

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number: 8/5/04
Prepared on: 8/5/04
Department Name: 4th Supervisorial District
Department No.: 011
Agenda Date: 8/17/04
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 45 mins.
Continued Item: YES
If Yes, date from: 7/6/04

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joni Gray
Supervisor, 4th District

**STAFF
CONTACT:**

SUBJECT: Allocation of Mitigation Funds - Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF)

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Not take action on the recommendations of the Planning & Development Department on the August 17, 2004 agenda.
- B. Direct staff to analyze unfunded County capital needs which would meet the letter and spirit of the Act and return to the Board with an alternate analysis of how the funding could be used to begin to meet these needs now and in the future.
- C. Identify unclaimed funds to determine if it is appropriate to re-allocate these monies.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, and with Goal No. 5.A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

As indicated in the Planning & Development Department's item on this agenda, the CREF process was conceived back in the 1980's and has remained essentially the same since then. In the meantime major structural financial changes have been imposed by the State of California including ERAF I and a number of other financial reductions and shifts. For this reason, I believe that it would be important for the Board to review the process in terms of how the funds available could be used to meet basic County needs which are related to the mitigation purposes contained in the Act.

For example, the Parks Department capital budget contains millions of dollars of unfunded projects located on the coast. Likewise Project Clean Water and the National Pollution Discharge Act which is an unfunded mandate may be a candidate for eligibility.

Under the current procedures departments may randomly request funds in the competitive environment, however, I would appreciate it if the staff could take a comprehensive look at this and then have the Board determine how it wishes to proceed with this year's cycle.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in program or service level.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no direct fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of these recommendations.