



**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:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**For Agenda Of:** March 7, 2017  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** General Services Department      Janette D. Pell, Director 560-1011  
Contact Info: Skip Grey, General Services Assistant Director 568-3083  
**SUBJECT:** Assignment of Conservation Easement Anderson Purisima Hills;  
Fourth Supervisorial District (APNs: 099-060-021 and 099-070-036)

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Assignment and Assumption of Conservation Easement Deed and Agreement, to transfer the Anderson Purisima Hills Conservation Easement to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, and authorize the endowment payment of SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIVE CENTS (\$78,188.05), to provide for the perpetual management and monitoring of the Conservation Easement (Fourth District); and
- b) Determine that the proposed action is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, pursuant to Section 15378 (b) (5); in that it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and that the recommended action is otherwise exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15325, Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions; and approve and authorize the Clerk to post the attached Notice of Exemption.

**Summary Text:**

This item is being brought to the Board in order to facilitate the final assignment and transfer of the Anderson Purisima Hills Conservation Easement from the County to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to satisfy the requirements set forth in the Conditional Settlement Agreement between the County and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Upon transfer, the County will be required to

fund an endowment in the amount of \$78,188.05 to provide for the continued management and monitoring of the Conservation Easement.

**Background:**

This item was last brought to your Board on December 13, 2016 to provide an update on the Timeline of Significant Events regarding the Anderson Purisima Hills Conservation Easement Project. The Board and public were apprised of the history of events and decisions related to the 2007 notification by the United States Department of the Interior that the County engaged in two alleged “takes” of California Tiger Salamander (“CTS”) and the subsequent agreement between the County and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”).

The County and USFWS entered a Conditional Settlement Agreement, whereby the County would acquire a perpetual Conservation Easement over a certain portion of land as a potential breeding pond for CTS. The property owned by Sonia Anderson, in the Lompoc area of the County, was selected for the project and is now known as the Anderson Purisima Hills Conservation Easement. The total easement area, consisting of approximately 16 acres, would eventually be transferred to a USFWS-approved third party, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, for managing the area in perpetuity for CTS habitat. Upon transfer, the County is required to provide an endowment to fund the costs associated with maintenance of the easement area in perpetuity. In return, USFWS would agree not to impose any civil or criminal penalties or seek further action against the County.

Now that the County has clear title to the Conservation Easement, County staff has been working with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, a USFWS-approved third party, regarding transfer of the Conservation Easement from the County to the Land Trust. The County will provide the endowment in the amount of \$78,188.05, and the Land Trust will maintain, manage and monitor the Conservation Easement in perpetuity.

In accordance with Government Code Section 65402, on September 8, 2010, the Planning Commission found the proposed conveyance of the Conservation Easement is consistent with the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

An endowment in the amount of \$78,188.05 will be transferred to the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County to provide for the perpetual maintenance and preservation of the Conservation Easement. The funds will be transferred from Fund 1065. There will be no facilities impacts.

**Special Instructions:**

After Board action, please provide the original Agreement to Don Grady, General Services, Real Property, and retain one copy for the Clerk of the Board files. Upon recordation, a conformed copy of the recorded Agreement will be provided to the Clerk.

**Attachments:**

1. Assignment and Assumption of Conservation Easement Deed and Agreement
2. Notice of Exemption