

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 21, 2021

TO: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Honorable Bob Blumenfield Vice Chair
Honorable Kevin de León, Member
Honorable Monica Rodriguez, Member
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr., Member
Budget and Finance Committee

FROM: *for* Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director and General Manager
LA Sanitation and Environment

SUBJECT: **LA SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENT – MAYOR’S PROPOSED
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**

In concert with the Mayor's efforts to establish long-term fiscal sustainability for the City, LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) and its almost 3,500 employees recognize and are proud to be part of the City family's collective participation in developing a livable and sustainable City while enhancing justice in historically underserved communities. Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget addresses LASAN's budget priorities, with the following minor comments:

Livability Services – Additional Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE+) Teams and development of a Regional Storage Program

LASAN is pleased with the addition of 2 CARE+ teams, resources for expanding storage for the property of unsheltered individuals, and some support positions. However, 2 existing positions that also provide critical support for this program are proposed for deletion.

One Senior Systems Analyst position is the lead information technology support for the entire Livability Services operation, which is proposed to expand to 325 positions in FY 21-22. While this position has been vacant due to the hiring freeze, critical work has remained undone. For instance, LASAN has been unable to respond to the motion contained in Council File 19-0953 (Rodriguez-Huizar) requesting a comprehensive internal electronic documentation system to log public health hazards that are discarded or items that are sent to storage during cleanups around homeless encampments, bulky item removal, and illegal dumping cleanups. The FY 21-22 proposed budget includes development of regional storage facilities for the property of unsheltered individuals. This will require the development and maintenance of an inventory tracking system, which this position would lead. This position would also oversee the continued evolution of the CleanStat Street Cleanliness reporting, which improves transparency for the equitability of the provision of services, as well as providing data for operational decision making. CleanStat is also crucial for providing data on areas experiencing a high amount of litter since this will be used to determine the deployment of the 1,000 litter bins contained in the FY 21-22 budget.

The proposed budget also recommends the deletion of a Service Coordinator position. With the proposed expansion of Livability Services, there is a need for additional coordination with elected offices and community groups that this classification is ideally suited for. In addition, a significant percentage of Livability Service requests are submitted by constituents, who become frustrated when they feel their requests aren't addressed in a timely manner. This position will communicate with constituents so they are aware of potential delays (due to the need for posting a notice of a cleanup, coordination with other agencies, such as Caltrans, or a backlog of requests) and know the City is working on their request.

Lastly, if these expansions are expected to last for multiple years, it would be cost effective to purchase vehicles rather than continue to rent them. While the MICLA budget contains \$147,000 for previously deferred purchases, the purchase costs for vehicles associated with the expanded services in the FY 21-22 budget are \$2,435,111 for the two additional CARE+ teams and \$672,000 for the Regional Storage Program.

LASAN submits the following budget requests for consideration:

1. **Continue the resolution authority and add funding for one Senior Systems Analyst (1597).**

The direct salary for this position for 12 months is \$122,158, from the General Fund.

2. **Continue the resolution authority and add funding for one Service Coordinator (0883).**

The direct salary for this position for 12 months is \$112,365, from the General Fund.

3. **Add a line item in the Capital Finance Administration Fund – Capital Equipment section for \$3,107,111 for vehicle purchases in support of CARE+ teams and the Regional Storage Program.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support of LASAN. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these items further, please feel free to contact myself or Lisa B. Mowery, LASAN's Chief Financial Officer, at (213) 485-2210.

ECZ/LBM:lbm

Attachments

c: Members of the City Council
Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Matt Szabo, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of City Services
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation
Raoul Mendoza, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation
Sharon Tso, CLA
Richard Llewellyn, Jr., CAO
Greg Good, President, BPW
Teresa Villegas, Commissioner, BPW
LASAN Executive Team