



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 6, 2015

TO: Honorable Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair Environment Committee
Members of the Environment Committee

FROM: Ronald H. Villa, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Internal Operations

SUBJECT: Referral Responses from the Environment Committee Meeting of March 4, 2015

In response to questions raised at the March 4, 2015 Environment Committee regarding the availability of street sweepers, the following information is provided.

During the same time frame as the March 4, 2015 Environment Committee meeting, a leadership and organizational structure change was being implemented in the Fleet Division. The Division was moved to the Internal Operations Branch and appointments were made of an Interim Deputy Director and an Interim Assistant to the Director to oversee the Fleet Division.

Specific to street sweeper availability and maintenance, there are several points that must be considered. Due to delays in new sweeper acquisition and repairs, many of the units are being used twice each day which doubles the potential for breakage. Street sweepers are complex pieces of equipment that must remain mechanically road worthy, have complicated hydraulic systems with brushes and vacuums and work in a corrosive environment and thus require frequent maintenance and repair. Additionally, the primary street sweeper vendor for southern California is located outside of San Diego County which contributes to logistics in obtaining readily available parts.

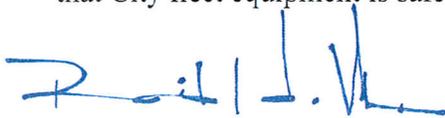
In the first 20 days of his appointment, working in partnership with the represented bargaining units, the Interim Deputy Director has identified five areas of potential improvements to address recent deficiencies.

1. **Reallocation of Labor Resources:** During the implementation of the negotiated Fleet Division MEGO, AFSCME Local 127-represented position assignments were selected by employees based on negotiated parameters, including seniority within the Division. This action, although negotiated through the meet and confer process, resulted in mechanics with different expertise relocating throughout the Division shops. To address the newly identified void for specific expertise in certain shops, employees are being reassigned on a volunteer basis, as per the negotiated MEGO, to focus on specialized equipment such as street sweepers.

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2. **Temporary Service Contract:** The City is preparing to meet and confer with AFSCME Local 127 over a proposed temporary service contract with the manufacturer, for large repairs of street sweepers. This proposed agreement will enable the City to optimize existing resources by focusing City forces on routine repairs of street sweepers while the larger more time consuming repairs are performed under this proposed temporary service agreement. AFSCME Local 127 is cooperatively working with the City to resolve street sweeper availability issues. This concentrated effort will assist the City in providing the required number of street sweepers necessary for proper street maintenance. This one-time temporary service contract will cover the current maintenance and repair gaps while awaiting delivery of new units and potentially identify new training opportunities for fleet mechanics to cross-train on all equipment.
3. **Reallocation of Light-duty Employees:** AFSCME Local 127 mechanics on light-duty have been directed to assist, within their light-duty restrictions, the mechanics working on street sweepers.
4. **New Sweepers:** As previously reported to the Environment Committee, four new sweepers are anticipated to arrive by mid-to-late April 2015.
5. **Parts Delivery:** Previously, Fleet Division staff was not fully informed of appropriate procurement procedures specific to specialty parts. This misinformation has been resolved by management and a specialty parts provider has been identified and made available for procurement.

The Fleet Division workforce, management, and both AFSCME Local 127 and the Municipal Employees Association are continuing to work cooperatively identifying improvements to insure that City fleet equipment is safe and available for City employees.



Ronald H. Villa
Deputy Chief Operating Officer

cc: Scott Chadwick, Chief Operating Officer
Stacey Lo Medico, Assistant Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Puetz, Chief of Staff, Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Mike Hansen, Director of Land Use and Environmental Policy
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Drew Kleis, Deputy Director, Transportation & Storm Water Department