Community Services Department

CSA-17 Advisory Committee Presentation November 12, 2024



Department History

• Established in 1965

- Community Services Department
 - Lifeguard Services
 - Enforcement Services
 - Open Space Operations
- Roughly 90 employees
 - 6 full time and 70 part time Lifeguards
- Open daily year-round



Department Operations

- Planning and permitting for over 300 public and private events in parks, City buildings, and beach each year
- Beach permits include local school PE and club programs, surf and volleyball camps
- Maintain public beach restrooms, Powerhouse Community Center, and Beach Safety Center
- Parking management and enforcement
- Enforcement of municipal code in parks, beach and the San Dieguito Lagoon



Lifeguard Operations

- Public safety through education *Safe Fun in the Sun*
- Beach and ocean safety, emergency medical care, enforcement of local laws for roughly 3 million beach patrons annually
- Capabilities include EMT's, SCUBA, Technical Rope Rescue, Technical Animal Rescue, and Swiftwater
- EMT skills training by Scripps EMS Coordinator
- AED's in all towers and vehicles
- 1300 ocean rescues, 29,312 safety contacts, 8,081 dog contacts, and 918 medical aids this year



Coordinated Regional Approach

- Integral part of the EMS system with response efforts 24/7
- Training, coordination, and reciprocity with regional agencies
- SDR ALERT Regional Aquatic Task Force
- California Chief's Association
- United States Lifesaving Association
- California State Lifesaving Association



Updates

- Replaced a lifeguard truck
- Focus on training for technical teams
 - Weekly, interdepartmental training
 - Medical, Swiftwater, Ropes, IRB, SCUBA
- Bluff project
- Sand replenishment project
- Sand removal project



Challenges

- Strong river currents
- Hiring qualified and motivated staff
 - Wages (Student LG \$16.89, LGI 17.89)
 - Off season availability
- Public education and enforcement
 - Challenging interactions
- Maintaining and replacing equipment
- Migrants and abandoned vessels
- Maintaining beach access
- Wildlife
- Cliff education and signage



Thank you and Questions

• Questions?

