



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: Parks Department
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: July 15, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department *Eric Axelsson for*
Daniel C. Hernandez, Director (568-2461)
Director(s) Parks Department
Contact Info: Jeff Stone, Assistant Director (9346145)
North County Deputy Director

SUBJECT: "Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program" grant for Point Sal Reserve; Fourth Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form:

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Parks Director to sign on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara an application for a Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program ("CELCP") grant administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") to assist in the purchase of real property in the Point Sal Reserve area.

Summary Text:

To carry out the funding for an acquisition of real property in the Point Sal Reserve area, the application for the Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program grant could assist with available federal funds to be used to acquire real property. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo would coordinate this application process and work with the State Coastal Conservancy on the approval process of this grant. The State Coastal Conservancy acts as a liaison to NOAA, and is able to recommend three projects to NOAA for each funding cycle; they have specifically invited this application. If awarded, the grant would require the County to accept real property if a purchase and sale transaction is also successful. The additional real property acquired would provide a larger contiguous block of land within the Point Sal Management Reserve Plan for conservation of open space and coastal dunes habitat and to be managed along with the County's other Point Sal and Dunes holdings.

Background:

The passage of the "California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Conservation Act of 1988" (Proposition 70) designated funds to both the State Coastal Conservancy and the County of Santa Barbara to acquire significant natural lands, and presented an opportunity to preserve, protect and manage the unique resources between Point Sal and Mussel Point. In November 1989, the Board of Supervisors appointed the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County to pursue acquisition of properties in the Point Sal area using County Proposition 70 and Coastal Resource Enhancement funds. As a first step, the Land Trust prepared the Point Sal Reserve Management Plan (completed in March 1991) using State Coastal Conservancy grant funds. The plan was prepared under the guidance of a steering committee that included government agencies and conservation groups, which have expressed a commitment to coordinate their respective conservation efforts for Point Sal. The plan designates an approximately 800-acre Point Sal Reserve Management Area that includes relatively small parcels owned by the Federal Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Parks and Recreation and five privately-owned parcels, including the Paradise Beach parcel. The plan notes that some of the current recreational and agricultural practices are detrimental to the area's environmental integrity. The plan seeks to manage the area to protect the region's biological, ecological, cultural, scenic, and open space values while maximizing educational and recreational opportunities. Consistent with the plan, the County has since acquired three privately-owned parcels for an approximate total of 560 acres.

The CELCP grant application, if endorsed by the State Coastal Conservancy, would be forwarded to NOAA for their consideration and final approval. The County would be required to accept the property. The submittal of the grant to the State Coastal Conservancy is no later than July 23, 2008. No other Board action is required to submit this grant application, such as adopting a Resolution or matching funds.

The County would coordinate the acquisition of real property with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo. Since the terms of the grant stipulate that real property interest be held by a public entity, they have determined that the County would be the best long-range steward of this land and comply with the condition of the grant that the real property be held by a local public agency.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No **Special Instructions:**

After Board action, distribute as follows:

1. Minute Order; send to Parks Department, Attn: Dan Hernandez
2. Copy of the Minute Order; send to Office of Real Estate Services, Attn: Ronn Carlentine

Authored by:

Ronn Carlentine, Office of Real Estate Services