



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Members Memorandum**  
County Manager's Office



**DATE:** April 30, 2013  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** May 7, 2013  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** No  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** No

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Jim Nantell as Interim County Parks Director

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept this report.

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 23, 2013, your Board approved the Parks Strategic Plan which included a recommendation to re-establish a County Parks Department. Your Board also tentatively approved \$5,266,208 in Measure A funding for the Parks Department on that date. The Measure A funds will be used to add seven positions to the Parks Department, including a Parks Director, and pay for major maintenance and capital projects in FY 2013/14. The County Manager recommended, and your Board approved, tying the FY 2014/15 budget recommendations for Parks to the development of an Operations Plan. That plan will assess revenue and facility management options, consider agile workforce opportunities and include equipment and vehicle replacement plans and also provide detailed major maintenance and capital project plans.

While the new Department will not be created until the final budget is adopted, there was clear direction from your Board to proceed with the transition to a stand-alone Parks Department as quickly as possible. Because it will take six to eight months to conduct a national recruitment for a County Parks Director, and work on the Operations Plan and oversight of the Devil's Slide project need to begin now, we recommend bringing in an interim manager to expedite the Parks transition process.

**DISCUSSION:**

The County Manager has selected James Nantell to serve as interim County Parks Director until a permanent Director can be hired. Mr. Nantell is the former City Manager of Burlingame and is widely recognized as a collaborative, creative and skilled public manager. He has served in many executive public agency positions including directing the City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Department. He holds a Masters Degree in Parks and Recreation Management from San Francisco State University.

Mr. Nantall is available to start working with the Parks staff immediately. His primary assignments will be overseeing the opening and operation of the Devil's Slide facility and initiating the development of the Operations Plan. Mr. Nantell begin work as the Interim Parks Director on May 8, 2013 and continue with the County until the permanent director is in place, which we expect will be in the late fall.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Mr. Nantell will be paid \$85 an hour and will receive a housing and transportation allowance of \$3,000 a month. There is sufficient salary savings in the Parks FY 2012/13 budget to cover these costs.