

Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers
200 E. Santa Clara St., San José CA 95113
Sent via email c/o City Clerk

SUBJECT: Support for Amendments to the City Pay Plan for Park Rangers:
Council Agenda 08/22/17 / Item:2.11

August 18, 2017

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation who mission is *"To promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all."* On behalf of **Save Our Trails**, I am writing to express our support for the proposed amendments to the city pay plan for park rangers.

Council members are already aware of the importance of the City's network of trails in helping the city meet its ambitious goals of increasing bicycle mode share to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce the pollution caused by motor vehicles, and increase the health and enjoyment of the City's residents.

Park rangers perform an invaluable service in making these trails usable. Their job has become even more essential in recent years, as the trails have become magnets for an increasing homeless population. It is to the park rangers that the difficult job falls ensuring that trailways and adjacent borders are kept clear of unauthorized camps, and directing the clean-up of the detritus that is unfortunately associated with people living there.

However, as pointed out in the staff memo, the City has not been successful in hiring rangers, and in retaining them when hired. According to the memo, six of the eighteen authorized positions remain unfilled. This situation should not be allowed to continue. It provides persuasive evidence that a change is needed.

In the hope that a revised pay schedule with its increased opportunity for advancement will help the City hire and retain park rangers, **Save Our Trails** supports the amendment to the Pay Plan outlined in the staff memo.

Sincerely,

Bill Rankin
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: www.saveourtrails-scc.org