



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: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: December 13, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Jill Van Wie, Program & Project Business Leader (805) 568-2470
SUBJECT: **Project Funding Agreements with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs and the Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvement Projects; Second Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, to execute and submit the Project Funding Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in the amount of \$49,900 as part of the grant award for the Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs Project (Attachment A) upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager;
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, to execute and submit a Project Funding Agreement with NFWF in the amount of \$439,600, similar in form to Attachment A, as part of the grant award for the Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvement Project upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not the approval of projects that are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures,

facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing use, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment B).

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division (CSD) was awarded a total of \$489,500 in funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement – South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program for two (2) coastal projects:

- Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs
The grant award of \$49,900 will provide for installation of up to nine (9) small interpretive panels at the three boardwalk viewpoints with three general themes of watershed, estuary and ocean ecosystems and wildlife. The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2023.
- Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvements
The grant award of \$439,600 will provide funding towards renovation of the existing beach park for improved access for coastal sediment/beach nourishment deposition, reduction in water usage by replacing the existing irrigation system and decreasing the lawn area to allow for natural walking/exercise paths throughout the park area, and installation of non-invasive carbon-sequestration plantings. The project complements planned irrigation system repairs, and is anticipated to be completed by December 2023.

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division was awarded over 95% of the overall available NFWF grant program funding. The grant awards will allow for coastal recreation and educational improvements for areas impacted by the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill.

Background:

As a result of the 2015 Refugio Beach oil spill, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), together with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Lands Commission, and Regents of the University of California (collectively the “State Trustees”), established the Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement – South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program with funds it received on behalf of the State Trustees from settling defendants pursuant to a consent decree in the matter of the United States of America and People of the State of California ex rel. California Department of Fish and Wildlife et al. v Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. et al. These funds are being used to fund recreationally-based shoreline projects to benefit public access to, and use and enjoyment of, natural and cultural resources downcoast of El Capitan State Beach in Santa Barbara County. Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division was awarded a total of \$489,500 of the available \$514,500 in funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement – South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program for two projects: The Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs in the amount of \$49,900, and the Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvements in the amount of \$439,600.

Arroyo Burro Beach Park in Santa Barbara is a 13-acre dog-friendly public beach park with over 1.3 million annual visitors. The park is an extremely popular recreational beach park that offers free parking, has a designated bus stop and provides the public with many amenities, including a fully functioning restaurant, a recreational park area, dog wash, a Watershed Resource Center, walking trails

that lead into the adjacent Douglas Preserve, generous coastal access, and a boardwalk along the Arroyo Burro Estuary. The Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs project will install interpretive signs highlighting the local coastal flora, fauna, watershed and coastal processes at three estuary and coastal overlook locations along the boardwalk. The interpretive panels will provide a unique opportunity to educate and enhance visitors recreational experience, and inspire visitors to respect the natural landscape, reduce their environmental footprint and implement sustainable operations in their community. This \$49,900 project is anticipated to be completed by June 2023.

Goleta Beach Park is a 29-acre heavily used public park with 2,800 feet of developed shoreline, over 500 no cost parking spaces, and approximately 1.5 million annual visitors, many of whom are from low income communities. The park's recreation amenities include a 1,500-foot long fishing and pedestrian pier, boat launch and storage, a full-service restaurant, swimming, surf fishing, nature observation lookouts, a segment of the California Coastal Trail, picnic/BBQ facilities with lawn and shade trees. Santa Barbara County recently completed a \$6 million structural bridge replacement for direct access to Goleta Beach Park. Southern California Gas is currently removing an abandoned regional serving gas line that runs through Goleta Beach Park; their project is scheduled for completion in December 2022. Once complete, CSD will commence downsizing and upgrading the irrigation system with a water smart system to accommodate an additional beach sediment deposition access point, a reduced lawn area and installation of non-invasive carbon-sequestration plantings. The Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvements project helps renovate the coastal park area and will also allow for an expansion of coastal recreation elements by installing a natural surface walking path potentially lined with interpretive and/or recreational signs throughout the park area. This \$439,600 project is anticipated to be completed by December 2023.

Risk:

Not accepting a grant is a lost funding opportunity for facility improvements at Arroyo Burro Beach Park and Goleta Beach Park.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The \$489,500 grant funds will be appropriated to their respective projects through a Budget Revision once the grant funding agreements are finalized and executed by NFWF.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Project Funding Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs Project
- Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption, Arroyo Burro Beach Park Interpretive Signs and Goleta Beach Park Coastal Access Improvements

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute the Minute Order to Jill Van Wie, Community Services Department, Parks Division.