

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**Date:** July 20, 2022

**To:** The Honorable Los Angeles City Council

**From:** Dr. Fernando Campos, Executive Officer  
Board of Public Works



**RE: OCB RESPONSE TO CITY COUNCIL REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE  
COSTS RELATED TO THE SIXTH STREET VIADUCT BRIDGE.  
COUNCIL FILE 22-0708.**

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer to identify funding to support graffiti removal and maintenance efforts on the Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge in the amount of \$704,599.21.
2. REQUEST a further report back regarding potential costs associated with high elevation graffiti removal from the Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge archways.
3. AUTHORIZE the Board of Public Works, subject to Mayor's Approval, to amend an existing contract with Gang Alternatives Program (C-136595) to increase the ceiling amount of the contract by and additional \$705,000.

**SUMMARY**

At the City Council meeting held on June 29, 2022, the Board of Public Works-Office of Community Beautification (OCB) was requested to provide information regarding maintenance needs and funding in order to keep the newly opened Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge free of graffiti and vandalism.

In addition to driving, the Sixth Street Viaduct bridge was designed for the public to have easy access for walking, biking, etc. This has led to much excitement and public pride regarding the opening of the Sixth Street Viaduct Bridge, but there has also been a huge influx of tagging and graffiti vandalism on the bridge. Tagging has occurred on the bridge walls, on the pylons separating the bike lane from traffic lanes, on the sidewalks, and on the bike path leading to the bridge. Areas underneath the bridge are currently maintained by the construction crew, but will be turned over to the City at some point in the future are also are getting heavily tagged.

OCB administers contracts with non-profit community based organizations for various cleanup and beautification services, including graffiti removal. In the past year (Fiscal Year 2021-22) OCB graffiti abatement crews removed 28,501,808 square feet of graffiti from 497,374 locations throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Since the opening of the bridge, OCB graffiti removal crews have spent an average of 21.5 crew hours each day cleaning graffiti off the bridge. These crews average 1,244 square feet of graffiti is removed each day, as well as numerous stickers. Not all graffiti is able to be removed each day due to time constraints, because OCB has to pull graffiti removal crews assigned to other parts of the City to provide abatement on the bridge.

In order to adequately keep the bridge free of graffiti on a long-term basis, the following would be needed for dedicated bridge abatement teams which would work on the currently open portion of the bridge:

- EMPLOYEE EXPENSES: \$376,147.20
  - Six Painters at \$29.14 per hour. 40 hours per week.
  - One Supervisor at \$30.00 (20% of time)
- EQUIPMENT COSTS: \$135,000
  - Purchase of two vehicles and matrix board. Gasoline.
- SUPPLY COSTS: \$90,000
  - Paint. Chemical Solvent. Sundries.
- WAREHOUSE COST (\$2,500 Month): \$30,000
- ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD 12%: \$73,452.01

**TOTAL ESTIMATE \$704,599.21**

The above costs are for twelve months of service. The increased warehouse cost is due to the local contractor (Gang Alternatives Program) needing to secure either a larger warehouse or an additional warehouse in which to house the additional staff, equipment, and supplies. Once the underside of the bridge is opened to the public the pillars, stairways, bike lanes, etc. become responsibility of the City to maintain. At that point additional crews will likely be needed to keep up with the graffiti.

Also noted is that this cost estimate is for the basic bridge graffiti removal. Graffiti tagging which may happen on the arches will involve a different graffiti removal crew and different equipment. At this time, it is being evaluated whether the City will be able to utilize current bucket lift vehicles for the abatement crews to use, or whether these will need to be purchased to solely support graffiti abatement crews. OCB suggests that an additional report back be requested to provide further information related to high elevation graffiti on the archways.

Report Prepared by:

Paul Racs, Office of Community Beautification