

**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:** 11/13/03  
**Department Name:** Planning and Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** 12/02/03  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Val Alexeeff, Director  
Planning and Development

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lisa Plowman, Deputy Director (x2025)  
Jamie Goldstein, Planner III (x8050)

**SUBJECT:** Grant Application to the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grants Program for Snowy Plover Docents at Surf Station

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution approving submittal of a \$22,000 grant application to the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grants Program to continue funding the Surf Beach Snowy Plover Docent Pilot Project for two years at Surf Station (3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District).

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5 A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant program supports projects that teach the general public to value and take actions to improve the health of the marine and coastal environments of California. A grant applicant can request up to \$50,000. Matching funds are not required but are preferred. Funding for the County coordinated Surf Beach snowy plover docent pilot project is an eligible activity under the Whale Tail grant program.

The purpose of the docent pilot program is to educate the public on allowed beach access in order for beach visitors and plovers to coexist during the March to September plover breeding season. Since the pilot plover docent program was established in 2000, docents have contributed to a significant reduction in the number of violations of Vandenberg Air Force Base beach rules involving plovers. Funding for the docent program is used for educational materials, jackets, hats, nametags, docent stipends and project management which costs approximately \$12,850 a year. The \$22,000 request to the Whale Tail program would be matched by \$3,700 from secured Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant funds for a total cost of \$25,700. If awarded, the

docents would be funded during two plover breeding seasons (2004 and 2005) since the Whale Tail grant must be expended by June 2006.

The first two years of the pilot docent program were funded by the State Coastal Resources Grant Program and Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund (CREF), however, these grant funds will be expended this fiscal year. Planning and Development submitted a comparable request for funding from the current CREF cycle in September 2003. This request to the Whale Tail program is being submitted in the event the CREF request is denied. If both the CREF and Whale Tail requests are awarded, P&D will request CREF to reprogram the funds for other needs at Surf/Ocean Beach such as an alternative trail access study or improved beach access or increased snowy plover monitoring at Jalama Beach County Park.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

This project is consistent with County policies regarding the protection and enhancement of the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural resources and the support of recreational access to the coast. Implementation of the Snowy Plover Pilot Program is included in the Comprehensive Planning Five-Year Work Program.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If the Whale Tail grant is awarded, the entire cost of continuing the pilot project for two years will be funded by the \$22,000 grant and \$3,700 in Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds already awarded for this project. Obtaining the grant will not impact facilities and will not result in fiscal impacts to the Department budget.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the signed resolution to Rosie Dyste of Planning and Development for transmittal to the State.