

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROBERT PERRAULT, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE FY 14 BUDGET AND AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A LETTER SUPPORTING THE LAND CONSERVANCY'S EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR THE PISMO PRESERVE

BACKGROUND

During the last City Council meeting, the Council entertained a presentation and request from members of The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County ("Conservancy"). The presentation and request focused on the efforts of the Conservancy to acquire 900 acres of land for the creation of the Pismo Preserve. Following the presentation and a review of the FY 15 Budget, the Council directed \$5,000 be allocated from the current FY 14 Budget to be paid to the Conservancy for the acquisition efforts and that a letter of support be drafted to the Wildlife Conservancy in support of the acquisition efforts. Both the budget amendment and the draft letter are attached for Council review and authorization.

DISCUSSION

The Land Conservancy is attempting to purchase nearly 900 acres for the creation of the Pismo Preserve. The property is located just to the north of Pismo Beach and is on the eastern side of US 101. Purchase of the property will eliminate urban development potential on the property and will create a preserve that would set aside a recreational area open to the public for passive uses, including hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc. The area will also protect habitat for wildlife and plants. The cost of the property is estimated at \$12 million. The Conservancy is planning on obtaining approximately \$8 million from state agencies. The remaining \$4 million is to be raised from a combination of local government and private donations.

At the conclusion of the Council discussion on the matter, the Council directed staff to amend the current fiscal year's budget by \$5,000 to contribute to the Conservancy for the land acquisition efforts. The Council directed the contribution be made to the Conservancy provided that, in the event the land purchase is not completed, the contribution is to be returned to the City. The Council also directed that a letter of support for the purchase be drafted to the Wildlife Conservancy.

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING



ROBERT PERRAULT
CITY MANAGER

Please Review for the Possibility of a Potential Conflict of Interest:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Identified by Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Bright |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peterson | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicolls |

Meeting Date: June 16, 2014

Agenda Item No. 9

ALTERNATIVES

The Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. The Council could adopt the resolution amending the FY 14 Budget for payment to the Land Conservancy and authorize the Mayor to execute the letter of support on behalf of the City; or
2. The Council could choose not to make the payment or send a letter of support at this time; or
3. The Council could provide staff with additional direction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council: 1) adopt the Resolution authorizing the payment of \$5,000 to the Land Conservancy; and 2) authorize the Mayor to execute the letter on the City's behalf.

FISCAL IMPACT

Amending the FY 14 Budget to accommodate the payment to the Conservancy will reduce the expected end of year FY 14 contributions to the reserve fund from an estimated \$128,666 to \$123,666.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act. A copy of the agenda and this staff report were sent to the Land Conservancy.

Attachments

1. Draft Resolution amending the Annual Appropriation Resolution for FY 14
2. Draft Letter of Support to the Wildlife Conservancy

RESOLUTION NO. 14-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH,
CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE 7TH AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL
APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION NO. 13-47 TO PROVIDE FUNDING
FOR THE PISMO PRESERVE – LAND CONSERVANCY**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH:

THAT Section 1 of Part III of the Annual Appropriation Resolution No. 13-47 be and is hereby amended as follows:

		<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
TO:	CITY MANAGEMENT Legislative	\$5,000
FROM:	RESERVES	(<u>\$5,000</u>)
	Total Section 1	<u>\$ -0-</u>

THAT account titles and numbers requiring adjustment by this Resolution are as follows:

	<u>Sources</u>	<u>Uses</u>
<u>General Fund</u>		
Resources/Uses:		
A/C No.: 01-121-4386	Community and City Relations	\$ -0-
A/C No.: 01-000-2800	Fund Balance	\$ 5,000
		<u>\$ -0-</u>
	Total General Fund	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
		<u>\$ 5,000</u>

THAT the purpose of this Resolution is to appropriate \$5,000 to provide funding for the Pismo Preserve - Land Conservancy.

THAT the balance in General Fund reserves after the adoption of this resolution would be \$1,800,221.

Upon motion by Council Member, and second by Council Member, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Council Members –
NOES:	Council Members –
ABSENT:	Council Members –
ABSTAIN:	Council Members –

the foregoing Resolution was **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at the Regular Meeting by the City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California, this 16th day of June, 2014.

DRAFT

DEBBIE PETERSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK

June __, 2014

Draft

(for City Council Review - 06/16/14)

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

**SUBJECT: PISMO PRESERVE (SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY) –
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR USE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD FUNDS**

On behalf of the Grover Beach City Council, I am writing to you to indicate we strongly support the allocation of Wildlife Conservation Board funds for the acquisition of the Pismo Preserve by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLO). LCSLO is currently working to purchase this 900-acre property from a private owner, PB Coast View LLC, with the intent to own and operate the site as a public preserve with dawn-to-dusk access for passive outdoor recreation.

The Pismo Preserve is located along Highway 101 in South San Luis Obispo County immediately adjacent to the communities of Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Oceano. This area relies heavily on the beach for visitor serving / recreational opportunities. Currently the area has very few upland hiking trails, none of which can compare to the preserve's natural resources and recreational possibilities. The preserve offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean from the Point San Luis Lighthouse to Point Sal, 10 miles of existing trails, majestic oaks, and beautiful rugged terrain, this property offers a truly magnificent setting for the public to enjoy our coast. The new hiking, mountain biking, and horse-back riding opportunities provided by the property will complement the natural beach setting that exists in Grover Beach, further supporting our City's ranking by *Cities Journal* as one of the best small cities in California.

The preserve will not only be a strikingly beautiful resource for our residents and the visiting public, but it will also be a safe recreational alternative for them as well. The Pismo Preserve will be open to the public from dawn to dusk and a preserve manager, hired by LCSLO, will keep the park clean and safe. The manager will also patrol for any fire and trespass dangers to protect not only the preserve's natural resources but to protect surrounding landowners as well.

All of these benefits could be realized provided sufficient funding is secured to purchase the property by August 2014. With minimal infrastructure needs, the property could be open to the public as early as the summer of 2015. Recently the City made a financial contribution to the acquisition and we are proudly supporting this effort through all means possible. We hope that your agency will join us in protecting this premier landscape.

On behalf of our constituents and potential visitors from throughout California, I urge your support for Wildlife Conservation Board funding of this extraordinary opportunity.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE PETERSON
Mayor