

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: February 20, 2003
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: March 4, 2003
Placement: Administrative
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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dianne Meester, Interim Director
Planning & Development

STAFF

CONTACT: Kathy McNeal Pfeifer, 568-2507

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Award

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors approve the revised project description for the vehicle barrier at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Park and allow the Parks Department to receive the 2002 CREF award for \$13,450.

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 March of 2002, the Board of Supervisors awarded the Parks Department and the Center for Natural Lands Management a \$13,450 CREF grant to install a vehicle barrier to protect Western Snowy Plover and California least tern habitat from off-road vehicles at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Park. Originally, the applicants had proposed a vehicle barrier beginning from the Park's parking lot and heading east for one mile along both sides of the access road. The applicants estimated this proposal to cost approximately \$26,000 and were planning on seeking the additional monies from the Coastal Conservancy.

For various reasons, the applicants did not seek funding from the Coastal Conservancy; in addition, the applicants state the original project estimates were too low. Therefore, the applicants request the \$13,450 CREF grant to install an approximate half-mile (half the length originally proposed) vehicle barrier only on the south side of the access road, beginning from the Park's parking lot. The applicants state that this year they will seek monies from the Coastal Conservancy to install a half-mile vehicle barrier on the north side of the access road.

The Interim Director of Planning & Development could have extended the commencement period for this project one year, requesting the applicants to seek the additional monies prior to receiving the CREF grant; however, this would delay protecting the Western Snowy Plover and California least tern habitat from off-road vehicles, at least on the south side. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board approve the project's reduced scope.

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 work with the applicants on this project have been offset by interest accrued to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. The \$13,450 for the vehicle barrier is expended from Fund #0063, Department #053, Program #5090, Account #7863, Project #0213. The CREF program is part of the mitigation program within the Energy Division Cost Center on page D-276 in the Planning & Development Department's section of the County's Budget F02/03.

Special Instructions:

None.

Concurrence:

None.