



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:** July 12, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Jeff Lindgren, Parks Assistant Director (805) 568-2475  
**SUBJECT:** Letter to Trust for Public Land requesting technical assistance in exploring potential finance options for parks, trails, fire buffer, and groundwater recharge areas; All Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Direct Community Services to send a letter to the Trust for Public Land requesting technical assistance in exploring potential finance options for parks, trails, fire buffer, and groundwater recharge areas in Santa Barbara County; and
- b) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15262 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, finding that the activities involve only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to consider providing direction to the Community Services Department to send a letter to the Trust for Public Land to request technical assistance in exploring potential finance options for parks, trails, fire buffer, and groundwater recharge areas in Santa Barbara County. The request was initiated by Chair Hartmann.

**Background:**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Letter to Trust for Public Land requesting technical assistance in developing finance options for parks, trails, fire buffer, and groundwater recharge areas in Santa Barbara County.

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In addition to helping raise funds for conservation and protecting and restoring natural spaces, the TPL works with communities to plan, design, and create parks, playgrounds, public gardens, and trails.

The TPL also helps state and local governments design, pass, and implement legislation and ballot measures that create new public funds for parks and land conservation, including park financing and funding techniques beyond traditional tax allocations. TPL has helped pass 572 ballot measures with an 82 percent success rate. In addition to technical assistance with legislative and ballot measures, TPL offers technical assistance in understanding public priorities related to parks, recreation, and open space.

While the Countywide Recreation Master Plan is currently underway, preliminary feedback from public outreach on countywide recreation needs indicates there is significant public interest in expanded recreation facilities, including sports fields, trails, and playgrounds. Assistance from TPL can inform the implementation and funding sections of the Master Plan and potentially provide additional access to funding for related fire buffer and groundwater recharge projects and programs.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no cost to the County for TPL technical assistance in exploring potential finance options for parks, trails, fire buffer, and groundwater recharge.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Letter to Trust for Public Land requesting technical assistance

**Special Instructions:**

After Board action, please distribute one copy of the Minute Order to Jeff Lindgren, Community Services Department.