



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Angel Rios, Jr.
Jennifer A. Maguire

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF HOMELESS
RESPONSE TEAM PARK
RANGERS**

DATE: May 27, 2016

Approved

Date

5/27/16

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following amendments to the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget as follows:

- a. Increase the estimate for Revenue from Local Agencies by \$175,000;
- b. Increase the City-Wide Expenses Homeless Response Team budget in the amount of \$175,000; and
- c. Extend the limit-date for 2.0 Park Ranger positions assigned to the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department through June 30, 2017.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Jose and its partners, such as the County of Santa Clara and the Housing Authority of Santa Clara County, have made significant strides in reducing homelessness in our community. Since the 2013 Homeless Census and Survey, homelessness in San Jose decreased by 15%. To continue to respond to this crisis, the Housing Department has recommended and implemented a range of interventions and solutions to respond to the immediate need for housing the City's unsheltered homeless population. Over the past year, Council has approved a variety of programs and concepts, which have resulted in over 750 shelter, interim, and permanent housing opportunities for people living on the streets.

In 2013-2014, the Housing Department and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department partnered to establish a Homeless Response Team (Team) to address community concerns about the growth of homeless encampments with three primary goals: 1) significantly reduce and limit the current levels of entrenchment at large encampments; 2) maintain an active presence to deter re-encampment at cleaned sites and prevent new encampments from forming; and 3) create a sustained outreach plan to provide homeless encampment residents suitable housing alternatives.

As part of the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 Adopted Operating Budgets, the City added and continued 4.0 limit-dated Park Ranger positions—2.0 positions initially funded

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through June 2016 with the use of the Homeless Response Team Earmarked Reserve and then made ongoing as part of the 2015-2016 Adopted Operating Budget; and 2.0 positions approved through June 2016 supported by funding from the Santa Clara Water Valley District and subject to annual extension. According to the terms of the amended agreement with the District, "Upon mutual written consent of the parties, the term of this Agreement may be extended for additional one-year terms through June 30, 2019 upon the same terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement subject to City Council appropriation of funds and District's annual budget approval."

ANALYSIS

The Park Rangers were tasked with patrolling and providing enforcement of homeless encampments along Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River Park corridors. These corridors, representing 28 miles of trails, serve as the City's gateway; the encampments create public safety and habitat destruction issues in this area. Since the creation of the Team, Park Rangers have:

- Located and removed 555 encampments.
- Removed over 1,660 cubic yards of trash and debris from the watershed in conjunction with park maintenance staff and the San Jose Conservation Corps.
- Issued citations to 897 chronic violators, and arrested and prosecuted 102 subjects for various misdemeanor violations. In addition, 1,590 people were contacted and warned for San José Municipal Code, and California Penal Code and Fish and Game Code violations.
- Conducted five separate joint operation days with Game Wardens from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to locate and remove serious criminals from the watershed. Multiple subjects have been arrested for major misdemeanor warrants, felony warrants, possession of crack cocaine and methamphetamine for sale.

As a result of these efforts, Park Rangers:

- Mitigated unwanted behaviors and helped to restore natural resources to their native condition in the designated areas.
- Collaborated with the City Attorney's Office to prosecute individuals whose actions violate State and local laws and regulations by threatening natural resources. Of the more than 100 cases filed in the last 24 months, more than 90% involved chronic violators. The City Attorney's Office has also taken a strong role in working with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to assure that cases submitted by the Homeless Response Team are moved forward.
- Developed partnerships with numerous volunteer groups such as Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Friends of Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy to conduct extensive volunteer cleanups targeting legacy trash and illegal dumping.
- Supported 29 additional volunteer cleanups with 1,668 volunteers donating 5,289 hours of work and removing an additional 15.5 tons of material. The volunteer value to the City is estimated at \$142,115 in savings.

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The City is now finishing year three of the five-year agreement, and recently received notification from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to extend the agreement for an additional year (see attached). Hence, the Administration proposes to extend the two District-funded positions through June 30, 2017 and recognize and appropriate additional funding to support these positions. Funding in subsequent years will be brought forward, as appropriate, for City Council consideration.

The extension of these two positions will afford the Team the opportunity to continue their momentum, with the goal of achieving improved public safety; reduce encampments, dumping and re-encampments; reduce stream pollution, and litter in the riparian corridor; and protect water quality, fish and wildlife, while reducing blockages in local creeks for improved flood protection. Daily patrols and enforcement along these designated areas have confirmed that the Team has had a positive effect on mitigating the unwanted behaviors and restoring the natural resources to their native condition. In fact, not only has the District been pleased with the efforts of the Park Rangers and the Team, but the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the California Recovery Restoration Association have also noted the exceptional results and positive impacts that the enforcement and presence has made along the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek watersheds.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/
ANGEL RIOS, JR.
Director, Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services Department


JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE
Senior Deputy City Manager/
Budget Director

Attachment

May 27, 2016

Mr. Angel Rios, Jr., Director
Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., 9th Floor
San José, California 95113

Subject: Amendment #3 – One-Year Extension of Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Patrol Services (Santa Clara Valley Water District-City of San José)

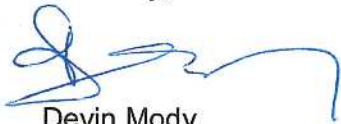
Dear Mr. Rios:

The third year of our Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Patrol Services is nearing completion and once again, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is pleased to offer the City of San José (City) a one-year extension, per the terms of the original agreement.

I understand staff of our respective agencies have agreed in principle to terms of a proposed Amendment #3 to the agreement, which would extend the Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Services for an additional one-year term from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The District intends to execute said amendment, and will be sending two signed originals to the City in the near future.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you in our joint effort to reduce encampments along waterways within the City of San José. If you have any questions, please contact Marynka Rojas at mrojas@valleywater.org or 408-630-2815.

Sincerely,



Devin Mody
Acting Deputy Operating Officer
Watersheds Operations and Maintenance Division

cc: Ms. Julie Edmonds-Mares
City of San José,
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, California 95113

N. Camacho, M. Richardson, L. Lee, S. Tippetts, D. Mody, C. Grande, M. Rojas