



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



March 26, 2019

File ID: 19-0066

## **TITLE**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000; APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH LIVING COAST DISCOVERY CENTER TO PROVIDE A COMMUNITY PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE URBAN FAMILIES TO HIKE, EXPLORE, AND PROTECT LOCAL HABITATS AND WILDLIFE; AND APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS ACCORDINGLY (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Council adopt the resolution.

## **SUMMARY**

The Living Coast Discovery Center and City of Chula Vista Parks and Recreation have been working in partnership for nine years providing education and habitat conservation opportunities for the local community. Adoption of this resolution will accept grant funding from the Habitat Conservation Fund Program through the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services and approve a contractual agreement with the Living Coast Discovery Center to provide a community program to encourage urban families to hike, explore, and protect local habitats and wildlife.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. In addition, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Director of Development Services has also determined that the "Project" qualifies for an Exemption pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines. Thus, no environmental review is required.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Not applicable.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Living Coast Discovery Center, previously named the Chula Vista Nature Center, was opened in 1987 as a City facility and, for many years, was under the oversight of the Recreation Department. In 2010, the

Living Coast Discovery Center became an independent non-profit 501(c)3 organization yet continues to work in coordination with the City of Chula Vista.

The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services released a notice of funding availability for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program. This program provides funding for projects that protect rapidly disappearing wildlife habitats that support California's unique and varied wildlife resources. On October 10, 2017, the Recreation Department was approved by City Council to apply for a grant for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program. The City was selected as a grant recipient for the program in the amount of \$100,000 and a contract was executed on October 9, 2018.

Utilizing the grant funding, in partnership with the City of Chula Vista, the Living Coast Discovery Center will create a community program to encourage urban families to hike, explore, and protect local habitats and wildlife. HELP (Hike, Explore, Learn, Protect) Chula Vista will conduct 120 interpretive hike programs and 48 community clean-up projects and serve up to 4,200 people (approximately 500 different families) from underserved communities over four years.

The guided interpretive hikes will take place at Sweetwater Marsh, where the Living Coast Discovery Center is located, and in several locations throughout Chula Vista including Otay Valley Regional Park, Rice Canyon, Mother Miguel, and Morrison Pond. The Living Coast Discovery Center will conduct 48 programs onsite at Sweetwater Marsh and 72 programs offsite at other locations in Chula Vista. This program will serve up to 3,000 people.

The community clean-up projects will take place at several locations in Chula Vista including D Street Fill, J Street Marina, and Sweetwater River. The Living Coast Discovery Center will conduct 48 community clean-up projects, engaging up to 1,200 people and removing approximately 24,000 pounds of debris from local parks and waterways.

To encourage community participation, the Living Coast will create a "challenge" for families to attend three hikes and one clean-up project. The Living Coast Discovery Center will monitor attendance as part of its program evaluation and award certificates of completion after a family has finished the challenge. Families who complete the challenge will receive a family four-pack to visit the Living Coast Discovery Center.

HELP Chula Vista builds on existing programs and partnerships currently conducted by the Living Coast Discovery Center and the City of Chula Vista, including a five-year grant awarded to the Living Coast by the Port of San Diego and ongoing collaborative programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT**

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

**CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT**

Adoption of this resolution will result in the appropriation of \$100,000 to the State Grants Fund for the HELP Program. Match funding is provided by a grant to the Living Coast Discovery Center from the Unified Port of San Diego. There is no net fiscal impact to the General Fund.

**ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT**

Grant funds will be expended over the course of four years and once funds are exhausted, the program is complete. There will be no net fiscal impact to the General Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Service Agreement with the Living Coast Discovery Center

*Staff Contact: Tim Farmer, Parks and Recreation Administrator*