Atascadero City Council

Staff Report - City Manager’s Office

Request for Continued Funding Commitment to Assist in Purchase of Property by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) (8300, 8350, 8400 Toloso Road)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council confirm the City’s commitment to ALPS in the amount of $250,000.00, to cover the remainder of the purchase price for the Davis property, at Highway 41, near the three bridges.

DISCUSSION:

ALPS is interested in purchasing the approximately 103-acre parcel south of Highway 41 in the area of the three bridges, currently owned by the Davis family. The purchase price of the property is $1,750,000.00. ALPS had applied for a grant through the California River Parkways Grant Program, in the amount of $1,500,000.00. If they were successful with their application and had received the grant money, they would still need $250,000.00 to purchase the property. ALPS had requested the City commit to fund the remaining $250,000.00 of the purchase price.

The City Council approved, on May 29, 2007, the request for funds from the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS), in the amount of $250,000.00, to cover the remainder of the purchase price for the Davis property, at Highway 41, near the three bridges. The Council also authorized the appropriation of $50,000 from the Tree Fund, and $200,000 from the Open Space Acquisition Fund, to cover the remainder of the purchase price for the property. To guarantee open space status on this property in perpetuity, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Deed of Conservation Easement and Agreement Concerning Easement Rights with the ALPS.

ALPS informed the City in July 2007 that they were not awarded the grant money that they had requested from the State of California Resources Agency. A representative
from the State Agency encouraged ALPS to re-submit their application for the next grant cycle, due in mid-October.

FISCAL IMPACT:

$50,000 from the Tree Fund, and $200,000 from the Open Space Acquisition Fund. These funds are included in the current budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Council may deny the request for funds.
2. Council may alter the amount of funds to commit to the purchase of this property.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from ALPS, dated July 9, 2007