

PARK RANGERS AND SECURITY

DIVISIONS OF

KERN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES

SUMMARY:

The term ranger dates to the 17th century in the United States and was drawn from the word range (to travel over a large area). The title “ranger” in the modern sense was first applied to the reorganization of the fire warden force in the Adirondack Park, after fires burned 80,000 acres in the park.

The first park rangers appeared in 1905, it was not until 11 years later that those national parks and the national park ranger were under a centralized government agency, the National Park Service. The national park ranger has evolved from soldiers in the Army to a profession. Park rangers are responsible for protecting our state and national parks, natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife within them, and the people who visit them. Park rangers may serve as law enforcement officers, with the ability to cite, gather evidence, preserve scenes, carry weapons and arrest violators. (Per California Penal Code §830.31(b)). Park Rangers can also be environmental experts and historians. (See Bibliography)

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

California Penal Code §925 authorizes a Grand Jury to conduct an inquiry and report on various departments throughout the County. The 2018 – 2019 Kern County Grand Jury conducted an investigation into the operations of the Kern County Park Rangers and Security personnel and had six recommendations. As a follow-up, the 2021 – 2022 Kern County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) pursued these recommendations to a conclusion.

METHODOLOGY:

Along with reviewing the 2018 – 2019 Kern County Grand Jury report, the 2021 – 2022 Grand Jury inquired into the operations and management of the Kern County Park Rangers and Security personnel. The Grand Jury researched the internet and conducted interviews with the Kern County General Services Department, and the Park Ranger and Security personnel.

DISCUSSION OF FACTS:

On July 15, 2021, under the direction of the California Legislature (Government Code section 12525.5, subdivision (e)), the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) and Racial and Identity Profiling Board (RIPA Board) was formed as part of AB953. Their charge was to eliminate racial and identity profiling, and improve diversity, racial and identity

sensitivity in law enforcement. The (RIPA Board) is a diverse group of members that represent the public, law enforcement and educators. The California Department of Justice, and Office of the Attorney General, has the primary oversight of the RIPA Board. One of the responsibilities of the RIPA Board has been to develop the stop-data collection process that has been included into Regulation as of January 1, 2021. (See Bibliography)

As part of their regular duties, Park Rangers are expected to identify violators by perceived race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, and whether they are part of the LGBTQ+ Community.

The Grand Jury noted the following:

A. There are many types of Rangers:

- National Park Ranger - Permanent
- National Park Ranger – Temporary/Seasonal
- State Park Ranger
- County Park Ranger
- Park Ranger Working United States Territories

(See Bibliography)

B. The ethnicities of Park Rangers are:

	Kern County	Nationally
• White	71%	90.9%
• Hispanic/Latino	24%	4.1%
• Black/African American	0%	1.6%
• Asian	5%	1.4%
• Alaskan/Native American	0%	0.5%
• Other	0%	1.5%

(See Bibliography)

C. In Kern County, the Park Rangers consists of 10% women and 90% men. Nationally, the Park Rangers are 33.8% women and 66.2% are men.

D. There are 14,086 Park Rangers in the United States.

E. The average National Park Ranger salary is \$47,253. The average Kern County Park Ranger salary is \$34,281.

FINDINGS:

F1. Repair costs on vehicles have increased dramatically since the 2018 – 2019 Kern County Grand Jury report:

- 2018 – 2019 \$ 756
- 2020 – 2021 \$47,843

There are 25 vehicles; six are 2006 models and 19 are 2013 or older.

F2. Stop Data Collection Forms are required to satisfy RIPA Regulations. All Park Rangers must complete a report with each stop. This report is uploaded into the computer by a RIPA trained officer and given to the Chief Ranger who is responsible for forwarding the information to the California Department of Justice. (See Appendix)

F3. As of January 1, 2022, the Peace Officers Standard of Training (POST) is no longer a requirement for the condition of hiring Park Rangers. This exemption allows for more individuals to qualify for employment. However, applicants are required to complete other training during their employment.

F4. The Park Rangers have contracted with a local range facility for all their range qualification needs at no cost.

F5. All Park Rangers carry trauma first-aid backpacks that **DO NOT** include Narcan[®] (Naloxone). Narcan[®] has become a well-known antidote to reverse an opioid overdose.

F6. Park Rangers issue approximately 300 citations per month. Monies collected from citations goes directly into the Park Ranger budget.

All Administrative citations are:

- 1st citation \$100
- 2nd citation \$200
- 3 or more \$500
- Parking Citations \$ 40

(See Appendix)

F7. The funded 24-member staff has not changed since the 2018 – 2019 Grand Jury report.

F8. In 2021, Douglas County, Colorado Park Rangers launched a Mountain Bike Patrol Program that has steadily gained popularity. According to staff, *this allows for more frequent interactions with visitors*. It also allows for good trail

etiquette, assessment of conditions, and how people are using the trails and properties. (See Bibliography)

- F9. All-Terrain vehicles (ATVs) and watercraft training is provided by a Park Ranger stationed at Lake Isabella.
- F10. Park Rangers and Security Officers are certified to use the California Law Enforcement Tracking System (CLETS) and the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) as needed.
- F11. A background check and Live Scan[®] are conducted prior to hiring a Park Ranger. There is also a complex psychological and physically demanding aspect of the test that includes swimming. Security positions use the basic Kern County background check procedures and do not require these security positions to pass the swim portion of the test.
- F12. Security Officers are also responsible for the safety and security of individuals at some County buildings.
- F13. Due to the large acreage of Hart Park and Lake Ming, there are rough terrains, off-road paths, and Riparian Preserve areas, which are in desperate need of non-motorized patrol. Park Rangers do not have bicycles. According to staff these would allow them to patrol areas with ease.
- F14. The most common animals abandoned at Hart Park and Lake Ming are cats, but pigs, goats, and chickens have been abandoned as well.
- F15. Over the years, Hart Park and Lake Ming have been overwhelmed with homeless individuals and overnight camping, which is prohibited.
- F16. Two Park Rangers (Homeless Enforcement Team) are specifically assigned to handle the needs and complaints concerning the homeless.

COMMENTS:

In 2018 – 2019 the Grand Jury authored a report on Park Rangers and Security, which made six recommendations. The Park Ranger and Security personnel are commended for completing all recommendations in a timely manner. The Grand Jury would like to thank all General Service employees who participated in gathering information for this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. By November 30, 2022, one additional staff member should be hired full-time in an administrative position to assist the Chief Ranger with RIPA regulated paperwork as required. This would free up two Rangers to resume their regular duties. (Finding 2)
- R2. By January 1, 2023, the Park Rangers should purchase four electric bicycles: two for Hart Park and two for Lake Ming. (Findings 8 and 13)
- R3. By January 1, 2023, all Park Rangers should be trained and required to have Narcan[®] in their possession while on duty. (Finding 5)
- R4. By July 1, 2023, six additional staff should be hired: three full-time Park Rangers and three part-time Park Rangers. (Findings 2, 6, 14, 15 and 16)
- R5. By July 1, 2023, the current Park Ranger fleet should begin replacing aging vehicles, with better-equipped vehicles for off-road use. (Finding 1)
- R6. By January 1, 2024, Hart Park and Lake Ming should have 24-hour patrol coverage. According to staff, this will deter illegal animal drop-offs, overnight stays, and homeless encampments. (Findings 14, 15 and 16)
- R7. The Kern County Park Rangers and Security personnel should continue to apply for grants for additional funding. (Findings, 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 15)

NOTES:

- The Board of Supervisors should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.
- Persons wishing to receive email notification of newly released reports may sign up at: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury
- Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.kerncounty.com/grandjury

RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO CAL. PENAL CODE § 933, SUBD. (C) AND 933.05 WITHIN 90 DAYS TO:

- **PRESIDING JUDGE
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 212
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

- **FOREPERSON
KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
1415 TRUXTUN AVENUE, SUITE 600
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

<https://oag.ca.gov/ab953/regulations#categories>

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/outdoors/how-to-become-a-park-ranger.htm>

<https://www.zippia.com/park-ranger-jobs/demographics/>

<https://post.ca.gov/racial-and-identity-profiling-act>

<https://cms1files.revize.com/revize/ranchosimi/staff%20and%20board/rangers/authorityofparkrangers.pdf>

<https://www.douglas.co.us/mountain-bike-patrol-program-brings-open-space-rangers-to-you/>

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Cal. Penal Code § 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

APPENDIX



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CJIS 2000
(Rev. 09/2021)

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PAGE 1 of 4

STOP DATA COLLECTION FORM Racial & Identity Profiling Act

Penal Code sections 13012 and 13519.4, and Government Code section 12525.5

PLEASE NOTE:

- The data collected on this form must be electronically submitted to the California Department of Justice (DOJ), Stop Data Collection System by entry into the Web Application or submission by Web Services or Secure File Transfer.
- Please contact your agency's local administrator for instructions on processing this record for submission to the DOJ. If needed, the DOJ can be reached at (916) 210-3305 or StopDataSupport@doj.ca.gov.
- If multiple persons are related to one stop, complete a separate form (sections III-IX) for each person and report as one incident.
- If the stop involves a student at a K-12 public school, then some fields may have additional options available for reporting. These items are noted with an asterisk (*), and shown in *red italics*.

I. REPORTING OFFICER	AGENCY ORI:		OFFICER ID:		OFFICER'S YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:	
	OFFICER'S TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT: <i>(Select one)</i>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrol, traffic enforcement, field operations		<input type="checkbox"/> Roadblock or DUI sobriety checkpoint		<input type="checkbox"/> Investigative/detective		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gang enforcement		<input type="checkbox"/> Narcotics/Vice		<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Check		<input type="checkbox"/> Task Force		If other, specify: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events		<input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Public school				
II. SETTING	DATE: <i>(MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	TIME: <i>(HH:MM use 24 hr clock)</i>	DURATION OF STOP: <i>(minutes)</i>	RESPONSE TO CALL FOR SERVICE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	LOCATION: <i>(Report as: Block number and street name; or closest intersection; or highway and closest highway exit. If none of these are applicable, please report a road marker, landmark, or other description. Do not provide the exact address of a residence)</i>					
	CITY: <i>(If City is not applicable because stop occurred in unincorporated area, report the County)</i>			COUNTY: <i>(Required when City is not applicable)</i>		
	IF STOP OCCURRED AT A K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL, REPORT SCHOOL NAME:			IS PERSON STOPPED A STUDENT? * <i>(Only complete if stop is at a K-12 public school)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
III. OFFICER PERCEPTION OF PERSON STOPPED	PERCEIVED RACE OR ETHNICITY: <i>(Select all that apply)</i>					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian		<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern or South Asian		<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American		<input type="checkbox"/> Native American		<input type="checkbox"/> White	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino(a)					
	PERCEIVED GENDER: <i>(When applicable, you may select "Gender nonconforming" as the only value or in addition to one of the other values)</i>					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Male		<input type="checkbox"/> Female		<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender man/boy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender woman/girl		<input type="checkbox"/> Gender nonconforming				
PERCEIVED TO BE LGBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		PERCEIVED AGE: <i>(approximate age; report as a whole number)</i>		LIMITED OR NO ENGLISH FLUENCY? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
PERCEIVED OR KNOWN DISABILITY: <i>(Select all that apply)</i>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Deafness or difficulty hearing		<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health condition		<input type="checkbox"/> None		
<input type="checkbox"/> Speech impairment or limited use of language		<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual or developmental disability, including dementia		<input type="checkbox"/> * <i>Disability related to hyperactivity or impulsive behavior</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blind or limited vision		<input type="checkbox"/> Other disability				



STOP DATA COLLECTION FORM
Racial & Identity Profiling Act
Penal Code sections 13012 and 13519.4, and Government Code section 12525.5

IV. REASON FOR STOP

REASON FOR STOP: (Select the primary reason for stop)

Traffic Violation: (Specify type of traffic violation) Moving Equipment Non-moving

Code section related to violation: _____

Reasonable suspicion that the person was engaged in criminal activity

Select all that apply to describe the basis of suspicion:

- Officer witnessed commission of a crime
- Matched suspect description
- Witness or victim identification of suspect at the scene
- Carrying suspicious object
- Actions indicative of casing a victim or location
- Suspected of acting as a lookout
- Actions indicative of a drug transaction
- Actions indicative of engaging in a violent crime
- Other reasonable suspicion of a crime

If known, Code for suspected violation: _____

Known to be on parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision

Knowledge of outstanding arrest warrant/wanted person

Investigation to determine whether the person is truant

Consensual encounter resulting in a search

* Possible conduct warranting discipline under Education Code (EC) 48900, et al

Code section: 48900 48900.2 48900.3 48900.4 48900.7

When EC 48900 is selected, specify the subdivision: _____

* Determine whether the student violated school policy

REASON FOR STOP – BRIEF DESCRIPTION: (Provide a brief explanation, 250 character maximum. This explanation should include detail beyond the general data values selected above. Do not include any personally identifying information of the person stopped or unique identifying information of any officer in this description)



STOP DATA COLLECTION FORM
Racial & Identity Profiling Act
Penal Code sections 13012 and 13519.4, and Government Code section 12525.5

ACTIONS TAKEN: *(Select all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person removed from vehicle by order | <input type="checkbox"/> Baton or other impact weapon used |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person removed from vehicle by physical contact | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical spray used
<i>(e.g., pepper spray, mace, tear gas, or other chemical irritants)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field sobriety test conducted | <input type="checkbox"/> Other physical or vehicle contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curbside detention | <input type="checkbox"/> Person photographed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handcuffed or flex cuffed | <input type="checkbox"/> Asked for consent to search person
<i>Specify if consent was given: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol car detention | <input type="checkbox"/> Search of person was conducted **Complete BASIS FOR SEARCH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canine removed from vehicle or used to search | <input type="checkbox"/> Asked for consent to search property
<i>Specify if consent was given: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firearm pointed at person | <input type="checkbox"/> Search of property was conducted **Complete BASIS FOR SEARCH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firearm discharged or used | <input type="checkbox"/> Property was seized **Complete PROPERTY SEIZURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic control device used | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle impounded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact projectile discharged or used
<i>(e.g., blunt impact projectile, rubber bullets, or bean bags)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> * <i>Admission or written statement obtained from student</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canine bit or held person | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

BASIS FOR SEARCH: *(Only applicable when the Actions Taken include "Search of person was conducted" and/or "Search of property was conducted. Select all that apply)*

- Consent given
- Officer safety/safety of others
- Search warrant
- Condition of parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision
- Suspected weapons
- Visible contraband
- Odor of contraband
- Canine detection
- Evidence of crime
- Incident to arrest
- Exigent circumstances/emergency
- Vehicle inventory **(for search of property only)**
- * *Suspected violation of school policy*

BASIS FOR SEARCH – BRIEF DESCRIPTION: *(Provide a brief explanation, 250 character maximum. This explanation should include detail beyond the general data values selected above. Do not include any personally identifying information of the person stopped or unique identifying information of any officer in this description. When the Basis for Search is "Condition of parole/probation/PRCS/mandatory supervision," this description is not required)*

V. ACTIONS TAKEN



STOP DATA COLLECTION FORM Racial & Identity Profiling Act

Penal Code sections 13012 and 13519.4, and Government Code section 12525.5

VI. PROPERTY SEIZURE	<p>BASIS FOR PROPERTY SEIZURE: <i>(Only applicable when the Actions Taken include "Property was seized")</i></p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safekeeping as allowed by law/statute</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contraband</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Impound of vehicle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> * Suspected violation of school policy</p>	<p>TYPE OF PROPERTY SEIZURE: <i>(Only applicable when the Actions Taken include "Property was seized")</i></p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Firearm(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ammunition</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Weapon(s) other than firearm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs/narcotics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Money</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drug paraphernalia</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Suspected stolen property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone(s) or electronic device(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other contraband or evidence</p>
VII. CONTRABAND / EVIDENCE	<p>CONTRABAND/EVIDENCE DISCOVERED (IF ANY): <i>(Include any items discovered in plain view or as the result of a search)</i></p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Firearm(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ammunition</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Weapon(s) other than firearm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drugs/narcotics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Money</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drug Paraphernalia</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Suspected stolen property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone(s) or electronic devices(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other contraband or evidence</p>	
VIII. RESULT OF STOP	<p>RESULT OF STOP:</p> <p>Select all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No action</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Warning (verbal or written)</p> <p>Code section(s) related to warning: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Citation for infraction</p> <p>Code section(s) related to citation for infraction: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In-field Cite and Release</p> <p>Code section(s) related to cite and release: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Custodial arrest pursuant to outstanding warrant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Custodial arrest without warrant</p> <p>Code section(s) related to arrest: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Field interview card completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Noncriminal transport or caretaking transport (including transport by officer, ambulance, or another agency)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contacted parent/legal guardian or other person responsible for the minor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric hold (Welfare & Institutions Code sections 5150 and/or 5585.20)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contacted U.S. Department of Homeland Security (e.g., Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> * Referral to school administrator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> * Referral to school counselor or other support staff</p>	

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF KERN

TRACKING PAGE

AUGUST 23, 2022

TUESDAY - 2:00 P.M.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- CA-22) Proposed response to Grand Jury report titled Park Rangers and Security Divisions of Kern County General Services (Fiscal Impact: None) - APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CORRESPONDENCE
Couch-Maggard: All Ayes

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Zack Scrivner..... District 2
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Leticia Perez..... District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Colette Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Judge, Humphrey:

Transmitted herewith is the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2021-2022 Grand Jury's Final Report titled Park Rangers and Security Divisions of Kern County General Services.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the Grand Jury's review and input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zack Scrivner", is written over a horizontal line.

Zack Scrivner, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

ZS/SH/COMPL_GJ General Services A

Attachment

cc: Grand Jury

Kern County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury Final Report
Park Rangers And Security Divisions of Kern County General Services

Response to Findings F1-F16:

Kern County agrees with the Grand Jury's findings.

Response to Recommendation:

R1: *By November 30, 2022, one additional staff member should be hired full-time in an administrative position to assist the Chief Ranger with RIPA regulated paperwork as required. This would free up two Rangers to resume their regular duties.*

The County agrees that it is challenging for Rangers to fully comply with RIPA regulated paperwork and perform their main duties. The Rangers are doing their best to accomplish both tasks with available staff. The County will further analyze this issue to find efficiencies in processes and weigh other alternatives, taking into consideration the budget constraints it faces.

R2: *By January 1, 2023, the Park Rangers should purchase four electric bicycles: two for Hart Park and two for Lake Ming.*

This recommendation will require further analysis. At this point, the County does not think this is a viable option to use. While electric bikes allow a more environmentally friendly way to more closely interact with Park users, with the uneven terrain of the grounds within the parks, and the ability to respond to an imminent threat without jeopardizing the safety of Rangers, a patrol vehicle provides better coverage of the parks at the current staffing level. The County will need to further assess the operational impacts as well as cost of funding additional staff considering budgetary constraints. Additionally, General Services has obtained through a grant one new OHV that, along with existing quads for use in the Kern River corridor, will facilitate more nimble access within the Kern River Parkway

R3: *By January 1, 2023, all Park Rangers should be trained and required to have Narcan[®] in their possession while on duty.*

This recommendation has been implemented. Rangers have been trained on the use of Narcan, and Rangers are provided Narcan for use as well as keeping a supply available at Ranger Stations.

R4: *By July 1, 2023, six additional staff should be hired: three full-time Park Rangers and three part-time Park Rangers.*

The recommendation to hire six additional staff will require further analysis. The County is evaluating operational improvements to enhance services within the limited resources available. Analysis will need to examine ideal staffing levels and operations in conjunction with the availability of funding.

R5: *By July 1, 2023, the current Park Ranger fleet should begin replacing aging vehicles, with better equipped vehicles for off-road use.*

County agrees aging vehicles need to be replaced. Implementation of this recommendation requires further analysis in terms of availability of funding within budgetary constraints facing the County.

R6: By January 1, 2024, Hart Park and Lake Ming should have 24-hour patrol coverage. According to staff, this will deter illegal animal drop-offs, overnight stays, and homeless encampments.

The County agrees that Hart Park and Lake Ming should have 24-hour patrol coverage in order to deter all illegal activities. However, in order to accomplish that, additional staff is needed. This recommendation requires further analysis to determine the level of staffing in light of current budget constraints.

R7: The Kern County Park Rangers and Security personnel should continue to apply for grants for additional funding.

The County concurs and will continue to seek out grant opportunities that are applicable to Ranger operations.