



**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: September 14, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Department, 568-3010
George Chapjian, Community Services Department, 568-2467
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
Jeff Lindgren, Deputy Director, CSD-Parks, 568-2475
SUBJECT: Hot Springs Trailhead Access Funding; First Supervisorial District

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County Counsel Concurrence
As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence
As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve Budget Revision 0007924 which establishes appropriation for a \$100,000 General Fund transfer to Public Works for Hot Springs Trailhead access improvement studies and implementation; and
- b) Find that the proposed project is exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15301(c) (as the proposed project(s) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities), and approve the filing of the attached Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to fund studies and plan improvements to trailhead access within the public road rights-of-way adjacent to the Hot Springs Trailhead. With recent increases in trail users, there is an urgent need to address the imbalance between the available spaces at the Parks access lot and the demand for parking. These funds would be provided from the General Fund's Contingencies committed fund balance.

Background:

Over the last two years, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, popularity of the Hot Springs Trail above Montecito has skyrocketed, bringing in dozens to hundreds of hikers a day. Access to the trailhead begins on East Mountain Drive near Riven Rock Road. County Community Services District

(Parks) is responsible for the trailhead and its users, which currently has approximately 6-8 informal parking spaces, which is well below current demand.

As Hot Springs Trail popularity increased, Riven Rock Road became highly impacted with hiker parking. Riven Rock Road is very narrow and complaints soon followed about lack of ingress and egress for homeowners, noise, refuse dumping, and fire access issues. Montecito Fire reviewed the road with Public Works and the determination was made to stripe the shoulder to limit parking to areas where there was sufficient width to allow better emergency access (Attachment A). This safety measure resulted in the elimination of dozens of previous parking spaces that were assisting with the public's demand. As a result access to the trailhead while parking legally can be challenging for hikers.

This funding will provide for studies and initial implementation of parking improvements near the area of the Hot Springs Trailhead. East Mountain Drive has public right-of-way that is currently unusable for parking due to private encroachments such as walls, curbing, boulders, landscaping, mailboxes and other features. The first step in determining how to provide more parking would be to define and stake the right-of-way in the field and confirm right-of-way limits. The next stage would be to document the obstacles to creating public parking and estimates to improve public parking in the area. Using this information, the Department would work with Parks and the adjacent owners on a project that would create public parking while minimizing the impacts to their property frontage. Depending on the scope and complexity of work required to provide additional public parking for trail users, there may be additional funding needed for final implementation.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>FY 21/22 Revenue</u>
General Fund Contingencies	\$100,000

Narrative:

This funding is provided by the General Fund committed fund balance contingencies. Revenues of \$100,000 will go to in Department 054, Fund 0016.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a stamped, certified Minute Order to Public Works, Transportation, Attention: Gail Ocheltree x83094.

Attachments:

- A) Montecito Fire request for striping on Riven Rock Road
- B) BJE 0007924 for fund transfer to Public Works
- C) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Public Works Transportation, x83064