



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: September 23, 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): Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
Contact Info: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division
SUBJECT: Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) Grant Contract – Grant Contract with Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, First Supervisorial District, and City of Santa Barbara, First and Second Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

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 Resources Mitigation Fund contract with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for the Shalawa/Hammond's Meadow Restoration project in the amount of \$25,000 for the period of September 23, 2025 through December 31, 2026 (Attachment A);
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Coastal Resources Mitigation Fund contract with the City of Santa Barbara for the Bicycle Parking in Santa Barbara project in the amount of \$56,880 for the period of September 23, 2025 through April 15, 2026 (Attachment B);
- c) Delegate the Director of Planning and Development, or their designee, the authority to take the following actions, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time:
 - i. Extend performances in accordance with Section 3 in Attachments A and B, for up to one year for good cause;
 - ii. Approve minor project changes in accordance with Section 5 in Attachments A and B, including changes to project descriptions, reduction in the overall project budgets or change in budget items of 10 percent or more; and

- iii. Terminate the contracts in accordance with Sections 4 and 14 in Attachment A and B.
- d) Determine that allocation of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and City of Santa Barbara contracts are not a “project” subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4).

Summary Text:

This Board item recommends the Board execute two Coastal Resource Mitigation Fund (CRMF) contracts with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and City of Santa Barbara to fund projects that mitigate the environmental impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. As stated in the CRMF guidelines, the County Board of Supervisors determine how CRMF monies are awarded and, therefore, all contracts allocating CRMF grants require Board approval. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was awarded \$25,000 from the 2022-2023 CRMF Cycle by the Board on August 29, 2023, and the City of Santa Barbara was awarded \$56,880 from the 2024-2025 CRMF Cycle by the Board on February 4, 2025. This Board Letter requests authorization to execute agreements with the recipients and distribute the grant funds.

Discussion:

Attachment A contains the proposed contract with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, providing a \$25,000 grant for the Shalawa/Hammonds Meadows Restoration project to support the organization’s efforts to restore a 3.82-acre coastal meadow overlooking Hammonds Beach in Montecito, and to protect an onsite archeological site. The Shalawa/Hammonds project would help protect the site and provide stabilization and reseeding of grasses and native groundcover similar to what would have existed on the site prior to degradation by invasive species and human activities. Attachment B contains a contract with the City of Santa Barbara providing a \$56,880 CRMF grant to install 83 public bicycle parking racks within the City’s coastal public right-of-way. The bike racks will be installed by April 2026. Attachments A and B include provisions that delegate the Director of Planning & Development or their designee authority to manage minor administrative tasks related to these contracts (outlined in Recommended Action c).

The approval and authorization of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden contract is not a “project” subject to environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the funding is a government fiscal activity that will have no potentially significant impacts on the environment as previously analyzed in the Addendum dated April 9, 2019, to EIR Case No. 83-EIR-16. The approval and authorization of the City of Santa Barbara contract is not a “project” subject to environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the action consists of administrative and fiscal activities of government that will not result in potentially significant impacts on the environment.

Background:

The County established the CRMF in 1987 to address and help mitigate environmental impacts from offshore oil and gas development projects on coastal resources. The CRMF provides mitigation for impacts to specific coastal resources including: recreation, tourism, aesthetics, and environmentally-sensitive resources. As part of the CRMF program, offshore oil and gas owner/operators pay annual fees into the fund, and applicants can apply for grants every two years to receive funding for projects that protect or enhance certain coastal resources within the County. Applicants eligible to compete for CRMF awards include public agencies, municipalities, special districts, and non-profit

organizations. The CRMF is managed by the County Executive's Office and the Planning and Development Department's Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division.

At the August 29, 2023 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board awarded ten project grants from the combined 2022-2023 CRMF cycle and directed staff to return to the Board with the contractual agreements for execution. The contract in Attachment A executes the 2022-2023 CRMF award for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden project described above. 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 B executes the 2024-2025 CRMF award for the City of Santa Barbara project described above. This Board Agenda Letter outlines the allocations for the two contracts.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Grantee	Funding Source	FY 2025-2026
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden	CRMF 2022-2023 cycle	\$25,000
City of Santa Barbara	CRMF 2024-2025 cycle	\$56,880

Total: \$81,880

Budgeted: Yes

A total of \$25,000 will be used from the approved CRMF 2022-2023 award cycle and \$56,880 will be used from the approved CRMF 2024-2025 award cycle. Funding for the CRMF is budgeted on page D-319 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget, and is fully supported by funds in the existing CRMF program. The contracts with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the City of Santa Barbara would not require ongoing County costs. The CRMF program is funded entirely by mitigation fees paid annually by the Point Arguello, the Santa Ynez Unit, and the Point Pedernales Projects, and creates no fiscal impact on the County's General Fund, or any State, Federal, or other fees.

Administration of the 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; reassessment of CRMF fees; and responding to public and applicant inquiries. All administrative tasks are completed by staff and funded fully by the CRMF fund balance.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-2026	Total
CRMF Fund	\$81,880	\$81,880
Total	\$81,880	\$81,880

Key Contract Risks:

Risk analyses of the contracts in Attachments A and B determined that the contracts would be a low risk: the contracts amounts are \$100,000 or less; the complexities of the contract requirements are low; and the contracts are not controversial.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward copies of the executed contracts (including Exhibits A and B of the contracts) 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 – Contract with Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Attachment B – Contract with City of Santa Barbara

Attachment C – Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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Planning and Development Department