



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: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: April 7, 2026
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): Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
Contact Info: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division
SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund Grant Contract – Grant Contract with University of California Santa Barbara, Second District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund Contract with University of California Santa Barbara, in the amount of \$50,000, to remove 4-acres of ice plant-dominated habitat and approximately 1-acre of asphalt on the top of the campus point mesa, restore the area to native coastal bluff and dune habitats, and install two interpretive signs, in the Second District (Attachment A);
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Planning and Development, or their designee, to take the following actions for the attached CRMF contract, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time:
 - i. Extend performances in accordance with Section 3 in Attachment A, for up to one (1) year for good cause;
 - ii. Approve minor project changes in accordance with Section 5 in Attachment A, including any change to the project description, any reduction in the overall project budget, or change in budget items of 10% or more; and
 - iii. Terminate the contract in accordance with Sections 4 and 14 in Attachment A; and
- c) Determine that allocation of the University of California Santa Barbara CRMF contract is not a "Project" subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the State Guidelines as the actions consist of the

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 physical impact on the environment

Summary Text:

This Board item recommends the Board execute a Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) contract with University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) to fund a coastal project that mitigates the environmental impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. As stated in the CRMF guidelines as outlined from 2022, the County Board of Supervisors determine how CRMF monies are awarded and, therefore, all contracts allocating CRMF grants require Board approval. The grant was awarded to the recipient by the Board on February 4, 2025, and this Board Letter requests authorization to execute the agreement with the recipient and distribute the grant funds.

Discussion:

Attachment A includes a contract with UCSB, providing a \$50,000 CRMF grant towards UCSB’s effort to remove non-native habitat and concrete, and restore the bluff top at Campus Point Mesa. UCSB will remove the asphalt and ice plant-habitat, regrade the site to create a natural swale, revegetate the area with native species, and install interpretive signs for public information. Restoration will be completed in early 2027. Signs will be installed by May 2027. The contract includes provisions that delegate the Director of Planning & Development, or their designee, authority to manage minor administrative tasks related to this contract (outlined above in Recommended Action b).

Background:

At the February 4, 2025, Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board awarded seven project grants from the combined 2024-2025 CRMF cycle and directed staff to return to the Board with the contractual agreements for execution. The contract in Attachment A executes the 2024-2025 CRMF awards for the UCSB project described above.

The County established CRMF to mitigate the environmental impacts of offshore oil and gas development and transportation projects. Mitigation is provided through CRMF for impacts to four categories of coastal resources: recreation, tourism, aesthetics, and environmentally sensitive resources. The County must ensure that CRMF fees are used to mitigate those impacts, according to conditions of approval on projects and the CRMF Guidelines.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Grantee	Funding Source	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Expenditure
UCSB	CRMF	\$50,000	\$50,000

Budgeted: Yes

The UCSB CRMF contract, included as Attachment A, does not involve County property or ongoing costs. CRMF creates no fiscal impact on the County General Fund budget. CRMF is funded by mitigation fees paid annually by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Funding for CRMF is budgeted in the Planning & Development Department’s Coastal Mitigation Budget Program on page D-319 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Budget and is fully supported by CRMF monies including staff time for administration of these grants.

Administration of this fund includes preparation of the annual status report; solicitation and evaluation of grant proposals and recommendation of grant awards to the Board of Supervisors; preparation, monitoring, and enforcement of grant contracts; preparation and monitoring of the fund’s budget; and reassessment of CRMF fees.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2024-2025 Appropriation	FY 2025-2026 Expenditure	Total
CRMF Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Key Contract Risks:

Risk analysis of the contract in Attachment A determined the contract would be a low risk: the contract amount is less than \$100,000; the complexities of the contract requirements are low; and the contract is not controversial.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the executed contract (including exhibits) to Katie Nall of the Planning and Development Department, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division, who will mail copies of the contracts to the grantees and request the Auditor Controller to pay the contract awards.

Attachments:

Attachment A – UCSB Campus Point Coastal Mesa Restoration Contract

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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Planning and Development Department