



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: December 12, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements Funding Agreement with Southern California Edison, First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrences: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Funding Agreement with Southern California Edison Company for Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements in the amount of \$214,200 with approximate local matching funds of \$75,000; and
- b) Determine the proposed actions are for the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, and that the proposed action is therefore exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301(c), and approve and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize a Funding Agreement with Southern California Edison (SCE) for Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements. SCE will voluntarily pay the Public Works Transportation Department \$214,200 for improvements at and around Tunnel Trail trailhead. Improvements agreed upon were generated from recommendations by neighbors and include enhanced parking along Tunnel Rd, vegetation maintenance along the east side of the road, and a pedestrian path.

Background:

Tunnel Trail is one of the most popular hiking trails on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. The trail is located in the unincorporated community of Mission Canyon and all parking for the trail is limited to the shoulders of Tunnel Road, which is maintained by the County.

On January 16, 2020, the County issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCE pertaining to unauthorized grading SCE performed on the Access Road near Tunnel Trail in December 2019. In response to the activities subject to the NOV, SCE performed repairs and cleanup on and around the access road near Tunnel Trail and will perform a proposed Mission Canyon Stream Habitat Restoration Project, which is undergoing a separate review process in accordance with pending County approvals. Restoration activities include restoration of the stream hydrology and habitat features, remediate tree impacts within Mission Creek, stabilize creek banks and slopes, and restore habitat. Impacts to native trees will be remediated and tree mitigation is also proposed to account for impacts from previous grading activities. These NOV Responsive Projects are a direct response to the Notice of Violation issued by the County.

In addition to, and separate from, these NOV Responsive Projects, SCE voluntarily completed or funded, or is committed to fund, multiple projects requested by the community to improve access to and recreational experiences on the Tunnel Trail. Projects identified are aimed to improve parking and pedestrian safety on Tunnel Road. Trailhead improvements include County Projects #1-4 listed in Attachment A: Exhibit B. The City of Santa Barbara is poised to enter into a similar agreement with SCE in the amount of \$85,800 for improvements at the trailhead, which is identified as City Project #5 in the Funding Agreement.

Project #	Description
County Project #1	Improve parking area above 1404 Tunnel Rd. Paving, striping and limited retaining or curb structure on canyon side of the parking spaces. Possible addition of one or two parking spaces.
County Project #2	Pedestrian safety. On East side of road, prune and maintain brush back to fence line. Starting above the gabion wall located about 75 feet below driveway to 1440 Tunnel, where slope allows, move fence out to create pedestrian path. From driveway at 1440, continuing up to Orange Grove Ave, regrade, move rocks and adapt drainage to create a pathway. Possible alternate in this area is use of timber walkway.
County Project #3	Eliminate Parking above 1340 Tunnel Rd. Eliminate 1 or 2 parking spaces to include retention structures to improve marginal spaces into full parking, as well as improve/add one or two spaces on opposite side of the street.
County Project #4	Create parking where possible. Paving, diagonal striping, possibly curb at the parking area about 200 feet past the hairpin turn at 1297 Tunnel Rd. Possible addition of two parking spaces.
City Project #5	Improvements at Trailhead.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

County will contribute matching funds to complete the project scopes for County Projects #1-4. The Department estimates \$75,000 of Measure A funds will be necessary to complete these four projects. The department will request appropriation for the SCE and Measure A funds as part of the Fund 0017 budget for FY 2024-25.

Special Instructions:

Please forward the following items to Yvette Luna in the Public Works Department, Transportation Division, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA Tel: 805-568-3094

- A certified, stamped Minute Order approving these recommendations.
- One duplicate original partially executed agreement. One complete original agreement to be retained by the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Attachment A: SCE Funding Agreement for Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements (2 duplicate copies)

Attachment B: Notice of Exemption

Authored by: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director – Transportation x83064