



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: Parks
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: July 15, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel C. Hernandez, 568-2461
Director(s)
Contact Info: Erik Axelson, 681-5651

SUBJECT: Authorize Point Sal Management Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Executive Officer to direct County Parks to implement a management and access plan for Point Sal Reserve.

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County now owns 70% of the proposed 800-acre Point Sal Reserve (and over 90% of lands at Point Sal now in public recreation ownership). With the County now negotiating for the purchase of a key 180-acre adjoining parcel, with access protocols in place from Vandenberg Air Force Base, and with renewed discussion between the County and California State Parks, the time is propitious for County Parks to move forward with an access and management plan for the Point Sal Reserve.

This item directs County Parks to take the lead in reviewing and updating the 1990 Point Sal Reserve management plan previously accepted by the Board of Supervisors, and also to incorporate more recent developments and recreational objectives from stakeholders in this rugged and picturesque natural resource.

Background:

Santa Barbara County is currently the fee simple owner of some 560 acres of land at Point Sal, perhaps the most rugged and picturesque range of Pacific Ocean coast within the county, including the aptly named Paradise Beach. California State Parks and the US Bureau of Land Management collectively own another 40 acres of land that, combined with the county's 560 acres provides the nucleus of the proposed 800-acre Point Sal Reserve. The county is currently negotiating for the purchase of an

adjacent private tract of approximately 180 acres that will facilitate access to the coast and provide desirable environmental and viewshed protection.

Further, County Parks has recently executed a controlled access policy to the public lands, trails, beaches and coastline from our neighbor to the south, Vandenberg Air Force Base (at present, the most accessible egress to the county and state coastal areas involves crossing a small corner of Air Force lands).

The time is propitious for County Parks, as the steward for over 90% of the lands now held for public recreation purposes, to take the lead in implementing a Point Sal Reserve access and management plan.

County Parks has recently installed gates and fencing at key access points, and is also installing trail signage, advisories about the challenging terrain, and signage to protect adjoining private property. Within the past few months, County Parks senior management -- along with other county agencies, staff, and elected officials -- have traversed and surveyed the trails and conditions within the Point Sal Reserve area. And the dramatic ridgeline trail was recently improved by a crew from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

County Parks will review and update the 1990 Point Sal management plan previously filed with the Board of Supervisors. The agency has also initiated contacts with the other public agencies (e.g., CA State Parks); these discussions will likely lead to incorporating the objectives of other stakeholders into the updated management and access plan.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Staffing Impacts: None – will be accomplished with existing staff.

Special Instructions:

Request that Clerk of the Board issue a “Minute Order” on the Board action be sent to County Parks

Attachments:

None.

Authored by:

Erik Axelson, Deputy Director of County Parks