



ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Council Business

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson, Special Assistant to the City Manager *MRE* Agenda Item No. N-1

Reviewed By: City Manager *JRB* City Attorney *RH* Finance *J.C.* Other (Specify) _____

DATE: July 24, 2012

TO: City Council

FROM: Karen R. Burnham, Interim City Manager
City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: McGrath State Beach Park: Return of City Contribution

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve and authorize sending a letter to the Acting Director of California State Parks seeking the return of the \$50,000 donation from the City of Oxnard.

DISCUSSION

In April 2011, the City Council of the City of Oxnard learned that due to the State budget crisis, McGrath State Beach Park would face imminent closure due to lack of funds to repair approximately \$500,000 of sewer line repairs.

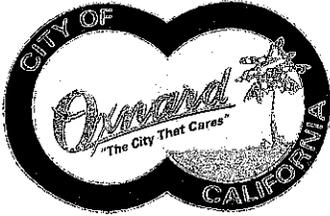
On December 30, 2011, the Oxnard City Council authorized payment of \$50,000 towards infrastructure repairs essential to allow McGrath State Beach to continue to operate. The County of Ventura also authorized \$50,000 towards the repairs. In addition, a private donor, Peter Mullin donated an additional sum of \$50,000 to the restoration. The \$150,000 total contribution was turned over to the State of California Department of Parks in order to contribute to the necessary repairs and keep the park open. Due to these efforts, combined with efforts of others, the park was saved from closing.

The Oxnard City Council has recently learned that approximately \$54 million in unencumbered funds was just "found" in the State Parks Department's accounts. This funding could have been used to pay for the necessary infrastructure repairs at McGrath State Beach Park. The City Council shares the strong concerns expressed by numerous other local agencies and private donors who contributed funds in difficult times to keep public parks open in the face of imminent closure due to what appears to be a false crisis created by false information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time. If successful, this action would benefit the City's General Fund Operating Reserve.

Attachment #1- Letter to Acting Director of California State Parks



CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7428 • Fax (805) 385-7595

July 31, 2012

Janele Beland
 Acting Director of
 California State Parks
 Post Office Box 942896
 Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Re: McGrath State Beach Park: Return of City and Private Contributions

Dear Ms. Beland:

In April 2011, the Oxnard City Council learned that McGrath State Beach Park faced imminent closure due to lack of funds to accomplish \$500,000 of sewer line repairs. On December 30, 2011, the Oxnard City Council authorized the payment of \$50,000 towards infrastructure repairs essential to allow McGrath State Beach Park to continue to operate. The County of Ventura also authorized \$50,000 towards the repairs. In addition, a private donor, Peter Mullin donated an additional sum of \$50,000 to the restoration. The \$150,000 total contribution was turned over to the State of California Department of Parks in order to contribute to the necessary repairs and keep the park open. Due to these efforts, combined with efforts of others, the park was saved.

The Oxnard City Council has recently learned that a total of approximately \$54 million in unencumbered funds was just "found" in the State Parks Department's accounts. This money could have been used to pay for the necessary infrastructure repairs at McGrath State Beach Park. The Oxnard City Council shares the concerns expressed by numerous other local agencies and private donors who contributed funds in very difficult economic times to keep public parks open in the face of imminent closure due to what appears to be a false crisis created by false information. To say the least, the Council is disappointed that the extensive effort and financial sacrifice made by cities and private persons was unnecessary.

By this letter, the City of Oxnard is requesting that the State refund to the City its \$50,000 contribution to the McGrath State Beach Park.

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McGrath State Beach Park: Return of City and Private Contributions
July 31, 2012
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If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Karen R. Burnham, Interim City Manager at (805) 385-7430.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

Dr. Irene G. Pinkard
Mayor Pro Tem

Bryan A. MacDonald
Councilman

Tim Flynn
Councilman

Carmen Ramírez
Councilmember

ATTACHMENT 1
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