

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: February 7, 2002
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: February 19, 2002
Placement: Administrative
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If Yes, date from:
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\98\contract\La Paloma.bos.doc

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Patton, Director
Planning & Development

STAFF CONTACT: Doug Anthony, Energy Specialist
Energy Division, 568-2046

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

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors execute the attached CREF contract (BC02-131) with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to cover legal and administrative costs for acquiring an easement on La Paloma Ranch to conserve agriculture and natural resources.

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 February of 1998, the Board of Supervisors awarded the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County a challenge grant of \$25,000 from the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) to help acquire easements for conserving natural resources along the Gaviota Coast. In so doing, the Board reserved the opportunity to give final approval of any specific easement, including its terms and provisions, when the grant agreement is executed. The Land Trust used \$15,000 of this grant to help acquire an easement on the 660-acre Freedman Ranch.

Recently, the Land Trust has requested payment of the remaining \$10,000 CREF grant awarded in 1998 to fund pre-acquisitional costs for an easement on the 745-acre La Paloma Ranch plus a 6-acre coastal parcel in proximity to the Ranch. Specific pre-acquisitional costs stem from the following tasks:

- Title search and appraisal

- Negotiations with landowners to purchase the easement with terms and provisions agreeable to the County of Santa Barbara
- Evaluation of agricultural, residential, and natural resources of the properties to identify and document important conservational values
- Preparation of a draft easement with language acceptable to grantors, landowners, and the Land Trust
- Preparation and review of title and escrow documents
- Project management

The Land Trust plans to use a Coastal Conservancy grant, two CREF grants from other funding cycles and two AB-1431 grants previously awarded to the County to help acquire this easement. The Board of Supervisors will have the opportunity to review specifics of the proposed easement when it considers execution of a contract that would authorize payment of the AB-1431 and CREF grants for this easement. The attached agreement allows the Land Trust to finalize a draft easement for the Board's consideration. Such pre-acquisitional costs are typically considered to be eligible uses of CREF's acquisitional fund.

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 contract.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No fiscal and facilities impacts. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund is funded by mitigation fees paid by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Staff costs to prepare this agreement have been offset by interest accrued to the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. The \$10,000 for the pre-acquisitional costs for La Paloma Ranch is expended from Fund #0063, Department #053, Program #5090, Account #7863, Project #9807.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the agreement to Doug Anthony of the Energy Division, who will mail a copy of the contract to the grantee and request the Auditor Controller to pay the award.

Concurrence: County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager.

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Attachment A

CREF Grant Agreement

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