



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-20-12
Meeting 20-02
January 22, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Resolution to Accept Grant Funding from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking Area Feasibility and Planning Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to receive \$301,000 for the preparation of preliminary planning documents for a seven-mile extension of the proposed Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and related parking area to be located on the San Mateo County coast.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) has an opportunity to receive up to \$301,000 in funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) in support of the preparation of preliminary planning documents for a seven-mile extension of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and related parking area on the San Mateo County coast. Adoption of a resolution by the Board of Directors is required to meet the grant requirements and execute the agreement.

DISCUSSION

In 2019, District staff submitted two grant applications totaling \$301,264 to the Conservancy for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and parking area feasibility and planning project. In July 2019, the District applied to the Conservancy's Priority Conservation Area grant program (in collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association for Bay Area Governments), requesting a total of \$151,264. In October 2019, the District applied to the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grants program, requesting a total of \$150,000. Due to the way funds are being allocated between projects, the Conservancy will be using its own funds entirely for this project. On December 19, 2019, Conservancy staff adopted a resolution authorizing the disbursement of up to \$301,000 for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking Area Feasibility and Planning Project.

The Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail corridor is an approximately 15-mile regional trail that will provide east-west connections from Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to the San Mateo County coast, approximately five miles south of the City of Half Moon Bay. The trail is a critical link in the regional trail network, connecting the Bay Area Ridge trail to the California Coastal Trail across Highway 1. When constructed, the Purisima-to-the-Sea trail will rise over 1,800 feet from the coastal bluffs along the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail to the Bay Area Ridge Trail west of Skyline Boulevard, offering spectacular views of the coast and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Completion of this trail has been identified as a priority under Measure AA Portfolio

03: Purisima Creek Redwoods, *Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection and Conservation Grazing*.

The District has been working since to 2006 to acquire a total of 1,493 acres of open space to establish a regional trail connection between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Mateo County coast, known as Purisima-to-the-Sea. On July 3, 2019, the 240-acre Giusti (Purisima Upland) property was transferred to the District as an addition to Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, which finalized the land acquisitions necessary to complete the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail. The District is also exploring parking area options for the trail, which may require an additional acquisition. Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) holds conservation and trail easements over Purisima Farms that forms the 3.6-mile Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail, which will allow continuation of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail west of Verde Road to make the connection to the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail.

A planning study and field investigations will analyze opportunities for the final alignment of the multiple-use public trail, pedestrian crossings, new parking area, and trailhead, while guaranteeing sufficient buffers for nearby residential and agricultural uses. As part of stakeholder engagement and public outreach, the District will consult with adjacent property owner(s) prior to and during any future public trail use planning processes. Planning will also include consultation with appropriate agencies and organizations, and public meetings to gather initial input and comments related to any draft and final plans.

Grant Requirements

The District must adhere to the grant agreement set forth by the Conservancy (refer to Exhibit A of the attached Resolution), which includes the submittal of regular project updates as part of grant reimbursement requests and the maintenance of proper financial accounting. Expenses incurred before the grant agreement is executed cannot typically be billed to the grant. The Conservancy reimburses grantees for expenses after they are incurred. Grantees are typically required to maintain general liability, automobile, and other forms of insurance during the term of the grant agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Conservancy grant will represent a positive fiscal impact for a total of \$301,000, on a reimbursement basis beginning in FY2020-21. A project budget for FY2020-21 and beyond will be adopted as a part of the annual Budget and Action Plan development process.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Submitting grant applications to secure funding is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed preparation of plans for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail project

is not subject to the CEQA pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations, section 15262, in that it would involve only planning studies and feasibility analyses for possible future actions that have not yet been approved, adopted or funded. The project is also categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15306, which exempts basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that will not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

NEXT STEPS

With Board approval and adoption of the proposed resolution, the General Manager will execute the grant agreement. Near-term next steps for the project include project planning, feasibility analysis, and technical studies. Conceptual plans, when ready, would be presented to the Planning and Natural Resources Committee for review and guidance and forwarded to the full Board for approval as the CEQA project description. Final design, environmental review, project approval by the Board, and permitting would follow in subsequent fiscal years.

Attachment:

1. Resolution verifying the submittal of the District's grant application and authorizing the General Manager to execute a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to the State Coastal Conservancy for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking Area Feasibility and Planning Project.

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, CFO/Director of Administrative Services

Prepared by:

Jordan McDaniel, Senior Grants & Procurement Technician

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Staff contact:

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RESOLUTION NO. 20-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE PURISIMA-TO-THE-SEA TRAIL AND STAGING AREA PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy awards grants for projects that it determines are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and that best achieve the Conservancy’s statutory objectives, in light of limited funding; and

WHEREAS, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“applicant”) has applied for Conservancy grant funding for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Staging Area Project (“the project”); and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy encourages applicants for grant funding to certify through a resolution the applicant’s approval of the application and of certain listed assurances at the time of submission of an application to the Conservancy for an award of grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the applicant hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding by the Conservancy.
2. Agrees to the Conservancy’s List of Assurances, attached hereto as Exhibit A.
3. Has or will have sufficient funds to complete and, following completion, to operate and maintain any property acquired under the project or to operate and maintain any facilities funded as part of the project for a reasonable period, not less than the useful life of the facilities.
4. Agrees to provide any funds beyond the Conservancy grant funds necessary to complete the project.
5. Authorizes any of the following named officers or employees of the applicant or any person holding any of the following positions with the applicant to act as a representative of the applicant and to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments necessary to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation, the grant agreement: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager and Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2020, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Jed Cyr, Secretary
Board of Directors

Karen Holman, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk

List of Assurances

The applicant is applying for a grant of funds from the California State Coastal Conservancy with respect to a proposed project. The applicant hereby assures and certifies that it will comply with Conservancy regulations, policies, and requirements as they relate to the acceptance and use of Conservancy funds for this project. The applicant further gives assurance and certifies with respect to the proposed grant that:

1. It possesses legal authority to apply for the grant, and to finance or acquire property or to finance and construct any proposed facilities, as proposed; that, where appropriate, a resolution, motion, or similar action has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body, authorizing the filing of an application, and authorizing one or more persons as the official representative(s) of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide additional information that may be required.
2. It will have sufficient funds available to meet its own share of the cost for the project that has been proposed for grant funding. Sufficient funds will also be available when the project is completed to assure the effective operation and maintenance of any real property acquired or facilities constructed under the proposed grant for the purposes for which the funding was provided.
3. It holds or will hold sufficient title, interest, or rights in the property on which any project work will occur to enable it to undertake lawful development and construction of the project. (Documentation may be requested by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy.)
4. It will not dispose of or encumber its title, interest, or other rights in the property acquired or in the site and facilities constructed under the proposed grant, except as permitted by the Conservancy.
5. It will give the Conservancy, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the Conservancy's grant.
6. It will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved, and the project will be carried to completion with reasonable diligence.
7. It will, where appropriate, comply with the requirements of the State Government Code 7260 et seq., which provides for equitable treatment and relocation assistance for persons displaced by eminent domain.
8. It will, where appropriate, comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
9. It will comply with all requirements imposed by the Conservancy concerning special provisions of law, and program requirements.