



# Graffiti Task Force

## STATS



637 calls and 117 eService requests were received from January through March. The majority of requests were in Canyon Country.

**Calls by Area:**

- Canyon Country: 402
- Valencia: 186
- Newhall: 121
- Saugus: 38
- L.A. County: 7

1,602 unreported tags were also removed from January through March.

**Hotspots:** McBean Parkway, Bouquet Canyon Road, Whites Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, and Via Princesa Road.

**Private Property Notices:**

Four Private Property Notices were issued in Canyon Country with 100% compliance.

**New Year's Weekend**

Over the New Year's weekend, a local tagging crew heavily vandalized the Canyon Country area from Discovery Park to Sierra Highway. Over 250 incidents of graffiti were done on City and private properties. Community Services and Parks staff removed all tags within 48 hours and private property owners complied within seven calendar days.

**Los Angeles County Removal Services**

Effective in March, the Los Angeles County took over cleaning efforts in the wash channels in Santa Clarita. The Graffiti Task Force met with the County to ensure that the same color the Task Force has been using on the washes is used by the County to avoid patch work. The County will patrol the wash channels Monday through Friday to remove any graffiti that is present.

## ARRESTS

From January through March, the Sheriff's Department:

- Arrested 39 taggers (8 adults, 31 juveniles) including the prolific tagger DEKA, who was responsible for vandalism in the Newhall and Valencia Areas and ordered to pay \$6,072 in restitution.
- Arrested ten individuals from the local tagging crew: Artistic Minded Krew (AMK), responsible for over \$50,000 in damages in north Canyon Country.
- Assisted in a "Merlin" sting operation near Canyon Park Blvd in Canyon Country during the month of February.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

- On March 5, a TAG project was conducted in Canyon Country with 45 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Over a half mile of wash channel was beautified.
- On January 22, nineteen Community Court participants removed over 50 tags at the Camp Plenty wash channel.
- A graffiti awareness presentation was conducted to 150 students from Canyon High School on the consequences of graffiti vandalism.



## TEAM EFFORT

On January 22, staff from Community Preservation, Community Services, Environmental Services, and the Sheriff's Department beautified a large stretch of wash channel at Bouquet Canyon Creek northwest of Central Park resulting in:

- 50 tags removed
- Two trash dumpsters filled with debris
- Removal of a large homeless encampment



## TRENDS

From January through March, staff saw an increase in:

- Marker usage City-wide on utility boxes, signs, and bus-stops
- Spray paint usage near Sierra Highway in Canyon County
- Slap tag usage near Grandview Drive in Valencia
- Tagging crews and oners (i.e., ART, AMK, and BE) in Canyon Country



Over 2,000 tags were removed by Graffiti Removal staff from January-March