



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Advisory Committee

FROM: George Lange, Chairperson

DATE: June 16, 2025

SUBJECT: **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Report**

Operations/Ranger Services:

Operations Staff prepared several locations in advance of the reopening of PCH that had been affected by recent fires. Rangers, Public Officers, Park Staff and Seasonal Ranger Assistants were out in the area to ensure the public remained safe during the Holiday weekend, no issues were reported. Rangers and Park Staff cleaned up a large illegal encampment at the Malibu Bluffs Park. Staff had to hike out the debris found to a truck waiting to haul the items away. Rangers worked with Ventura County Fire to locate a downed bicyclist at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space, once he was located, first responders carried the victim to a waiting helicopter so he could be taken to a nearby hospital for further evaluation. Staff attended their annual swiftwater re-certification in preparations for the 2025 LA River Recreation Zone reopening for kayaking in the LA River.

Fire Division:

The crews are hard at work on Brushing at least six days per week, with some training mixed in. Between our crews and contracted brushing crews, we are in the fifty percentiles of completion. Last week a contingent of "Paid Call", volunteers and daily firefighters from crew 2 and 4 participated in a Prescribed burn in the Ojai valley to reduce invasive star thistle; it was a great training opportunity with live fire. The burn was managed by CalFire. Preparations for the 4th of July Patrol and Bar-B-Que at the station are underway, between employees and their families, it looks like we will be cooking for 150.

The three new Type 3 engines are not in our driveway just yet but hope to see them soon. Daily vehicle and station maintenance is ongoing.

Construction Division:

Construction Division: Has been focused on FEMA re-construction contracts for Temescal Gateway Park. Renovation of the Ramirez Barn for Fire staff residence. Mill Creek support of the perc test for park wide septic system. KGR Boiler replacement complete and Dormitory roof complete all three levels. Nichols Canyon below Trebek Open Space cleanout of sediment basins beside Nichols Canyon Road and Castair Drive.