



DATE OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING: April 6, 2010

TO: LAUREL M. BARCELONA, City Administrator

FROM: TIMOTHY L. DABNEY, Chief of Police
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SUBJECT: APPLICATION APPROVAL FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANTS FUNDS

Recommendation:

1. The City Council adopt Resolution No. 5625(10) approving a grant application submitted by the Lompoc Police Department to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$176,595 to enhance public education, crime prevention and enforcement of laws related to off-highway vehicle use on the City of Lompoc Riverbend Multi-purpose Bike Trail and other City property in the Santa Ynez Riverbed.
2. Authorize the City Administrator and Chief of Police or his designee to accept and administer the California Department of Parks and Recreation Grant if awarded.

Background:

Enforcement of laws and regulations in the Santa Ynez Riverbed has been problematic for many years. Although the majority of the land in the riverbed is outside of the Lompoc City Limits, large portions of the riverbed are owned by the City. With the relatively recent addition of the Riverbend Multi-purpose Bike Trail, instances of persons operating off-highway vehicles both on the City Trail and in the riverbed have increased.

Traditionally, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, City of Lompoc Park Rangers and officers of the Lompoc Police Department have worked together to address trespassing, illegal off-road vehicle use and other problems in and adjacent to the riverbed.

The Lompoc Police Department Dispatch Center receives scores of complaints yearly regarding people driving off-highway vehicles (OHV's) on the City paved streets, bike/foot path, and on the uninhabited lands and riverbed. These complaints include quads and off-road motorcycles driving with and without safety equipment, with complete disregard for laws, driving recklessly, and entering the riverbed and other uninhabited lands. The complainants state the riders often speed, don't stop at stop signs or traffic lights, are loud, and drive extremely close to people, sometimes forcing the people off the road or path. There are also many complaints of 4x4 type vehicles entering the riverbed and uninhabited lands and then exiting unsafely into residential areas, tracking dirt, mud, sand, and rocks onto the paved road causing increased cost to the residents and City for clean up and property damage.

The riverbed area sometimes presents a problem with underage drinking parties in areas of the uninhabited lands, particularly at night in areas not visible from the street. The Department recovers

wrecked, abandoned, stolen, and burnt out vehicles in the uninhabited lands and riverbed, taken to these areas for joy riding etc, causing financial loss to the vehicle owners, and the City for investigation and removal. The uninhabited lands of the riverbed also present a fire hazard due to the presence of combustible brush and trees combined with OHV use and minors engaging in malicious mischief and parties in the area.

Several preventive and enforcement actions have been implemented over the years by the Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Lompoc Police Department.

- The City has posted no trespassing signs along the riverbed where most entry is made by OHV's or 4x4 type vehicles.
- Park Rangers employed by the Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department have patrolled the bike path and edge of the riverbed seeking violators and enforcing park rules.
- The City ordinance prohibiting riding an OHV within the City is enforced by the Police Department when violators are identified.
- The City has installed barricades along some parts of the bike/foot path and also a raised concrete curb along the east side of the residential area in addition to large boulders and concrete "K" rails to block most dirt roads. Some larger vehicles have made access using many of the wider paths that line the uninhabited areas, all vehicles driving over curbs, cutting locks to fences, or moving these city erected barricades to include "K" rails.
- The Lompoc Police Department has held community meetings on the problem and has had the California State Park Police personnel provide information on OHV laws on the Lompoc Police Beat TV show.
- The Lompoc Police Department has increased street motorcycle and car patrols in the area but when pursuing the OHV's, many times the pursuit ends when the OHV enters the uninhabited lands because the Lompoc Police Department has no vehicles that are able to access the riverbed or uninhabited land.
- This City has discussed erecting a fence along the riverbed as a preventative measure but that project has been impacted by funding availability.

The Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department continue to seek innovative ways to address trespassing, malicious mischief, and illegal OHV use in the Santa Ynez Riverbed.

Discussion:

The Lompoc Police Department and Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department have collaborated to apply for a State grant that will support enforcement and education intended to make the streets and bike/foot path much safer and enjoyable for everyone and preserve the City's interests in the Santa Ynez Riverbed.

The Lompoc Police Department has completed an application to receive grant funding offered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase 1 OHV (Razor) patrol vehicle and use bicycles for joint patrol and enforcement in the riverbed, uninhabited land, and on the City of Lompoc Riverbend Multi-purpose Bike Trail. The grant funding also provides salary and benefits to staff preventative/enforcement patrols with police officers, and park rangers. The proposed deployment of officers/rangers is 180 hours of patrol time per month for one year. Lompoc Police Department Volunteers can be trained to provide additional hours of patrol time.

The goal is not only enforcement, but educating the OHV public on riding safety and the dangers of riding in areas that are not legal and monitored by properly trained personnel, respect for private property, and environmental responsibility. Lompoc Police Officers will stop OHV's they encounter, conduct enforcement as necessary, educate the OHV driver on the laws governing the area they are illegally driving in and any other safety concerns to include the availability of the "ATV Rider Safety Course." The officers and park rangers will direct those seeking off-road activities to nearby local and state OHV opportunities to ride legally and safely. City staff will use various methods of education and enforcement, such as the Lompoc Police Beat TV Show, press releases in the local media, traffic message boards, outreach to local OHV organizations and other events, City website links for OHV riding, and mutual aid requests to CA State Parks Police and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

OVERVIEW OF GRANT REQUEST:

The grant offered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation requires a twenty five percent (25%) match by the City of Lompoc. That match can be a "hard" match of actual expended funds or an "in-kind" match of program management or other operational costs. The Lompoc Police Department has chosen to use "in-kind" match in excess of the required 25% to make the proposal more attractive.

	Grant Funds	In-Kind Match
Salaries and Benefits (2 park Rangers & 2 Police Officers for 2,160 hours) Potentially 180 hours of court overtime	\$91,843	\$10,980
Program Supervisor (192 hrs or 9.5% of full-time)		8,112
Parks and Recreation Administrative Overhead (3%)		2,984
Police Administrative Overhead (Captain @ 3%)		3,401
Polaris Razor OHV Patrol Vehicle	17,000	
Safety Equipment and Associated Supplies	2,144	
Indirect Costs of the Grant	12,000	
Fuel and Maintenance Costs		5,000
Tow Vehicle and Trailer		1,200
Printing of Prevention Materials & Signage		2,500
Emergency Medical Supplies (AED & med kit)		2,500
Miscellaneous Uniform Equipment		400
Police Equipped Mountain Bicycles (4)		6,000
Training (Bicycle and OHV Operation)		10,531
TOTAL COSTS	\$122,987	\$53,608

Fiscal Impact:

\$122,987 in Grant Revenue. The California Department of Parks and Recreation Grant requires a twenty-five percent (25%) match. Those costs listed above in the “In-kind Match” column are either accounted for in City inventory or can be covered under the existing City budget.

Consequences:

If the City Council chooses not to adopt Resolution No. 5625(10) approving a grant application submitted by the Lompoc Police Department to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, then the Department will not have to opportunity to compete for these grant funds.

This grant opportunity provides the City with a new approach to off-highway vehicles in the riverbed and associated problems. The City of Lompoc Parks and Recreation Department and the Lompoc Police Department will continue to respond to reported incidents in the area of the riverbed and multi-purpose bike trail, but proactive or preventative patrol will be very limited and dependent upon available resources.

Summary:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 5625(10) approving the grant application submitted by the Lompoc Police Department to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$176,595 to enhance public education, crime prevention and enforcement of laws related to off-highway vehicle use on the City of Lompoc Riverbend Multi-purpose Bike Trail and other City property in the Santa Ynez Riverbed.

Respectfully submitted,

TIMOTHY L. DABNEY
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL:

LAUREL M. BARCELONA
City Administrator

Attachment: [Resolution No. 5625\(10\)](#)