



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: December 14, 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Thomas D. Fayram, Interim Parks Director (805) 568-2461
Director(s)
Contact Info: Juan M. Beltranena, Capital Projects Manager (805) 568-2470

SUBJECT: Extension of Agreement to Operate Lake Cachuma Park w/ the BOR

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Accept extension to Contract No. 14-06-200-600, between the County of Santa Barbara and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, to continue to administer the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area for the period of January 12, 2011 to January 11, 2013;
2. Authorize the Chair to sign and return the attached original copy of the December 14, 2010 letter, indicating acceptance, and simultaneously transmit the attached letter accepting the terms and conditions, from the County to the Bureau of Reclamation; and
3. Approve the Notice of Exemption pursuant to the County's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (post).

Summary Text:

On November 26, 2002, the Board of Supervisors authorized the extension of a lease to manage Lake Cachuma between the County of Santa Barbara and the US Bureau of Reclamation for two years from January 12, 2003 to January 12, 2005.

The extension was to provide the Bureau of Reclamation additional time to complete the preparation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) necessary to begin long-term lease negotiations. In December of 2004, and December of 2006, and then again in December of 2008, the County and the Bureau of

Reclamation entered into a second, third and fourth two-year extensions of the agreement to January 12 of 2011. As of this date, although the RMP has gone through a lengthy public review process, it has not been finalized. Therefore, negotiations for a long term lease between the County and the Bureau of Reclamation for a long term lease for the operation of the park cannot be finalized. Thus, an additional short-term, 2-year lease extension is required so that sufficient time is provided to complete the RMP and finalize long-term lease negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Background:

The County of Santa Barbara, through its Parks Department, has operated and managed the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area for over 52 years under lease agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Upon any renewal of a lease contract, the Bureau is required to complete a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the federally owned land. The RMP process started in 2000 with public scoping meetings, and since then has been under development with participation from County Parks and Cachuma Operations and Management Board (COMB).

The County currently provides an array of recreation amenities at Lake Cachuma Recreation Area including but not limited to fishing, camping (tent, cabin, RV and Yurt), boating and nature cruises to approximately 800,000 visitors a year. The County's original fifty-year lease with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage Lake Cachuma Recreation Area expired in January of 2003 with interim extensions through January 12, 2011 now in effect.

The short-term extensions ensure that recreation services currently provided at Lake Cachuma continue uninterrupted and that all long-term critical issues associated with the lease renewal are sufficiently analyzed and addressed. The extension also allows the existing concessionaires to continue operation under the same interim period. The offer from the Bureau also includes an additional 6 month extension, if required, to competitively seek concessionaires for the recreation area, upon transitioning into a long-term agreement. It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors accept an amendment to contract No. 14-06-200-600 extending this lease to January 11, 2013 in which all existing terms and conditions remain in effect.

A letter from the Board of Supervisors to the Bureau of Reclamation is attached and acknowledges the County's acceptance of the lease extension.

The project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 – Class 1 Categorical Exemption.

Performance Measure:

Number of visitors to Cachuma Lake and the quality of park visit.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

Fiscal Analysis: Narrative: No new Fiscal Impact with these Board Actions. Santa Barbara County Parks will continue to manage the Recreation Area under the same operation budget scenario as previous fiscal years. County staff and the Bureau of Reclamation will continue to work over the course of the lease extension on a new long-term lease agreement.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
N/A

FTEs:
N/A

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to:

- Provide one copy of the Minute Order to County Parks; attn. Juan M. Beltranena.
- Retain the original signed Bureau of Reclamation letter and return the signed copy and the original December 14, 2010 signed letter from the Chair to County Parks; attn. Juan M. Beltranena, for transmission to the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Date and stamp, and post Notice of Exemption w/ County Clerk of the Board and provide a copy of the stamped Notice to County Parks; attn. Juan M. Beltranena

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 - Lease Extension Letter from the Bureau of Reclamation
- Attachment 2 - Letter to Bureau of Reclamation
- Attachment 3 - CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Juan M. Beltranena, Project Manager, (805) 568-2470