




BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Planning &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: December 5, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
Director(s): (805) 568-2086 
Contact Info: John Zorovich, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance
Division (805) 568-2519
SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund - Grant Contracts with NatureTrack and
Santa Cruz Island Foundation, All Districts and First District, Respectively

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund contract with NatureTrack, in the amount of \$23,074, to purchase four electrical Freedom Trax devices, for the period of December 5, 2023 to May 15, 2024, All Districts (Attachment A).
- b. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund contract with the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, in the amount of \$30,000, to open the Chrisman California Islands Center in Carpinteria, for the period of December 5, 2023 to August 15, 2024, First District (Attachment B).
- c. Approve and authorize the Director of Planning and Development, or designee, to take the following actions for the attached Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund Contracts:
 - i. Extend performances in accordance with Sections 3 for up to and not to exceed a period of one year for good cause;

- ii. Approve project changes in accordance with Section 4 in Attachment A and Section 5 in Attachments B, including changes to project descriptions, reduction in the overall project budgets or change in budget items of 10 percent or more; and
 - iii. Terminate the contracts in accordance with Section 13 in Attachment A, Section 14 in Attachment B.
- d. Determine that the allocations of the Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund grants are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the State Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Summary Text:

This Board item approves two Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) contracts with NatureTrack and the Santa Cruz Island Foundation (SCIF) to fund projects that mitigate the environmental impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. These grant recipients were previously awarded by the Board on August 29, 2023.

Recommended Actions a-c. Attachment A contains a contract with NatureTrack, providing a \$23,074 CRMF grant towards NatureTrack's efforts to assist individuals with mobility issues to access the beach more easily. NatureTrack will purchase four electrical Freedom Trax (Trax) devices that allow wheelchairs to maneuver along sandy beaches and use the Trax devices during the applicant's outdoor student (grades K-12) field trips to coastal locations throughout the County. In addition, the applicant will collaborate with and allow several organizations and cities located within Santa Barbara County to use the Trax devices at no cost for their community activities along the coast, such as beach clean-ups, snowy plover docent programs and natural history education classes.

Attachment B contains a contract with the SCIF) providing a \$30,000 CRMF grant towards the Chrisman California Islands Center. SCIF purchased the Bank of America building in Carpinteria and renovated and remodeled the building to become the Center, along with installed exhibits showing the history of the Channel Islands off of California. SCIF plans on completing the exhibits and the courtyard and opening to the public in 2024.

Attachments A and B include several provisions that allow future minor administrative tasks to be handled by the Director of Planning & Development or designee (outlined in Recommended Action c).

Recommended Action d. Executing CRMF contracts does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5). This section exempts government administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Background:

At the August 29, 2023 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board of Supervisors awarded eight project grants from the combined 2022-2023 CRMF cycle and directed staff to return to the Board with the contractual agreements. The contracts in Attachments A and B execute the 2022-2023 CRMF awards with NatureTrack and SCIF described above.

The County established CRMF to mitigate the environmental impacts of offshore oil and gas development and transportation projects. Mitigation is provided through CRMF for impacts to four categories of coastal resources: recreation, tourism, aesthetics, and environmentally sensitive resources. The County must ensure that CRMF fees are used to mitigate those impacts, according to conditions of approval on projects and the CRMF Guidelines.

Fiscal Analysis:

Federal Fees					
Other: CRMF				\$	53,074.00
Total	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 53,074.00

Budgeted: Yes

The CRMF contracts to NatureTrack and SCIF, included as Attachments A and B, do not involve County property or ongoing costs.

CRMF creates no fiscal impact on the County General Fund budget. CRMF is funded by mitigation fees paid annually by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Funding for CRMF is budgeted in the Planning & Development Department’s Coastal Mitigation Budget Program on page D-316 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Adopted Budget, and is fully supported by CRMF monies.

Administration of the Fund includes preparation of the annual status report; solicitation and evaluation of grant proposals and recommendation of grant awards to the Board of Supervisors; preparation, monitor and enforcement of grant contracts; preparation and monitor of the Fund’s budget; and reassessment of CRMF fees.

Key Contract Risks:

Risk analyses of the contracts in Attachments A and B determined that the contracts would be a low risk: the contracts amounts are \$100,000 or less; the performance periods are less than one year; the complexities of the contract requirements are low; and the contracts are not controversial.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward copies of the executed contracts (including Exhibits A and B of the contracts) to Errin Briggs of the Planning and Development Department, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division, who will mail copies of the contracts to the grantees and request the Auditor Controller to pay the contract awards.

Attachments:

- A: Contract with NatureTrack
- B: Contract with Santa Cruz Island Foundation