



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Angel Rios, Jr.  
Jennifer A. Maguire

**SUBJECT: WATER DISTRICT-FUNDED  
HOMELESS RESPONSE TEAM  
PARK RANGERS EXTENSION**

**DATE:** May 20, 2015

Approved

Date

5-21-15

The purpose of this Manager's Budget Addendum is to amend the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget and extend funding from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for 2.0 Park Ranger positions through June 30, 2016.

## RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following amendments to the 2015-2016 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 appropriation 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, 2016.

## BACKGROUND

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 and 2014-2015 Adopted Operating Budgets, 4.0 limit-dated Park Ranger positions were added (2.0 positions are funded through June 2016 with the use of the Homeless Response Team city-wide appropriation and Earmarked Reserve, and 2.0 positions were funded through June 2015 supported by funding from the Santa Clara Water Valley District). In the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget, the 2.0 Park Ranger positions funded by the Homeless Response Team city-wide allocation are recommended to be funded on an ongoing basis. The 2.0 Park Ranger positions funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District were not included because the City had not yet received notification regarding the continued funding of positions by the time the Proposed Budget was produced. The City has subsequently received

this notification. According to the terms of the amended agreement, “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 the 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 945 encampments.
- Removed over 271 tons of trash and debris from the watershed in conjunction with park maintenance staff and the San Jose Conservation Corps.
- Issued citations to 172 chronic violators, and arrested and prosecuted 23 subjects for various misdemeanor violations. In addition, 513 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 sales.

As a result of these efforts, Park Rangers:

- Developed a strong partnership with the *Restore Coyote Creek* volunteer program, and especially Program Manager Deb Kramer, to work towards zero trash along the Coyote Creek between Tully Road and Yerba Buena Road, removing over 29 tons of trash from the creek.
- Developed a partnership with HomeFirst, and especially Ed Howard in the Military Veterans Support unit, to identify homeless veterans and direct them to service and housing.
- Achieved a significant decrease in unlawful encampments along the Guadalupe River in areas under the responsibility of PRNS, based on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Point-in-Time counts.

The table below summarizes key results of Park Rangers from July 2013 through January 2015, by corridor and in total.

	<b>Guadalupe</b>	<b>Coyote</b>	<b>Los Gatos</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Encampment Deterrence Patrols	243	217	121	23	604
Violation Warnings	429	472	92	2	995
Citations	8	112	7	0	127
Arrests	0	19	1	0	20
Referrals to Service Providers	201	621	67	5	894
Est. Volume of Trash (cubic yards)	83	1,299	54	2	1,438
Ranger Hours	914	1,562	223	421	3,120

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 2015

**Subject: Water District-Funded Homeless Response Team Park Rangers Extension**

Page 3

The City is now finishing year two of the five-year agreement, and just 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, 2016 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.  
Interim Director, Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services Department

JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE  
Senior Deputy City Manager/  
Budget Director

Attachment

April 22, 2015

Norberto Dueñas  
Interim City Manager  
200 E. Santa Clara St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San José, CA 95113

Subject: Amendment #2 – One-Year Extension of the Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Patrol Services

Dear Mr. Dueñas:

The second year of our Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Patrol Services is nearing completion and once again I am pleased to offer a one-year extension, per the terms of the original agreement. In addition, I have incorporated the requested revisions from your letter dated July 8, 2013, enclosed for your reference. Not including them previously was an oversight on our part which will be remedied by this second Amendment.

For your review and signature, I have enclosed two signed original copies of Amendment #2. If the City desires to extend the Funding Agreement for Park Ranger Services for an additional one-year term from July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, please sign and return both copies for final processing and approval by the District's CEO Beau Goldie. Once finalized, we will return one of the signed original copies to you.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you in our joint effort to reduce illegal encampments along waterways in the City of San José.

Sincerely,



Chris Elias  
Deputy Operating Officer  
Watershed Operations and Maintenance Division

CE/jc

Enclosures (3)

cc: Carol Fredrickson  
Norma Camacho  
Julie Edmonds-Mares →

