



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Franklin Canyon Park  
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210  
Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 20, 2016

**TO:** Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP

**FROM:** Walt Young, Deputy Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Evaluation of Increased Need and Request for Ranger and Fire Prevention Services in Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone, City of Los Angeles, West of the 405 Freeway

---

### BACKGROUND:

During the late 1980s "Dirt Mulholland" and the related City trailhead streets were used for dumping, parties and other illegal activity. The MRCA created their Park Ranger program partly in response to community demands to address these issues west of the 405

Although MRCA Park Rangers have been patrolling the "Dirt Mulholland" and park-adjacent areas west of the 405 freeway for more than 20 years, in the last year, park neighbors have been reporting an increase in both seven day a week and early morning illegal activity in park or park adjacent areas. In response to these concerns, the MRCA increased assigned resources on a short term basis, and deployed time lapse cameras in order to document any illegal activities.

### FINDINGS:

The neighborhood reports are true, and may be in fact under reported.

### **VIDEO RESULTS**

From 4/30/2016 through 6/9/2016, three separate video studies were conducted in areas patrolled by the MRCA west of the 405 Freeway.

Parking and park violations were observed seven days a week, as late as 3:00 a.m. Visitation was not dependent on weather, day of the week, or holidays. Groups appear to arrive at park locations after 1:00 a.m.

Video sample examples:

- 17,000 Mulholland (5/8/2016 to 5/9/2016) 8 cars in violation
- Top of Reseda--outside of Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park (4/30/2016 to 5/1/2016) 20 cars in violation
- Vanalden Trailhead (6/4/2016 to 6/5/2016) 14 cars in violation

### **PATROL RESULTS:**

Mulholland Scenic Corridor (West of the 405) between the hours of 0200 to 0430 – Three surveys were conducted within the last two months. At least ten violations were observed during each sample period.

### **OVERALL CITATION INCREASES AGENCY WIDE:**

- April 2016 – 942 citations issued vs. April 2015 – 635 citations issued. **(48% increase above 2015 levels).**
- May 2016 – 859 citations issued vs. May 2015 – 581 citations issued **(48% increase above 2015 levels).**

### **HOMEOWNER and PARKLAND RISKS – WEST OF THE 405**

- Illegal night time activity creates a wide variety of risk, including but not limited to:
- Wildland fire starts (neighborhood threat)
- Alcohol and intoxicants consumption (driving safety)
- Littering, graffiti, noise and vandalism (Quality of life issues)
- Other criminal activity (neighborhood safety and security)

All of the proposed risk management strategies reflect suggestions and requests from homeowners that I have heard over my twenty plus year career with the MRCA.

**PROPOSED RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES—WEST OF 405 FREEWAY**

Over the course of my twenty plus year career with the MRCA, I have learned that deploying the proposed risk management strategies are highly effective. These strategies are continually requested by homeowners in the area, but come at a cost above what the current Operations budget will allow.

- RANGER PATROL (Special Details)
- 24 HOUR RED FLAG PATROL (Ranger)
- 24 HOUR RED FLAG PATROL (Fire engine)
- LIVE FEED CAMERA SYSTEM (Overlooks)
- ROASIDE CLEAN UP MATCH PROGRAM