

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 8/26/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Dan Buckshi, County Administrative Officer 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Consideration of a request by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo for \$400,000 of additional County funds to assist in the purchase of the Pismo Preserve, and if approved, authorization of a budget adjustment in the appropriate amount from General Fund Contingencies to Parks Land Fund Center (FC) 30504. District 3.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider the request by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo for \$400,000 of additional County funds to assist in the purchase of the Pismo Preserve; and</li> <li>2. Consider authorizing a budget adjustment in the appropriate amount from General Fund Contingencies to Parks Land Fund Center (FC) 30504 by 4/5ths vote.</li> </ol>			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund Contingencies	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$400,000	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>45 min</u> )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1415022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP Attached	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>5/20/2014</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 3			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dan Buckshi, County Administrative Officer

DATE: 8/26/2014

SUBJECT: Consideration of a request by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo for \$400,000 of additional County funds to assist in the purchase of the Pismo Preserve, and if approved, authorization of a budget adjustment in the appropriate amount from General Fund Contingencies to Parks Land Fund Center (FC) 30504. District 3.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Consider the request by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo for \$400,000 of additional County funds to assist in the purchase of the Pismo Preserve; and
2. Consider authorizing a budget adjustment in the appropriate amount from General Fund Contingencies to Parks Land Fund Center (FC) 30504 by 4/5ths vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Land Conservancy) is a local non-profit organization that has served San Luis Obispo County for many years. Since 1984, the Land Conservancy has conserved over 14,700 acres of open space and farm lands, working "to permanently protect and enhance lands having important scenic, agricultural, habitat and cultural values for the benefit of people and wildlife."

Earlier this year, the Land Conservancy entered into a land purchase agreement to secure a 900 acre private ranch, east of the City of Pismo Beach (Attachment 1), with the intent to creating the Pismo Preserve. The envisioned preserve would be open to the public as early as Summer 2015 for outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching and exploring plant and animal life in the area. Ongoing maintenance of the preserve will be the responsibility of the Land Conservancy, at no cost to the County.

The purchase of the land is contingent upon the Land Conservancy's ability to raise funds to cover the \$12 million required to bring the project to fruition. On April 1, 2014, the Land Conservancy submitted a formal written request to the County for \$1 million in County Park Public Facility Fee (PPFF) funds to assist in the purchase of the land. At its April 2014 meeting, the County's Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the Board allocate \$1.1 million to the project, and on May 20, 2014, the Board unanimously voted to allocate \$1.1 million in PPFF funds to the Land Conservancy for this purpose.

Since the Board's May 20<sup>th</sup> action, the Land Conservancy has successfully raised a total of \$11.5 million from a variety of different sources, including:

- \$8 million from State agencies,
- \$2.3 million from local governments and regional agencies, and
- \$1.7 million from foundations, local businesses and community donors.

With the August 28<sup>th</sup> fundraising deadline drawing near, the Land Conservancy submitted a second funding request on August 11, 2014 (Attachment 2) for an additional \$400,000 in County funds. In this most recent request, the Land

Conservancy expressed confidence that it will be able to raise the remaining \$100,000 from private donors to meet the \$12 million necessary to make the Pismo Preserve project a reality.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

In February 2014, the County Parks and Recreation Commission identified the Pismo Preserve project as being worthy of local and regional agency support and placed the purchase of the property on its list of priority projects. In April 2014 the Commission recommended that the Board provide \$1,100,000 of PPF funding to assist in purchase of Pismo Preserve. Various State agencies, local governments and regional agencies, and foundations, local businesses and community donors have also contributed funds to this project.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

On May 20, 2014, the Board approved the allocation of \$1.1 million in PPF funds towards the Pismo Preserve project. Today, the Board is being asked to consider allocating an additional \$400,000 to the Land Conservancy for a total County contribution of \$1.5 million. If approved, the \$400,000 contribution will be funded with General Fund Contingencies.

In FY 2014-15, the target is to maintain contingencies at 4.5% of the General Fund budget (approximately \$19.5 million). The budgeted level of contingencies can accommodate this contribution to the Land Conservancy without falling substantially below the 4.5% target. Due to savings throughout departments, it is anticipated that the fund balance available (FBA) at the end of FY 2013-14 will come in higher than budgeted. If an additional \$400,000 is allocated to the Pismo Preserve project, excess FBA from FY 2013-14 will repay contingencies to maintain the 4.5% target.

Ongoing maintenance of the Pismo Preserve will have no impact on the County's budget. The Land Conservancy intends to provide for all maintenance and repairs.

### **RESULTS**

Providing additional funds to the Land Conservancy will assist in the purchase of the Pismo Preserve, helping to provide unique parklands suitable for public hiking, biking, equestrian and passive recreation with no ongoing costs to the County. Outdoor activities such as hiking and biking contribute to the County's Community-wide Result of creating a "Healthy Community." In addition, creation of the Pismo Preserve aligns with the County's Community-wide Result of a "Livable Community" through the protection of natural resources.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Pismo Preserve Site Map
2. August 11, 2014 Land Conservancy Request for Funding