

June 3, 2026

Honorable Mayor Gloria and City Council Members,

The Resiliency Advisory Board has a mandate to advise the Mayor, City Council, and relevant departments on policies and strategies that enhance San Diego's resilience to climate-related hazards. The city budget has the ability to invest in these needed strategies or detract from them, and the Resiliency Advisory Board highlights these specific components in the Parks and Recreation Department proposed budget for their detrimental impact on the city's resiliency work.

- Retain Assistant Recreation Center Directors. These positions are the operational backbone of City recreation programming. Without them, programs do not scale down—they disappear. Youth camps, after-school care, sports leagues, and senior activities all depend on the coordination, staff supervision, and community relationships these roles provide. These Centers and staff could share information about wildfire resilience and resources, in line with the Resiliency Advisory Board's 2025 recommendation to improve the City's reach to high-risk communities.
- Retain the Asset Management Team. This 11-person in-house team of landscape architects, a civil engineer, and GIS analysts currently oversees 175 capital improvement projects valued at approximately \$1.2 billion, administers \$134 million in active grants, manages 116 joint-use agreements with school districts, and supports a total project portfolio of approximately \$2.9 billion. They are the City's primary engine for community-driven park development and the technical backbone that makes community-based organization partnership projects possible, and these staff would be instrumental in accomplishing the Resiliency Advisory Board's 2025 recommendations to implement the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and expedite the completion of Natural Resource Management Plans.
- Retain the current level of Park Rangers. Rangers are the frontline presence that keep parks safe, accessible, and activated, especially in underserved and park-deficient communities where a neighborhood park or open space may be the only accessible green space available, and including Regional Parks located within multiple Council districts that are major drivers of tourism dollars.
- Maintain the Brush Management services at the May-revise level, reflecting the consolidation and extra Biologist position needed, at minimum, in the Open Space Division to achieve the goals of wildlife resilience that this Board identified last year. This is in line with the Resiliency Advisory Board's 2025 recommendation to improve and share the City's fire hazard information.

- Maintain funding for the San Diego Neil Good Day Center for Homeless Adults, as a front-line resiliency resource for some of our most vulnerable neighbors.
- In addition to these direct investments, empower City staff to seek grant funding to realize the goals of the Climate Action Plan beyond the budget, including Strategy 5 needs for 700 acres of tidal wetland restoration and increasing tree planting and health.

Over the course of the two years since the Resiliency Advisory Board has been established, research and presentations have led to recommendations and actions, and in each step the support from the City through the budget is a necessary component. The Resiliency Advisory Board supports initiatives such as the Climate Resilient SD plan, Biodiverse SD, Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, natural resource management plans, Coastal Resilience Master Plan, habitat restoration projects, and many other resilient infrastructure and healthy ecosystem initiatives, each needing staff and expertise directly related to the mayor's priorities as seen through the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Lardy" followed by a horizontal line.

Eric Lardy

Chair, Resiliency Advisory Board