



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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December 11, 2012

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approve and Authorize a One-Time \$25,000 Grant to The Nature Conservancy for the Purposes Of Expanding Their Coastal Resilience Ventura Study to Include the Unincorporated Area of the County of Ventura. [Requires 4/5th Vote]

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Find that a County purpose is served in granting funds to The Nature Conservancy for the expansion of their Coastal Resilience Ventura Study in the unincorporated area of the County of Ventura.
2. Approve a one-time \$25,000 contribution to The Nature Conservancy to be used to broaden the Coastal Resilience Ventura study to include the north and south coast as shown in Attachment 2 and 3.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the budgetary transactions necessary to revise the following appropriations and revenue (4/5th Votes):

INCREASE	Org 1010 Other Charges	\$25,000
DECREASE	Org 1500 General Fund Contingency	\$25,000

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory	No
Source of Funding:	General Fund Contingency
Funding Match required	None
Impact on Other County Departments	Minimal



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Summary of Revenues & Costs:	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
Revenues:	\$0	\$0
Costs:		
Direct	\$25,000	\$0
Indirect – Dept/County CAP		
Total Costs	\$25,000	\$0
Net County Cost Incl. Indirects	\$25,000	\$0

Current FY 2012-13 Budget Projection for Org. 1010 Special Accts & Contr.				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$51,546,580	\$49,323,630	\$49,323,630	\$0
Revenue	\$13,865,080	\$14,178,855	\$14,178,855	\$0
Net Cost	\$37,681,500	\$35,144,775	\$35,144,775	\$0

DISCUSSION:

The devastation wrought by Katrina in 2005 and Superstorm Sandy this past October, has brought into stark reality the vulnerabilities associated with living along our precious coastlines. We experienced first-hand the tragedies associated with loss of land, investments, and ecological areas, which often cannot be recovered completely. Moreover, taxpayers must foot the bill to provide emergency response to flooded communities and rebuild coastal infrastructure damaged by such disasters.

A number of recently-adopted Federal and state strategies and regulatory decisions direct local governments to adopt policies to avoid, and reduce the costs of responding to coastal hazards, including climate change. Local governments have been directed to utilize local data in decision-making and long-range planning, in order to prepare for the risks associated with climate change. For example, the 2009 Climate Adaption Strategy directs local jurisdictions to assess climate change impacts and develop General Plans and Local Coastal Plans that: (1) identify areas that are most vulnerable to impacts; and, (2) set forth reasonable risk reduction strategies. In addition, the California Coastal Commission is preparing guidance on climate change and sea level rise for coastal States to comply with the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, which requires States to anticipate and plan for an occurrence of substantial sea level rise that will result in serious adverse effects in the coastal zone. Even more, California courts are reinforcing legislative mandates that require environmental review of projects to account for mitigating greenhouse gases, and similarly, Sea Level Rise.

Local government should take a role that complements the effort of Federal and State entities that are developing climate change strategies. More specifically, local government should articulate a long-term vision for their communities, as well as develop and implement effective and cost efficient policies with organizations that share its goals. One such organization is The Nature Conservancy, which is assisting our community through its coastal hazard and fluvial study for Ventura County's central coast, called the Coastal Resilience Ventura. The project offers a decision-making framework that will: (1) reduce the ecological and socio-economic risks of coastal hazards; and, (2) seek solutions that are effective and cost efficient.


Coastal Resilience Ventura began in January 2012 as a collaborative project to develop science-based, decision-support tools, and partnerships for communities vulnerable to coastal hazards. Although Ventura County is the first community in California to benefit from the Coastal Resilience project, the project is not unique to Ventura County. There are active site-based projects in the: Long Island Sound and Atlantic shores of Long Island; Florida Keys; Gulf of Mexico; U.S. Virgin Islands; Grenada and the Grenadines; Papua New Guinea; and, Solomon Islands. Projects are also being developed in Puget Sound, and the Mesoamerican Reef in Central America.

Coastal Resilience Ventura addresses flooding and inundation hazards through conservation projects, planning, and policy development. The project's aim is to deliver information that will assist Ventura County decision-makers when adopting policies that will reduce the risks associated with coastal hazards and the loss of coastal resources, through nature-based solutions that are effective and cost efficient. The project consists of a coastal hazard and fluvial study of Ventura County that will provide reliable, scientific-based data that can be used to identify portions of our coastline that are more vulnerable to climate change-induced coastal hazards than others. (Please refer to Attachment 2 for a map of the proposed study areas.) The County's Resource Management Agency could rely on the study to develop local policy options that address coastal hazards and climate change.

However, additional funds are required in order to expand the study to the north and south coast, which are predominantly the unincorporated areas of Ventura County. To date, The Nature Conservancy has funded \$336,140 in contract obligations which represents the contract amount for ESA-PWA (Environmental Consulting Firm for the study's modeling), The Planning Center (policy), and a few small contracts (economics, web design, and writing). In order to broaden the study to include the north and south coast of Ventura County, additional funding of \$35,706 is needed. The Nature Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy have partnered to fund \$10,706 of the total expanded project area cost and are requesting the County to partner with a \$25,000 one-time grant. (Please refer to Attachment 3 for the pricing proposal.)

Please join us in supporting this very important project in Ventura County, by allocating the funds that are needed to ensure its success. This project will help us acquire the local coastal hazard data that is needed to develop reasonable solutions to minimizing and avoiding coastal climate change hazards.

Sincerely,


Kathy J. Long
Supervisor Third District


Steve Bennett
Supervisor First District

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| ATTACHMENT 1: | Coastal Resilience Ventura Fact Sheet. |
| ATTACHMENT 2: | Map of the proposed expanded Coastal Resilience Ventura in the north and south coast of Ventura County, predominantly unincorporated areas. |
| ATTACHMENT 3: | The Pricing Proposal to broaden the Nature Conservancy's Coastal Resilience Ventura study to include the north and south coast of Ventura County. |