



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: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: March 13, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Herman Parker, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Brian Roney, Deputy Director (805) 568-2461
SUBJECT: Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Franklin Trail Project, Carpinteria Area, 1st Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), #12NGD-00000-00003 attached hereto as Attachment 1, including revisions specified in the Memorandum submitted by Community Services dated March 9, 2012, and including any modifications made by the Board in the public hearing, and the public comments received, prior to project approval;
- b) Determine that the Final MND for the Franklin Trail Project has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and adopt the MND, including revisions specified in the Memorandum submitted by Community Services dated March 9, 2012, and including any modifications made by the Board in the public hearing, along with the CEQA findings attached hereto as Attachment 2; and
- c) Adopt the project description (Proposed Project) and mitigation measures, with their corresponding monitoring requirements, including revisions specified in the Memorandum submitted by Community Services dated March 9, 2012, and including any modifications made by the Board in the public hearing, as the Mitigation Monitoring Program for this project.

Summary Text:

Parks and local community groups have been working to revitalize the Franklin Trail Project for many years with limited funds. In 2006, the Board approved expenditures from Parks' development mitigation funds from the local area to prepare an Initial Study and basis for a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

County staff and partners have worked to find a way to complete the trail project. Recently the work and support of a local non-profit group, the Friends of the Franklin Trail, has been successful in fundraising for the project. Additionally, The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is providing project processing and management assistance. Other key players include the Carpinteria Unified School District, City of Carpinteria, and several trails organization (e.g. Montecito Trails Foundation, Santa Barbara Trails Council, etc.) The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County will coordinate and contract for the construction of the trail and the completed project will be donated to the County.

It is now necessary to have the Final MND certified as there is an opportunity for additional funding for the project to be secured from the Resources Agency of California pursuant to mitigation for the widening of Highway 101 through Carpinteria. The trail project will require a subsequent Coastal Development Permit to be issued by the Zoning Administrator for the County, and a Director level approval from the Planning Department of the City of Carpinteria.

To facilitate the project's development, County Planning & Development, along with Community Services agreed to coordinate with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County in the finalization of the Initial Study to bring it to the Final MND level of compliance.

Following approval of the MND staff will return to the Board with a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Santa Barbara and The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County regarding the construction of the Franklin Trail.

Background:

The dream of the Franklin Trail, a public trail leading from the City of Carpinteria to the Los Padres Forest, has been a goal for many years and is included in the first mapping for trail proposals in the County Park Recreation and Trails Maps (PRT) of the 1980 Comprehensive Plan. The Franklin Trail is also identified as one of four County historic trails due to the recreational and historical significance. The initial phase of the project will provide trail access through the City and County jurisdiction parts of the trail and a subsequent phase will address re-opening the rest of the trail on the Forest Service property. Additional federal environmental review, cultural resources and biological studies as well as authority from the District Ranger will be required to complete the trail on the Los Padres Forest.

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and acting as lead agency under CEQA, the County has prepared a MND to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed construction of the Franklin Trail. The project includes the establishment of a multiple use natural surface trail and will require several structures to facilitate completion (i.e. bridge, retaining wall, fencing, gates, etc.) Significant, but immitigable effects were identified in area of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Fire Protection, Historic Resources and Land Use.

Public/Regulatory Outreach:

On December 16, 2011, the Draft MND was released, but the 30 day review period began on Monday the December 19th and lasted until January 17, 2012. Due to the non-complex nature of the MND, no public environmental hearings were required and none were conducted.

Five comment letters were received within the review period from the following: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District; Caltrans #1; Caltrans #2 (the second letter asked to rescind the 1st letter and resulted in no comment); John F. Welty, Jane Bianchin & Paul de Brynkopf; City of Carpinteria. Staff considered the comments and modified the MND accordingly.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	
State	
Federal	
Dev Mit Fees - Parks	\$36,084
Other:	
Total	\$ 36,084.00

The work for this environmental document began in 2006 and was funded by a Board approved expenditure of funds from Parks Development Mitigation Fees indicated above. Subsequent funds to complete the Final MND were provided by resources outside the County through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Franklin Trail as administered by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

This project is included in the County's Capital Improvement Program. Estimated cost to permit and construct the trail is \$365,000 plus contingencies. Total raised by the Friends of the Franklin Trail is approximately \$400,000.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a minute order of these actions to Community Services Department, Parks Div., Attn: Claude Garciacelay

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Proposed Final MND for the Franklin Trail Project
(to view the Proposed Final MND on-line please visit www.sbparks.org)
Attachment 2 - CEQA Findings

Authored by:

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