

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 3**

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT (PACE)  
PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW:**

On July 17, 2013 (5), the Board of Supervisors directed staff to return to the Board with a report on the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program within 120 days. The Board directed that the report detail the opportunities and challenges realized during the PACE program's implementation, provide an analysis of program demand and property characteristics of interested program participants, and identify and allocate appropriate funding to continue the County PACE program for the 16 remaining top-ranked properties.

Today's item is in response to the Board's direction. If the Board approves the recommendation to continue the program for the remaining 16 top-ranked properties and directs staff to acquire these easements, additional funding of up to \$820,000 of General Fund fund balance would be identified in Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operational Plan for acquisition of up to 16 remaining properties.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds of \$640,000 are included in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operational Plan for the Department of Planning & Development Services. The funding source is Fiscal Year 2012-13 General Fund fund balance available. If the Board directs staff to continue with the purchase of additional properties, then additional costs of up to \$820,000 associated with the acquisition, appraisal and administrative costs of the properties will be included in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operational Plan based on Fiscal Year 2013-14 General Fund fund balance available. There will be no change in net General fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive the report on the County's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement program and provide further direction to staff.
2. If the Board directs staff to acquire easements from the remaining 16 top-ranked properties:
  - a. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15317 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it is a project involving the purchase of easement interests to preserve agricultural and natural conditions.
  - b. Direct the Director of Planning & Development Services to pursue the acquisition of easements on the remaining 16 top ranked properties.
  - c. Refer to budget, the establishment of appropriations of up to \$820,000 in the Department of Planning & Development Services, services and supplies, to fund the acquisition of the remaining top ranked PACE properties, based on Fiscal Year 2013-2014 General Fund fund

balance available.

- d. Provide direction to staff whether a mitigation program should be prepared as an expanded component of the PACE program.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor D. Roberts, seconded by Supervisor Jacob, the Board took the following action:

1. Received the report on the County's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement program.
2. Found that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15317 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it is a project involving the purchase of easement interests to preserve agricultural and natural conditions.
3. Directed the Director of Planning & Development Services to pursue the acquisition of easements on the remaining 16 top ranked properties.
4. Referred to budget, the establishment of appropriations of up to \$820,000 in the Department of Planning & Development Services, services and supplies, to fund the acquisition of the remaining top ranked PACE properties, based on Fiscal Year 2013-2014 General Fund fund balance available.
5. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a mitigation program as an expanded component of the PACE program.
6. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to establish the PACE program as a permanent county program.
7. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide for continuous funding through an annual General Fund appropriation in addition to funding through mitigation.
8. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to periodically reopen the PACE application process to interested property owners.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, D. Roberts, R. Roberts, Horn


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State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



By   
Marvice E. Mazyck, Chief Deputy