



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-15-105
Meeting 15-19
July 22, 2015

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Grant Funding Agreement with the County of San Mateo to Complete the San Francisco Bay Trail Connection Project at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute a funding agreement with the County of San Mateo to implement the San Francisco Bay Trail connection project at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

SUMMARY

The County of San Mateo (County) has pledged to contribute \$1 million of the County's Measure A funds towards the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail) connection project at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (Ravenswood). Adoption of the attached resolution will enable the General Manager to execute an agreement with the County to receive the Measure A grant funding to complete the planning, design and implementation of the trail project. While matching funds are not a grant requirement, the project will be leveraged with additional funds from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, which had previously allocated \$400,000 for the project, and the District is working with the County of Santa Clara to secure additional funds between \$1.0 and \$1.75 million. Unfunded project costs can be financed by the District's Measure AA bond proceeds.

MEASURE AA

The Measure AA Project List, which was approved by the Board of Directors (Board) on October 29, 2014, includes *Project 2-2, Ravenswood Bay Trail*, which is part of Measure AA Portfolio 2, Regional: Bayfront Habitat Protection and Public Access Partnerships.

DISCUSSION

The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project will close a critical gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail in San Mateo County. This incomplete trail section is 0.6 miles in length, located between Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (Ravenswood) and University Avenue along the boundary between East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The Bay Trail is a regional vision for a 500-mile continuous shoreline trail around San Francisco Bay, of which 340 miles are complete. This short segment is the last remaining major gap in an 80-mile continuous recreation and commute corridor connecting San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

With this grant, hikers, bicyclists, joggers, bird watchers and many outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy improved access to local and regional parks; a regional bicycle transportation corridor; restored wetlands; and observation platforms within District lands and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

In 2010, the Board approved an exchange agreement with the City of San Francisco where the District would grant them a subsurface tunnel easement underneath Ravenswood to accommodate a new water pipeline. In exchange, the City of San Francisco would grant to the District an open space easement across a portion of their adjacent lands with the intention of converting this open space easement into a public trail easement (R-10-65) to close the Bay Trail gap.

The exchange agreement with the City of San Francisco requires the District to evaluate the feasibility of various trail alignments within the open space easement area and conduct an environmental review of the project. The District has been working closely with the City of San Francisco and Consultants to identify and evaluate trail alignments and design alternatives, develop a conceptual plan for the proposed Bay Trail connection, and prepare an environmental review document. A draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is expected to be released for review and public comment this winter. Once the MND is adopted, the District will be poised to prepare construction plans to move forward with project implementation.

In November 2012, San Mateo County voters approved Measure A, a ten-year half-cent general sales tax, to maintain the quality of life for all County residents by providing essential services and maintaining and/or replacing critical facilities. San Mateo County Parks has pledged to contribute \$1 million dollars of their Measure A funds towards the Bay Trail connection project at Ravenswood.

FISCAL IMPACT

Preliminary cost estimates for the Ravenswood Bay Trail connection project are between \$2.4 and \$3.15 million. To date, \$1.4 million has been allocated for the project between San Mateo County's Measure A grant fund and Santa Clara County's Stanford trails mitigation grant fund. The District is seeking the remaining \$1.0 to \$1.75 million from the County of Santa Clara through surplus Stanford trails mitigation grant funds. Unfunded project costs can be funded by the District's Measure AA funds.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The District is currently preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to analyze environmental impacts of the Bay Trail connection project as required by CEQA. A draft MND is expected to be released for review and public comment this winter.

NEXT STEPS

With the adoption of the attached resolution, District staff will develop a funding agreement with the County that includes a scope of work, budget, implementation schedule, and performance goals. The funding agreement will be presented to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on September 1, 2015 for their review and approval.

The District will complete a MND for public review and comment prior to forwarding to the Board for adoption. Once the MND has been adopted, the exchange agreement can then be finalized. Once a public trail easement across the San Francisco lands is secured, the District can begin the next phases of the Bay Trail connection project: development of schematic level trail designs and construction drawings; consultation and permitting with regulatory agencies; and trail construction.

Attachment

1. Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution of the Grant Agreement for Grant Funds from the County of San Mateo for the San Francisco Bay Trail Connection Project at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

Responsible Department Head:

Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Manager

Prepared by:

Gretchen Laustsen, Planner III, Planning Department

RESOLUTION NO. 15-__

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL CONNECTION PROJECT AT RAVENSWOOD OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

WHEREAS, San Mateo County (County) voters approved Measure A, a ten-year, half-cent general sales tax to maintain the quality of life for all County residents by providing essential services and maintaining and/or replacing critical facilities; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County Parks strives to preserve San Mateo County's natural and cultural treasures and provides for safe, accessible parks, as well as recreation and learning opportunities, to enhance the community's quality of life, with County Parks managing 20 parks, 190 miles of regional, county and local trails, and two historic sites throughout San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County Parks will recommend to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors that \$1 million dollars of Measure A should be granted to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to complete the San Francisco Bay Trail Connection Project at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hereby:

1. Agrees to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement; and
2. Has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the funded project; and
3. To the extent permitted by law, agree to provide any funds needed beyond the grant requested to complete the project funded under this program through the allocation of uncommitted funds; and
4. Authorizes the General Manager, as agent and representative of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, to execute the Grant Agreement, the Irrevocable Offer to Dedicate Title in Fee, and all documents necessary to comply with the County's grant requirements.

* * * * *

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2015, at a Regular Meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary
Board of Directors

President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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.

District Clerk