



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** George Lange, Chairperson  
**DATE:** April 20, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Report**

### Ranger Service/Operations:

- Rangers, Public Officers, and Park Staff have maintained a consistent presence at Escondido Canyon Park, providing water to visitors, offering impromptu interpretive programs, distributing ranger stickers, educating guests on proper hiking etiquette, and ensuring visitors remain on designated trails when leaving the parking area.
- Staff regularly hike the trail to the waterfall to keep it clean and free of litter, and this increased presence has contributed to fewer calls for outside emergency services, though such services are still requested when necessary.
- Operations staff continue active work along the LA River within Council District 3, engaging with individuals experiencing homelessness, offering assistance, and connecting them with available services. Some individuals accept support, while others relocate; staff then clean up abandoned illegal encampments and properly dispose of debris.
- In La Tuna Canyon Park, operations staff have addressed multiple large-scale illegal dumping incidents involving tires, household waste, demolition debris, concrete, and large furniture. Rangers are coordinating with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to file several related cases.
- Routine maintenance—including brush clearing, sign replacement, and daily trash and litter removal—continues across the agency's parks, overlooks, and beach access points.

### Fire Division:

- Six returning Seasonal firefighters began work this week, and nine new Seasonal firefighters are scheduled to start next week.
- Brushing operations have commenced for the season; with the late rains, vegetation growth is expected to be especially heavy this year.

- Several trainings are scheduled in the coming weeks for new personnel, along with the basic Wildland Academy in May, which will include participants from both the agency and multiple outside agencies.
- Station maintenance—including handrail repairs and roof leak mitigation—and ongoing vehicle maintenance continue as part of daily readiness efforts.

**Construction:**

- Repairs continue on the main water supply line to Mentryville and clearing sediment from the park road.
- Staff completed several improvement projects at Mill Creek, including painting work.
- A Minor Capital Outlay project for the Rim of the Valley was completed, with improvements at the Towsley Lodge, as well as the Mentryville and Whitney Canyon residences.
- Staff built a porta-potty enclosure, placed DG for a trail, installed parking bump stops, and completed various painting tasks at the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook above the Hollywood Bowl.

**Park Development and Watershed Planning:**

- We are advancing multiple planting and irrigation projects to restore landscaping and stabilize areas prone to erosion.
- Trail work progressed at Temescal Gateway Park, with the Rivas Trail segment on SMMC property now complete.
- The crew is currently working on the Temescal–Sunset Ridge connector and anticipates completing this segment by the end of April.