



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: June 3, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
(805) 568-2086
Contact Info: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division
(805) 568-2047
SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) Grant Contract – Grant Contracts with
NatureTrack and Fish Reef Project, All Districts and First & Second District, Respectively

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: No

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 \$19,653, to purchase two electrical Freedom Trax devices and trailer equipment for towing the Trax devices, for the period of August 15, 2025 to December 15, 2025, All Districts (Attachment A).
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund Contract with Fish Reef Project, in the amount of \$55,112, to design, fabricate and install exhibits depicting the applicant's Sea Caves at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum's Sea Center on the wharf and at the Chrisman California Islands Center in Carpinteria, for the period of August 1, 2025 to February 16, 2026, First & Second 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 Section 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 Attachment 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 disbursements 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 recommends the Board execute two Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) contracts with NatureTrack and the Fish Reef Project to fund projects that mitigate the environmental impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. These grants were previously awarded to the recipients by the Board on February 4, 2025.

Recommended Actions (a) – (c). Attachment A contains a contract with NatureTrack, providing a \$19,653 CRMF grant towards NatureTrack’s efforts to assist individuals with mobility issues to access the beach more easily. NatureTrack will purchase two electrical Freedom Trax (Trax) devices that allow wheelchairs to maneuver along sandy beaches and associated trailer equipment to transport the devices more easily.

Attachment B contains a contract with the Fish Reef Project providing a \$55,112 CRMF grant to design, fabricate and install exhibits depicting the applicant’s Sea Caves at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum’s Sea Center on the wharf and at the Chrisman California Islands Center in Carpinteria. The Fish Reef Project plans on completing the exhibits by April 2026.

Attachments A and B include provisions that delegate the Director of Planning & Development or their designee authority to manage minor administrative tasks related to these contracts (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 February 4, 2025 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board awarded seven project grants from the combined 2024-2025 CRMF cycle and directed staff to return to the Board with the contractual agreements for execution. The contracts in Attachments A and B execute the 2024-2025 CRMF awards with NatureTrack and Fish Reef Project 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:

Grantee	Funding Source	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
NatureTrack	CRMF	\$19,653	\$0	\$19,653
Fish Reef Project	CRMF	\$35,812	\$19,300	\$55,112

Total: \$74,765

Budgeted: Yes

The CRMF contracts to NatureTrack and Fish Reef Project, 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-319 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Budget, and is fully supported by CRMF monies including staff time for administration of these grants.

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 Katie Nall 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:

Attachment A – Contract with NatureTrack

Attachment B – Contract with Fish Reef Project

Authored by:

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Planning and Development Department