

**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: March 9, 2006
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: March 21, 2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: 12/7/04; 1/10/06
Document File Name: G:\group\energy\wp\policy\cref
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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dianne Meester, Assistant Director
Planning & Development

STAFF

CONTACT: Douglas K. Anthony, Interim Deputy Director
Energy Division, 568-2046

SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) – Grant Contract

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors execute the attached CREF contract (BC-06-092) with the City of Santa Barbara to restore the Arroyo Burro estuary and the confluence of Mesa Creek, in the amount of \$87,930 for the period of March 21, 2006 to April 15, 2007.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation aligns with Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In the 2005 and 2006 CREF cycles, the Board of Supervisors awarded the City of Santa Barbara \$12,930 and \$75,000, respectively, to restore the Arroyo Burro estuary and the confluence of Mesa Creek. The City of Santa Barbara matches the CREF grant with approximately \$1.5 million in secured funds to complete the five components of the restoration project. The five components include: (1) enlarging the estuary; (2) removing all non-native vegetation; (3) naturalizing the lower 300 feet of Mesa Creek, where it spills into the estuary; (4) allowing for steelhead fish passage; and (5) constructing a new trail and a pedestrian bridge over Mesa Creek, connecting Arroyo Burro Beach County Park with the Douglas Family Preserve.

The County Parks Department has collaborated with the City on this project and fully supports it. In the Department's letter of support, dated September 22, 2004, it states:

“...In addition to providing increased wildlife habitat and improvements to local water quality, the project will provide an important link from the natural preserve area to the County park.

Arroyo Burro Beach County Park has over ½ million visitors each year. The trail and interpretative signage proposed will increase the visitor’s awareness to the unique habitat value of the area expanding the interpretative signage program further within Arroyo Burro Beach Park.”

Mandates and Service Levels:

Mitigation of impacts to coastal resources from offshore oil and gas development is required as a condition of permits on five projects. Mitigation is provided through the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. There are no changes in service level as a result of this agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No fiscal impacts. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund is funded by mitigation fees paid by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Fees to fund this grant were received in FY 04-05 and FY 05-06 and are included in the Energy Division Cost Center on page D-304 in the Planning & Development Department’s section of the County’s Budget F05/06 “Source of Funds Summary – Use of Prior Fund Balances.” Staff costs to prepare this agreement have been offset by interest accrued to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. The \$12,930 and \$75,000 for the City of Santa Barbara’s Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project is expended from Fund #0063, Department #053, Program #5090, Account #7863, and Projects #0506 and #0603, respectively. The CREF program is part of the mitigation program, budgeted under “Use of Funds Summary – Mitigation Programs,” within the Energy Division’s FY 05-06 budget.

Beneficial Impacts to County Facilities. County Parks views the proposed improvements and extension of the trail to link the Arroyo Burro County Beach with the Douglas Family Preserve as beneficial to those members of the public that currently enjoy the park. The extension parking lot at Arroyo Burro is available to users of both the park and preserve, as recorded in the grant deed when the County acquired the extended parking lot property). The environmental review of the Arroyo Burro restoration project determined that the project would generate a need for parking during construction and would not generate a need for parking after construction, with the exception of one space reserved for a maintenance vehicle. This was considered less than a significant impact.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the agreement to Kathy McNeal Pfeifer of the Planning and Development Department, Energy Division, who will mail a copy of the agreement to the City of Santa Barbara and request the Auditor Controller to pay the award.

Subject: CREF Agreement
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Concurrence:

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Risk Manager

Prepared by: Kathy McNeal Pfeifer

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