

STAFF REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
September 26, 2011

ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Resolution No. 5344 authorizing the application for funds under the Habitat Conservation Grant Program.

Report prepared by:
Matthew Roberts, Parks and Recreation Director


Signature

Reviewed by:
Dave Durlinger, City Manager


Signature

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Action Item: **Non action item:**

Staff recommends the Carpinteria City Council adopt Resolution No. 5344 authorizing the application for funds under the Habitat Conservation Fund.

Sample Motion: I move to adopt Resolution No. 5344 as read by title only to authorize the City of Carpinteria to apply for funding under the Habitat Conservation Fund.

I. BACKGROUND:

Protecting, restoring, and enhancing wildlife habitat and fisheries are vital to maintain California's environment and quality of life. The impacts of the increase in the state's human population results in an urgent need to fund projects that protect rapidly disappearing wildlife habitats that support California's unique and varied wildlife resources.

Under the provisions of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, the state of California offers funds on a competitive basis to local agencies to



Photo of Tar Pits Park Trail that is badly eroded and that also has grown in width as hikers have blazed new paths.

fund projects that will improve the quality of habitat of California.

City staff has identified a project that we believe is well qualified for this grant program. Please see the project location exhibit attached. In the western end of Tar Pits Park, the existing trail traverses the perennial fresh water wetland. In this area, the trail also ascends from the beach to the bluff top. Together, this site is suffering from its popularity as the trail is becoming exceedingly eroded and the wetland is over trodden by area visitors. This degrades the wetland, causes habitat damage as volunteer trails emerge in previously undisturbed areas. Often when hikers look for a less treacherous routes such as the existing eroded trail, they blaze new trails or cause the current to become wider. Both of these outcomes are highly undesirable as they cause further degradation of the area.

Because this area receives such a high volume of local and state beach visitor traffic, a remediation project has become an important project to implement as soon as possible. The current state of the eroded trail will worsen as seasonal rains wash soil loosed by foot traffic into the ocean.

A properly designed project will stabilize and narrow the trail with natural looking grade stabilizers/steps and native plantings. The earthen path over the wetland will be afforded an elevated boardwalk that will help prevent erosion there as well as allow for the re-establishment of wetland plantings. Limited use of post and rail fencing will help guide the public away from entering the wetland area where unauthorized trails have emerged and some signage will help to gain cooperation and respect from the public.

The proposed project will remediate the trail erosion, discourage unauthorized entry into the wetland area, improve coastal access, restore the damaged area of the wetland, improve the general public's understanding and respect of a beachside freshwater wetland and improve public safety by making the trail more negotiable.

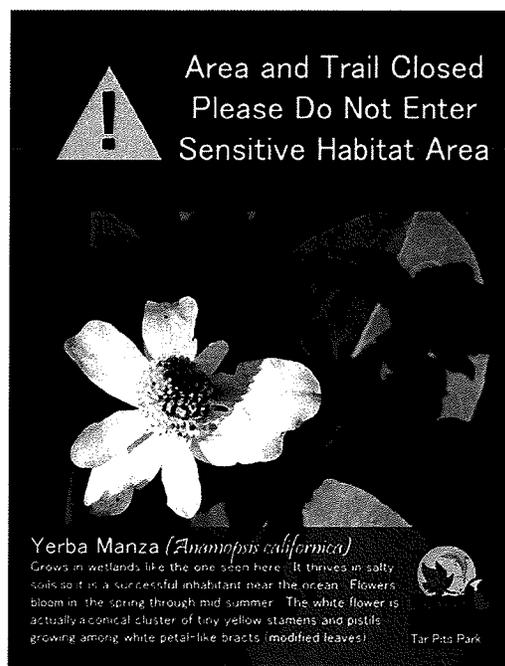
The project will also enhance visitors' experience in Tar Pits Park by providing a safer trail that shows far less human impact.

II. POLICY:

This City's General Plan states in its introduction, "The goal of the community is: *...to preserve the essential character of our small beach town, its family-oriented residential neighborhoods, its unique visual and natural resources and its open, rural surroundings while enhancing recreational, cultural and economic opportunities for our citizens.*" The proposed project restores environmentally sensitive habitat, improves water quality, provides public safety benefits, improves the Carpinteria Coastal Vista Trail and provides a durable solution to a severely eroding trail.

The City's General Plan and Local Coastal Plan policy OSC-14 directs the City to pursue the provision of adequate parks and open space for all community members.

This project will provide benefits toward the City's



compliance with its Storm Water Discharge Program and NPDES permit.

III. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total proposed budget for the project is preliminarily calculated as follows:

Project design, permits administration	\$20,000
Trail repairs and grade stabilization	\$35,000
Elevated boardwalk	\$22,500
Post and rail fencing	\$ 7,500
Invasive plant removal	\$ 5,000
Native plant installation	\$ 5,000
Signage	\$ 6,000
Total project value	\$ 101,000

The Habitat Conservation Fund Grant requires a 50% match. If the project should be awarded funds, the City may use in-kind services to meet its match obligation. In addition, City may source funds for this project from the Parks Improvement Fund or the Tidelands Trust Fund.

IV. LEGAL ISSUES:

No legal issues are presented as a part of this report.

V. ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 5344

Resolution No: 5344

RESOLUTION OF THE CARPINTERIA CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which provides funds to the State of California for grants to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife and habitat protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the HCF Program, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the HCF Program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application(s) before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the project(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carpinteria City Council hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the required match and sufficient funds to complete the project; and
3. Certifies that the applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
4. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown in the grant administration guide; and
5. Delegates the authority to the City Manager to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project, and
6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

7. PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF September, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT:

COUNCILMEMBERS:

Mayor, City of Carpinteria

ATTEST:

City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Carpinteria held this 26th day of September, 2011.

City Clerk, City of Carpinteria

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

