

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - Wed  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 9**

**SUBJECT: MOUNTAIN MEADOW PRESERVE - APPROVE AGREEMENTS WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PRESERVE (DISTRICT: 5)**

**OVERVIEW**

On September 28, 2018, the County of San Diego (County) acquired the 670-acre Mountain Meadow County Preserve (Preserve) south of Mountain Meadow Road and east of Interstate 15 near the headwaters of Escondido Creek. The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) matched County funding to acquire the Preserve with Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) buffer program funds for Camp Pendleton. The REPI program helps offset damage that occurs to sensitive habitat during training maneuvers. Prior to acquisition, an additional approximately \$2.0 million was committed from the REPI program to fund management of the Preserve with the final value to be set once a habitat management plan was finalized. The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) agreed to manage the Preserve under an agreement with the County and will be reimbursed for their management costs pursuant to an existing REPI agreement.

The County, TECC and Navy finalized a habitat management plan for the Preserve on July 12, 2019. The plan details stewardship activities planned for the Preserve and estimates costs associated with those activities. After approval of the plan, the Navy funded a total of \$2.15 million split between an endowment fund (\$1.55 million) for long-term management and a non-endowment fund (\$0.6 million) for approximately three years of start-up work on the Preserve. The San Diego Foundation (Foundation) received the Navy funding on August 28, 2019 and will manage the two funds in perpetuity. TECC and the Foundation have executed agreements so that TECC is eligible to be reimbursed from the non-endowment and endowment funds for its stewardship activities at the Preserve. The County also needs to execute agreements with TECC and the Foundation for the County to access the funds in the event the County must conduct management activities within the Preserve. Additionally, per REPI program requirements, the County must execute an agreement directly with the Navy to be eligible for reimbursement.

Today's action is to approve and authorize the Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, to execute 1) an Encroachment Partnering Agreement with the Navy to allow the County to be reimbursed from the Navy's management money and 2) two agreements with the Foundation and TECC for the endowment and non-endowment funds committed to managing the Preserve.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed action is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15060(c)(2) and (3) because it does not have a direct or indirect effect on the environment and the action is not a project as defined in Section 15378(b)(4) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines and in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), find that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment for the reasons stated in the Notice of Exemption.

2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, or designee, to execute an Encroachment Partnering Agreement with the Department of Navy, Contract #N6247316RP00063.
3. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, or designee, to execute an endowment fund agreement and a non-endowment fund agreement with the San Diego Foundation and The Escondido Creek Conservancy for the Mountain Meadow Preserve.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendations. Currently, the Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) manages the Mountain Meadow County Preserve (Preserve). Funding of \$2.15 million was deposited directly to the San Diego Foundation from the U.S. Department of the Navy from an escrow account on August 28, 2019. The deposited money funds the management of the Preserve and will reimburse TECC's costs for management of the Preserve. If TECC ceases to manage the Preserve, the estimated cost for the County to manage the Preserve is approximately \$80,000 per year and the funding source would be reimbursement from the management fund.

There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Gaspar, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, Gaspar, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**

**by** Marvice Mazyck, Chief Deputy