To enrich lives through effective and caring service

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Department of Beaches & Harbors

Santos H. Kreimann
Director

Kerry Silverstrom
Chief Deputy

June 6, 2011

To: Each Supervisor

From: Santos H. Kreimann, Director

SUBJECT: **AGENDA ITEM #62-D – REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF REDISTRIBUTING BEACHES AND HARBORS FUNDS TO ALLOW FOR THE HIRING OF MORE BEACH MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL**

As requested by your Board at your May 31, 2011 meeting, the Department of Beaches and Harbors has developed a plan that will allow for earlier staff coverage so that the most heavily used beach restrooms we maintain will be open and available to the public earlier in the morning than our revised work shift has allowed thus far. Most immediately, as of this past Saturday, we pulled workers from our general shift to commence a 5:00 a.m. shift with a skeleton crew to open up the parking lots and restrooms cleaned the night before, as well as to commence cleaning of restrooms on a priority basis. For the longer term, if our hiring plan is approved by your Board, we will hire 13 temporary Grounds Maintenance Workers I (GMWs I) and, as supervisors, one Grounds Maintenance Worker II (GMW II) and one Beach Maintenance Supervisor (BMS). The GMW II and BMS will supervise the early morning shift, four GMWs I will replace those already pulled from the general shift and the remaining nine GMWs I will join our already-existing night shift, to focus later in the day on maintaining the restrooms in a clean and safe condition while open to the public and, once closed, cleaning those most heavily used by early morning users the next day.

Background

To refresh your recollection, in years past, our maintenance crews started work at 5:00 a.m., thereby allowing for the cleaning and opening of restrooms as early as 6:00 a.m. However, our crews were off the beach as of 1:30 p.m., which meant the restrooms were open for use into the evening and yet unattended for a period of seven or more hours. Believing this was not the best service for the majority of beachgoers, as of May 1, we changed the work schedule of our maintenance personnel to a 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift, or later into the afternoon when our beach population is at its largest. This has meant, however, that restrooms have not been open until as late as 9:30 a.m. this past month, which we anticipate could go even later when beach traffic increases. The lateness of the restroom openings has most immediately negatively impacted the early morning beach users, who typically reside in the communities along the coast and use the beach early for exercise and recreational purposes.

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The solution to this problem is twofold. The first is to bolster our currently understaffed night crew, which will allow us to not only perform restroom cleaning into the early evening hours, but will also allow for a full cleaning of the most heavily used restrooms once they are closed to the public. By having this "heavy" cleaning performed at night, our most heavily used restrooms will be opened and available for public use immediately when unlocked by a skeleton early morning crew scheduled to come on as of 5:00 a.m.

Funding

In order to staff the early morning skeleton crew, as well as the buttressed night shift, we need a total of $372,000 as follows:

$234,000 – 13.0 Grounds Maintenance Workers I (recurrent) at $36,000 annually for six months

$ 59,000 – 1.0 Grounds Maintenance Worker II

$ 79,000 – 1.0 Beach Maintenance Supervisor

$372,000 - TOTAL

The funding sources identified to meet this need for this summer season are as follows:

$250,000 – One-time-only Marina lease option fees;

$45,000 – One-time-only Marina lease extension fee;

$62,000 – One-time-only savings from the delayed hiring for six months of one Principal Real Property Agent until the visioning process for the future generation of Marina del Rey commences; and

$15,000 – Reduction in the beach maintenance budget, which will result in the deferral of some ongoing maintenance tasks, such as painting lifeguard towers and/or replacing plumbing fixtures.

To fund this amount on an ongoing basis, we would recommend allocating increased revenue we anticipate receiving next fiscal year in connection with our issuance of beach use permits, most particularly from summer recreational camp operators. We have held a series of Beach Commission meetings and also a workshop to develop a revised Beach and Harbor Use Permit Policy, one aspect of which will result in a competitive selection process for issuance of summer recreational camp permits. Up until now, we have issued permits based upon seniority and have not charged non-profit organizations for the camps they conduct on the beach. For the future, we will be coming to the Board within the next month or so with a recommendation that, for the 2012 summer season, we conduct a competitive selection process for summer camp

operators meeting minimum standards developed by Lifeguards. Commencing as of this summer, however, the Director of Beaches and Harbors already has delegated authority to charge a gross receipts fee of between 10% and 25% to beach use permittees. Accordingly, we have notified all camp operators that we will be charging a $200 administrative permit fee and a 10% gross receipts fee effective this summer.

If your Board approves of our proposed interim funding, the Chief Executive Office is prepared to include it in final changes to the County's Proposed Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget. For the long term, if approved by your Board, we would replace the one-time revenue with the increased permit revenue. Even if none of the temporary GMWs I remain on past the summer season, we will still need the two supervisors to supervise a skeleton early morning crew, presumably again comprised of four GMWs I pulled out of our general shift, so that we may continue throughout the year to open at the earliest possible time each day parking lots and restrooms already cleaned the night before.

Relative to hiring these workers right away, we already have a certification list for GMWs I comprised of ten former Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) workers we used last summer. We have already processed four and are completing the processing of the remaining six. We are also taking two courses of action relative to bringing on the remaining three GMWs I: (1) working with the Department of Human Resources to run a quick recurrent exam; and (2) working with the Department of Parks and Recreation to restore a GMW I certification list that expired in February. We had earlier commenced exams for the two supervisors and anticipate completion of those either later this month or early next month.

Note that during our winter season, it has been our years' long practice to close every other restroom on beaches with multiple restrooms during non-holiday weekdays and in instances of inclement weather because of limited use. We have not previously received significant complaints from this practice and plan on continuing to operate in this fashion next winter.

I will be available to answer any questions you might have at Tuesday's Board meeting.

SHK:ks
c: Each Department Board Deputy
Chief Executive Office
Executive Office
Personnel Officer
Director of the Parks and Recreation Department