

County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL. DIRECTOR

November 1, 1999

AGENDA: November 9, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDS PARK GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2000-01

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation program was established by the enactment of the Transportation Blue Print Legislation of 1989 (AB 471, Katz). It is the intent of this legislation to allocate \$10,000,000 annually to mitigate the environmental impact of modified or new public transportation facilities. These funds are available to local government agencies and non-profit organizations on a competitive basis. This grant has a one year cycle and no local funding match is required, but is desirable. Grant awards are generally limited to \$250,000 each.

The project proposed for this potential funding source consists of a two-phase development program under the Roadside Recreation Grant Category. The conceptual layout for both phases is attached for your information. The first phase would consist of improving the ingress and egress to Highlands Park from Highway (9). More specifically, this phase would include widening that portion of Highway (9) adjacent to the park so that a southbound turn lane could be constructed as well as the construction of a center lane for vehicles exiting the park into the south bound lane.

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In addition, the existing north bound bus stop would be relocated adjacent to the right turn lane into the park. An accessible pathway would be constructed from the bus stop, parallel to the park entrance road into the interior of the park. This improvement would enhance the safety factor for transporting the after school recreation program participants and other park users from the bus stop to the main park center. The final proposed improvement in the phase one development program would include modifying the existing park restroom building to meet handicap accessibility standards. The anticipated cost for design and implementation of phase one is \$250,000.

Phase two improvements would include installing a new play area located in an open area just below the existing restroom building. The new play area would replace the existing play area which is located in the flood plain near the existing tennis courts. In addition, an existing group picnic area would be removed and a new one installed which would meet handicap accessibility standards. The anticipated cost for phase two design and construction is \$250,000. The phase two grant application would be applied for in a subsequent grant funding cycle.

The deadline for submitting the grant application for the 2000-01 funding cycle is November 15, 1999. In accordance with County procedure, your Board must authorize the submission of this grant application. The actual grant application is in the process of being prepared, and in the future, will be brought before your Board with the resolution authorizing the grant application. It is not necessary to submit the resolution at this time to be considered for this grant application.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board authorize submission of a grant application to the State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant program for design and construction of Phase One Roadside Recreation Improvements to Highlands Park, and direct POSCS to file the grant application by the Nevember 15, 1999 deadline.

Sincerely,

Barry C. Samuel

Director

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO County Administrative Officer

cc: CAO, Auditor-Controller, Office of the County Counsel, POSCS



