

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **OCTOBER 23, 2012**

From: **WD JAMES DURFEE / MARK RIDEOUT** *WR*

Subject: **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT – HIDDEN FALLS AGRICULTURAL AND PUBLIC USE IMPROVEMENTS**

ACTION REQUESTED/RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Facility Services, or his designee, to submit an application for \$325,000 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund construction of agricultural and public use improvements at Hidden Falls Regional Park, and to execute any and all documents on behalf of the County necessary for said SNC application; and,
2. Authorize a commitment of up to \$82,500 in budgeted net county cost for in-kind services.

BACKGROUND: In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. To implement the goals of this bond act, earlier this year SNC developed the Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program, which will disburse \$5 million in this fiscal year. This program will fund projects that protect long-term ecological values and economic viability of working ranches and agricultural lands, and also the health of associated watersheds.

Long-term management of the 1,200 acre Hidden Falls Regional Park is expected to include a grazing component for vegetation management, which is consistent with goals of the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Preservation Program. This practice has also proven effective in other large open space parks with steep terrain, where the public utilize a multi-use trail network. After learning of the SNC program, the Parks Division identified eligible agricultural and public access infrastructure improvements that are necessary for the long term operation of Hidden Falls Regional Park. These include: rehabilitation of irrigation canals and stock pond, abandonment of erosion-prone ranch roads, placement of all-weather base rock on ranch roads, construction of watering troughs, and reconstruction of portions of the perimeter fencing.

Parks staff discussed these project components with SNC and prepared a pre-application for their review. SNC subsequently approved the project description and invited the County to make a formal application for the \$407,500 project, with a request for \$325,000 in grant funding. This application also details the County's provision of \$82,500 of in-kind services, which includes Parks labor to abandon ranch roads, administrative labor, and County overhead costs. Adoption of the attached Resolution is a requirement of the application process. As the SNC deadline for this application was October 22, 2012, their staff offered to accept the Resolution following your Board's consideration today. Should SNC award this grant, Facility Services will return to your Board with a Budget Revision to request appropriation of funds to the Project Account prior to beginning the work.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: Adoption of this Resolution by definition does not constitute a project pursuant to CEQA Section 15378(b)(4&5). All work contemplated by this grant application is consistent with the Final EIR adopted for Hidden Falls Regional Park on January 28, 2010 (State Clearinghouse No. 2007062084).

FISCAL IMPACT: The total project cost is estimated at \$407,500, including materials, labor, administration and overhead. The SNC Grant would fund \$325,000, and the net county cost is \$82,500. There is funding available for the net county cost in the Parks Division budget.

JD:MR:JR

ATTACHMENT:

RESOLUTION

cc:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

T/F/BOS2012/HIDDEN FALLS SNC AG GRANT.DOC

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Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FUNDS UNDER THE SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY'S PROPOSITION 84
PRESERVATION OF RANCHES AND
AGRICULTURAL LANDS GRANT PROGRAM
FOR THE FOR HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK
AGRICULTURAL AND PUBLIC USE
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Resol. No. _____

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Chair, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and,

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and,

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the SNC require a Resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by an applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and,

WHEREAS, an applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and,

WHEREAS, the County has identified the Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements project as valuable toward meeting its goals and objectives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, does hereby authorize the submittal of an application for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements project; and

- Certifies that County as Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and,
- Certifies that County will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resources consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and,
- Certifies that County, as Applicant, will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and,
- Appoints the Director of Facility Services, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

