

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 7/7/05
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: 8/2/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dianne Meester, Assistant Director, Planning & Development, X2086
Phillip M. Demery, Director, Public Works Department, X3010

STAFF CONTACT: Lisa Plowman, Deputy Director, Comprehensive Planning, CEO, X2025
Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, X3603

SUBJECT: Allocation of Mitigation Trust Fund Interest for the Foothill Open Space Project,
Second Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the allocation of \$30,000 of interest generated from the Planning and Development Mitigation Trust Fund as funding for the Foothill Open Space Project.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Foothill Open Space is located to the east of the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station and west of the El Sueno neighborhood, between the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, at the site of the closed Foothill Landfill (site). Recent heavy rains experienced in southern California this past winter/spring caused erosion damage and exposed trash at the Foothill Landfill. Landslides also occurred on area roads in the Santa Barbara foothills. Two emergency projects were completed at the site to clear area roads, repair the cover and control erosion at the landfill.

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department removed landslide material from area roadways and placed the excess soil at the site to repair the eroded landfill cover, then hydroseeded the newly-created slopes. This project was funded through the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). A second project installed a pipe along the eastern boundary of the site to conduct storm flows around the closed Foothill Landfill and amended continuing erosion of the landfill cover. This project was funded by Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Although hydroseeding at the site has been accomplished, neighbors and other interested groups have requested that the hydroseeding be augmented with container plants to create native habitat areas and recreational trails to enhance the open space area for the El Sueno neighborhood and the public. A community meeting was held with the El Sueno neighbors on July 18, 2005 where the neighbors in attendance supported the proposed revegetation project.

Funding for the first year of this project is proposed to come from interest generated by the Mitigation Trust Fund. The project is consistent with the *2004 Draft 2nd District County Lands Inventory* that recommends that the landfill be recapped, erosion controlled, non-native species removed, the site restored with native materials that emphasize coastal sage scrub and recreational trails that connect to other natural areas. The emergency projects have created opportunities to bring the site into consistency with the County Lands Inventory recommendations. The landfill was recapped by placing additional soil at the site and, during the operations, all non-native species were removed during soil placement and erosion control projects. Erosion has been controlled at the site by installation of the drainage pipe around the landfill site. Newly established access roads provide hiking trails for recreationists. As the recommendations have been accomplished at the site, an opportunity to accomplish native habitat restoration on the site has become evident as well as an opportunity to design revegetation areas that consider fire safety. It is necessary to plant the site with native species prior to the winter rains and minimize weed establishment on the site.

The project is expected to be completed over the next two years. The total project cost is estimated to be \$71,000. Public Works is requesting \$30,000 of interest generated from the P&D Mitigation Trust Fund. The Mitigation Trust Fund is a depository for project-specific mitigation impact fees that are required and attached to project conditions of approval. The principal of the Mitigation Trust Fund is used to mitigate project specific biological impacts. Interest from the Mitigation Trust Fund has been used for projects associated with resource enhancement such as the initial surveys for the *2004 Draft 2nd District County Lands Inventory*. P&D and Public Works request the Board of Supervisors approve the allocation of \$30,000 in interest generated from the Mitigation Trust Fund to provide the initial funding for the Foothill Open Space Project to take advantage of the opportunity to revegetate the site with native species.

Mandates and Service Levels: This project is not mandated, but will provide a beneficial impact by enhancing the recreational uses of the site for the El Sueno, Sherwood and Lorraine Avenue neighborhoods.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: The \$30,000 County contribution would be allocated from interest accrued from the Mitigation Trust Fund (#1392). Public Works would pursue grant and/or matching grant funding for the remaining funding. The project would enhance a County facility used as a community recreational area.

Special Instructions: Please forward a copy of the minute order to Lisa Plowman and Betsy Blaine of P&D and Kathy Kefauver of Public Works.

Concurrence:

Mr. Ron Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer