

# County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department



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PRK01 061709

Prepared by: Julie Mark  
Deputy Director

DATE: June 17, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Lisa Killough".

Lisa Killough  
Director

SUBJECT: Park Charter Fund Report Back - Board Referral #31 from Budget Review

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Under advisement from May 5, 2009 (Agenda Item No. 47): Provide information on the Park Charter Fund guidelines relating to the proposed expenditure from the Park Charter Fund of \$2.5 million for expansion of the Parks Patrol Program for FY 2010 for consideration by the Board during the FY 2010 Budget Hearing.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no fiscal implications associated with acceptance of this informational report.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

President Kniss requested that the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee review the Park Charter Fund and its allowable uses as a follow-up action to the Department's recommendations related to the Park Patrol Program, Agenda item 47 on the Board of Supervisors May 5, 2009 meeting agenda. At that meeting, the Board approved the expansion of the Parks Patrol Program to include six additional Deputy Sheriff positions, deployed as four fulltime Deputy assignments, and four six-month seasonal Deputy assignments.

Since there were no HLUET Committee meetings scheduled between the date of the referral and the Budget Hearing, the

Parks Department is providing the information to the full Board.

The intent of the augmentation is to improve response time to park rangers, provide for additional weekday and weekend coverage, and enhance evening campground patrols with park rangers. The combination of such efforts provide targeted enforcement to address recurring issues such as vandalism, trespassing, and unlawful conduct. This work is in direct support of park operations, enhancing park ranger safety and the safety of our park facilities, and providing additional visitor services and first response capability.

Up to 80% of the Park Charter Fund is dedicated for ongoing operations and maintenance expenses with 15% of the Fund dedicated to land acquisition and 5% dedicated for capital improvements. The County Charter Section 604 (b) mandates that a portion of the County Park Charter Fund be set aside for these three uses.

Park patrol services and related activities are an aspect of park operations. County Counsel advises that supporting such services is a lawful use of the Park Charter Fund.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Park Charter Fund was established in 1973 and is a set-aside of existing property taxes to support the ongoing maintenance and operations of the regional park and trail system as well as to provide dedicated funds for acquisition of new parkland and capital improvement projects. Over its 35-year history, the original formula has changed and the amount of the set-aside has decreased. It is currently \$0.01425 per \$100 assessed valuation.

The Park Charter was last renewed in 2006 for a 12-year term, commencing in July 2009 and expiring in June 2021, and revises the allocation to reflect the acquisition and capital improvement set-aside funding.