



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 and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: November 6, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Glenn S. Russell, Ph. D., Planning and Development, 568-2084
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jeffrey S. Hunt, AICP, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning, 568-2072
SUBJECT: Participation in Memorandum of Agreement with United States Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Adopt a resolution (Attachment A) that designates the Director of Planning and Development as the County contact for land use and planning issues for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) so as to participate in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated July 23, 2012 among the USFS, BLM, California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC).
- B) Determine that the above action is not a “project” and thus not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5) and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

Adopting this resolution is a communications tool that does not bind the County to particular land use actions or policies.

Background:

On July 23, 2012, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the California State Association of

Counties (CSAC) and Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC). The purpose of the MOA is to improve interagency relationships by facilitating early and frequent communication and to foster a more productive partnership that results in positive land management decisions. Specifically, the MOA is intended to establish enhanced mutual communication between these government bodies to assure consistency in process and outcomes, build positive relationships, maximize trust, minimize misunderstanding and potential conflicts, and produce actions that result in better conclusions for California, thereby enhancing community support for those actions. The process to opt into the MOA involves designating a County contact person and notifying the appropriate federal land managers that the County has chosen to participate in the MOA.

Upon choosing to participate in the MOA:

1. The USFS and BLM agree to: include the County in their planning processes; request County participation before public scoping; understand that the County's Comprehensive Plan and other policies reflect the objectives of the County Board of Supervisors (BOS); update and confer with the BOS on upcoming programs, projects, and matters of interest; evaluate the County's written comments on project proposals; work with the County to achieve mutually agreeable results; and if the federal manager's decisions are not consistent with County policies or plans, provide written explanations as to why consistency could not be achieved.
2. The County agrees to: participate in requests for involvement at the earliest possible time and identify concerns, needs, and relevant County policies and plans; make staff available at the federal manager's request, within the County's constraints; provide written interpretations of County plans and policies when the County believes a proposed USFS or BLM project is inconsistent with County plans/policies; provide specific written feedback and attempt to provide alternative approaches; meet with the federal agencies at their request; request USFS and BLM participation in County planning processes relevant to the federal agencies and consider their written comments; and make every effort, consistent with state and County plans, policies, laws, regulations, and agency goals, to harmonize land use decisions with federal land management plans and regulations regarding USFS and BLM lands within County boundaries.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The MOA formalizes current opportunities for inter-agency coordination. Future level of effort or cost increase is not anticipated at this time.

Special Instructions:

Please forward copies of the executed resolutions and minute order to Heather Allen, Planning and Development, Long Range Planning Division.

Attachments:

- A. Resolution for Participation in Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management
- B. CEQA Notice of Exemption

Participation in Memorandum of Agreement with US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
November 6, 2012
Page 3 of 3

Authored by:

Heather Allen, Long Range Planning Division

cc:

David Lackie, Long Range Planning Division

G:\GROUP\COMP\Resp. Agency Review\MOA BLM, USFS, CoSB\BOS\Board Agenda Letter MOA BLM USFS.docx