

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 14, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Regional Parks

Subject: Report Back: Adequacy Of Security For Dry Creek Parkway: Including Contract Ranger Patrol For SAFCA, Dry Creek Parkway Ranger Patrol And Gibson Ranch Security

Contact: Gary J. Kukkola, Interim Director, 875-6283

At the September 6, 2006 Final Budget Hearings, the Board requested a report back regarding the security for Dry Creek Parkway, including the following CEO Not-Recommended additional growth requests: Contract Ranger Patrol for Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), Dry Creek Parkway Ranger Patrol, and Gibson Ranch Security (Attachment V-D, pages 10 and 15). It was also requested to report the impacts to the Dry Creek Parkway from the illegal camping patrol of the Lower American River Parkway.

Contract Ranger Patrol **\$54,000**
(CEO Not-Recommended Additional Growth Request—item previously funded by SAFCA)

Contract ranger patrol services were requested by SAFCA beginning in 2002 to patrol Ueda Parkway and Steelhead Creek, areas that are adjacent/ in close proximity to the Dry Creek Parkway. The total patrol area is approximately 4.76 linear miles of canal and levee area. Park Ranger patrols provide protection to flood control facilities and natural resources by discouraging illegal camping and other acts of vandalism. The SAFCA funding was a reimbursement for a mix of part-time Park Ranger Assistant hours and Park Ranger I permanent staff hours. SAFCA has eliminated this funding in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

SAFCA funds previously offset 1460 hours of Park Ranger Assistant extra hours and 615 hours of Park Ranger I patrol time (0.3 FTE) dedicated to the patrol of the Dry Creek Parkway. To maintain the funding in Fiscal Year 2006-07 for the 0.3 FTE permanent Park Ranger position, Parks has identified reductions in the extra help accounts and the 20 object, services and supplies.

Reinstatement of funding for this program (through an alternative funding plan with SAFCA or from general fund money) would result in the continuation of contract ranger patrol for the Ueda Parkway and Steelhead Creek, and partial restoration of the Parks Department budget.

Dry Creek Parkway Ranger Patrol \$92,584
(CEO Not-Recommended Additional Growth Request)

The North area of the County Regional Parks system, in particular Gibson Ranch, has experienced higher use levels, due to the recent population growth in the Rio Linda/Elverta and Natomas areas. This results in an increase in park user conflicts, illegitimate use of facilities after hours, and other illegal activities such as dumping, vandalism and illegal camping. Funding this program will provide 2000 hours of Ranger law enforcement patrol in the Dry Creek Parkway and other open space sites in the North area of the County Regional Parks system. Increased Park Ranger visibility will result in less crime, and will foster a sense of security for the public using these facilities.

Gibson Ranch Security \$17,980
(CEO Not-Recommended Additional Growth Request)

This program will provide Park Ranger Assistant patrol of Gibson Ranch and nearby portions of the Dry Creek Parkway from 6:00 p.m. until midnight, five days per week. Vandalism, illegal dumping and illegitimate after-hours use are continuing problems at these facilities, and the presence of a Park Ranger Assistant during the evening and nighttime hours will help deter these illicit activities. The Park Ranger Assistants report vandalism, fire, and other emergencies and pass the information on to the appropriate agency, to help protect the County's investment in these facilities.

Impact to Dry Creek Parkway from illegal camping patrol of the American River Parkway

In response to citizen and stakeholder complaints of illegal camping in the Dry Creek Parkway and at Gibson Ranch Regional Park, the Department has temporarily, and on a limited basis, re-directed American River Parkway ranger staff to contact the illegal campers and work with Sheriff's bus crews to clean up illegal camp debris in the Dry Creek Parkway. The Park Rangers completed field identifications on all illegal campers contacted in the Dry Creek Parkway; of those contacted, only one individual was known to the Park Rangers as one who has been contacted and cited for illegal camping in the American River Parkway. As such, it appears that the illegal camping patrol of the Lower American River Parkway is having a positive impact on illegal camping in the American River Parkway, but is also not increasing the number of illegal campers in the Dry Creek Parkway.

Sustained efforts to control illegal camping in the Dry Creek Parkway will require additional staffing and funding.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

GARY KUKKOLA, Interim Director
Department of Regional Parks

By: _____
CHERYL CRESON, Administrator
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