



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: February 3, 2012

TO: Katie Howe, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

FROM: Jewel Johnson, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

RE: Ranger Services Activity Report 10/01/2011 – 12/31/2011

546 Patrol Hours (7 Rangers)
15 Interpretative Hours (3 Rangers)

PORTUGUESE BEND NATURE RESERVE

The reserve continues to be busy with all user groups represented. We have a clear usage pattern of the main groups. Hikers are the dominant user group during the week and weekends. We had good compliance with hikers with dogs but they are not picking up after their dogs at the beginning of the main trailhead at the terminus of Crenshaw. The issue of hikers forgetting to bring water continues to be an issue and I handed out about 20 water bottles during the hotter days (mid-October and late-November). The mountain bikers usually start arriving after 3pm on the weekdays but on the weekends, the older mountain bikers like to ride in the morning and the younger mountain bikers arrive in the afternoon. The equestrians are mainly riding in the morning during the weekends and are rarely seen on the weekdays. We received reports of unauthorized vehicle use (motorbikes) in the reserve. We were unable to locate but believe they are entering the reserve from Rolling Hills and Forrestal. The following group of trails needs clarification:

- Toyon Trail (unauthorized trails built off this trail | lack of trail markers)
- Garden Trail (unauthorized trails built off this trail | lack of trail markers)
- Landslide Scarp Trail (lack of clear trail markers | frequently vandalized)
- Rim Trail (lack of trail markers | major erosion | hikers making own trails)
- Eagle's Nest Trail (unauthorized trail built from the Harman overlook)

Transported hiker and his dog which was bitten by a rattlesnake on the Rim trail to Point Vicente Animal Hospital.

ABALONE COVE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

We continue to monitor the activity at Sacred Cove. The “stone cabanas” were dismantled in October | November. The activity moved from below Inspiration Point to Portuguese Point. The patrols have disrupted and/or changed activity at Sacred Cove but we observed evidence (i.e. broken branches, tissue, condoms wrappers, water bottles and various litter) of possible lewd behavior off the trails above Portuguese Point. We received reports that people are using the storm drain outlet in the Alta Mira Canyon. We joined Public Works during their inspection of the outlet but were unable to determine when and how they were using the outlet. We did find evidence (i.e. fire pits) of after hour activity in Sacred Cove. Graffiti found and removed off rule signs at “ruins” entrance.

POINT VICENTE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

We observed while patrolling the trails (Seascape, Terranea, Golden Cove) that someone was feeding the rabbits with carrots. We were informed that an unknown male was responsible but we were unable to locate this unknown park visitor.

FORRESTAL NATURE RESERVE

We received a report in November that kids were in the Quarry with bows and arrows. We were unable to locate these park visitors but did find evidence of “air soft” pistol activity. We continue to monitor location. The dog off leash activity has declined due to new signage and locked gates. There is evidence they have moved to the lower soccer fields. A park visitor reported dumping inside the dumpsters on the property. We found trash in the dumpster from a construction site.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES BEACH

Found lifeguard platform burned and vandalized.

INTREPRETATIVE ACTIVITIES

- November 12 Night Hike – Cancelled due to rain
- December 10 Night Hike – 13 Hikers
- MRCA/RPV Junior Ranger preparation

CITATIONS ISSUED (15)

September

- Portuguese Bend Nature Reserve
 - Dog off leash – 2
- Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve
 - Unlawful Take (Tide pools) – 2
 - Misdemeanor Filing

October

- Portuguese Bend Nature Reserve
 - Dog off leash
- Point Vicente Interpretive Center
 - Dog off leash
- Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve
 - Unauthorized Motorized Vehicle Use
 - Fishing w/o License – 2

November

- Portuguese Bend Nature Reserve
 - Mountain Bikes on unauthorized trail – 4

December

- Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve (Sacred Cove) – 2