

MEMORANDUM-DRAFT

DATE: October 14, 2016
TO: Katie Lozano, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
FROM: Deputies Jimenez and Kuwata
RE: RPV | LASD DEPUTY Activity Report

Preserve Visitor Contacts

- July, 2, 2016 – September 30, 2016
- 2 Deputies patrolled the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve during this period (~645 hours of active patrol)
- Activity based on calls/reports for service, field observations, and PVPLC (Volunteer Trail Watch) reports in the Preserve with the following results:

Portuguese Bend Reserve

Due to the increasing number of people reported to make use of it, during the first quarter, operations were concentrated in the Portuguese Bend Reserve. We accessed the reserve primarily via the following locations:

- The gate off Crenshaw Boulevard (near Del Cerro Park)
- Fire Station Trail from Crest Road
- Peppertree Trail, from the gate off Palos Verdes Drive South

WARNINGS

- Hiker: Dog off leash; 4
- Equestrian: Dog off leash; 1
- Bicyclist: Closed area; 1
- Hiker: Closed area; 4
- Hiker: Left dog waste; 1

ASSISTS (Medical, Health/Safety)

- Citizens 13

(Portuguese Bend Reserve)

CITATIONS

- Hiker: Dog off leash; 4
- Hiker: Off trail; 1
- Bicyclist: No bike trail; 2
- Bicyclist: Closed area; 2

Forrestal Reserve

During the first quarter, bicyclists were reported to have been riding on “No bicycle” trails, and swerving off trail, causing erosive damage to the reserve trail foundation of this reserve. Smokers were reported to regularly use Cool Heights Overlook (a no smoking/no open fires location) as a place to smoke cigarettes.

Fossil Trail and Exultant Trail are being monitored at random times, from the intersection of Forrestal Drive and Main Sail Drive. Cool Heights Overlook is also partially visible from this vantage point. At the time of this report, violators have not been detained or seen.

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Hiker: Flying R/C aircraft; 1

Ocean Trails Reserve

There have been reports of nighttime activity and several reports of dogs on the beach in this reserve, from VTW personnel, and from LA County Lifeguards. A limited time was spent patrolling this reserve, with the following results.

WARNINGS

- Hiker: Dog off leash; 4
- Hiker: Dog on beach; 1

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Hiker: Dog off leash; 1

Abalone Cove Reserve

During the first quarter, LA County Lifeguards reported that many people continue to enter the closed area of Portuguese Point (referred to as Gorge 1 by rescue personnel).

Nighttime activity, hikers with dogs off leash, and hikers with dogs on the beach had also been reported.

WARNINGS

- Hiker: Dog off leash; 2
- Hiker: Dog on beach; 2
- Hiker: Closed area (Gorges); 66
- Hiker: No open fires (BBQ); 1

ASSISTS

- LACF Rescue; 1

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Hiker: Off trail; 2
- Hiker: Closed area; 3

Three Sisters Reserve

During foot patrols of this area, very few contacts have been made. Although damage to trails by bicycles has been reported by the PVPLC-VTW, at the time of this report, no violations were observed.

Filiorum Reserve

The limited foot patrols conducted in this reserve met with few contacts and no observed violations.

San Ramon Reserve

No contacts were made during foot patrols and checks via ATV at this reserve.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

Numerous fishermen, tourists and divers have been contacted and/or cited for climbing over the railing.

WARNINGS

- Hikers: Closed area; 9
- Cyclist: No bikes trail; 1
- Hikers throwing rocks off cliff; 2
- Hiker: Taking marine life; 1

(Vicente Bluffs Reserves)

ASSISTS (Medical, Health/Safety)

- Citizens; 1

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Hiker: Closed area; 4
- Hiker: Flying R/C aircraft; 1
- Cyclist: No bikes trail; 1

Agua Amarga Reserve

Approximately 21 volunteers supervised by a PVPLC member were contacted while they were working on the east plot. Since that time, sporadic checks for reserve users or violations met with negative results.

Vista Del Norte Reserve

Although trails in this reserve appear to be used, no one has been seen during foot patrols through this area.

OVERVIEW

During the first quarter of operations (July – September 2016), numerous people have been warned, advised or cited regarding the Preserve rules and regulations. We have provided information to trail users on how to access resources from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy websites; including but not limited to trail maps, trails information, the preserve mission, etc.

Most, if not all of the violations appear to be from ignorance of the laws and the fact that the violators are inside of a wilderness preserve. Additionally, some violators (mostly residents) have been using the preserve lands since before they were preserves, and are committing acts that have only become violations within the past ten or fifteen years.

While maintaining the habitat in a natural state is important, it is equally important to provide preserve users with more visible guidelines to follow. This is important, not only to physically protect the preserve, but also to provide the users with a “black and white” law that has less “gray area” that is subject to the user’s personal and legal interpretation. Most of the preserve users contacted, including the above-indicated violators, want to enjoy the preserve, as well as, “Do what is right”.