



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager's Office



DATE: July 13, 2011
BOARD MEETING DATE: July 26, 2011
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: David S. Boesch, County Manager
SUBJECT: Resolution to Conduct Public Outreach to Consider the Offer from Stanford University for Constructing a Trail on Alpine Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing a public outreach process in connection with the consideration of an offer from Stanford University for constructing a trail on Alpine Road.

BACKGROUND:

On January 3, 2006, an Agreement for Trail Easements, Construction, Management and Maintenance and Grant of Easements was executed between the County of Santa Clara and Stanford University. The agreement provided that Stanford University make an offer to the County of San Mateo of \$8.4 million to construct a multi-use trail along Alpine Road in unincorporated San Mateo County, with the trail improvements completed by December 31, 2011. Under the terms of that agreement the offer to San Mateo County can remain open until December 31, 2011, at which time, if not accepted by the County; the funds will revert to Santa Clara County for recreational purposes.

Although your Board has rejected the offer in 2008, and reaffirmed the rejection in 2010, Stanford University is, again, making the offer one last time before the deadline to close the option for San Mateo County at the end of this calendar year.

DISCUSSION:

In reviewing this final offer from Stanford University, staff has looked at the cost associated with needed road maintenance along the section of Alpine Road in the proposal, as well as the need for pedestrian and bicycle facilities or improvements, improved sight distances for residents entering the road, parking, and vehicle circulation. The road has four major areas of erosion caused by San Francisquito Creek, as well as a need for upgrades to the sidewalks for pedestrian use. Addressing these needs and shifting the roadway further away from the creek would save the County from performing costly repairs should the erosion become more pronounced. The current value of the Stanford University offer (with interest) is in excess of \$10 million. Staff suggests that your Board reconsider the Stanford University offer as an opportunity to improve the roadway and the pedestrian and bicycle path along the road.

Staff is requesting the authority to proceed with further evaluating the Stanford University offer by conducting public outreach and analyzing alternatives and costs. If approved by your Board, staff will conduct public meetings over the next 2-3 months to gather additional public comment and input regarding the proposed improvements. It seems prudent to have a more extended public process to ensure that all community needs and concerns are brought forward and that your Board has the opportunity to make an informed decision before the offer expires. Staff will present the findings from the public outreach, and its recommendations, in a subsequent report to your Board.

In addition, Staff is recommending your Board request that Stanford University agree to an extension of their agreement to ensure time for staff to complete the public outreach process and present our recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF AN OFFER FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY FOR CONSTRUCTING A TRAIL ON ALPINE ROAD

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, under the terms of an Agreement for Trail Easements, Construction, Management and Maintenance and Grant of Easements between the County of Santa Clara and Stanford University, dated January 3, 2006, (hereinafter the "Agreement") the University made an offer to the County of San Mateo of \$8.4 million to construct a multi-use trail along Alpine Road in unincorporated San Mateo County, which offer required that the trail improvements be completed by December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendations of the subcommittee of your Board of Supervisors, and information received at the meetings of February 12, 2008, and November 17, 2010, this Board determined, by a unanimous vote, to reject the offer, and directed the President of the Board to send a letter to the County of Santa Clara and Stanford University advising them of the Board's decision to reject the offer; and

WHEREAS, Stanford University has, again, within the terms of the Agreement, made the offer to the County of San Mateo to construct a trail along Alpine Road according to the terms of the original agreement including interest bring the total funds available to \$10.5 million to construct a multi-use trail along Alpine Road in unincorporated San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the current offer required that the trail improvements be completed by December 31, 2011, unless an extension of the agreement is requested through Stanford University ; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors wishes to ensure the public has additional input into this Board's consideration of this offer in light of their needs and the community needs of Ladera and Weekend Acres;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED that this Board direct the County Manager, and/or his designee, to proceed with reviewing the Stanford University offer by conducting public outreach and analyzing alternatives and costs over the next 120 days, and whatever extensions of time are reasonably required. In addition, the Board hereby requests from Stanford University an extension of time, up to one year, to complete the public outreach and decision making process.

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