrogance.

Protesters held banners with slogans such as "destroy the tech saviour industrial complex" and "sweep tech, not tents". The demonstration was organised by a coalition of local advocacy groups, and was fuelled in part by anger over the recent removal of homeless encampments in the city's Mission District - an area that has been greatly disrupted by rapid gentrification.

According to the San Francisco Examiner, while there were 126 tents targeted for removal by the city in April, only six homeless people were placed into short-term shelters.

The double-decker buses that take employees to-and-from the vast tech campuses found south of the city have in recent years become an obvious target for protesters.

According to US home rental directory Abodo, the average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the city last year was \$3,333, compared with a national average of \$1,040.