

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACKNOWLEDGING GRANT REQUIREMENTS OF SANDAG TO IMPLEMENT A MULTI-YEAR COASTAL CACTUS WREN HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM WITHIN THE CHULA VISTA OTAY RANCH PRESERVE MANAGEMENT AREA, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT FUNDING SHOULD IT BE AWARDED FROM SANDAG, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH SANDAG

WHEREAS, the TransNet Extension Ordinance contains provisions for the creation of an Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), which began being funded by the Extension Ordinance on April 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the TransNet EMP allocates funding for land management and monitoring activities including habitat acquisition, habitat management, and biological resource monitoring activities to help implement regional habitat conservation planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014 SANDAG Board of Directors allocated \$1.5 million of TransNet EMP funding for land management projects that promote invasive species control and restoration, specific management for at risk species, and general activities such as habitat maintenance, access management, and the coordination of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014 SANDAG issued a request for proposals from entities wishing to apply for a portion of the EMP funds for use on environmental land management projects meeting certain criteria; and

WHEREAS, in January 2015 the City prepared and submitted a grant application to SANDAG requesting \$189,836 to fund a multi-year Coastal cactus wren habitat restoration program within the Otay Ranch Preserve Management Area (Otay Ranch Preserve); and

WHEREAS, the Coastal cactus wren is a Covered Species under the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan; and

WHEREAS, loss and degradation of Coastal cactus wren habitat within the Otay Ranch Preserve is occurring due to historical cattle grazing, weed invasion, drought, and vegetation succession; and

WHEREAS, the proposed restoration and enhancement program has been developed to ensure the prolongation of the Coastal cactus wren through active management of suitable Cactus wren habitat; and

WHEREAS, the grant proposal has been developed consistent with the City's adopted MSCP Subarea Plan to ensure that Covered Species are adequately protected; and

WHEREAS, the requested funding amount of \$189,836 would sufficiently fund the activities offered through the proposed Coastal cactus wren restoration and enhancement program which are essential for the prolongation of the Coastal cactus wren and would reduce the vulnerability of this species to extirpation; and

WHEREAS, as part of the grant, the City will provide \$3,744 of matching funds through in-kind City services as set forth in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, in April 2015 SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group recommended the City's proposal for funding to SANDAG's Regional Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, staff will select a qualified biological consultant to implement this program in accordance with the purchasing procedures set forth in Chula Vista Municipal Code (CVMC) 2.56.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Chula Vista does hereby authorize acceptance of the subject grant funds should they be awarded by SANDAG.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should SANDAG award the grant funding, the City commits to provide \$3,744 in matching funds through in-kind services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute the subject grant agreement with SANDAG.

Presented by

Approved as to form by

Gary Halbert, PE, AICP
City Manager

Glen R. Googins
City Attorney