



**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: May 19, 2009
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
Contact Info: Claude Garciacelay, Parks Planner (568-2469)

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation and Appropriation of \$44,000 from the Goleta Valley Land Trust Towards Development of the Baron Ranch Trail in the Gaviota Coastal Area; Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept a donation of \$44,000 from the Goleta Valley Land Trust towards development of the Baron Ranch Trail in the Gaviota coastal area;
- b) Approve a budget revision to appropriate the \$44,000 donation to the Parks Capital Outlay Fund towards development of the Baron Ranch Trail; and
- c) Authorize the Parks Director to act as agent for the County to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including agreements, payment requests, and other documents that may be necessary for the completion of the project.

Summary Text:

The County Parks Department has obtained a \$44,000 grant/donation from the Goleta Valley Land Trust for a portion of the development costs of a public trail at Baron Ranch in the Gaviota coastal area. The Parks Department, Public Works Department, and local trails groups will each contribute towards the development of this trail. Total project costs are estimated at \$62,500. The additional funding required for completion of the trail improvements (\$18,500) will be provided from funding currently available in the Parks capital improvement budget, as well as in-kind services provided by County Public Works staff and local trails groups. The Baron Ranch Trail project is included in the Parks Department's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2009-10.

Background:

Baron Ranch, which is owned by the County of Santa Barbara, is a working ranch, totaling 1,092 acres, 107 of which are in active production for avocados and cherimoyas. It is located in a coastal valley of the county, approximately 25 miles west of the city of Santa Barbara on the Gaviota coast. The ranch topography ranges from the relatively flat valley floor of Arroyo Quemado Creek, with many side canyons, to the steep, mountainous backcountry that forms the watershed of Arroyo Quemado Creek, which runs north to south through the property.

Baron Ranch was purchased in 1991 by the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of the County Public Works Department to serve as a buffer between the Tajiguas Landfill on the west and private property owners to the east of Baron Ranch, and to prevent subdivision and residential development on the property itself. As a part of the purchase resolution for the ranch, the Board of Supervisors identified the potential for public recreation as an additional benefit associated with the purchase. A public access loop trail within the County-owned ranch is proposed to provide for public recreation and enjoyment of this coastal canyon as part of this phase of trail construction, with the potential for future access to the U.S. Forest Service land north of Baron Ranch.

From a parking/staging area at the end of Calle Real at the Ranch's entrance, an approximate six-mile round trip trail is proposed, which would utilize mostly existing roads. The visiting public would be restricted to a designated corridor through the lower portions of the property where the agricultural operation is located, utilizing the main access road on the east side of Arroyo Quemado Creek to the upper portions of the property beyond the agricultural area. Existing access roads can then be linked by the construction of a short section of trail allowing visitors to make a loop, ultimately returning through the agricultural area and then back to the parking/staging area. The trail will be managed by the County Parks Department.

The Parks Department was successful in securing a grant/donation from the Goleta Valley Land Trust for funding, in the amount of \$44,000, for a major portion of the development costs of the trail. The Parks Department, the Public Works Department, and local trails groups will each contribute towards the development of the trail. Total project costs are estimated at \$62,500. The additional funding required for completion of the trail improvements (\$18,500) will be provided from funding currently available in the Parks capital improvement budget, as well as in-kind services provided by County Public Works staff and local trails groups.

The Baron Ranch Trail project is included in the Parks Department's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2009-10.

It is therefore recommended that the Board accept the donation of \$44,000 from the Goleta Valley Land Trust, in conformance with the County's policy on acceptance of donations, and approve a budget revision to appropriate these funds to the Parks Capital Outlay budget for completion of this trail development project. In addition, it is recommended that the Parks Director be authorized to negotiate and execute all documents and agreements related to the completion of this project.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other: In-kind services			\$ 18,500.00
Other: Goleta Valley Land Trust donation			\$ 44,000.00
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,500.00

Narrative:

The donation from the Goleta Valley Land Trust (\$44,000) will be deposited into the Parks Department's Capital Outlay Fund (Fund 0030), since Parks will be managing this project, which is estimated to cost \$62,500 in total. The additional \$18,500 required to complete this project will be comprised of existing Parks capital improvement funding, as well as in-kind services provided by County Public Works staff and local trails user groups.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the minute order to Parks Department/Administration, Attn: Claude Garciacelay.

Attachments:

Budget Revision Request

Authored by:

Claude Garciacelay, Parks Planner

CC:

Erik Axelson, South County Deputy Parks Director

Juan Beltranena, Parks Capital Improvement Project Manager