



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: Planning &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: 1/23/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: 45 minutes on 2/13/07
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: January 10, 2006
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department John Baker, 568-2085
Director:
Contact Info: Douglas K. Anthony, 568-2046

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Guidelines

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing for February 13, 2007 to:

- A. Discuss whether it would like to pursue revisions to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Guidelines, including Section 3.6, which reserves half of each cycle's CREF fees for land acquisitional projects; and
- B. Direct staff to return with recommended language to execute desired revisions, if any.

Summary Text:

During the motion for awarding CREF grants in January of 2006, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Energy Division return to the Board of Supervisors to discuss the allocation process regarding acquisition monies.

The current CREF Guidelines reference acquisitions in two sections:

- (1) Criterion #4 of the CREF Guidelines gives coastal acquisitions and capital improvement projects higher priority than other types of projects; and

(2) Section 3.6 of the CREF Guidelines, states:

“To provide adequate funding for acquisition projects, in April 1990 the Board directed that a program deferring 1/2 of each year's contributions to allow available funds to accrue shall be implemented. These deferred funds will be used at a point when the Board decides an appropriate project has been initiated. The Board may also wish to allocate funds to staff to develop acquisition projects acceptable to CREF criteria.”

Background:

The County established CREF as a condition of permits for offshore oil and gas development and transportation projects; mitigation is provided through CREF for impacts to coastal resources.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the CREF Guidelines in June of 1988. At that time, Criterion #4 only referenced capital projects and did not reference acquisition-type projects. Section 3.6 (recited above) was not included.

The Board of Supervisors amended the Guidelines in April of 1990 by revising Criterion #4 to ensure that acquisition projects receive a higher priority above all other types of projects. In addition, the Board inserted Section 3.6, which reserves one half of each year's CREF contributions towards acquisitions.

In May of 1994, the Board of Supervisors amended the CREF Guidelines again by revising Criterion #4 to include both coastal acquisition and capital improvement projects to receive higher priority than other type of projects.

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. Fees to fund grants are received each February. CREF is included in the Energy Division Cost Center on page D-304 in the Planning & Development Department's section of the County's FY06/07 Budget (see "Source of Funds Summary – Offshore Oil and Gas Mitigation" and "Use of Prior Fund Balances" for revenue, and "Use of Funds Summary – Mitigation Programs.") Staff costs to administer the fund are offset by interest accrued to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will set the hearing on February 13, 2007.

Attachments:

CREF Guidelines

Authored by:

Kathy McNeal Pfeifer