



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: Community Services
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: March 12, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Jill Van Wie, Program & Project Business Leader (805) 568-2470
SUBJECT: Grant Application to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) for the Goleta Beach Nourishment and Restoration Project; Second Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the attached Resolution for authorizations by and designations of the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, as part of the DBW application for the Goleta Beach Nourishment and Restoration Project (Attachment A);
- b) Determine that the above recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Parks Division seeks up to \$5 million in grant funding from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) for the Goleta Beach Nourishment and Restoration Project. There is a 15% grant match requirement and County Parks is currently verifying in-kind and project funding sources as well as working with interested coastal organizations (e.g., Coastal Conservancy) to research potential non-Federal grants (e.g., Proposition 84 grants for coastal protection) to meet this match requirement. The amount of the grant award would be dependent upon the amount of project, in-kind services and non-Federal grant funding available, as well as the available amount of beach-compatible sediment sources prior to the potential grant award in 2020. Goleta Beach has experienced severe storm erosion over the past five

years, and additional storm erosion is expected in the upcoming years. Submission of the DBW grant application would seek funding under the DBW Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration Grant Fund to utilize clean sediment to restore Goleta Beach in order to enhance public beach access, restore ecological function and protect public infrastructure.

Background:

Goleta Beach Park is a 29-acre park that accommodates over 1.5 million visitors annually. The Park's recreation amenities include a 1,500-foot long fishing and pedestrian pier, safe swimming, surf fishing, boat launch and storage, a segment of the California Coastal Trail, picnic/BBQ facilities with lawn and shade trees, visitor-serving food service, nature observation, marine research and education, and full access for persons with disabilities (sand accessibility, parking, picnic and play areas). Furthermore, its location is less than a mile from Old Town Goleta and Isla Vista, two dense urban areas with a high proportion of low-income residents that use the Park regularly, and implements the Coastal Act provision to provide "maximum access for all people" to coastal recreational opportunities. (Public Resources Code, § 30210).

The recent severe seven year-long drought has eliminated sediment and sand flow to the coast from area streams along the South Coast resulting in region-wide beach erosion. When combined with major beach erosion from recent severe storm seasons, this cut off supply of sand has led to severe erosion at Goleta Beach and other area beaches. In particular, the absence of sediment run-off into the Goleta Slough has deprived Goleta Beach and beaches downcoast of a major source of sand supply. Due to this, Santa Barbara County Flood Control has been unable to properly nourish the beach by depositing the sediment run-off from the slough.

Santa Barbara County Parks Division seeks up to \$5 million in funding through this Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration grant opportunity to:

- Facilitate and enable transfer of substantial quantities of beach-compatible sediment that has been blocked from entering the littoral cell by debris basins and/or the Santa Barbara Harbor;
- Utilize potential beach-compatible sediment from available fill removal from major local construction projects, e.g., the Rincon Bikeway; and
- Restore a wide sand beach at Goleta Beach, the County's most heavily used park.

Beach nourishment activities would be dependent upon the available amount and source of beach-compatible sediment at the time of grant implementation, if awarded. The beach nourishment activities would require permits from the Coastal Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; the cost for obtaining any necessary permits would be covered by the grant. An existing environmental compliance document is in place for beach nourishment activities at Goleta Beach through County Flood Control's current sediment deposit program. While it is too speculative at this point to determine if there will be any new significant environmental effects or any increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects, the existing environmental document might need to be amended depending on what the grant, if awarded, funds.

The DBW Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration Grants will be awarded in Summer of 2020, with a short list of potential grant awards being publicized in January 2020. While the proposed Program is currently in the conceptualization phase, County Parks will work with the public and stakeholders during the planning phase of the Program prior to its implementation.

If the grant is awarded, County Parks would transport beach quality sand via truck from local debris basins, major construction fill removal, and/or Santa Barbara Harbor to Goleta Beach. Sediment would be inspected and tested per strict regulatory agency requirements (e.g., Regional Water Quality Control Board), and once compatible with the sand at Goleta Beach, would be deposited on the beach. The benefits of the grant award include:

- Restoration and nourishment of Goleta Beach through placement of clean, beach-compatible sand to improve public beach access and coastal recreational opportunities at Goleta Beach;
- Protection of the Park from future damage;
- Restoration of sandy beach area to improve habitat and environmental resource resiliency;
- Reduction of shoreline erosion at Goleta Beach caused by powerful coastal storms and protection of shoreline access and infrastructure from wave run-up and coastal flooding;
- Reduction of sea level rise impacts on infrastructure and recreational facilities along the shoreline;
- Increased amount of sediment contribution to the littoral cell for the benefit of downstream beaches; and
- Facilitation of beach quality sand for nourishment and restoration, contributed collectively by County Flood Control via clearing of local debris basins.

The DBW grant application for the Goleta Beach Nourishment and Restoration Project was submitted by the grant application deadline of February 1, 2019. The accompanying Resolution for the grant application is required to be submitted to the DBW no later than April 1, 2019. If the Board chooses not to adopt the Resolution, County Parks will rescind the grant application.

Risk:

Not applying for or receiving a grant is a lost opportunity for funding for needed beach nourishment after recent drought and erosive storm conditions affecting sand supply at Goleta Beach.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is a 15% match requirement (up to \$750,000) for the DBW Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration Grant Funding. County Parks is currently tracking available project and in-kind funding sources and working with local organizations to seek potential grants to meet this match requirement. Depending on the available matching funds and/or anticipated in-kind services prior to the potential grant award, the County may choose to accept less than \$5 million to reduce the match requirement.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration Grant Application Resolution

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute the Resolution and Minute Order to Jill Van Wie, Community Services Department, Parks Division.