

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 5

SUBJECT: APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND ACCEPT LAND DONATION IN BORREGO SPRINGS FOR FUTURE FIRE STATION AND HEALTH CLINIC OR OTHER HEALTH-RELATED USE AND CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 5)

OVERVIEW

The unincorporated community of Borrego Springs is a rural community located in northeastern San Diego County. The community is relatively isolated, with residents having to drive long distances for groceries, medical care, and other goods and services. Historically, the community was serviced by outdated buildings for essential services. In the past decade, the County of San Diego (County) has been able to invest greatly in Borrego Springs, building a new library, Sheriff's Station, and a 13.5-acre park. These developments were made possible through a land donation.

The County now has an opportunity to expand on this prior work to include a new fire station and health clinic site. Undeveloped land has been offered as a donation to the County on condition it is used for a fire station and health clinic or other health-related use. The offered land donation consists of four acres for the new fire station and about two acres for the potential health clinic. The new site is along Country Club Road adjacent to the existing County complex consisting of the Borrego Springs library, Sheriff's Station, and park. This offer of donation coincides with the County Fire Strategic Facilities Plan for building a new fire station for Borrego Springs to replace the existing, outdated station. The site is preferred by County Fire and would serve as a great location for the new fire station. Replacement of Borrego Spring's Station 60 is currently within the Future Capital Needs Planned Projects list.

The other portion of the donation would be used for a health clinic or other health-related use, which aligns with the needs of the community. Borrego Springs lacks a hospital and many healthcare services, forcing residents to drive a long distance for medical care. The community and benefactor of the land donation have voiced a strong desire to see land dedicated to a health clinic or other health-related use for residents to address non-emergency medical needs.

Today's item authorizes the Director of the Department of General Services, or designee, to negotiate and accept a land donation in Borrego Springs for a future fire station and health clinic or other health-related use site. It also authorizes a letter of appreciation to be sent by the Chair on behalf of the County of San Diego for the generous donation.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

1. Find that authorizing the negotiation and acquisition of a portion of APN 198-020-56-00 as a land donation is exempt from CEQA because it does not commit the County to a definite course of action with respect to construction of any project per CEQA Guidelines sections 15352 and 15004(b)(2)(A), which allows agencies to designate a preferred site for CEQA review and enter into land acquisition agreement when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance. There are no development plans currently in place for the site, and

any potential impacts would be too speculative to analyze at this point. The Board hereby conditions any future use of the site upon CEQA review and compliance.

2. Authorize the Director, Department of General Services, or designee, to negotiate and in accordance with California Government Code Section 25353 accept a land donation consisting of approximately six acres located at APN 198-020-56-00 for the purpose of using four acres for new fire station and approximately two acres for a health clinic or other health-related use.
3. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter of appreciation on behalf of the County of San Diego to the current landowner.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Borrego Springs is a geographically isolated community with limited emergency response capacity, leaving residents vulnerable during wildfires, medical emergencies, and extreme heat events. The community lacks a modern fire station and could utilize a health clinic to improve healthcare access to the community. Investing in a new fire station would ensure faster, more reliable emergency response, improve disaster preparedness, and provide equitable protection for all residents, regardless of income or location. This is a necessary step toward addressing long-standing infrastructure gaps and promoting public safety in a high-risk, underserved rural area.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Department of General Services (DGS). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$80,000 for DGS staff time to process the donation. The funding source will be \$40,000 redirected from an internal agreement with San Diego County Fire and an existing internal agreement in DGS, both funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in the net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, 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 Andrew Potter