

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: March 17, 2005
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: April 5, 2005
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: December 10, 2002; and
December 7, 2004
Document File Name: G:\group\energy\wp\policy\cref
\03\contract\SeaCenterBOS

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Valentin Alexeeff, Director
Planning & Development

**STAFF
CONTACT:** Kathy McNeal Pfeifer, 568-2507

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) – Grant Contract

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors execute the attached CREF contract (BC-05-147), in the amount of \$63,000, with the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum to upgrade the wharf pilings under the location of the new Sea Center facility and to install a shark exhibit in the Sea Center.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation aligns with Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In the 2003 CREF cycle, the Board of Supervisors awarded the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum a \$50,000 CREF grant to structurally and seismically upgrade the Santa Barbara wharf pilings under the location of the new 6,734 square-foot Sea Center facility. In the 2005 cycle, the Board awarded the Museum an additional \$13,000 CREF grant to design, fabricate, and install a crab burrowing exhibit.

The Museum is requesting payment of both those grants; however, the Museum requests that the \$13,000 grant be used towards an interactive shark exhibit instead of the crab burrowing exhibit. The Museum explains that the switch in exhibits is for two reasons: (a) the crab-burrowing story is already being partly told in a new tide pool exhibit; and (b) the Museum believes the crab exhibit would have had too high of an impact on the crabs (e.g., people turning the sand over and over again to see the crabs burrow). The requested shark exhibit will have a tank with live juvenile swell sharks and translucent egg cases, a microscope video and interpretative

panels. Staff believes the requested shark exhibit enhances environmentally sensitive coastal resources, coastal recreation and coastal tourism by teaching visitors about this specific marine specie and its environment, and in so doing, heightens the sensitivity and understanding of sharks.

The Museum has secured \$8 million towards the overall project Sea Center expansion project; this \$8 million will pay for the improvements of the wharf, construction of the larger facility, and fabrication of exhibits. The Museum plans on having a grand opening for the Sea Center in April of this year.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Mitigation of impacts to coastal resources from offshore oil and gas development is required as a condition of permits on five projects. Mitigation is provided through the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. There are no changes in service level as a result of this agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No fiscal and facilities impacts. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund is funded by mitigation fees paid by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Staff costs to prepare this agreement have been offset by interest accrued to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. The \$50,000 for Museum's wharf improvements and the \$13,000 for the shark exhibit are expended from Fund #0063, Department #053, Program #5090, Account #7863, Project #0304 and Project #0505, respectively. The CREF program is part of the mitigation program within the Energy Division Cost Center on page D-300 in the Planning & Development Department's section of the County's Budget F04/05.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the agreement to Kathy McNeal Pfeifer of the Planning and Development Department, Energy Division, who will mail a copy of the agreement to the grantee and request the Auditor Controller to pay the award.

Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Risk Manager

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