



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: Public Works &
Community Services
Department No.: 054 & 052
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Director of Public Works, 568-3010
Director(s) George Chapjian, Director of Community Services, 568-2461
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Public Works 882-3605
Paddy Langlands, Deputy Director, Community Services – Parks
Division, 568-2475

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution to Modify a Recreational Trail at the County Owned Baron Ranch, Gaviota Coast Area, 3rd Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution that acknowledges the proposal to modify the location and use of a recreational trail at the County owned Baron Ranch, Gaviota Coast, 3rd Supervisorial District; and
- b) Determine that approval of the resolution is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the action is not a project as they are administrative activities of governments which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment B).

Summary Text:

The Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RR&WMD) and the Community Services Department (CSD), Parks Division, have been working together to re-locate and to modify the use of the recreational trail on the County's Baron Ranch to better serve the public and to protect agricultural and habitat restoration areas. Therefore, the resolution provides for there-

Adopt a Resolution to Modify a Recreational Trail at the County Owned Baron Ranch, Gaviota Coast Area, 3rd Supervisorial District

March 15, 2016

Page 2 of 3

location of the trail as well as modification of the availability for the public to use the trail from three days a week to seven days a week. The resolution also acknowledges previously agreed to management responsibilities of the departments. .

Background:

In 1991, the RR&WMD of the Public Works Department purchased Baron Ranch, for the primary purpose of preventing urbanization in the vicinity of the Tajiguas Landfill. Since the acquisition of the property, RR&WMD has conducted agricultural operations at the Ranch and is currently using a portion of the property as an important mitigation site for biological resource impacts associated with operations of the Tajiguas Landfill. When the property was acquired, the Board of Supervisors indicated a desire to open the Baron Ranch to public access and identified this access as an additional benefit associated with the purchase of the property.

In December 2011, the County opened a six mile trail loop within the County owned Baron Ranch. Currently, trail use is limited to hikers only, three days a week, Saturday through Monday. With the recent issuance of a permit by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, an opportunity now exists to extend the trail from the Baron Ranch property, through Federal property to Camino Cielo at the ridgetop of the Santa Ynez Mountains with connections to Gaviota State Park and a potential future connection to the Santa Ynez Valley. Non-motorized trail use will now be available to all users (i.e., by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers), and availability would also expand from three days to seven days. Per Santa Barbara County Code regulations, use is limited to daylight hours.

Guidance for the planning, operations and maintenance of the trail on the Baron Ranch property is provided by the *Baron Ranch Public Access Trail Plan*, prepared by the County of Santa Barbara, dated September 2006 and revised in January 2009. This Plan looked at the opportunities, constraints and potential for locating a public trail at Baron Ranch. The extension of the trail into the National Forest provided the County an opportunity to re-assess the trail location on Baron Ranch and to modify and re-establish the trail location in a more beneficial location for the recreating public while providing more protections for the agricultural operations and habitat restoration areas. CSD-Parks will soon be submitting a permit application for visitor and trail facilities (i.e., a trail staging turn around area and equestrian parking and trail bridge) to accommodate the new trail location and to better serve the public. The trail through the main part of the agricultural area will be re-established on the opposite side of the creek from the agriculture production area and will also serve to expand trail use within the ranch.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts related to the resolution to plan for a modification and extension of this trail. The County has previously budgeted \$100,000 from Parks Development Mitigation Funds for one-time costs for the design, specification and environmental and permit costs for the visitor serving facilities to modify the trail. Total development costs are estimated to be \$250,000 with \$200,000 provided by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council, a non-profit volunteer organization, and \$50,000 from in-kind services from the Public Works and Community Services Departments and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council.

Adopt a Resolution to Modify a Recreational Trail at the County Owned Baron Ranch, Gaviota Coast Area, 3rd Supervisorial District

March 15, 2016

Page 3 of 3

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized</u>	<u>Total One-Time</u>
		<u>On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
SB Trails Council			\$ 200,000.00
Dev Mit Fees			\$ 100,000.00
In-kind Services			\$ 50,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00

Narrative:

County Parks will manage and maintain the trail at Baron Ranch utilizing existing funding and personnel budgeted in the South County Operations Division. The Santa Barbara County Trails Council, a local non-profit trails advocacy and volunteer organization, has also pledged to support ongoing maintenance efforts for this trail.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Clerk to provide copies of the executed resolution to Leslie Wells, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of Public Works Department and to Claude Garciacelay, Parks Division of Community Services Department.

Attachments:

- A) Resolution to Modify a Recreational Trail at the County Owned Baron Ranch, Gaviota Coast
- B) CEQA Notice of Exemption
- C) Baron Ranch Trail Location Map

cc: Leslie Wells, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division