



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: December 9, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director
Contact: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Transportation
SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funding under the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Habitat Enhancement Project; Fifth 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 to execute a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director, or designee, to submit an application and supporting documents with the State of California to carry out the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Habitat Enhancement Project through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, with an anticipated award of \$160,000;
- b) Authorize the Public Works Director, or designee, (i) to execute an agreement in similar form to Attachment C upon review and approval of County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller, or their designees, when the anticipated funding is awarded for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant, and (ii) to execute any additional documents required to obtain the award; and
- c) Determine the above actions are not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) because these actions consist of governmental funding mechanisms and/or organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to adopt a resolution to apply for and enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Habitat Enhancement Project (project) through the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP). The proposed project provides additional mitigation for environmental impacts resulting from the construction of emergency road repairs to West Main Street in the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park, which were undertaken in response to damage from the 2023 storm disaster. The project proposes to

enhance five-acres of dune habitat at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park, which supports sensitive species and California rare plants. Key project deliverables include planting 500 California-native and rare dune species, removing approximately five-acres of invasive species, and establishing post-project monitoring of plant survival and dune stability. The Project will also install up to 300 feet of sand fencing to protect newly planted vegetation from wind erosion and sand burial.

Discussion:

The EEMP was created by California Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, which authorizes the legislature to allocate up to \$7 million annually to the EEMP Fund. Local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit entities may apply for and may receive grants, not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for any single grant, to undertake environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to the environmental impacts of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities. Grants for individual projects are generally limited to \$750,000 each.

Adoption of the attached Resolution is required as part of the application process for grant funding for the project under the EEMP. The Resolution authorizes the Public Works Director, or designee, to apply for and execute a grant award agreement with the State of California to implement the project through the EEMP.

Background:

The project proposes additional mitigation for the environmental impacts caused to repair and replace damaged road sections along the existing West Main Street from the 2023 storm disaster. There were three emergency road repair sites that were necessary to restore access to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park. Emergency repairs resulted in approximately 0.48 acres of temporary and 0.25 acres of permanent impacts to dune habitat. The Habitat Mitigation and Enhancement Plan was adopted to address mitigation measures required permit. The project will provide additional habitat restoration and enhancement efforts beyond mitigation requirements to further restore habitat functionality and resilience.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: If the grant is awarded, Transportation would add the budget amount of \$100,000 to the Recommended budget for FY 2026-2027.

Fiscal Analysis:

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Grant Program will reimburse 100% of the mitigation costs up to \$160,000. Local match is not required for this grant. Total amounts by funding source are listed in the table below. If the grant is awarded, the funds for this project will be budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund FD-0017, Program PG-0542830, Initiative IN-054261, Spend Category SC-7510.

Funding Source	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029	Total
State – EEM Grant	100,000	30,000	30,000	160,000
Total	100,000	30,000	30,000	160,000

Special Instructions:

Please email the following items to Kalani Durham in the Public Works Department - Transportation Kdurham@countyofsb.org:

- 1) Minute Order; and
- 2) Executed Resolution.

One original executed Resolution to be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funds for the EEMP

Attachment B – Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, 2025 Grant Guidelines

Attachment C – Example Grant Award Agreement

Contact Information:

Kalani Durham, Engineering Environmental Planner/Coordinator, Kdurham@countyofsb.org