



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Parks



**Date:** March 5, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** April 14, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** 4/5ths

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Marlene Finley, Parks Director

**Subject:** Appropriation Transfer Request for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Parking Lot Demonstration Project

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve an appropriation transfer request in the amount of \$153,000 from departmental reserves to fixed assets for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Parking Lot Demonstration Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City/County Association of Government (C/CAG)'s Vehicle Registration Fee Program (AB1546) authorized a \$4 increase in the vehicle license fees in San Mateo County to provide funding for congestion management and water pollution prevention projects. Half of the fees collected are for water pollution prevention. Of these funds, half goes to municipalities for reimbursement of local vehicle-related storm water pollution prevention projects and half to the countywide storm water program for program-level projects addressing vehicle-related storm water pollution.

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Parking Lot Demonstration Project (Project) was selected to receive a \$250,000 grant award as a countywide demonstration project and to be used as a conceptual design demonstration project within the Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Program's new Storm water Design Standards Guidebook.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is a narrow three-mile-long, 402-acre strip in Moss Beach with numerous unique coastal habitats. The Reserve's habitats provide a species diversity greater than that of other similar habitats in central and northern California. The Reserve is designated as both a State Marine Park and an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) by the State of California to protect the over 439 unique marine plant and animal species that have been found there.

.  
.  
.  
The Reserve provides important educational and interpretive opportunities for people of all ages. Annually, the Reserve hosts over 23,000 students from Grade 3 through college from over 100 schools, as well as over 178,000 visitors. Because of this high visitation and the adjacent sensitive riparian habitat by San Vicente Creek, this location was selected as a demonstration project site. The future Visitor Center will be supported by this project.

The Project will help achieve two important priorities prominently listed in the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Master Plan (Brady/LSA, 2002), the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Resource Assessment Plan (Tenera Environmental, 2004), and the Conceptual Plan for Interpretation at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Acorn Group, 2004). The Project will: 1) complete the design and 2) implement the Visitor Center Parking Lot as well as educate visitors about the importance of preventing storm water pollution.

The Project has had unforeseen additional expenses, which is why we are requesting approval to transfer \$153,000 from reserves in the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund to Fixed Assets for the Project.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the appropriation transfer request (ATR) as to form.

Approval of this action will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as construction of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Parking Lot will increase the number and quality of natural experiences of visitors to the County Parks. Each visitor that experiences the County's natural resources gains a greater appreciation of the need for their preservation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The ATR will transfer one-time funds in the amount of \$153,000 from Departmental Reserves to Fixed Assets for payments associated with expenditures of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Parking Lot Demonstration Project. The ATR includes appropriations for operating transfers between funds. This action has no effect on Net County Cost.