



COUNTY of VENTURA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

September 12, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

Subject:

Approval and Authorization for the County Executive Officer or Designee to Execute a Funding Agreement with the City of Oxnard in the Amount of \$1,300,000 to Match the City of Oxnard's Contribution to Conduct Water Quality Feasibility Studies and Mitigation Activities in the Channel Islands Harbor Area

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the County Executive Officer (CEO) or designee to execute a \$1.3 million funding agreement with the City of Oxnard ("Oxnard") to match Oxnard's funding for the purpose of conducting water quality feasibility studies and mitigation activities ("Project") in the Channel Islands Harbor area.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Appropriations for this recommended action are included in CEO Budget Unit 1050.

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	General Fund – Fund Balance Assigned to Fiscal Recovery Projects
Funding Match Required:	City of Oxnard to Match County Contribution
Impact on Other	None
Departments:	

Summary of Revenues and Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 0
Indirect-Dept	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect-County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Cost	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 0
Net County Cost	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget for Special Accounts and Contributions – Division 1050				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 80,689,599	\$ 81,350,433	\$ 81,350,433	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 5,954,000	\$ 5,954,000	\$ 5,954,000	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ 74,735,599	\$ 75,396,433	\$ 75,396,433	\$ 0

Discussion:

The Channel Islands Harbor is the fifth largest harbor in the state of California and is a waterfront resort, recreation, and dining marketplace. The horse-shoe shaped harbor contains 166 acres of water surrounded by 126 acres of land and supports more than 2,500 vessels, four yacht clubs, and nine full-service marinas. The harbor waters connect to four residential communities including Seabridge, Westport, Mandalay Bay and Harbour Island.

In June of 2018, the Channel Islands Harbor experienced a water degradation event, resulting in brown, murky water and some marine life death. The City of Oxnard is the lead agency regarding this issue, and the County has continued to stay engaged. City staff began performing daily water quality testing in 26 locations for dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity and pH. This water quality testing has continued.

On October 11, 2022, your Board approved the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan. On December 13, 2022, your Board approved use of the County General Fund, in lieu of ARPA, to fund this spending plan to allow the County to distribute funding more effectively to partner organizations. This action was guided by the United States Department of Treasury's Provision of Government Services policy. It allowed the County to allocate funds more efficiently to partner organizations, while also reducing their administrative burden. Accordingly, the County is the responsible party for ARPA-related audits, reporting, and compliance. This spending plan included \$1.3 million for the City of Oxnard to match Oxnard's funding to conduct water quality feasibility studies and mitigation activities in the Channel Islands Harbor area. The City shall be solely responsible for managing and implementing the Water Quality Work valued at a total of \$2.6 million.

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the County Executive Office (CEO) engaged with the City of Oxnard and Chanel Islands Neighborhood Council (CINC) regarding the County's grant proposal. This investment will allow the City of Oxnard to continue with on-going water quality sampling and testing and develop a feasibility study which is anticipated to provide engineered options to address Channel Island Harbor's water quality issues. Once the feasibility study bid is awarded, it is anticipated the study will take between 12 and 18 months for its completion. After completion, any required environmental review will be conducted by Oxnard in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The County will provide these funds to the City of

Oxnard via a one-time full payment. To ensure that the City of Oxnard utilizes the funds as intended, the City of Oxnard must expend the funds by December 31, 2030. Any portion of the funds not expended by December 31, 2030, must be promptly returned to the County after that date.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Robert Bravo at (805) 662-6868.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Bravo
Deputy Executive Officer



Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1: Funding Agreement with the City of Oxnard