



AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Date: February 5, 2019

Agenda Item 6-0

Approvals:

City Manager WM
Dept. Head ES
Attorney [Signature]
Finance [Signature]

Department: Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Prepared By: Samantha Wylie, Recreation Manager

Subject: *PUBLIC RESTROOM HOURS LOCATED WEST OF THE I-5.*

Fiscal Impact: Yes. Securing the restrooms will require a Park Ranger to lock and unlock each restroom facility, costing up to \$47,620 per year.

Summary: Staff recommends that Council approve the regular locking of all public restrooms west of the I-5 freeway on beaches and in parks from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The purpose of this action is to continue to decrease the total amount of damages and costs incurred to the interior of the public restroom facilities due to elevated levels of illegal activity and vagrancy.

Background: At its August 15, 2017 meeting, the City Council approved a one-year pilot program which authorized Park Rangers to lock all public restrooms west of the I-5 from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. In addition, the Council approved a supplemental appropriation to install gates and locks on any restrooms which did not have any previously. The public park restrooms in this area include: Pico Park, Canyon View Park, Vista del Sol Park, Max Berg Plaza Park, Bonito Canyon Park, San Gorgonio Park, and Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park. The public beach restrooms west of the I-5 include: North Beach, Linda Lane/Corto Lane, Base of Pier, End of Pier, and T-Street (north and south).

The one-year pilot program officially kicked off in January 2018, once all gates and locks were in place and the appropriate staff were hired and trained. The restrooms have been locked in the evening by City park rangers and have been unlocked by the City's contracted maintenance service companies.

Discussion: The public response concerning the locking of restrooms has been mostly positive. The most significant complaint was related to delays in unlocking the restrooms in the morning. The Recreation Division and Maintenance Services Division received phone calls that the restrooms were not open in a timely manner for early morning beach walkers and park users. Additionally, the public voiced concern at the beginning of lobster season when it was brought staff's attention that the lobster fishermen utilized the end of pier restrooms until the pier closed at 12 midnight.

To aid in the restrooms being opened closer to when parks open (6 a.m.), it is recommended that Park Rangers assume full responsibility of locking and unlocking the restrooms designated within this report. Under the pilot program, unlocking the restrooms has been the responsibility of the contracted maintenance company. This

has costed an additional \$3,000 per month; and because these companies do not begin their shifts until 6:30 a.m., there is a delay in when each facility is opened. By shifting the responsibility to the Park Rangers, the average monthly cost to unlock the restrooms would be \$1,685.

Upon complete review of the pilot program, staff recommends that the overnight locking of restrooms continue as a method to deter interior vandalism and illegal activity and vagrancy. It is further recommended to the shift the unlocking responsibilities to Park Ranger staff.

Recommended

Action:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council

- 1.) Approve the locking of all public restrooms west of the I-5 on City beaches and in City parks from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. on a regular basis; and
- 2.) Approve a supplemental appropriation of \$6,740 to account 001-624-41030-000-00000 for part-time Park Ranger salaries.

Attachments: None.

Notification: None.