



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: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: February 18, 2014
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 2 hours
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: January 7, 2014
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, 568-2084
Director(s)
Contact Info: Kevin Drude, Deputy Director, Energy Division, 568-2519

SUBJECT: Board of Supervisors Hearing to Allocate Year 2014 Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Grants

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive staff's recommendations for the 2014 CREF awards and take public testimony;
- B. Continue this hearing to March 4, 2014 for final action including:
 1. Approve 2014 CREF budgeting of funds as proposed on page 9 of the attached staff report (Attachment A);
 2. Determine that the budgeting of CREF funds is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(4) of the State Guidelines (Attachment B).
 3. Direct staff to prepare the proposed contractual agreements with grantees, including final grant conditions, for Board consideration and approval, including appropriate CEQA compliance.

Summary Text:

A total of \$681,857 is available in the 2014 Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) cycle. Please refer to the attached document and its appendices that report on:

- Information on the CREF 2014 cycle,
- Evaluations of CREF proposals for this year,

- Funding recommendations for the CREF 2014 cycle, and
- Past CREF awards.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15061 (b)(3) states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. CEQA Section 15378 (b)(4) defines a “Project” as not including the creation of government funding mechanisms. Allocation of CREF awards is a proposed budget allocation, and therefore is not considered a “Project” nor is it considered to cause a significant effect on the environment. CEQA compliance will be addressed when individual CREF Grant Agreements are approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Background:

The County established CREF as a condition of permits to mitigate environmental impact of offshore oil and gas development and transportation projects. Mitigation is provided through CREF for impacts to four categories of coastal resources: recreation, tourism, aesthetics, and environmentally sensitive resources (e.g., marine mammals and birds). The County must ensure that CREF fees are used to mitigate those impacts, according to condition of approval on projects and the CREF Guidelines.

On September 3, 2013, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to commence the 2014 CREF cycle through a public solicitation, and stipulated that all the CREF funds be available for both coastal acquisitions and general allocation type projects.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund is funded by mitigation fees paid by developers of offshore oil and gas reserves. Fees to fund grants are received annually. CREF is included in the Coastal Mitigation Program of the Planning & Development Department’s FY 13/14 Budget on page D-168. Administration of CREF is budgeted at \$23,875 for FY 13/14. Administration includes solicitation and evaluation of proposals, preparation of an annual status report, and preparation and monitoring of contracts to complement CREF awards.

Potential benefits and adverse fiscal and facilities’ impacts that may result or potentially result due to awards of CREF grants are described in Attachment A, Appendix 1 under the staff evaluation of each grant proposal.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2014 CREF Staff Report
 - Appendix 1: Evaluations of Year 2014 CREF Proposals
 - Appendix 2: 1988-2013 CREF Awards by District
- Attachment B: Notice of Exemption