

Fresno County officials brace for influx of Hmong

By Kerri Ginis
THE FRESNO BEE

(Updated Wednesday, May 19, 2004, 6:10 AM)

Fresno County supervisors agreed Tuesday to form a task force to evaluate the resources and services that will be needed when nearly 3,000 Hmong refugees settle in the area.

The board listened to a delegation of community members share experiences from a week spent at the Wat Tham Krabok camp in Thailand. The members spoke about the lack of health care, the limited access to education and the poor housing conditions they saw.

With a little more than 40 days until the first wave of Hmong immigrants is expected to come to Fresno, county officials said they realize they need to move quickly to ensure a smooth transition for the refugees.

"We really need to look at the resources we have and look at the services that will be impacted," said board Chairwoman Susan B. Anderson, who was part of the delegation that went to Thailand. "We really need to get that information out to the public and other agencies."

From June to September, 5,000 to 6,000 refugees are expected to come to the United States. An additional 10,000 are expected between October and December.

About 32% of the approximately 15,000 refugees are expected to settle in California, with as many as 3,000 coming to Fresno County, said Blong Xiong, who is part of the Hmong Resettlement Task Force. Said Xiong: "There is a real sense of urgency to get some planning done."

The reporter can be reached at kginis@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6317.

RESOURCES

-  [E-mail This Article](#)
-  [Printer-Friendly Format](#)
-  [Receive the Daily Bulletin](#)
-  [Subscribe to Print](#)
-  [Join a Forum](#)