

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 3, 2022

**To:** Katie Lozano, Sr. Administrative Analyst, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
Norma Saldaña, Recreation Supervisor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

**From:** Senior Park Ranger Taylor Fox

**Subject:** 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Ranger Enforcement Report

---

### PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

January 1 – March 31, 2022

3 Full-time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve during this period.

2 Part-time Parking Enforcement Rangers patrolled access points, educated patrons, and enforced ParkMobile Implementation on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Total Public Contacts: 8,164

### **Significant Facility Closure Events**

During the first quarter the City had a significant rain event that resulted in Preserve closures January 1 and January 2 and again on March 28 and March 29. The Preserve also sustained significant trail damage and erosion from the rains, and trail repairs are ongoing.

Two beach closures took place during this reporting period, resulting in the partial closure of trails and the respective beach property. On December 30, a beach closure advisory was issued in swim areas around Port of Los Angeles and the City of Long Beach, including Ocean Trails Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes Beach due to a sewage leak. The closure was lifted for all beaches except for Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro as of January 3. Secondly, on January 15, OSM staff closed thirteen beach access trails (affecting Vicente Bluffs Reserve, Abalone Cove Reserve / Park, and Ocean Trails Reserve) in response to a Tsunami Advisory issued by the National Weather Service.



## Enhancing Public Participation



To facilitate public participation and promote transparency in operations, the Recreation and Parks Department posts public notices at key trailheads of upcoming public meetings pertinent to Preserve operations and management. These notices also include instructions on signing up for the Preserve listserv group. The Department is excited to announce that we have added QR codes to our trailhead notices to make getting involved and staying informed even easier. Look out for our new notices at key Preserve trailheads!

## Welcome Park Ranger Wolterding

Ranger Wolterding joined the Open Space Management (OSM) team in February 2022 as a full-time Park Ranger. Ranger Wolterding will patrol the 1,400 acres of the Preserve, educate patrons about park rules and regulations, and enforce violations.

Ranger Wolterding has previous experience in law enforcement and public safety in Virginia and New York and trails maintenance with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.



## Trainings and Coordination:

### Los Angeles County-Wide Trails Task Force Quarterly Meeting

(January 27): The City is a member of the Los Angeles County-wide Trails task force. Main topics of the meeting included discussion on how attendance appears to remain high during the pandemic, although the intense surge pandemic-related recreational and entertainment venue closures has ended. Additional topics included how to take attendance on trails, including popular trail counters, and management of e-bikes on trails.

### Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70513 (March 20):

Rangers met with Rolling Hills Estates Girl Scout Daisy Troop 70531 to practice Leave No Trace Principles and learn about what Park Rangers do in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve!



### Water Rescue Training (Various Trainings in February and March): Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguards conducted various water rescue trainings within Sacred Cove Beach to train current and new staff on water safety.

## **Project Coordination & Emergency Work:**

Open Space Management (OSM) staff help to coordinate multiple projects within the Preserve to ensure Natural Communities Conservation Plan / Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP / HCP) compliance with PVPLC, to implement trail closures and public safety measures, and to provide public notification. Below are a list of projects OSM staff helped coordinate with PVPLC, the Public Works Department, and public utilities in the first quarter:

Jan. 25: Southern California Edison (SCE):  
Infrastructure Maintenance at Alta Vicente Reserve  
(Prickly Pear Trail)

Feb. 10: SCE: Infrastructure maintenance at Alta  
Vicente Reserve (Prickly Pear Trail)

March 28-July 2022: SCE and other utilities  
undergrounding facilities at Crenshaw Boulevard

March 21-April 29: Water tank maintenance in  
Portuguese Bend Reserve at Burma/Fire Station  
Trail



## **OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:**

**Total Contacts: 8,164**

Hikers: 6,915

Dog Walkers: 703

Cyclists: 520

Equestrians: 26

Warnings: 122

## **Calls for Assistance: 7 transports**

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 4

Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 3

## **Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 32 calls**

Trail Status and General Information: 11

Parking Issues: 4

Dogs Off Leash / Aggressive Dogs: 4

Maintenance: 4

Use of Spur Trail / Closed Areas: 2

Lost / in Distress: 4

Injured Wildlife: 3

## **ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:**

### **Parking Citations Issued: 716**

#### By Violation:

Park by Permit – 677  
Parking Lot / Preserve / Park Hours- 3  
Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 28  
Handicap Zone –8  
Other- 58

#### By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) – 519  
Del Cerro Park – 166  
Abalone Cove Reserve - 19  
Forrestal Reserve – 11  
Vicente Bluffs Reserve – 1

### **Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 15 Total**

#### By Violation:

Closed Area – 12  
No Animals on Beach- 3

#### By Location:

Abalone Cove Reserve – 7  
Forrestal Reserve – 3  
Portuguese Bend Reserve – 4  
Ocean Trails Reserve – 1

## **ACTIVITY REPORT BY RESERVE:**

The next section provides further information on projects, reports, and Ranger activity/observations organized by Reserve. Numbers do not reflect actual number of individuals in the Reserve, rather those spoken to while on foot and/or vehicle patrols. Information does not include routine maintenance.

### **Abalone Cove Reserve:**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	300	42	16	5
Dogs	2	3	2	2

On January 6, OSM Staff identified a deceased coyote on the sidewalk adjacent to Beach School Trail. The cause of death is unknown but believed to have been roadkill. Los Angeles County Animal Control was informed and retrieved the coyote on January 9.

On January 9, a broken sprinkler was reported in the habitat adjacent to Chapel View Trail. Water was shut off immediately after the report was received. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy was notified because the area is an active PVPLC restoration area. There was no impact on the trails.

On January 19, OSM Staff observed four dead birds: one seagull and three cormorants at the beach. Rangers notified Los Angeles County Animal Control, and the birds were retrieved on January 23.

On January 20, a leak resulted in flooding at Abalone Cove Park. Stay Green personnel assisted in shutting off the mainline and are continuing to work on repairs.

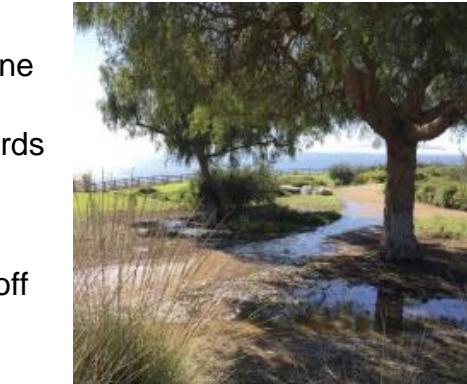


On February 8, OSM Staff installed tension cables to provide additional reinforcement to the "Area Closed" sign.

On March 6, approximately 15 trash cans along the coast, including at Abalone Cove Park and San Ramon Reserve, were vandalized. The inner linings of the trash cans were removed, and the trash cans were strewn about.

OSM Staff cleaned up the garbage and returned the cans to their intended locations.

On March 11, OSM Staff contacted Los Angeles County Animal regarding an injured cormorant on Abalone Cove beach.



#### Marine Protected Area (MPA) Report

In response to an increase of poaching within the City, OSM Staff initiated Tide Pool Patrols to patrol the City's two MPAs, the Abalone Cove limited take SMCA and the Point Vicente no-take SMCA. June 27, 2020, was the first date of these new patrols. This report captures the data collected from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022.

**Results and Future Direction:** During this reporting period, there was a decrease in poaching activity when compared to the last quarter. Currently, most violations that occur are people handling wildlife or removing wildlife from the tide pools for

observation, making up 96% of violations observed during this period. Consumptive forms of take, such as rod and reel fishing and harvesting animals to be consumed, are generally uncommon, making up 3% of violations observed. Additionally, most violations occur within low tides, which may vary from 1 to -2 feet. For example, January 29 and 30 as a result of low tide during normal operational hours, there were 68 collecting without intent to take. Overall, staff continue to see high compliance rates when contacting those engaged in MPA violations, with most people contacted simply being unaware of the MPAs or the laws surrounding them. For the future, OSM will continue to patrol our MPAs, with a focus during low tide events and in problem areas.

### **Aqua Amarga Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	5	0	0	0
Dog	2	1	1	0

Signage was placed to amend the “Trail Ends in 500 ft at City Boundary / No Through Access” sign located at Lunada Canyon Trail near the Palos Verdes Estates border (installed October 2021). The new sign removes the wording that there is “no through access,” but users should be advised that the Lunada Canyon trail ends, and rules and regulations in Palos Verdes Estates may differ.

### **Alta Vicente Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	12	3	0	0
Dog	2	0	0	0

On March 27, a vehicle collision occurred on Palos Verdes Drive South near Prickly Pear Trail. The adjacent cactus was damaged, and some vehicle debris remained overnight. The vehicle was towed later that day, and Los Angeles County Sheriff Department was notified. Additionally, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy was notified to assess habitat damage.

### **Filiorum Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	126	30	6	0
Dog	14	1	1	0

Biker	10	0	0	0
Equestrian	4	0	0	0

On March 15, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department received a report of a female hiker who was bitten by a rattlesnake. 911 was called after she began to have difficulty breathing.

Rangers continued to see food scraps discarded on the trails and overlook areas within this Reserve. Food scraps, including orange and banana peels on the trails are considered litter, as they are not natural to the area and may attract animals. Staff will continue to patrol these areas and educate the public to ensure they adhere to Leave No Trace Principle No. 3: pick up all your waste, including granola bar wrappers, empty water bottles, and food scraps!



### **Forrestal Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	371	21	5	3
Dog	74	3	4	0
Biker	61	4	4	0

On January 29, Ladera Linda Community Park Staff was notified of individuals in a closed area by Quarry Trail. The reporting party stated that individuals were collecting rocks. Rangers proceeded to the location reported and confirmed three individuals were in a closed area with small tools prospecting for quartz. The individuals were educated, cited, and escorted out of the area.



### **Ocean Trails Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	515	53	5	0
Dog	85	33	24	1
Biker	2	0	2	0

During this reporting period, OSM Staff continued to coordinate closures at Coastal Switchback Trail and the Bridge near Lakeview Trail.

On January 9, a sprinkler broke on a residential property adjacent to East Portal Trail. A section of the trail was flooded as a result. Cal Water was able to shut off the water. Rangers inspected the trail for any damage and made minor repairs to repair the tread.



On January 19, Rangers contacted two e-bike riders on Sunrise Trail. They confirmed the bicycles were e-bikes. Bicycles are permitted on Catalina Trail and select trails on the Eastern side of the Reserve. However, e-bikes are not permitted in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve or City Parks, per RPVMC 12.16.020.

During this reported period, Rangers received reports of nude photography taking place on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach during weekdays near sunset. Nudity is not permitted in any public park, street, right-of-way, playground, beach, or the waters adjacent thereto, or any other public place or accommodation, or in any place open to the public per the RPVMC 12.16.100. Professional photography and filming is also not permitted without a City permit, as mandated by the RPVMC 9.16.020 and the City's Public Use Master Plan (PUMP).

Additionally, Rangers received public reports of an increased dog presence on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach, both leashed and off-leash. Animals are not permitted on the beach, per the RPVMC 12.16.050. Signage vandalism also took place. Rangers have coordinated with Trump National Golf Staff to increase and maintain signage. Rangers have also increased patrols to educate and enforce the above activities. When contacted, many individuals state they accessed inaccurate information through social media sites, such as All Trails, that suggest dogs are allowed on City beaches. Park Rangers are contacting All Trails to try to correct the misinformation.





On January 27, Rangers identified and dismantled a fire pit. The firepit had been made of rocks, charcoal, and charcoal lighter fluid.



On February 1, Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a fire that took place within the California Coastal Trail adjacent to Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive South. There were six burned bushes along the sidewalk on Palos Verdes Drive South.

On February 22, a dinghy boat was located on Ocean Trails Beach near Southshore Coastal Trail. At the time, the boat could not be removed due to strong winds. The dinghy boat had expired tags, and the previous registered owner was deceased. The dinghy was transported out of

the beach on February 24 and was discarded.



On March 1, OSM staff installed a “No Rock Throwing” sign at the bottom of Sunset Trails to remind the public of the beach below. Staff had been informed on several instances where rock throwing took place by members of the public.

On March 11, Rangers were notified of an injured pelican on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach below Sunrise Trail. Los Angeles County Animal Control was called and escorted by OSM Staff. The pelican was rescued and taken to International Bird Rescue in San Pedro.

On March 27, a fire ignited near the public trails adjacent to Ocean Trails Reserve. Los Angeles County Fire Department responded and was able to extinguish the fire. The cause of fire is under investigation.

### **Portuguese Bend Reserve**

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	5,403	616	25	2
Dog	503	27	17	0
Biker	445	24	7	2
Equestrian	22	0	0	0

On January 2, Staff inspected trails to ensure trails had sufficiently dried, and hazards were identified and removed, to reopen to the public. Among several items, Staff removed several medium boulders that had fallen from the adjacent slope to ensure safe vehicle access for emergency and maintenance vehicles. The grade dips installed last Winter (January 2021) continued to divert most of the water off the trail resulting in minimal damage to trails.



Several trails remained closed due to damage caused by the storm. The City is coordinating with the Geologist, as well as with Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for inspections and repairs. The following trails in this Reserve were closed effective January 3: Fire Station Trail, Sandbox Trail, and a section of Burma Road Trail between Landslide Scarp Trail and Rim Trail. Garden Trail remained closed due to an emergence of erosion on the trail bed.



On January 6, Sandbox Trail was reopened after repairs were made by OSM staff. Additional maintenance procedures will be needed to inspect and assess water flow during rainstorms and to minimize impacts to the trail.



On January 8, OSM staff conducted minor repairs on trails with minor ruts formed by water from recent rains. These included Ishibashi Trail, Burma Road Trail, and Watertank Trail Junction.



On January 9, several instances of graffiti were identified and removed by OSM staff. Items that could not be removed were reported to the City's Contractor, GPC, for removal.



On January 17, Fire Station Trail was reopened after PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew conducted several repairs.



On February 6, Rangers received calls requesting medical assistance. Rangers were able to assist with both incidents: one on Burma Road Trail, and the second at Eagle's Nest Trail.



On February 20, a deceased hawk was found near Burma Road Trail. This is the third time that a predatory bird was found deceased with no head in the Portuguese Bend Reserve within the last several months. The incident was reported to the California West Nile Agency and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On February 20, a group was contacted regarding take of flora and fauna. The group had cut several branches of *Artemesia californica*. The group was educated on Preserve rules and the plant was confiscated.



On March 3, Rangers received a report of a deceased bird of prey on private property within the Portuguese Bend Community Association. Rangers contacted Los Angeles County Animal Control, who removed the bird.

On March 12, Rangers were contacted by a female hiker who was seen carrying her dog. The hiker stated that her dog was bitten by a snake on Peacock Flats Trail around 11 a.m., and another member of her group had taken a picture of the snake. Rangers confirmed it was a rattlesnake. She was advised to contact a local veterinarian immediately.

On March 18, Rangers were approached by a dog owner that had encountered what they believed was a rattlesnake. The dog owner was not certain if their dog had been bit. The dog owner was advised to notify the veterinarian. This incident is the second incident of a potential or confirmed rattlesnake sighting at this location. As a result, additional signage was placed on Peacock Flats Trail to educate hikers to use caution and always stay on trail!



On March 25, Rangers observed several instances of vandalism on the rock wall at Burma Road Trail and Peacock Flats Trail and adjacent carbonite markers. A GPC report was submitted for graffiti removal.

## **San Ramon Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	6	6	0	0
Dog	1	0	0	0

On February 3, the San Ramon Reserve monument sign located at the top of Marymount Trailhead was recently defaced with graffiti and had etchings carved onto it. It is currently being repaired. The graffiti incident was reported to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department.

On February 23, OSM staff located a shelter erected from branches and plastic twine. There was no personal property, or evidence of an encampment. Several tools were confiscated, and the shelter was disassembled.

Throughout the reporting period, Staff conducted illegally dumped item and litter abatement along the turnouts and adjacent habitat areas within the Reserve.

Large items removed included wood, vehicle fender panels, a dishwasher, and a tire.

On February 24, Staff observed a dirt bike jump in the habitat within San Ramon Reserve. The bike jump was removed by March 1. Staff continues to coordinate with Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy on this issue.



### **Three Sisters Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	7	12	0	0
Dog	2	2	0	0
Biker	1	0	0	0

Park Rangers reported several spur trails within the Three Sisters Reserve. Some spur trails may be animal trails that become widened and compact by human use. They pose a detrimental impact to the habitat as they may damage the native seed bank or disturb other sensitive species. The City will continue to work with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to close spur trails and enforce spur trail closures and off-trail use.

Throughout this reporting period, OSM Staff continued to install "Warning" signs in the Preserve including the trailhead at Barkentine.



### **Vicente Bluffs Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	169	7	6	0
Dog	18	1	0	0
Biker	1	0	1	0

On February 1, Rangers received a call regarding a homeless individual by Golden Cove Trail who was camping on the trail. Rangers contacted the individual and informed them of overnight camping rules in the Preserve and Parks.

On February 5, Rangers observed four chairs, one ottoman, and one glass table off-trail and in the habitat adjacent to Calle Entradero parking lot. It is unknown how long the items had been there; all items had graffiti.

On February 28, Staff received a report of an injured red fox on the beach below Point Vicente Interpretive Center. Rangers confirmed the location and escorted Los Angeles County Animal Control to the site to retrieve the fox.



On March 2, OSM Staff installed several “Do Not Feed the Wildlife” signs along Seascape Trail near Golden Cove Parking Area to educate patrons.



On March 26, Rangers observed vandalism on the restrooms at Pelican Cove parking area. A GPC report was submitted for graffiti removal.



### **Vista del Norte Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	1	1	0	0

An ongoing irrigation leak on the top of Vista del Norte Trail has been reported and is being resolved.

### **City Parks and Beaches**

Rangers educated patrons in City Parks and beaches regarding the City's Municipal Code, including homeless individuals and encampments, motorized bicycles, large group gatherings, film and photography without a permit, and park hours.