March 27, 2018

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE A RESOLUTION AND AN AGREEMENT ACCEPTING $150,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY TO SUPPORT A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VISIONING PROCESS RELATED TO THE PURCHASE AND PLANNING OF THE SAN GERONIMO GOLF COURSE PROPERTY.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize President to execute a resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy, in the amount of $150,000, that will provide the county with funding support for a community engagement and visioning process related to the purchase of and planning for the San Geronimo Golf Course property.

2. Approve budget supplement to the Measure A San Geronimo Golf Course Project increasing State Grants revenue by $150,000 and Professional Services expenditures by $150,000.

SUMMARY:

Background
On November 14, 2017 your Board entered into a purchase and sale agreement with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the purchase of real property and certain improvements associated with the San Geronimo Golf Course that stipulates close of escrow by December 31, 2018.

Community Engagement and Visioning Process
During this interim period between your Board’s authorization to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement and County’s acquisition of the property from TPL, Marin County Parks has begun informally engaging the community. The community has continued to contact Parks staff with questions and concerns, in addition to sharing many creative ideas of how they envision the property’s future use. Parks staff have begun to identify stakeholders, user groups, technical experts, as well as key community leaders. Staff has also researched past planning efforts within the San Geronimo Valley, learning what efforts were more successful than others and why. This information is being used to help create a meaningful and thoughtful community engagement process.
This public process will solicit thoughts and ideas from both the surrounding community and the county at-large, regarding the best and most compatible uses for the property. These uses shall align with the overall project goals to be technically feasible, financially sustainable, for the greater public benefit, and which provides for restoration. This funding will support a facilitated process incorporating general site analysis and feasibility studies to better understand opportunities and constraints; public events, meetings and workshops; hikes and tours; or other types of external tools to fully engage the community. This initial process focuses on identifying community shared values, important site qualities, and potential compatible uses. In addition, this grant will support a professional facilitator or facilitation team skilled in guiding open and encouraging platforms for engaging dialogue, building collaborative relationships, and achieving measurable outcomes. The input gathered will establish a community vision and basis for design report which will guide future restoration and reuse planning phases. This initial planning and visioning phase is estimated to last approximately 8 to 12 months, but will ultimately depend upon the input received and will be adjusted as needed.

Marin County Parks has entered into an agreement with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) to provide staff support for this planning effort. The GGNPC has extensive planning experience, specializing in the development of creative and diverse public engagement strategies.

**Future Planning Phases**
Upon the completion of the visioning and basis of design report, the planning process will transition into more focused, site based placement planning with detailed site and technical analysis, concept development, master planning and permitting. Any projects that emerge from these processes will be subject to appropriate CEQA analysis.

With your Board’s approval and authorization to accept this grant funding, we will formally begin the community engagement process.

**Grant Application and Award**
Marin County Parks staff applied to the State Coastal Conservancy through the Proposition 1 Grant Program, requesting $150,000 for community engagement and visioning efforts. The Coastal Conservancy Board met on January 18, 2018 authorizing the disbursement of up to $150,000 to the County of Marin in support of the community engagement and visioning process to guide potential restoration planning and other potential compatible uses for the entire property.

Per the grant agreement, the County will contribute any additional funding necessary to manage and implement the approximately eight months visioning process and future planning efforts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
If your Board approves the budget action to accept the $150,000 State Coastal Conservancy grant, that amount will be added to the capacity within the Measure A budget. Staff anticipates that the community engagement and visioning process may exceed this grant amount. Any funds required beyond the $150,000 grant will be covered by existing capacity in the Measure A budget and County General Fund.
REVIEWED BY:

[ ] Dept. of Finance  [ X ] N/A
[ X ] County Counsel  [ ] N/A
[ X ] County Administrator  [ ] N/A

Senior Landscape Architect Tara McIntire is the principal author of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Chamberlain
Assistant Director