



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works and Parks



Date: October 25, 2012
Board Meeting Date: December 11, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works and Parks

Subject: California Natural Resources Agency Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works and Parks or his designee to apply for and accept a California Natural Resources Agency grant for the Devil's Slide Trail Project in the amount of \$270,000.

BACKGROUND:

Devil's Slide is located between the City of Pacifica and community of Montara on the western side of San Pedro Mountain along Highway 1. The Devil's Slide area is a steep, unstable geological formation that has long suffered from landslides and erosion of the shoreline bluffs into the Pacific Ocean. Landslides and grade subsidence have led to Highway 1 being closed for extended periods of time causing significant economic loss to the surrounding coastal communities.

In 2013, California Department of Transportation will complete a double bore Devil's Slide Tunnel Project replacing this section of Highway 1 and maintaining connectivity between the City of Pacifica and community of Montara. As required by the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) approved in 2004 and the tunnels being completed by early 2013, the County will convert the bypassed section of Highway 1 into public coastline recreational access. The soon-to-be abandoned two-lane road section of Highway 1 will open as the Devil's Slide Trail and be maintained and operated initially by San Mateo County as a section of the California Coastal Trail.

The Trail will be open 365 days per year for use by cyclists, skaters, pedestrians, and people with leashed dogs and will include provisions for opening and closing of trail gates on the same daily schedule as other San Mateo County Parks and Regional Trails. The 1.3 mile long paved road will need significant work before opening as a safe multiple-use trail.

DISCUSSION:

To plan for this upcoming shoreline recreational opportunity, the County produced a Devil's Slide Trail Management Plan. The County is unable to open the Trail for public use until all safety and improvement measures identified in the Trail Management Plan are implemented. Startup costs of labor, materials, and equipment to open the Trail are estimated at \$1,991,525. Ongoing annual operations and maintenance costs are estimated at \$695,000. One of the most critical one-time start-up costs is the installation of cyclone fencing atop the existing K-rail on the eastern side of the future Trail to protect visitors from falling rock or debris and keep rock or debris off the trail surface and thwart erosion. The fencing will not affect the Trail user experience, as it is on the eastern side of the Trail along the bluffs, the western side being the Pacific Ocean.

This grant will underwrite safety improvements on the eastern side of the future trail including 1.3 miles of 8-foot tall cyclone fence which will protect cyclists, pedestrians, and other users from falling rock and other debris. In addition, the fencing will help prevent erosion from human intervention.

The fencing will be installed in sections so that Park Rangers can frequently remove debris or rocks that have built up behind it. This ongoing maintenance will help achieve the goal of controlling erosion and preventing injury or trail damage from falling rock.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as execution of the Grant Agreement furthers the number and quality of natural experiences and recreational opportunities for County Park visitors. Each visitor gains a greater appreciation of the natural environment and the need for its preservation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The balance of the estimated \$1,991,525 full project cost has been provided by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. If the grant is awarded to the County, the funding will be used to offset General Fund dollars. Other funding opportunities to underwrite the project cost are being actively pursued by the Public Works and Parks Department to minimize the use of General Funds.