



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

May 14, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Accepting a Grant of \$500,000 from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for Meiners Oaks Park Project (Project) and Making Certain Related Certifications; Authorization for the County Executive Officer or Designee to Enter into a Grant Agreement and Take Other Actions Required to Accept the Grant, Subject to County Counsel Approval; Authorization for the County Executive Officer or Designee to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with Meiners Oaks Parks, a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000, for Project Planning Purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt the resolution, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, approving a grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the State of California Parks and Recreation (State Parks) for the Meiners Oaks Park Project and making certain related certifications set forth therein.
2. Authorize the County Executive Officer (CEO) or her designee to enter into a grant agreement with State Parks and to take other actions required to accept the grant, subject to County Counsel approval as to form and legal sufficiency.
3. Authorize the CEO or her designee to negotiate and execute an agreement with Meiners Oaks Parks in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for project planning purposes.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors 2024–2027 strategic priority to invest in Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. The project, if completed, would provide access to a newly formed park, thus improving the quality of life for residents. This project will support the County's goal to provide relevant and meaningful services for communities.

DISCUSSION:

On November 11, 2023, the County and Meiners Oaks Parks (MOP) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), attached hereto as Exhibit 2, for the purpose of mutual assistance in designing and planning a nature-based public park located at 312 E. El Roblar Drive, Meiners Oaks, CA. MOP is a California non-profit organization with the mission to develop, support, acquire and/or maintain open space for the benefit of the natural environment and to enhance the lives of the residents of Meiners Oaks.

The County-owned parcel was acquired in 2005 and was previously developed with a single-family residence and a car wash facility. In 2022, the buildings were demolished, leaving only foundations and underground equipment at the former carwash. The property has been identified as an opportunity site that could provide benefit to the surrounding community for use as a park. Under the MOU, the County agreed to collaborate with MOP during the initial planning, design and environmental engineering phase of the project.

Due to the advocacy of Assemblymember Steve Bennett, the State of California has allocated \$500,000 for the Meiners Oaks Park project. The funds are being administered by the State of California Parks and Recreation Division. Staff is aware of the potential hold on these allocated funds due to State revenue issues; however, the CEO is bringing this item to the Board of Supervisors to complete State requirements to formally codify and appropriate these funds. The County will work directly with State Parks for any follow-up requests. An authorizing Resolution to obtain these State funds is attached to this Board letter.

Staff also recommends that your Board delegate authority to the CEO, or her designee, to negotiate and execute an agreement with MOP for project planning purposes in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. As contemplated in the aforementioned MOU, this agreement would facilitate the County's provision of funds to MOP for its retention of professionals with architecture, landscape architecture, and landscaping expertise to help design the park.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel. For questions on this item please contact Justin Bertoline at 805-677-8759.

Sincerely,



Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

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Attachment s

Exhibit 1 – Authorizing Resolution

Exhibit 2 – County MOU with Meiners Oaks Parks