



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 10, 2026

TO: All Parks and Recreation Department Staff

FROM: Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2027 Parks and Recreation Department Restructure

Due to the position reductions included in the adopted Fiscal Year 2027 budget, the Parks and Recreation Department is changing its reporting structure. This memorandum outlines the organizational changes needed to maintain operations.

Three unclassified positions were reduced as part of the adopted budget:

- 1.00 Assistant Director
- 1.00 Deputy Director (Chief Park Ranger)
- 1.00 Assistant Deputy Director (Asset Manager)

The incumbents for these three positions were Tom Tomlinson, Michael Ruiz, and Michelle Abella-Shon respectively. We appreciate and thank them for their service to the City and the Department. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

The following organizational changes were effective on July 1, 2026:

1. Transfer of former Assistant Director span of control to Department Director:

- a. All staff previously reporting to the reduced Assistant Director now report to the Parks and Recreation Director.
- b. Remaining Assistant Director Karen Dennison continues to manage Citywide Maintenance Services, Open Space/Maintenance Assessment Districts (MADs), Golf Operations, and Mission Bay/Shoreline divisions.

2. Transfer of Citywide Recreation Services Division:

- a. Citywide Recreation Services Division consolidates with Community Parks II Division into a single, new division.
- b. Deputy Director Sarah Erazo leads this division, and Program Manager Salome Martinez continues her role focusing on recreation program equity.

3. Transfer of Park Ranger Division:

- a. The Park Ranger Division is eliminated.
- b. Park ranger staff transfer to one of three other divisions: Balboa Park/Central Parks, Mission Bay and Shoreline, or Open Space divisions.

- c. The community parks park rangers (often called “Citywide park rangers”) are in the Open Space Division.
 - d. Deputy Director Erika Ferreira is the new Chief Park Ranger.
- 4. The Office of Special Events and Filming is now part of the Parks and Recreation Department.**
- a. The Department is examining options to merge the Permit Center into the Office of Special Events and Filming. Additional details are forthcoming as this effort evolves.
 - b. Executive Director Christina Chadwick leads this division, supported by Program Manager Justine King, Program Manager Guy Langman, and Program Coordinator McKinna Dartez Chrismer.
 - c. The Office of Special Events and Filming reports to the Parks and Recreation Director.
- 5. The Park Forestry section moved from Citywide Park Maintenance Division to the Transportation Department.**
- a. With this restructure, all tree maintenance requests in parks should be entered into Get It Done rather than Manager Plus going forward.
- 6. Weed abatement in public rights of way and brush management moves from Transportation Department into Open Space Division.**
- a. The Department now oversees all brush management Citywide excluding properties managed by the Environmental Services, Public Utilities, and Stormwater departments.
- 7. Asset Management transfers from the Administrative Services Division to the Citywide Park Maintenance Division.**
- a. The lead staff in Asset Management report directly to Deputy Director Victor Nava.

We appreciate your flexibility during this time of change. It is anticipated that additional organizational changes will be considered over the next several months as we ensure workload distribution is stabilized and consistent across the various divisions.

Thank you all for your work in supporting the Department. We are grateful for your continued support and ongoing heart of service for our communities. If you have any questions, please reach out to your supervisor or appointing authority. Onward and upward!

Sincerely,



Andy Field
Parks and Recreation Director