



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 25, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: California State Coastal Conservancy Grant Of \$27,000 For The Santa Barbara Coastal Education And Outreach Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to Enter Into a Grant Agreement Between the City and the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Santa Barbara Coastal Education and Outreach Project; and
- B. Increase estimated revenues and appropriations by \$27,000 in the Fiscal Year 2014 Parks and Recreation Department, Miscellaneous Grants Fund budget.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The City has 6.3 miles of shoreline in the coastal zone, of which 60% is in public ownership. City-managed coastal public spaces extend from Arroyo Burro beach in the west to East Beach and the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge in the east. These spaces include over five miles of beach; three coastal bluff beach access stair locations; 12 parks; a developed waterfront and working harbor; three major creeks and two estuaries; and significant recreational facilities, such as Los Baños del Mar Pool, Cabrillo Ball Field, and the Cabrillo Bathhouse and Pavilion Arts Center. Santa Barbara also has a rich Chumash Indian heritage and provides mainland access to the islands that encompass the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Despite this diversity, and a more than 100-year history of land acquisition for coastal public access, there is a lack of readily available comprehensive coastal cultural and environmental information for the general public.

Project Description

The primary goal of the project is to develop and disseminate information about Santa Barbara's coastal cultural history, industry, ecology, and coastal management in accessible web-based and interpretive formats. The project will broaden public awareness of the Santa Barbara coastal culture, history, ecology, and land management as well as potential climate change impacts through web-based, video, and printed formats. It will also enhance visitor use of the Santa Barbara coast and provide learning experiences through interpretative signage and a coastal walking map from the areas of Arroyo Burro County Park to the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge. The growth of web-based information and use of smart phones has made it possible to provide this information in easily accessible formats and thereby engage a wide audience.

California State Coastal Conservancy Grant

In May 2013, the Parks and Recreation Department submitted a grant application under the "Explore the Coast Program" of the California State Coastal Conservancy. The Department received letters of support for the grant application from Assemblymember Das Williams and State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. On January 27, 2014, the Coastal Conservancy Board approved the grant application for the amount \$27,000. The Parks and Recreation Department and Coastal Conservancy staff subsequently developed the project work plan and grant agreement. The grant requires a Council resolution as part of the agreement.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the project is \$67,172. The Parks and Recreation Department is providing matching funds in the amount of \$40,230. This includes the in-kind value of the staff hours for project management, interpretive signage, and outreach tools and does not require new appropriations to the Department's annual operating or capital program budgets.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This Project serves to enhance visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreation, cultural and historic resources found along Santa Barbara's coast and educate the public on the effects of climate change.

PREPARED BY: Mandy Burgess, Administrative Analyst

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office