



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 20, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Agreement With County For Sheriff Work Alternative Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the County of Santa Barbara to use Sheriff Work Alternative Program personnel in the Transportation Division, Street Maintenance Section, for cleanup work around the City.

DISCUSSION:

The County of Santa Barbara (County), through the Office of the Sheriff (Sheriff), has drafted an agreement with the City of Santa Barbara (City) to utilize participants of the Sheriff Work Alternative Program (SWAP) for street maintenance work. The SWAP Program is designed to use County Jail inmates to perform community service employment as part of their sentence.

The proposed agreement requires the City to indemnify and hold harmless the County for any loss or damages sustained by its use of the SWAP participants. The proposed agreement also provides that the City's workers' compensation insurance would cover the SWAP participants if they sustained an injury while doing work for the City.

Streets Maintenance staff has many years of experience working with the SWAP Program. In the past, Streets Maintenance staff has used SWAP participants to clean up debris and litter, remove graffiti, maintain City medians, and assist with Annex Yard maintenance. The City's prior SWAP agreement ended last year. Due to concerns from the County about workers compensation liability, a new agreement is needed. The new agreement will allow the City Streets Division, in coordination with the Police Department, Caltrans and CHP, to resume use of the SWAP Program for cleanup of transient encampments around the City, as well as the other cleanup efforts mentioned above.

Streets staff assigned to oversee SWAP workers have been instructed to protect SWAP workers from injury by limiting their use of hand tools, providing a safety briefing, and assuring that the SWAP workers always wear the proper personal protective equipment. The use of SWAP workers generally involves one Streets employee who monitors the SWAP workers and oversees their work at City locations. A County SWAP representative may also occasionally visit the locations where the work is being performed and the Streets Office to verify SWAP participants' records.

PREPARED BY: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager/RF/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office