



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Mark Tracy
Sheriff-Coroner

May 8, 2001

AGENDA: May 22, 2001

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES TO BE USED IN
THE NORTH COAST AREA OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Dear Members of the Board:

The Sheriffs Office has been notified by the State Department of Parks and Recreation that we are eligible to apply for Off-Highway Vehicle grant funds to assist in the purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle and two all-terrain vehicles to improve policing efforts in the North Coast area of Santa Cruz County. This letter is to provide background information regarding the program activities that will be assisted with the purchase of these vehicles and requests authorization for the Sheriff to apply for these grant funds.

As you may be aware, the North Coast area of Santa Cruz County consists of approximately twenty plus miles of coastline with public access beaches and adjacent mountains. The communities of Davenport and Bonny Doon reside within this region. Davenport is located along the coast and consists of approximately 200 residents. Bonny Doon is located in the adjacent mountains and consists of approximately 2,600 residents. During the summer months, the tourist population in the North Coast area can increase to an average of five hundred guests per day and many more on holidays. In addition to the communities of Davenport and Bonny Doon, there exists several large parcels of State Park property with bicycle and pedestrian access, private farms, streams, almost 7,000 acre parcel owned by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and a Federal Ecological Reserve. In the near future, the Land Trust intends to convert their property into public ownership with some public access.

Typical enforcement issues in this area include auto burglaries, trespassing, camping, hunting, illegal dumping and calls for disturbing the peace. Many of these activities take place away from paved roads, in canyons and beach areas accessible only by 4WD vehicles or on foot. During the 2000 calendar year, the Santa Cruz Sheriffs Office

encountered 1,343 calls for service in this area. Of those calls, 51 were for disturbing the peace, 344 were vehicle related and traffic stops, 22 were ordinance violations, eight for trespassing, and 12 for under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The ongoing problems associated with nighttime anti-social behavior have led to your Board's approval of a nighttime permit parking program in Davenport, and a "no parking" area adjacent to the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve.

The community deputy assigned to the North Coast currently patrols the area without the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle. The activities that take place off the main roads have been problematic for the deputy in terms of enforcement. The addition of four-wheel drive vehicles would greatly improve policing efforts. To address this need, the Sheriff's Office became aware of a grant funding program for the purchase of equipment made available through the State Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division. The grant provides funding for law enforcement activities consisting of employing, equipping, and supervision of peace officers who have the specific duties of enforcing Division 16.5 of the California Vehicle Code, enforcing any other laws regulating the equipment and use of off-highway vehicles and protecting natural resources from off-highway vehicle impacts on public land. The enforcement issues in the North Coast area of Santa Cruz County address the required criteria set forth in the Off-Highway Vehicle grant application.

The Sheriff's Office grant application is requesting funding to purchase one four-wheel drive and two all-terrain vehicles, including a trailer, for the North Coast patrol. The four-wheel drive vehicle will enable the assigned officer to patrol the twenty plus miles of coastal access beaches and the adjacent mountainous areas. The all-terrain vehicles will enable the assigned officer and additional staff to address Search and Rescue activities, trespassing, routine patrol for criminal violators, RAVE parties and emergency responses. The need to purchase two all-terrain vehicles was recommended for countywide search and rescue situations which often involve injuries, and responding to off-road fire and medical emergency situations. Law enforcement training dictates that one deputy driving into a desolate area without a cover deputy is unsafe. This is especially crucial during the summer months when the calls for service increase by nearly three times the average rate. The Sheriff's Office currently has one full-time community deputy assigned to this area, and during the summer months a designated "coast" deputy.

The State Off-Highway Vehicle grant program accepts applications in June. The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission approves projects at their July meeting. The applicants are advised of the proposed grant funding levels in September. The applications are then submitted for approval by the Legislature as part of the State Budget Bill. The funding cycle for this grant is scheduled for July 2002. A 25 percent local match is required. The matching funds may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. This match is reflected in the Sheriff's budget under the vehicle replacement subobject which would be used towards the scheduled replacement of the patrol vehicle. The grant request is for \$53,200, including the \$13,300 match. A copy of the grant application is on file with the Clerk of the Board. The grant requires that the item be scheduled for regular agenda to allow for additional 'public comment.

The Sheriffs Office will return to your Board once funding notification is received to adopt a resolution accepting unanticipated revenue and request authorization to purchase the referenced vehicles.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Sheriff-Coroner to apply for State Off-Highway Vehicle grant funds and to sign the application.

Sincerely,

L E T - -
Sheriff-Coroner

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: Sheriff-Coroner, Auditor-Controller

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Upon the motion of Supervisor _____
duly seconded by Supervisor _____
the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATE OFF-HIGHWAY
VEHICLE GRANT ENTITLED SANTA CRUZ ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 1988, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for planning, acquiring, developing, operating, conserving, and maintaining off-highway vehicle recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division within the California Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility to administer the program; and

WHEREAS, procedures established by the California Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of applications before submission to the State; and

WHEREAS, this project appears on, or is in conformance with, this jurisdiction's adopted general plan and is compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding this project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Cruz:

1. Approves the filing of an application for an Off-Highway Vehicle Grant; and
2. Certifies that this agency understands its legal obligations to the State upon approval of the grant; and
3. Certifies that the project will be well maintained during its useful life; and
4. Certifies that this agency will implement the project with diligence once funds are available and a Project Agreement has been consummated between the State and this agency; and
5. Certifies that this agency will provide the required matching funds (as applicable);

6. Appoints the Santa Cruz County Sheriff as agent of the County of Santa Cruz to conduct all negotiations, and sign and submit all required documents which may be necessary for the completion of this project.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California on this _____ of _____ 2001, by the following vote:

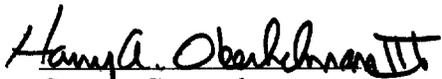
AYES: Supervisors
NOES: Supervisors
ABSENT: Supervisors
ABSTAIN: Supervisors

Chairperson of the Board

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:


County Counsel

Distribution:
County Counsel
Sheriff-Coroner