

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 10/22/02  
**Department Name:** Planning & Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** November 12, 2002  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Document File Name:** F:\GROUP\COMP\Co-wide  
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Program\2002\BoS  
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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Dianne Meester, Interim Director  
Planning & Development

**STAFF CONTACT:** George Amoon, Planner III (x2027)

**SUBJECT:** Grant application to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for the Isla Vista Blufftop Parcels Acquisition Project

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt resolution approving submittal of a grant application to the State Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program for the Isla Vista Blufftop Parcels Acquisition Project (3rd Supervisorial District).

**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:**

In August 2002, the State Resources Agency issued a request for proposals for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) 2003-04 grant cycle. A grant applicant may receive up to \$250,000 to provide environmental impact mitigation over and beyond what is required from CEQA as a result of modified or new public transportation facilities. Projects for the acquisition of natural areas, wetlands and parks are eligible for funding from this program. Matching funds are not required but other

funding does increase competitiveness. Applicants may request funding from EEMP for the same project more than once.

Project Description:

The Isla Vista Blufftop Parcels Acquisition Project involves acquiring seven vacant parcels from willing sellers along the oceanside of Del Playa Drive -- five parcels exist contiguously in the 6700 block (Yankwich/Adams parcels) and two exist contiguously in the 6800 block (Chase parcels). Both groups of parcels are the last remaining privately owned vacant parcels along the blufftop of Del Playa. If these seven parcels totaling one acre are acquired, two large continuous open space areas totaling three acres would be formed since both groups of parcels directly connect to groups of other publicly-owned parcels owned by the Isla Vista RDA or Isla Vista Recreation and Park District.

Grant funding is actively being sought to acquire the seven parcels. Appraisals for the parcels are currently being updated but it is anticipated that the total cost for all seven is between \$2.0 - \$2.5 million. Thus far, a \$250,000 grant from EEMP (2002/03 cycle) and a \$57,500 grant from the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund have been secured. Other large grant applications are pending.

Planning & Development (P&D) requests Board approval to apply for a \$250,000 grant from the EEMP program to acquire one of the two parcels on the 6800 block (see attached map). If the EEMP grant is awarded, other funds that would be used toward the acquisition would likely include \$7,500 from the secured CREF grant, \$67,060 from the P&D mitigation trust fund principal (Fund #1392), and \$25,440 of interest accrued from the mitigation trust fund. Based on recent sales of blufftop parcels in Isla Vista, acquisition of the parcel is estimated to cost between \$300,000 - \$400,000.

<b>Proposed Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
P&D Mitigation Trust Fund Principal	\$67,060
P&D Mitigation Trust Fund Interest	\$25,440
CREF grant (secured)	\$7,500
EEMP Grant Request	<u>\$250,000</u>
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

The \$67,060 of the principal is intended to be used to offset wetland impacts. The targeted parcel contains delineated wetlands and therefore is a suitable use. The interest from the mitigation fund can be used for any resource management project and requires Board approval for use. The Board of Supervisors approved use of \$25,440 in interest from the mitigation fund as a matching fund source at the September 24, 2002 hearing for another grant application for the same project. P&D will continue to seek other sources of matching funds to preserve the mitigation trust funds to the extent possible. The EEMP grant proposal is currently being prepared.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The acquisition project is consistent with adopted Goleta Community Plan Parks, Recreation, and Trails policies.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If the EEMP grant is awarded, a \$7,500 from the secured CREF grant, \$67,060 from the P&D mitigation fund principal (Fund #1392), and \$25,440 from the mitigation fund interest would be used to provide the estimated funds towards the acquisition. The \$67,060 of the principal is intended to be used to offset wetland impacts. The interest from the mitigation fund can be used for any resource management project and requires Board approval for use. The Board of Supervisors approved use of \$25,440 in interest from the mitigation fund as a matching fund source at the September 24, 2002 hearing for another grant for the same project.

Appropriate budget transfers would be prepared and submitted if awarded the grant. Once acquired, the County proposes to transfer ownership of the property to the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District which has agreed to maintain the parcels in perpetuity. If approved implementation of this grant will result in increasing Mitigation and Resource Management cost center displayed on page D-262 of FY 2002-03 budget from \$535,775 to \$785,775 and correspondingly the Grant revenue located on the same page will be increased from \$573,680 to \$823,680, if the entire grant is budgeted in FY 02-03.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the signed resolution to George Amoon of Planning and Development for transmittal to the State.

**Attachments:**

Parcel Map  
Resolution

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel  
General Services