November 10, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Appointment of Interim Director of Marin County Parks

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that your Board approve the following:

1. Appoint Pat O’Brien as Interim Parks Director
2. Approve contract

Pat O’Brien is known as one of the foremost leaders in the field of Parks and Open Space. Having retired after serving 22 years as General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, Pat O’Brien directed the largest regional park system in the United States, including 110,000 acres, 65 regional parks, and over 1,000 miles of trails. Mr. O’Brien has agreed to serve as the Interim Director of Parks until a permanent replacement can be appointed through a new recruitment effort.

Mr. O’Brien will oversee department operations as well as assist the County’s recruitment efforts to find a permanent Parks Director. The contract would be for up to $97,500 and last up to 7 months. If your Board approves this recommended appointment, Mr. O’Brien would take a leave of absence from his position on the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission. It is necessary to hire Mr. O’Brien now to facilitate a smooth leadership transition within Marin County Parks because the current Interim Parks Director, Ron Miska, is retiring on December 31.

FISCAL IMPACT: Mr. O’Brien would receive $150 per hour, working approximately 25 hours per week, for a not-to-exceed sum of $97,500. Funds for this position are included in Parks’ budget given salary savings associated with the existing Parks Director vacancy.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator

cc: Ron Miska, Interim Director of Parks
    Angela Nicholson, Interim Director of Human Resources
    Attachment