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August 5, 2011

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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

GRAFFITI TRACKING SYSTEM STATUS REPORT (ITEM 22, AGENDA OF APRIL 28, 2009)

On August 12, 2008, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide a six-month status report on the implementation of the graffiti citation pilot, including the juvenile component, to determine if existing resources are sufficient. Also, to evaluate the Pico Rivera Vandalism Enforcement Team (VET) program and provide a plan of implementation, with budget recommendations, in 12 months.

On April 28, 2009, your Board further instructed our office, in coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW), County Counsel, the District Attorney's Office (DA), and the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff), to include in the aforementioned evaluation report a recommendation on a unified graffiti tracking system that includes an assessment of the Graffiti Tracker System (GTS) and the Traffic and Graffiti Report System and the identification of high-priority unincorporated areas Countywide that could benefit most from the expansion of VET.

This report has three purposes: (1) to provide a status report on the implementation of the Civil Graffiti Program (CGP), (2) to provide an evaluation of VET, and (3) to provide a recommendation for a Countywide unified graffiti tracking system and identify high-priority unincorporated areas that would benefit the most from the expansion of VET.

BACKGROUND

Graffiti refers to the act of defacing property, either with markings and/or graphics. Penalties for the violation of graffiti statutes and ordinances range from the imposition of fines and imprisonment, restitution, and parental liability to community service. Despite legal sanctions, it is an increasingly prevalent social problem that causes serious damage to property and imposes significant removal costs for the County, businesses,

damage to property and imposes significant removal costs for the County, businesses, and private citizens. Graffiti vandalism is often an unreported or inconsistently reported crime. While the real cost and prevalence of graffiti vandalism is not known, law enforcement data provides useful estimates. Similarly, the costs of removal are difficult to estimate; but research indicates graffiti vandalism can cost communities up to \$100 million per year.

In response to this problem, on October 9, 2007, your Board instructed the CEO to work with County Counsel, Sheriff, and DPW to:

- Designate which department would operate as the lead agency in civil graffiti citation cases;
- Create a pilot project that would: (1) establish a set of civil fine standards whereby graffiti vandals - and, in the cases involving minors, their parents - would automatically be issued a base fine and the cost of graffiti cleanup upon receiving a graffiti citation; and (2) establish an Administrative Hearing Panel whose members would convene in graffiti vandalism cases and would provide due process to accused graffiti vandals - and, in the cases involving minors, their parents - in a process similar to traffic court; and
- Determine if existing County ordinances or policies must be amended in order to accomplish the aforementioned directive and, if so, supply your Board with amending language specifically to achieve these objectives.

On November 19, 2007, our office provided a report summarizing the current available civil remedies allowable under County Code Title 1 - General Provisions ordinances when graffiti is placed on public or private property; Title 13 - Public Peace, Morals and Welfare; and County Counsel's recommended changes to those ordinances which would assist the lead agency in achieving the Board's aforementioned stated objectives.

On August 12, 2008, your Board approved the recommendation from the CEO, County Counsel, Sheriff, and DPW to amend County Code Title 1 and Title 13 ordinances to:

- Provide for violations relating to graffiti offenses. A notice of violation may be issued by a peace officer or a probation officer on behalf of the issuing County department;
- Authorize the Department Head of the issuing department to approve community service in lieu of payment for an administrative fine or non-compliance fee for graffiti offenses;

- Provide for summary abatement for nuisance violations relating to graffiti and a procedure for the County to recoup its abatement costs. Impose a lien or special assessment for unpaid costs against the property of the graffiti perpetrator; and
- Provide for the County to recoup its graffiti apprehension and abatement costs associated with graffiti offenses caused by minors through the Probation Department (Probation) in juvenile court proceedings.

On August 12, 2008, your Board also approved the designation of the Office of Ombudsman (Ombudsman) as the lead agency and issuing department in civil abatement and/or administrative fine and non-compliance fee proceedings for graffiti offenses.

CIVIL GRAFFITI PROGRAM/GRAFFITI CITATION PILOT

CGP was implemented in September 2008 as a one-year pilot project. Funding of \$22,000 for Services and Supplies was provided to the Ombudsman during the fiscal year (FY) 2008-09 supplemental budget phase. The goal of CGP is to reduce and prevent graffiti in Los Angeles County by creating a civil process to impose and collect fines, fees, or penalties in addition to recovering the cost of graffiti cleanup from graffiti offenders. CGP is also intended to serve as an alternative to criminal prosecution; if criminal prosecution is not warranted, offenders would be held accountable via civil proceedings. However, it must be noted that tagging and tag crews are an organized criminal activity and are often associated with gangs and other dangerous felons. For this reason, the DA is actively pursuing and aggressively prosecuting juvenile and adult graffiti violators criminally. The DA treats graffiti vandalism as a priority and, in the last few years, has had a strong track record of accepting and prosecuting misdemeanor and felony graffiti vandalism cases.

As the lead agency, the Ombudsman is responsible for overseeing and conducting the administrative hearing process and collecting the administrative fine and non-compliance fee. Since January 1, 2009, the Ombudsman has designed, implemented, and tested the graffiti tracking screens to record the progress of cases; translated the graffiti forms to Spanish to meet the needs of the Spanish-speaking public; and established working relationships with volunteer groups to ensure they would accept Ombudsman referrals for individuals choosing to perform community service rather than pay the fine.

As stated in the CEO's November 19, 2007, memorandum to your Board, CGP has the following civil components:

Administrative Fine and Non-Compliance Fee (Civil Graffiti Citation)

Upon arrest of the perpetrator and if the arrestee meets CGP's criteria, the Sheriff will serve a Notice of Violation and Notice of Imposition of Administrative Fine and Non-compliance Fee to the responsible person(s) on behalf of the Ombudsman, assessing the administrative fine and non-compliance fee pursuant to County Code Sections 13.12.030, 1.25.040 and 1.250.060. The Sheriff will notify the Ombudsman once the notice has been served.

Upon receipt of the Notice of Violation, the responsible person must pay the administrative fine and non-compliance fee or contact the Ombudsman to request community service or an administrative hearing within 10 calendar days from the date of service. If the responsible person does not request community service or an administrative hearing, the Ombudsman collects the administrative fine and non-compliance fee through the County's collection process. Approval of requests of community service will be provided by the Ombudsman if appropriate. If the responsible person requests an administrative hearing to contest the administrative fine and non-compliance fee, said party must deposit the full amount of the assessed fine and non-compliance fee or request a hardship waiver. The Ombudsman will either grant or deny the hardship waiver based on specified financial and medical hardship criteria. If the hardship waiver is granted, no deposit is required by the responsible person prior to the administrative hearing. The Ombudsman will schedule and mail the Notice of Administrative Hearing. If the hardship waiver is denied, the Ombudsman will mail the Notice of Denial and the responsible person must deposit the full amount of the assessed fine before a hearing is scheduled. If the deposit is not received, the Ombudsman will collect the administrative fine and non-compliance fee. When the deposit is received, the Ombudsman will schedule and mail a Notice of Administrative Hearing. The administrative hearing will be held and conducted by the Ombudsman. The Hearing Officer (Ombudsman) will be required to issue a decision within 10 calendar days following the hearing. The Notice of Hearing Officer's Decision will be mailed to the responsible person. The Ombudsman will either collect the administrative fine and non-compliance fee or refund the responsible person's deposit, whichever is applicable. The process will also allow the responsible person to request a continuance of the administrative hearing, if needed.

Evaluation

For a case to be referred to CGP, the following criteria must be met:

- Individual must be 18 years of age or older.
- Misdemeanor offense.

- Individual has no gang affiliation.
- Offense not tagging crew related.
- No prior arrests for certain enumerated offenses.
- No prior graffiti offenses.

As of September 2009 (the end of the one-year pilot), only one case had met the criteria and been referred to CGP. The case was processed by the Ombudsman. The individual, who was issued a Notice of Violation by the Sheriff, remitted payment of the administrative fine in the amount of \$250 and non-compliance fee of \$400 without seeking an administrative fine hearing.

During the pilot period, most of the cases investigated by law enforcement involved juveniles or adult offenders who did not meet CGP's criteria. These cases were submitted to the DA for filing consideration.

Summary Abatement – Lien for Abatements Costs

As an alternative to the removal provisions set forth in County Code 13.12.110 and in cases where the responsible party owns property, the County can summarily abate graffiti nuisances and collect abatement and related administrative costs from the graffiti perpetrator and may make the unpaid costs a lien or special assessment against the property of the person committing a nuisance and; where the person is a minor, against the property of the parent or guardian having custody and control of the minor. This process includes that any person served with a graffiti abatement expense statement may file a written request for a hearing on the correctness and/or reasonableness of the abatement costs. The abatement expense may be revised, corrected, or modified based on evidence presented at the hearing.

Assembly Bill 576

Assembly Bill 576, enacted January 1, 2010, amends Penal Code (PC) 1202.4 and Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 730.6, to include as victims of crime any governmental entity that is responsible for repairing, replacing, or restoring public or privately owned property that has been defaced with graffiti or other inscribed material and defined by PC 594 and that has sustained an economic loss as a result of a violation of PCs 594, 594.3, 594.4, 640.5, 640.6, or 640.7. This provision thus enables the County to stand in the shoes of a victim for purposes of cost recovery, as well as exercise other rights afforded crime victims, including the ability to record an abstract of judgment pursuant to PC 1214.

VANDALISM ENFORCEMENT TEAM

VET was implemented in January of 2008 to reduce graffiti and vandalism activity and thus improve the quality of life throughout the community. VET is comprised of a group of law enforcement professionals engaged in vandalism enforcement from initial investigation and arrest all the way through the adjudication process. VET consists of a Sheriff Sergeant and four Deputy Sheriff Generalists, one Probation Officer, and a Deputy District Attorney. In FY 2008-09, \$591,800 in First Supervisorial District discretionary funds, \$81,500 in net County cost for graffiti abatement, and \$446,000 in City of Pico Rivera funds for a total of approximately \$1,119,300 was expended on VET. This funding was continued in FY 2009-10.

Sheriff staff assigned to VET work with GTS, which was purchased jointly by the City of Pico Rivera and the County of Los Angeles. GTS tracks and analyzes graffiti, which enables staff to target the most prolific graffiti vandals (both taggers and gang members) in the community. In addition, staff works closely with local community-based organizations, such as Spirit Family Services, to provide counseling to juvenile offenders and their parents.

Prevention of graffiti involves the entire community and, as a result, VET has developed public/private partnerships to assist in these prevention efforts. The Sheriff, Probation, DPW, and DA continuously work together to ensure CGP is successful. DPW ensures the timely coordination of graffiti removal. Sheriff, via School Resource Deputies, educate staff and administrators of schools on how to identify graffiti and the characteristics of taggers. The team has also established partnerships with other law enforcement agencies (neighboring stations and police agencies), government agencies (parole and city municipalities), community groups, and private agencies (GTS, Parent Project, and Spirit Family Services) in order to impact vandalism, graffiti, and tagging in our service area using a zero tolerance attitude.

VET Duties

- Patrol service areas.
- Investigate all vandalism graffiti/gang/tagging related crimes.
- Research crime using various investigative techniques and databases.
- Identify suspects and make arrests when appropriate.
- Interview suspects, witnesses, informants, and involved parties during investigations.

- File criminal adult and juvenile cases.
- Conduct operations, search warrants, and probation searches to collect evidence and intelligence to assist in prosecutions.
- Maintain database on collected information to assist in investigations.
- Identify and target most active vandals/gang members for prosecution.
- Identify and target most active areas vandalized and seek solutions and preventative measures to dissuade suspects from future acts of vandalism.
- Assist with community education and counseling classes for violators and parents/guardians.
- Track probationers and parolees to prevent recidivism of violators.
- Assist with tracking/collection of court restitution orders.
- Augment patrol by responding to calls for service that are vandalism and/or gang related.

District Attorney and Probation

The process for handling graffiti citations and abatement differ for juveniles and adults (DA and Probation flowcharts - Attachment I and II, respectively).

Juvenile Process - Release on Citation

After an arrest by a law enforcement agency, a juvenile may be cited to appear in court at a later date or may be detained in juvenile hall and arraigned within 48 hours. If the juvenile is "cited out," the juvenile, along with his parent or guardian, is given a notice to appear in juvenile court within 60 days. The juvenile is released to his/her parent or guardian with a promise to appear. Upon the minor's arrest and citation, the Probation Officer assigned to the unit contacts the parent or guardian and discusses enrollment in the Parent Project classes. The minor will be arraigned in court on the date indicated on the citation.

Before Filing a Petition in Juvenile Court:

- DA reviews the case and a recommendation for WIC 652 or WIC 653.5 is made to Probation.
- Probation also reviews the case for WIC 652 or WIC 653.5 determination. The process varies depending on the classification. If the minor's case is classified as WIC 53.5, Probation will usually return the packet to the DA within 10 days. If the Minor's case is considered WIC 652, Probation may take their own measure to rehabilitate the minor without criminal prosecution. If the minor is successful, Probation will close the citation. If the minor is not successful, Probation will return the packet to the DA for filing after giving the minor and his/her parent or guardian a new citation. This can take place at any time after the original arrest.
- Probation will return the case to the DA for filing of a petition if they believe it is appropriate to do so.

Detained Juvenile

If the juvenile is detained, it typically means he/she has a prior probation matter or the charged act is serious or violent. The juvenile will be taken to juvenile hall where he/she will remain pending arraignment on the charges. As a result, the case may be filed under WIC 653.5 classification. The DA must file the petition within 48 hours of the arrest.

After Arraignment

After being arraigned on the petition, the juvenile may admit to the charges in the petition or dispute the case. The minor does not have the right to a jury trial in juvenile court, but does have the right to adjudication by a judge, commissioner, or referee. If the minor is detained, the matter must be brought to adjudication within 15 days from detention. If the minor is not detained, the matter must be brought to adjudication within 30 calendar days. However, the minor may waive time beyond the 15 or 30 days if necessary for trial preparation of motions. Juveniles are not found guilty or convicted; instead the petition is "sustained."

Adult Process

The process for handling an adult arrested for vandalism (or any other charge) varies depending on whether the defendant is in custody and whether the charge is a misdemeanor or felony. Although the defendant has a right to a trial within 30 or 45 days on a misdemeanor and 60 days on a felony, these timeframes are often exceeded as the defendant may waive time for further investigation or case preparation.

Misdemeanor - In Custody

If an adult is charged with a misdemeanor graffiti/vandalism crime and is held in custody, the case must be filed by the DA within 48 hours of arrest. At arraignment, the court may set bail or release the defendant on his/her own recognizance. Following arraignment, the case must be resolved or brought to trial within 30 days unless the defendant waives time. However, the matter may continue beyond the 30 days if the defendant wishes to waive time for further investigation, pre-trials, or motions.

Misdemeanor - Not in Custody

If an adult is not held in custody, he/she will be given a citation with a notice and promise to appear in court on a specific day. The case must be filed by the DA before the date indicated on the citation. The defendant will be arraigned on the date indicated, and the case must be brought to trial within 45 days unless the defendant waives time.

Felony

An adult charged with a felony graffiti/vandalism crime may be held in custody or post bail. If the defendant chooses to post bail, he/she will receive a notice and promise to appear in court typically within 30 days from the date of arrest. If the adult does not post bail or is not released on his/her own recognizance by the court, the case must be filed by the DA within 48 hours and a complaint issued, setting forth the charge(s). Following the arraignment on the complaint, the defendant has the right to a preliminary hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to support the charge. The preliminary hearing must take place within 10 days of the arraignment unless the defendant waives time.

If the defendant chooses to waive time, the matter can be sent to the Early Disposition Program (EDP) for possible disposition. If a resolution is not reached, the matter may be returned to the original court where the preliminary hearing must take place within 10 days. The defendant can choose not to attend EDP, but still waive time to prepare for the preliminary hearing. In this situation, the preliminary hearing must be heard within 60 days of arraignment unless the defendant waives time again.

Preliminary Hearing

At the preliminary hearing, the judge or commissioner will determine if there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the charged acts. The court will hold the defendant to answer if probable cause is shown. Once the defendant is held to answer, information will be filed and the defendant will be arraigned on the information within 15 days.

Arraignment on Information

Following arraignment, the defendant has the right to have his/her case heard by a jury within 60 days. However, the defendant may waive time and the matter may continue for longer than 60 days if there is cause to continue (i.e., motions, etc.).

Jury Trial

The defendant has a right to a jury trial, but may elect to waive this right and agree to have a court trial instead. The DA must also agree.

Department of Public Works

DPW is responsible for graffiti removal in the public right-of-way in County unincorporated areas designated as Zero Tolerance Zones. Constituents can report graffiti by calling the County's Graffiti Hotline at (800) 675-4357. Dispatch staff will enter reported locations into the Graffiti Abatement Referral System (GARS) developed by DPW's Information Technology Division. Through Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, GARS routes the request for graffiti removal to the appropriate contractor responsible for that Zero Tolerance Zone. Constituents may also report graffiti online through the public access component of GARS and can upload pictures in order to help the contractor locate the graffiti on-site. When reporting online, constituents will receive an email when graffiti has been eradicated. In either case, constituents can choose to remain anonymous. The Graffiti Hotline receives roughly 30,000 calls per year for graffiti removal. Approximately 5,000 of those calls are routed to other municipalities.

The information required in GARS includes location, description of the graffiti, type of structure the graffiti is located on, and street intersection or vicinity. In addition to public reports, DPW Contract Monitor staff patrols the areas and also inputs graffiti locations into GARS.

Evaluation

To determine the effectiveness of VET, the CEO evaluated the success of VET to:

- Eradicate - record, report, and remove graffiti which is essential to enforcement and control of graffiti;
- Educate - provide residents, schools, and others with knowledge of graffiti (its impact and how to prevent and address it), as well as the human and financial costs associated with graffiti; and
- Enforce - use laws, ordinances, and statutes to control graffiti.

Eradication

Objective: Reduce the incidences of graffiti and improve the removal of graffiti vandalism.

Measure: Number of calls/reports of graffiti by the public.

Measure: Number of incidences of graffiti removed from properties to prevent the spreading to new, nearby sites.

Measure: Cost of Graffiti Abatement Program, including County staff and contracted services.

One of VET's focuses is the removal of illegal graffiti to reduce recognition value for the offenders. Los Angeles County's Zero Tolerance Policy consists of the immediate removal of graffiti through County staff and contracted services. In FY 2008-09, the County's Graffiti Abatement Program and external contractors removed 19,120,551 in total square footage of graffiti tags from private and County properties (Attachment III). In addition, VET encourages citizen reporting and responded to 144,818 graffiti requests in FY 2008-09 (Attachment IV). In the pilot project area, the Graffiti Abatement Program's contractor removed a total of 5,020 tags of graffiti in FY 2008-09 in comparison to a total of 5,825 tags removed in 2007. This represents a 14 percent decrease. VET further reports that the number of graffiti incidents recorded in 2009 in the City of Pico Rivera was reduced by 10 percent when compared to the same time in 2007. The County expends approximately \$2,990,000 annually on graffiti removal contracted services (Attachment V), which includes a cost of \$81,500 for the pilot project area. DPW's Graffiti Abatement Program is budgeted for 10 positions and annual personnel costs are estimated at \$1,500,000. This cost includes County journeyman painters that

perform abatement in locations that are not covered under contract. Thus, the County expends a total of \$4,490,000 annually for graffiti removal.

Education

Objective: Increase the number of parents attending parenting classes and educational and publicity programs.

Measure: Number of schools with a School Resource Deputy.

Measure: Number of community/public outreach events held.

Measure: Number of parenting classes provided.

Measure: Number of parents referred and attended parenting classes.

Measure: Number of parents successfully completing parenting classes.

Another focus of VET is education. VET educates staff and administrators of schools on how to identify graffiti and characteristics of taggers, provides the public and business owners with information on the impact of graffiti and cost-effective prevention techniques and removal tips, provides parenting classes for parents, and provides information to citizens to encourage reporting of graffiti along with an online reporting feature. The aim is to educate people on how public and private property is used and enjoyed by the whole community and to engender a sense of respect and care for those areas, which includes preventing graffiti.

In 2008, there were three parent project classes offered which began in May 2008 with 46 parents participating and 39 juveniles in counseling programs. In comparison, during 2009 there were four parent project classes offered with 83 parents participating and 69 juveniles in counseling programs. While the number of parents and students participating in these classes increased, VET did not maintain statistics on the number of parents and juveniles referred and/or those who successfully completed the classes/programs.

Sheriff had two School Resource Deputies deployed in the pilot project area. The School Resource Deputies assisted in developing intelligence at the high schools and keeping communication lines open between school officials and law enforcement. The deputies met regularly with school officials to ensure a constant exchange of information and training. In addition, the deputies met with numerous other agencies throughout the year and offered training to a multitude of departments.

VET employed other measures as well to educate the community on graffiti by meeting with groups at many different opportunities, including Sheriff community academies, neighbourhood watch meetings, community events, and parent project classes. VET also gave presentations in various schools and other venues throughout the year. VET appears to have held and attended several community events; however, statistics were not maintained on the number of community outreach events held or of the number of community groups that attended.

Enforcement

Objective: Enforce the laws and ordinances governing graffiti to reduce the crime of graffiti and other associated crimes, reduce the financial impact of responding to graffiti, increase the quality of life in the community, and recover the costs of graffiti vandalism and removal.

Measure: Number of graffiti arrests (juveniles and adults).

Measure: Number of convictions (adults) or sustained petitions (juveniles).

Measure: Number of restitution orders issued.

Measure: Amount of restitution collected.

Measure: Reduction in crime statistics.

Measure: VET costs.

VET's primary goal is enforcement. In 2008, Sheriff arrested a total of 347 individuals for graffiti offenses. Of those arrested, 198 were juvenile offenders and 149 were adult offenders. However, the DA only maintained statistics on a total of 310 individuals, of which 161 were juveniles and 149 were adults. The DA did not track those individuals whose arrests were primarily probation or parole violations and therefore, did not result in new charges. In 2009, Sheriff arrested 337 individuals for graffiti related offenses. Of those arrested, 137 were juvenile offenders and 200 were adults.

Since the implementation of VET through December 2009, Gang-related Part I Crimes in the First Supervisorial District (area covered by VET) has decreased by 39 percent when compared to 2007 statistics. Violent gang crime was reduced by 35 percent and property crimes attributed to gang members was reduced by 60 percent. The final dispositions of each of the juvenile and adult cases, as tracked by the DA, are detailed in Tables 1 and 3, respectively:

Table 1

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – JUVENILES STATISTICS		
	2008	2009
Number Arrested	161	115
Number of Cases Submitted for Filing	159	97
DISPOSITION		
Deferred Entry of Judgment	21	10
Home on Probation	51	38
Camp Community Placement	9	5
Suitable Placement	6	7
Dismissed as Part of Plea Agreement	8	2
Diversion	10	10
WIC 725A Informal Probation	8	5
Jurisdiction Terminated	10	4
Warrants Pending	2	1
Declined/Pending Further Investigation	5	6
Referred to JOIN	1	0
Matters Sealed by Court	1	0
Citation Handled by Probation	27	9
Total	159	97

Probation, in addition, did not maintain statistics for all of the juveniles arrested by VET. Only those juveniles, a total of 50 in 2008 and 95 in 2009, that required intensive supervision and whose parents had participated in the Spirit Family Services parent project classes were monitored and tracked by Probation. Statistics for the 50 and 95 juveniles are provided in Tables 2a and 2b:

Table 2a

PROBATION – JUVENILE STATISTICS - 2008	
Home on Probation	50 or 100 percent
• Cases Dismissed	24 or 48 percent
• Out-of-Home Placement Order as a Result of a Newly Sustained Petition	5 or 10 percent; two suitably placed (Group Home Placement) and three placed in Camp Community Placement
• Remain Home on Probation	21 or 42 percent
Sustained a New Arrest & DA Filing	25 or 50 percent
Received a Restitution Order	39 or 78 percent
• Paid Restitution in Full	14 or 20 percent
• Made No Restitution Payments	22 or 42 percent
• Made One or More Restitution Payments	3 or 6 percent
Amount of Restitution Ordered	\$175,684.63
Amount Collected	\$35,891.87 or 20 percent

Table 2b

PROBATION – JUVENILE STATISTICS – 2009	
Home on Probation	95 or 100 percent
• Cases Dismissed	20 or 21 percent
• Out-of-Home Placement Order as a result of a newly sustained petition	15 or 16 percent
• Remain Home on Probation	60 or 63 percent
Sustained a New Arrest & DA filing	16 or 17 percent
Received a Restitution Order	34 or 36 percent
• Paid Restitution in Full	11 or 32 percent
• Made no Restitution Payments	16 or 47 percent
• Made 1 or more Restitution Payments	7 or 21 percent
Amount of Restitution Ordered	\$43,256.65
Amount Collected	\$8,064.63 or 19 percent

Table 3

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – ADULT STATISTICS		
	2008	2009
Number Arrested	149	57
Number of Cases Submitted for Filing	78	43
• Cases Filed	76	41
• Convictions	72	41
DISPOSITIONS		
Misdemeanor Vandalism Convictions	50	26
Felony Convictions	22	14
• State Prison	6	3
• Formal Felony Probation	16	10
Outstanding Bench Warrant	1	0
Dismissal - Court's Motion	3	0

Adults, as a rule, were generally given three years of probation. First time offenders received one to two years of probation and repeat offenders received jail time. Six adult gang members were sent to state prison as a result of vandalism and other related charges brought against them by VET.

All individuals convicted have been ordered to pay restitution to their victims. The restitution amounts are tracked by Probation and oftentimes the individuals are given significant time to remit payment. Of the cases tracked by Probation in 2008, a total of ten adults were court-ordered to pay restitution totaling \$37,350.87. The total amount collected was \$888.88 or two percent. For juveniles, a total of 50 tracked by Probation were ordered to pay restitution totaling \$175,684.63. The total amount collected was \$35,891.87 or 20 percent. In 2009, a total of 95 Probation juveniles were ordered to pay restitution totaling \$43,256.65. The total amount collected was \$8,064.63 or 19 percent.

Probation, in conjunction with DPW, will work cooperatively to resolve any systemic issues impacting the collection of restitution; including, but not limited to, better tracking of restitution orders and improving the low restitution collection rate.

Please note: Five adults arrested in the Whittier area by VET would have qualified for CGP.

Sheriff Statistics

Location	No. of Incidents	
	2008	2009
Pico Rivera	271	239
Whittier	76	98
Total	347	337

City of Residence	No. of Arrests	
	2008	2009
Pico Rivera	229	189
Whittier	60	67
Los Angeles	9	13
Montebello	8	9
Other*	41	59
Total	347	337

*The remaining individuals were from Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Bloomington, Buena Park, Cerritos, Chino, Commerce, Compton, Downey, Glendale, El Monte, Hacienda Heights, La Habra, Huntington Park, La Mirada, La Puente, La Verne, Long Beach, Norwalk, Rosemead, Santa Fe Springs, and Sun City.

SHERIFF – JUVENILE STATISTICS		
Age	No. of Arrests	
	2008	2009
11	1	0
12	0	2
13	24	14
14	22	21
15	51	28
16	46	38
17	54	34
Total	198	137

SHERIFF – ADULT STATISTICS		
Age	No. of Arrests	
	2008	2009
18-19	54	50
20-24	62	72
25-30	10	26
31-40	12	41
40+	11	11
Total	149	200

Of the 347 individuals arrested in 2008, 174 were members of tagging crews or gangs representing 64 different gangs/crews. The remaining individuals were one-time graffiti offenders (ONERS) and determined to not be gang-related.

Of the 337 individuals arrested in 2009, 198 were members of tagging crews or gangs representing 66 different gangs/crews. The remaining individuals were ONERS and determined to not be gang-related.

VET Costs

ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS		
Department	Staff/Item	Annual Cost
Sheriff	1 - Sergeant	\$164,000
	4 - Deputy Sheriff	\$554,000
	Graffiti Tracker System	\$42,000
Probation	1 - DPO II	\$109,000
	Parent Project Training	\$800
District Attorney	1 - DDA III	\$168,000
Public Works	Graffiti Abatement	\$81,500
Total VET*		\$ 1,119,300

*\$446,000 of VET costs are offset by the City of Pico Rivera

UNIFIED GRAFFITI TRACKING SYSTEM

Understanding the type of graffiti and patterns is imperative to developing successful preventative measures. A database to record the type, location, and frequency of graffiti on County property is therefore required, along with photographs of each tagging incident. The photographs should be used to record graffiti and the data forwarded on a regular basis for entry into a database. Periodic analysis will aid in the identification of hotspots within the County. A database will also provide clear detail about the nature and location of graffiti, as well as an estimate of the costs of removal.

VET currently uses the GTS. The GTS has the following features:

- Reporting mechanism.
- GIS Map - pinpoint location of the graffiti.
- Digital GPS Camera - records the date, time, and location of the graffiti.
- Analytical Module – analysis of monikers.
- Analytical Staff – determine if it is gang-related or a tagging crew.
- Picture Upload – database to allow searches by moniker, gang, or tagger.

To maintain the GTS, \$42,000 in ongoing funding is required. Currently, the First Supervisorial District and the City of Pico Rivera fund the cost of the GTS.

However, a unified graffiti database system is not being used in the County. In an effort to identify a single standardized system that would support cross-sharing of information among agencies, a Request for Information (RFI) was issued by the Internal Services Department (ISD) on October 28, 2009. The CEO, Sheriff, DPW, ISD, and the Chief Information Office (CIO) developed the requirements (i.e., desired functionality of the system) for the RFI. The RFI was posted on the County's website and forwarded to four prospective vendors. Only one vendor, Cyber Annex Corporation, responded to the RFI by the closing deadline of November 28, 2009. Unfortunately, the information submitted was insufficient for the graffiti workgroup to reach a consensus on a unified graffiti system for the County. It is our intent to request that Sheriff, in conjunction with DPW, CIO, ISD, and Urban Research, issue a Request for Proposal for a countywide unified graffiti database system and report back to the Board by April 1, 2012, with a final recommendation and award.

IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH PRIORITY UNINCORPORATED AREAS

An important part of a graffiti abatement program is the identification of priority areas or hot spots. A review of graffiti vandalism within the County should be conducted to determine where enforcement and abatement activities should be focused. Data from the GTS, currently in use by VET, should indicate the sites in the County area that are most frequently targeted for graffiti vandalism. GTS records locations, tags present, number of square meters covered, surfaces the graffiti vandalism is on, and height/level of the graffiti vandalism. Based on a review of GTS data by VET staff, the following unincorporated areas need to be addressed:

- Hacienda Heights
- Valinda/Avocado Heights/Azusa-Covina
- Rowland Heights
- Rosewood-Willowbrook
- Athens/El Camino/Hawthorne
- Rancho Dominguez/Carson
- Altadena/Monrovia/Duarte/La Crescenta/Montrose
- Lennox/Del Aire/Baldwin Hills

Currently, there are VET teams in Whittier/Pico Rivera, East Los Angeles, and Florence-Firestone (First Supervisorial District). Supervisor Gloria Molina recently funded the GTS for the Valinda/Avocado Heights/Azusa-Covina areas, but there are no dedicated VET teams in place in these areas.

CONCLUSION

The County's VET has improved the safety and aesthetics of its surrounding communities through their proactive efforts of identifying, arresting, and prosecuting graffiti vandals. In addition, VET has:

- Made communities less vulnerable to graffiti vandalism;
- Rapidly removed graffiti vandalism;
- Educated the community on the costs and consequences of graffiti vandalism; and
- Enforced graffiti laws and ordinances to reduce the crime of graffiti and the risk of re-offending.

Recommendation

To ensure the continued success of the County in reducing and eliminating graffiti, we recommend that:

1. CGP be approved as an ongoing program as described in this report;
2. VET continue to operate and expand to the identified unincorporated areas, contingent on identifying an ongoing funding source; and
3. GTS remain in use by VET until CEO, in conjunction with Sheriff, DPW, and County Counsel, reaches a consensus on a countywide, unified graffiti tracking system.

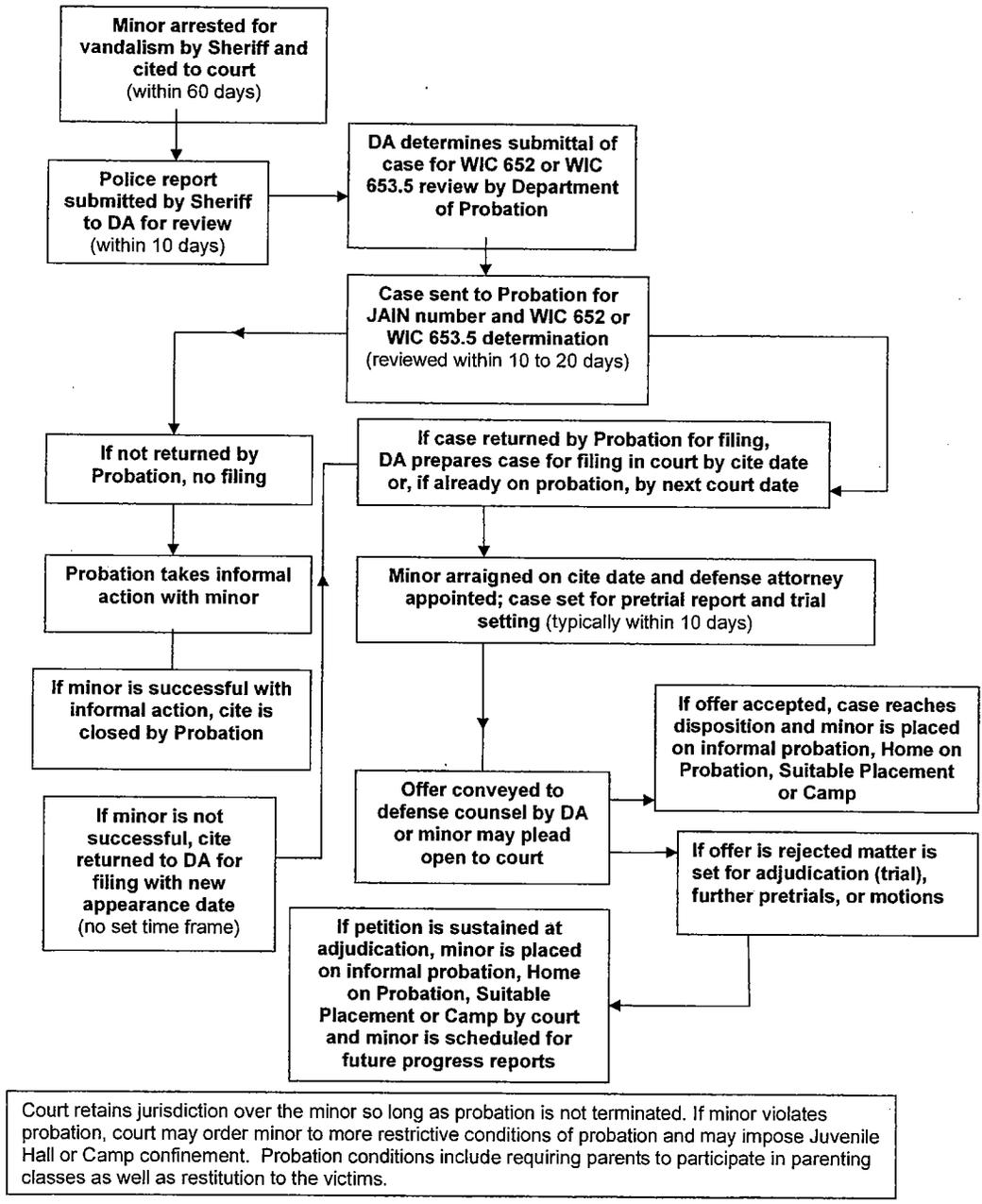
WTF:JAW:SW:cc

Attachments (4)

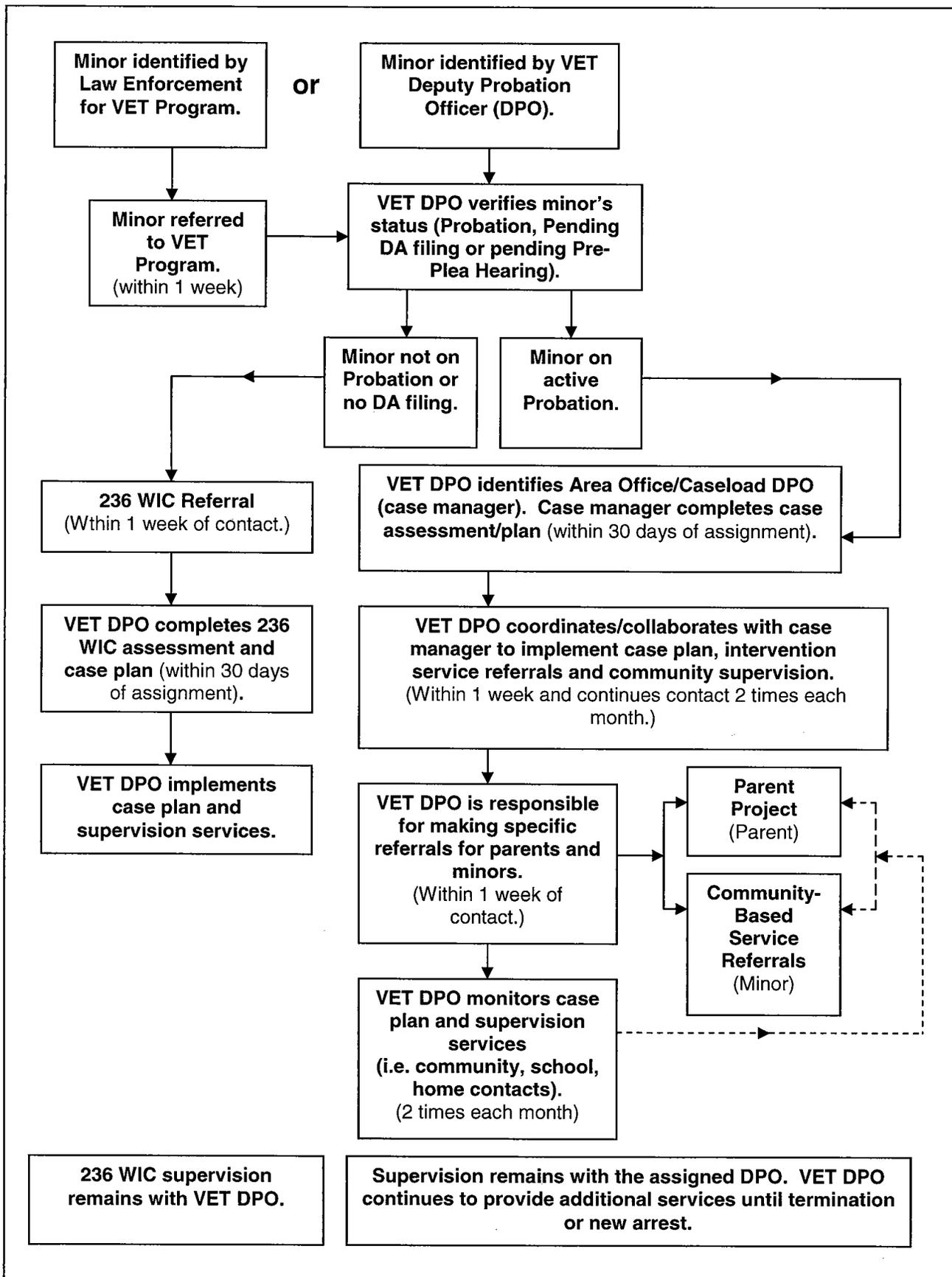
c: District Attorney
Sheriff
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Information Office
District Attorney
Internal Services
Ombudsman
Probation
Public Works

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

VANDALISM ENFORCEMENT TEAM (VET)
MINOR FLOWCHART



PROBATION - VANDALIZIM ENFORCEMENT TEAM (VET) FLOWCHART



ATTACHMENT III

SQUARE FOOTAGE PER ZONE FY 2008-09

CONTRACT	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
1A	164,398	186,658	183,004	165,546	145,115	182,275	231,168	203,585	268,950	286,363	204,518	207,527	2,429,107
1B	196,454	181,718	181,309	199,605	182,351	245,908	264,658	212,826	201,653	225,170	153,935	169,404	2,414,991
1C	66,175	36,388	39,993	113,454	75,992	69,731	87,416	61,920	77,884	86,376	54,704	46,440	816,473
1D	45,998	23,997	32,757	39,157	32,247	31,620	32,319	26,175	44,864	35,341	46,351	24,080	414,906
1E	33,120	26,500	51,210	51,210	36,990	46,540	45,120	27,081	49,200	35,390	34,170	37,551	474,082
1G	14,501	8,871	10,950	8,540	4,830	7,800	7,140	7,520	9,600	10,850	7,150	57,910	155,662
2A	67,526	42,850	96,739	94,787	66,037	73,547	104,193	77,494	86,565	82,702	78,055	65,431	935,926
2B	65,713	58,489	72,292	65,297	68,179	61,037	38,762	48,292	46,886	49,990	46,351	44,013	665,301
2C	95,597	76,390	59,918	56,035	62,739	76,683	63,907	49,215	78,686	71,571	51,430	57,348	799,519
2D	140,375	143,597	151,649	121,698	139,930	167,925	160,135	147,540	101,696	128,855	111,477	156,003	1,670,880
2E	15,469	16,118	16,118	35,859	20,978	37,302	39,345	18,505	36,976	22,273	24,587	22,689	306,219
SD-1 & 4	12,207	9,330	17,784	4,723	7,325	11,116	21,372	14,160	10,312	7,925	2,654	7,157	126,065
SD-2 & 5	5,797	2,730	2,730	8,818	1,965	2,730	3,165	1,713	6,418	4,885	875	6,669	48,495
3A	811	552	892	441	1,091	458	590	489	306	232	209	512	6,583
4A	20,040	18,400	11,840	9,803	14,690	14,310	18,080	9,870	11,480	10,423	14,440	10,730	164,106
4B	9,660	16,930	13,400	10,780	9,450	7,730	8,990	5,140	8,530	3,790	6,680	9,280	110,360
5A	12,120	12,340	6,620	5,030	4,540	3,610	5,090	6,490	4,630	5,060	2,920	2,600	71,050
5B	3,850	4,290	2,910	3,970	3,120	3,970	2,700	4,070	3,230	3,470	1,980	1,730	39,290
5C	8,210	4,070	6,850	1,760	960	2,080	4,820	3,970	3,170	4,250	1,980	1,560	43,680
5D	2,160	1,762	370	3,645	2,701	2,531	771	650	1,178	2,054	3,890	1,376	23,088
5E	26,380	17,877	17,877	9,454	8,168	9,130	6,825	7,875	17,192	11,598	8,402	8,559	149,337
5F	5,155	4,904	315	910	4,315	908	7,591	805	12,438	5,590	1,250	2,196	46,377
5G	24,955	16,109	16,109	23,738	14,977	8,834	9,184	19,512	26,686	18,870	12,349	27,383	218,706
East Flood	116,530	141,620	89,950	95,930	58,665	112,560	112,030	99,635	132,550	134,653	116,600	101,900	1,312,623
South Flood	258,619	240,695	287,059	287,082	185,587	324,558	355,187	305,813	466,965	359,799	318,354	369,967	3,759,685
West Flood	122,330	195,030	120,600	95,930	124,160	93,865	240,110	252,840	213,300	214,600	137,135	108,140	1,918,040
TOTAL	1,534,150	1,488,215	1,491,245	1,513,202	1,277,102	1,598,758	1,870,668	1,613,185	1,921,345	1,822,080	1,442,446	1,548,155	19,120,551

ATTACHMENT IV

NUMBER OF REQUESTS PER ZONE FY 2008-09

CONTRACT	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
1A	928	911	1,075	923	808	747	902	689	930	945	802	853	10,513
1B	1,012	979	950	937	1,060	1,125	1,102	1,077	1,106	1,139	1,063	1,070	12,620
1C	2,040	2,194	1,933	2,570	1,598	1,826	1,139	963	1,209	1,363	1,982	1,978	20,795
1D	418	324	513	477	380	373	451	410	461	471	306	436	5,020
1E	1,840	1,677	2,211	2,211	1,425	1,420	1,439	1,179	1,223	1,118	1,264	1,425	18,432
1G	564	298	311	452	212	152	225	297	298	317	296	277	3,699
2A	1,981	2,102	2,005	2,558	2,175	2,348	2,812	2,145	2,669	2,388	2,297	2,210	27,690
2B	214	214	367	282	318	363	316	275	295	317	306	262	3,529
2C	266	225	322	298	193	327	254	294	261	274	331	254	3,299
2D	255	233	266	239	266	238	312	201	213	292	280	338	3,133
2E	219	286	286	332	419	419	388	304	427	519	478	318	4,395
SD-1 & 4	67	29	48	64	36	64	39	38	44	38	20	36	523
SD-2 & 5	27	11	18	18	7	7	17	11	33	23	6	20	198
3A	84	103	86	55	60	58	43	75	72	44	42	61	783
4A	914	1,209	570	523	609	641	837	656	589	626	705	605	8,484
4B	638	1,127	844	603	635	556	637	361	397	338	504	341	6,981
5A	538	1,041	509	309	345	237	383	284	273	246	273	206	4,644
5B	303	243	222	262	216	266	212	156	199	267	126	161	2,633
5C	274	125	70	146	37	66	69	139	105	74	74	74	1,253
5D	19	18	11	9	28	32	3	5	13	27	11	24	200
5E	93	90	90	90	35	128	54	4	48	60	96	70	858
5F	22	3	3	3	19	7	16	44	24	29	6	27	203
5G	75	115	10	115	72	76	112	58	115	126	143	149	1,166
East Flood	79	57	38	54	24	48	51	64	105	78	51	57	706
South Flood	63	59	65	210	198	236	217	205	158	201	189	131	1,932
West Flood	71	70	65	23	69	73	82	87	81	82	78	348	1,129
TOTAL	13,004	13,743	12,888	13,763	11,244	11,833	12,112	10,021	11,348	11,402	11,729	11,731	144,818

Graffiti Abatement Program – Contracted Services

Zone	Area	Contractor	Contract Amount
1A	ELA North of 60	SPS	161,566
1B	ELA South of 60	SPS	200,461
1C	Florence-Firestone	GC	304,800
1D	S. San Gabriel/Whittier	SPS	81,500
1E	Valinda/Bassett/Azusa/Covina	UGE	151,973
1G	Walnut Park	SPS	62,376
SD 1 & 4	Supervisorial Districts 1 and 4	SPS	18,060
SD 1 Total			\$980,737
2A	Florence-Firestone	GC	282,000
2B	Rosewood-Willowbrook	SPS	112,496
2C	Rancho Dominguez/Carson	SPS	72,371
2D	Athens/El Camino/Hawthorne	SPS	109,318
2E	LennoxDel Aire/Baldwin Hills	SPS	81,720
SD 2 & 5	Supervisorial Districts 2 and 5	SPS	16,800
SD 2 Total			\$674,705
3A	Malibu/Agoura	GC	66,000
SD 3 Total			\$66,000
4A	Hacienda Heights	UGE	78,000
4B	Rowland Heights	UGE	83,400
SD 1 & 4	Supervisorial Districts 1 and 4	SPS	18,060
SD 4 Total			\$179,460
5A	Altadena/Monrovia/Duarte La Crescenta/Montrose	SPS	62,016
5B	Val Verde/Stevenson Ranch Pico Canyon/Castaic	SPS	87,000
5C	Charter Oaks/San Dimas/ La Verne	SPS	68,688
5D	Acton/Fair Oak/Sand Canyon	SPS	40,837
5E	Little Rock/Sun Village Pearblossom/Long View	SPS	37,433
5F	Quartz Hill/Del Sur	SPS	35,514
5G	Lake Los Angeles	SPS	20,446
SD 2 & 5	Supervisorial District 2 and 5	SPS	16,800
SD 5 Total			\$368,734

ATTACHMENT V

Zone	Area	Contractor	Contract Amount
South Fld	South Flood	GAP	300,000
			75,000
East Fld	East Flood	SPS	155,900
West Fld	West Flood	GC	189,600
Total			\$645,500
TOTAL			\$2,990,136