



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001911

MEETING DATE: 10/27/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): District 5
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: County Executive Office
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Thomas Miller, 714-834-6019
Dylan Wright, 714-480-2788

SUBJECT: Grant Agreement and Permit for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Habitat Restoration

CEO CONCUR

Concur

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW

Approve agreement to form

CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISCUSSION

3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: Yes

Current Year Cost: \$50,000

Annual Cost: N/A

Staffing Impact: No

Sole Source: No

Current Fiscal Year

Funding Source: Fund 405: 100%

County Audit in Last 3

Revenue: N/A

years: No

Levine Act Review

Completed? Yes

Prior Board Action: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304.
2. Approve the Grant Agreement between the Wildlife Conservation Board, Laguna Canyon Foundation and the County for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Habitat Restoration and authorize the Director of OC Community Resources, or designee, to execute in substantially the form attached, with minor modifications that do not increase the cost or liability to the County, as approved by County Counsel.
3. Approve and authorize the Chief Real Estate Officer, or designee, to execute the Entry Permit between the County and Laguna Canyon Foundation, for access to portions of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park in substantially the form attached, with minor modifications that do not substantially alter the financial or affirmative obligations, or increase risk to the County, and to execute any collateral instruments related thereto and perform any other administrative processes needed to complete the Entry Permit.

SUMMARY:

Approval of the Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement and Entry Permit will allow habitat restoration activities by the Laguna Canyon Foundation to support native wildlife within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) is seeking to perform habitat restoration activities on County of Orange (County) property managed by OC Community Resources/OC Parks (OCCR/OC Parks) within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Park). To help fund these activities, LCF applied for and was awarded a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for \$1.945 million, funded by Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, with support from the County including \$50,000 of in-kind contributions. Prior to applying for the grant, LCF received written support from OCCR/OC Parks as the landowner.

The purpose of the grant is to restore and enhance wildlife habitat that will improve biodiversity, climate resiliency, habitat connectivity and ecosystem health to benefit protected wildlife species. Approval of this Grant Agreement will enable LCF to restore and enhance native habitat on County parkland, advancing OC Parks' mission to conserve natural and cultural resources and supporting stewardship of the land it manages. The project area encompasses approximately 71 acres within the Park on a parcel of land referred to as Parcel 5, which is owned by the County and managed by OCCR/OC Parks. The scope of the work associated with the Grant Agreement is estimated to be completed in five years, with long-term management for an additional 20 years.

Since the grant awarded to LCF from WCB is on land owned by the County, the grant requires the landowner to be a party to the Grant Agreement for the purposes of landowner concurrence. The role of the County as the landowner is limited to providing project site access to LCF and the in-kind contributions described in the Financial Impact section.. The County has no responsibility or obligation for the habitat restoration activities. The full implementation of the Grant Agreement, including long-term management, is the responsibility of LCF. The Entry Permit was developed to ensure clarity of the County's role as it relates to the Grant Agreement and the habitat restoration activities, and to allow LCF the access it needs to the Park to fulfill the terms of the Grant Agreement.

Compliance with CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt (Class 4) from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 because it involves minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore and enhance native habitat on County parkland that will not remove healthy, mature, scenic trees.

General Plan Conformity: This project is in conformance with the Orange County General Plan. This project conforms to the Resources Element of the Orange County General Plan to preserve the character and natural beauty of the environment through the preservation, conservation, and maintenance of open space.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pursuant to the Grant Agreement, the County will provide \$50,000 of in-kind contributions consisting of plant materials and County staff time to assist the Laguna Canyon Foundation with the work associated with the WCB Grant.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

OC Community Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Location Map

Attachment B - Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement

Attachment C - Entry Permit