



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Parks Department Contribution For Front Country Trails Program

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Accept a contribution from the Santa Barbara County Parks Department in the amount of \$10,000 for the Front Country Trails Program; and
- B. Increase revenues and appropriations by \$10,000 in the Parks and Recreation Department's Miscellaneous Grants Fund for the Santa Barbara County Parks Department contribution to the Front Country Trails Program.

DISCUSSION:

The Front Country Trails (FCT) Program is a joint effort of the Los Padres National Forest, Santa Barbara County Parks Department (County Parks), and the Parks and Recreation Department. The FCT Program includes over 30 miles of trails within the front range of the Santa Ynez Mountains. These trails include Jesusita, Tunnel, Rattlesnake, West Fork Cold Spring, East Fork Cold Spring, San Ysidro, and Romero Canyon.

The three agencies operate under a five-year challenge cost share agreement (CCA) approved in 2009 by the Forest Supervisor, County Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Barbara City Council. The CCA establishes the terms of the partnership and provides the framework for agencies to share costs and resources as well as transfer of funds between agencies. The CCA includes an annual financial commitment of \$10,000 from each of the three agencies. Funding for the program is intended to support trail maintenance and management activities, education and outreach, and the development of a front country trails management plan.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The \$10,000 from the County Parks Department represents its Fiscal Year 2011 allocation for the FCT Program. These funds will be held in the miscellaneous grants fund for use in the development of the FCT management plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

In addition to providing valuable recreation opportunities to South Coast residents, the Santa Barbara front country of the Los Padres National Forest provides valuable natural habitat including oak and riparian woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. The Los Padres National Forest is home to more than 468 fish and wildlife species. Sustainable management of the FCT will ensure that these habitats and the species they support are protected and enhanced.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office