

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/13/05
Department Name: Public Works Department
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 9/27/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACT: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Management, X 3603
Tom Fayram, Deputy Director, Deputy Director, Flood Control, X 3436

SUBJECT: Habitat Conservation Fund Program Grant Application Resolution

Recommendation(s): That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submittal of a regional application for a Habitat Conservation Fund Program Grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the California Department of Parks & Recreation (Attachment A); and
- 2) Approve Public Works Notice of Exemption (Attachment B) pursuant to County's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal #5, Maintain and Enhance the Quality Of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion: The Public Works Department requests approval to submit a Habitat Conservation Fund Program grant application to the California Department of Parks & Recreation for a competitive trails and programs grant in the amount of \$50,000. The trails and programs grants are available to help local governments provide opportunities for urban residents to use park and wildlife areas through establishment of trails and interpretive programs. Local public agencies are eligible for the grant.

The California Department of Parks & Recreation trails and programs grant if awarded, will be used to fund trail development and interpretive programs at the closed Foothill Landfill. The California Department of Parks & Recreation requires the governing body of each local government participating in the program to authorize submittal of the grant application.

Background: Last winter's heavy rains in southern California exposed trash at the closed Foothill Landfill and caused landslides to occur on area roads in the Santa Barbara foothills. In an effort to cover the trash and maintain adequate public access to all areas of the County, the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department removed landslide material from area roadways and stockpiled the excess soil at the closed Foothill Landfill (located west of the El Sueno neighborhood) as an emergency project. The soil was used to re-contour and restore erosion at the site. Soil placement occurred over several weeks and the site was subsequently hydroseeded and planted with native vegetation to control erosion following soil stockpiling. Additional soil may be brought to the site during future emergency situations. Follow-up work would be handled in a manner similar to the current project.

Mandates and Service Levels: The purpose of the grant, if approved, is to restore the recreational opportunities available to the El Sueno neighborhood following the County emergency soil stockpiling operations at the closed Foothill Landfill. For purposes of recreational and revegetation enhancement activities, the site is referred to as the Foothill Open Space. The grant, if approved would be used to construct trails, plant additional vegetation to shade the trails and enhance the park/wildlife area setting and to install interpretive signs at the site.

The Goleta Community Plan identified a trail network through the Foothill Open Space area. Grant funds would allow the planned trail network to be completed and provide recreational opportunities for the El Sueno neighborhood, consistent with the Plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: This grant application, if approved, will provide funding for non-operating revenues, which would be used to offset expenses associated with restoration of the site. The grant is a matching program – 50% State/50% local. The match must come from a non-State source. If the grant is awarded, the Public Works Department will budget the matching \$50,000 and explore acquisition of alternative funding to further offset impact to the County.

Accounting Information: Fund No. 1930, Department 054, Program No. 1750, and Account No. 1700000.

Special Instructions: Please return a copy of the signed Resolution to Kathy Kefauver in the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

Concurrence: County Counsel

Attachment A: Resolution
Attachment B: CEQA Exemption