

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: September 9, 2002
Department:
Budget Unit:
Agenda Date: September 24, 2002
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Programs\GRANTS\Habitat Conservation
Fund\2002\Isla Vista Blufftop
Acquisition\BOS\BOSLTR_HCF_alt12002.DOC

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dianne Meester, Interim Director
Planning & Development

STAFF CONTACT: George Amoon, Planner (x2027)

SUBJECT: Grant application to the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a resolution approving submittal of a \$150,000 grant application to the State Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program to acquire one vacant Del Playa blufftop parcel in Isla Vista (3rd Supervisorial District) from a willing seller.
2. Approve the allocation of \$25,440 from interest accrued from Planning & Development Mitigation Trust Fund (#1392) to provide a portion of the required 50% non-state match.
3. Approve the environmental document (categorical exemption) for the Isla Vista Blufftop Parcels Acquisition Project.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5, Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Grant Program Summary:

The State Department of Parks and Recreation issued a request for applications to the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) grant program. The overall purpose of the grant program is to fund acquisition, restoration and/or development of parkland or sensitive habitat areas. Four categories comprise the grant program this fiscal year of which each has available \$500,000 statewide: Trails, Programs, and Urban Access; Anadromous Salmonoids/Trout Habitat; Deer/Mountain Lion Habitat; and Rare, Endangered, Threatened or Fully Protected Species. The grant program requires a 50% non-state source match of the project cost. Grant awards will be announced in February, 2003.

Project Description:

The Isla Vista Blufftop Parcels Acquisition Project involves acquiring seven vacant parcels from willing sellers along the oceanside of Del Playa Drive -- five parcels exist contiguously in the 6700 block and two exist contiguously in the 6800 block (Chase parcels). Both groups of parcels are the last remaining privately owned, vacant parcels along the blufftop of Del Playa. If these seven parcels totaling one acre are acquired, two large continuous open space areas totaling three acres would be formed since both groups of parcels directly connect to groups of other publicly-owned parcels owned by the Isla Vista RDA or Isla Vista Recreation and Park District.

Grant funding is actively being sought to acquire the seven parcels. Appraisals for the parcels are currently being updated but it is anticipated that the total cost for all seven is between \$2.0 - \$2.3 million. Thus far, a \$250,000 grant from the state Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Grant Program (EEMP) and a \$57,500 grant from the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund have been secured. Other large grant applications are pending.

Planning & Development requests Board approval to apply for a \$150,000 grant from the HCF program (Trails, Programs, and Urban Access category) to acquire one of the two parcels on the 6800 block. P&D proposes to use the \$57,500 CREF grant, \$67,060 from the principal from the P&D mitigation trust fund (Fund #1392), and \$25,440 of interest accrued from the mitigation trust fund totaling \$150,000 to provide the 50% non-state match requirement of the estimated \$300,000 cost to acquire the parcels. (The state EEMP grant is proposed to be used toward acquisition of one of the other seven parcels since the EEMP cannot be used to match HCF due to HCF regulations requiring matching funds to be non-state.)

Proposed Source	Amount
P&D Mitigation Trust Fund Principal	\$67,060
P&D Mitigation Trust Fund Interest	\$25,440
<i>SUBTOTAL</i>	<i>\$92,500</i>
CREF grant	\$57,500
Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Request	\$150,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED PARCEL ACQUISITION COST	\$300,000

The \$67,060 of the principal is intended to be used to offset wetland impacts. The targeted parcel contains delineated wetlands and therefore is a suitable use. The interest from the mitigation fund can be used for any

resource management project and requires Board approval for use. P&D will continue to seek other sources of matching funds to preserve the mitigation trust funds to the extent possible. The HCF grant proposal is currently being prepared.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The acquisition project is consistent with adopted Goleta Community Plan Parks, Recreation, and Trails policies.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If the HCF is awarded, the \$57,500 CREF grant, the \$67,060 from the P&D mitigation fund principal (Fund #1392), and the \$25,440 from the mitigation fund interest would be used to provide the 50% non-state match requirement. Appropriate budget transfers would be prepared and submitted if awarded the grant. The \$67,060 of the principal is intended to be used to offset wetland impacts. The interest from the mitigation fund can be used for any resource management project and requires Board approval for use. Once acquired, the County proposes to transfer ownership of the property to the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District which has agreed to maintain the parcels in perpetuity.

Special Instructions:

Please return one signed resolution and a copy of the minute order to George Amoon of Planning & Development for transmittal to the State.

Attachments:

Resolution
CEQA Categorical Exemption

Concurrence:

County Counsel
General Services, Real Property Division