



County of San Luis Obispo, California

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: General Services Agency / Shaun Cooper, 781-4388

SUBJECT: Status update on the process of accepting trail easement offers countywide.

DATE: 9/25/2014

Recommendations:

Receive and file status report for the trail easement offer acceptance process.

Discussion:

Since 1991, County Parks has conditioned discretionary projects to provide trail corridors consistent with Board adopted plans. On December 19, 2006 the Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Element including specific trail plans and design criteria. On November 6, 2007, Park's staff brought a draft program for accepting trail easements to the Board of Supervisors for discussion.

On December 1, 2009, the Board considered accepting two trails in the Nipomo area and staff provided an update on the trail offers acceptance process. At that time the Board directed staff to:

- (1) Complete the comprehensive process of reviewing all of the County's outstanding trail offers and accepting those that are consistent with the Parks and Recreation Element
- (2) Upon acceptance of all appropriate trail offers, work with the Trails Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission to determine priority projects consistent with the PRE Chapter 5; and,
- (3) Return to the Board with the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendations to open specific trails as part of a 5-year capital improvement program.

As a result of Board direction, staff reviewed trail easement offers and assembled this first set for Board review. The first set of 20 easements, located all in the Salinas Planning Area, were reviewed by the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) and recommended for acceptance. The Board accepted 16 of the 20 trail easements at their May 11, 2010 meeting. The second set of 12 easements, located in Templeton, Nipomo, and Los Osos, were reviewed by the TAC and the PRC and recommended for acceptance. The Board accepted the 12 trail easements at their November 2, 2010 meeting. The third set of 35 easements, located in Nipomo, were reviewed by the TAC and PRC and recommended for acceptance. The Board accepted the 35 trail easements at their

March 22, 2011 meeting. The trail easements that have been accepted are depicted on the attached maps.

The accepted and unimproved trail easements are not open to the public. These offers were for easements, not for constructed trails. Per County Park Ordinance, the Deputy Director of Parks or the Board of Supervisors may officially open a trail for public use once it has been developed consistent with the County's Parks and Recreation Element. Once the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed all the outstanding trail offers countywide, they will provide a review and recommendation regarding priority trails that should be open for public use. The criteria the Commission will be using to determine priorities would be factors such as (1) existing safety concerns in an area, (2) cost (trail improvements and long-term maintenance), (3) whether the trail connects two or more public locations, (4) whether opening the trail at this time would encourage trespass, and (5) the number of people served.

Trails Proposed for Acceptance into the County's Trail Inventory:

The outstanding trail offers are ready for review and acceptance only when the final map has been recorded or the applicant has recorded an offer to dedicate (OTD). Thus discretionary projects that are still in processing or have not recorded to date are not ready for acceptance by the County and are not ready for Board review.

Process & Next Steps:

There are currently approximately 30 trail offers in Nipomo that are now ready for acceptance. These will be reviewed by the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) and recommended to the Board for acceptance. The timing of this process will be based on the availability of staff related to other committed higher priorities, including grant contract obligations, currently active project deadlines, and unforeseen critical needs. Once the currently ready trail offers are accepted, periodic reviews of the offers that are still in processing will need to be conducted to determine if and when these easements are ready for acceptance. These will be accepted either with the final map or by separate Board action.

In the past, when trail offers have been ready for acceptance via a final map, the practice was to recommend that the Board deny the trail offer without prejudice. This allowed the County to accept that trail offer at a later date, within 25 years of the offer. Currently, rather than denying the trail offers without prejudice, staff has been recommending that the trails be accepted into the County's Trail inventory upon final map recording. This action is only relevant to those offers for which the final map has not yet been recorded.

Financial Considerations:

The accepted trail easements do not have funding identified for construction or maintenance of new trails. The accepted trail easements have incurred some minor liability, for the County, and minor maintenance costs, for County Parks, such as clearing vegetation from trail easements for fire control, and/or posting signage. Since the trails are not open for public use, many of these trail corridors remain behind property owner's fences until such time County Parks is ready to develop and maintain trails that meets the Parks and Recreation Element criteria.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Paso Robles Map
- Attachment 2 – Templeton Map
- Attachment 3 - San Miguel Map
- Attachment 4 – Santa Margarita Map
- Attachment 5 – Templeton Area Map
- Attachment 6 – Templeton Carpenter, Wilhete, Graves Map
- Attachment 7 – Nipomo Area Map
- Attachment 8 – Nipomo Inga Rd. Map
- Attachment 9 – Los Osos Map
- Attachment 10 – Los Osos Congregation Map
- Attachment 11 – Los Osos Sea Horse Map
- Attachment 12 – Los Osos Back Bay Map
- Attachment 13 – Nipomo Area Map 2
- Attachment 14 – Nipomo Thompson Map
- Attachment 15 – Nipomo Santa Maria River Map
- Attachment 16 – Nipomo Anza at Willow Rd. Map
- Attachment 17 – Nipomo Dawn Rd. Map
- Attachment 18 – Nipomo Willow Rd. and Pomeroy Rd. Map
- Attachment 19 – Nipomo Viva Way and Mesa Rd. Map
- Attachment 20 – Nipomo Pomeroy Rd. and Camino Caballo Map