

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AND ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CACTUS HABITAT ENHANCEMENT TO BENEFIT COASTAL CACTUS WREN PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 2)

OVERVIEW

The State of California's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Local Assistance Grant Program was created to assist local public and non-profit entities implement NCCPs throughout California. The Local Assistance Grant Program, administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), allocates funds for projects associated with planning and implementation of established conservation programs such as the County of San Diego's (County) Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The MSCP is a long-term, regional habitat conservation program focused on balancing the protection of plant and animal species with recreation, development, and agricultural activities within the San Diego region. The three Plan Areas of the County's MSCP include the adopted South County Subarea, the draft North County, and the proposed East County MSCP Plan Areas. On October 22, 1997 (1), the County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the 50-year MSCP South County Subarea Plan, which includes the unincorporated areas in the southwestern portion of the region.

The County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) evaluated eligible projects that are part of the MSCP in conjunction with the requirements of the Local Assistance Grant Program and determined that the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project (Project) would meet a known conservation need and be competitive for available grant funding. The Project includes efforts to remove native and invasive non-native plant species within and adjacent to restored cactus patches within Lakeside Linkage County Preserve (Preserve). Removing these native and invasive non-native plant species would improve habitat for wildlife species, particularly coastal cactus wren, a rare species that contributes to local biodiversity and exists within the Preserve. On July 22, 2024, DPR submitted an NCCP Local Assistance Grant Program application to CDFW for the Project and received notification from CDFW on September 25, 2024, that the project was awarded \$50,000 in grant funding.

Today's requested action is to adopt a resolution authorizing DPR to accept up to \$50,000 of Local Assistance grant funds from CDFW. Although the County Board of Supervisors delegated general authority to pursue and accept grant funding on October 23, 2024 (7), a requirement of the grant application is that applicants must provide a project-specific resolution from the governing body that identifies the project to be implemented with the grant funds. In addition, today's actions will establish appropriations in DPR, Services & Supplies and authorize the Director of DPR, or designee, to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents that may be necessary to accept the grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 because the project involves minor alterations in the condition of vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees.
2. Adopt the Resolution entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE Local Assistance GRANT PROGRAM FOR Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren PROJECT (Attachment A).
3. Establish appropriations of \$50,000 in the Department of Parks and Recreation, Services and Supplies, for the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project, based on funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. **(4 VOTES)**
4. Authorize the Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, or designee, as agent of the County of San Diego, to conduct all negotiations and submit all documents necessary to accept grant funds, if awarded, including but not limited to, grant contracts, payment requests, and if funds are awarded, to execute the grant agreements, including any extensions or amendments thereof that do not materially impact or alter the grant programs or funding levels.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Department of Parks and Recreation's proposed efforts to accept grant funds through the Local Assistance Grant Program to enhance natural habitat in Lakeside Linkage County Preserve is anticipated to result in a positive impact on all residents and visitors by improving water and air quality and providing opportunities to engage in passive recreational experiences in the County of San Diego's parks and preserve lands.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action of the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept grant funds through the Local Assistance Grant Program to enhance natural habitat in Lakeside Linkage County Preserve supports two County of San Diego Sustainability Goals including County Sustainability Goal No. 4 by expanding opportunities for community members to access outdoor recreation and nature and County Sustainability Goal No. 6 by protecting native ecosystems and habitats.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). If approved, this request would result in costs and revenue of \$50,000 related to Recommendation 3. The funding source is grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If approved, the proposed action would also include adopting a resolution authorizing DPR to accept up to \$50,000 of Local Assistance grant funding from CDFW for the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project related to Recommendation 2.

The Local Assistance Grant Program strongly encourages matching funds for all project proposals. Matching funds will be provided through in-kind services in the form of County staff time up to the amount of \$3,000 for the Cactus Habitat Enhancement to Benefit Coastal Cactus Wren Project. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue in DPR. There is no net change to General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 25-003, entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR CACTUS HABITAT ENHANCEMENT TO BENEFIT COASTAL CACTUS WREN PROJECT.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

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 Andrew Potter

