



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

Report on Legislation and Statistics Committee Meeting

Friday, October 16th, 2009

Due to the lack of interest on current Legislation and Statistics issues, I gathered information from the meeting attendees regarding the impacts of current and pending budget cuts to agencies within the California Surf Lifesaving Association.

The following are some of the strategies and impacts described by those in attendance:

Robert C. McGowan
President

Charlotte M. Graham
Vice President

Michael A. Beuerlein
Secretary

Robert E. Williams
Treasurer

Robert A. Moore
Past President/Advisor

Jon P. Mitchell
First Executive Delegate

William J. Richardson
Second Executive Delegate

Mareen T. Boyer
Third Executive Delegate

Alex K. Peabody
Fourth Executive Delegate

AGENCY:	PENDING:	IMPLEMENTED:
California State Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated cuts to seasonal lifeguard budgets throughout the park system during spring 2010 • Partial closures to parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Furlough days/month (+/- 15% pay reduction) • Cancellation of 3 out of the 5 Lifeguard Training programs in 2010 • Limited hiring freeze
Camp Pendleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible reductions in 2010 lifeguard coverage due to a 10%-20% shortfall 	
Huntington City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional 2.8% reduction in lifeguard budget and an additional 5.4% reduction in overtime resulting in no staffing for 4 lifeguard towers on Dog Beach (north of Goldenwest Street) • 10% reduction in operating budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% reduction in lifeguard budget and 4.4% reduction in overtime • \$150,000 from the Ocean Force and Hollister projects redirected to the general fund
Los Angeles City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible elimination of 1-3 fulltime positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24% reduction in operations • 2 furlough days/month • New lifeguard testing cancelled as well as training academy for 2010
LA County		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancellation of new lifeguard testing and training academy for 2010 • 14% salary reduction • Elimination of 1 Captain position • Restrictions in travel and

		training
Lake Mission Viejo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguard program is privately funded. No anticipated changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes
Long Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Reducing service hours on two rescue boats during the summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No break guards for towers • Modification of tower hours from 8 hours shifts to 6 hour shifts • Elimination of one rescue boat from operations.
Newport Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipation of an approx. 5.8 million dollar city shortfall • Possible early retirement for non-safety and safety employees • Possible furloughs in 2010 • Avoid jeopardizing public safety 	
San Clemente City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of furloughs for 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current hiring freeze • No vacancies being filled • No cost of living increase

While most of the strategies being implemented or considered are intended **not** to compromise public safety, the end result of some of these reductions may be that the aquatic safety of the public will be impacted in the coming year. These strategies should be closely monitored by the CSLSA in order to assist agencies who may not be in a position to strongly argue the benefits of lifeguards at public lakes and ocean beaches. The consequences of the reduction of lifeguard services will be an increase in drowning deaths and serious medical emergencies that can be documented by accurate statistical data.

As was pointed out during the meeting, statistics may provide the data to help defend lifeguard program budgets, but many times it is the individual stories and the education of the public are important as well in helping decision makers find the safest means of meeting their budgets in these difficult economic times.

Respectfully submitted.



Alex K. Peabody
Chair for Legislation and Statistics
California Surf Lifesaving Association