

**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: 12/27/04
Department Name: Parks
Department No.: 052
Agenda Date: 1/18/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Terri Maus-Nisich
Parks Director

STAFF CONTACT: Mike Gibson
Business Manager

SUBJECT: Allocation of \$35,000 from the South Coast East Quimby Fee Trust Fund for Preparation of CEQA/NEPA Studies and Surveys for the Proposed Franklin Trail in the Carpinteria Area; First Supervisorial District

Recommendation:

That the Board of Supervisors approve the attached budget revision to appropriate \$35,000 from the South Coast East Quimby Fee Trust Fund (#1399) for the preparation of required CEQA/NEPA studies and surveys for the proposed Franklin Trail in the Carpinteria area.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5 – A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

After lengthy negotiations with the affected property owners, the Parks Department is ready to move forward with a process that will lead to eventual construction of the Franklin Trail in the hills north of Carpinteria. The final segment of public easement has been acquired and the Rancho Monte Alegre property owners have agreed to forego a requirement for fencing of the trail corridor through their property. These were two significant hurdles to clear before the permit process could begin.

The environmental review for the trail alignment requires both California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation to be performed, as this trail traverses from County jurisdiction into the Los Padres National Forest (U.S. Forest Service). Studies and surveys required for the preparation of the environmental documents include as assessment of biological resources as well as a phase one archeological assessment within the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) area.

These studies and surveys need to be completed by qualified consultants. The USFS does not have funding available for the environmental review work, so the County has agreed to perform the work. It is anticipated that a negative declaration will be the required environmental documentation.

The Parks Department previously applied for a Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund (CREF) grant to fund the environmental review of the trail realignment, but was not successful in obtaining this funding. The environmental documentation needs to be completed at this time, since the application for any available State or federal grant funding requires that the environmental analysis be completed first.

Funds for construction of the trail have not yet been identified, though opportunities exist for possible grant funding for trail construction. Once the environmental review work has been completed, staff will pursue available grant opportunities, Quimby and development mitigation fee funding, and other possible funding sources.

It is recommended that the funds for the CEQA/NEPA environmental review work (\$35,000) be allocated from the South Coast East Quimby Fee Trust Fund (#1399). The Park Commission approved the allocation of these funds at its December 16, 2004 meeting.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no mandates or changes in service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding for the \$35,000 requested for the CEQA/NEPA environmental studies is available in the South Coast East Quimby Fee Trust Fund (#1399). Use of this Trust Fund is restricted to development of park or recreational facilities within the South Coast East Quimby Demand Area. The current balance in the South Coast East Quimby Fee Trust Fund is \$73,288. Approval of this funding request would reduce this Trust Fund balance to \$38,288.

Although funding has not yet been identified for trail construction, once the environmental work has been completed, staff will pursue grants and other funding opportunities for this project.

There is no impact to facilities that will result in additional staffing or other ongoing costs for the Parks Department.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the minute order to the Parks Department/Administration, Attn: Mike Gibson.

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller

