



RON ROBERTS

CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: February 28, 2012
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: SUPPORTING SB 973 (VARGAS) (DISTRICTS:ALL)

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SUMMARY:

Overview

Special events bring people together and create community spirit throughout the region. Each year the City of San Diego approves more than 500 special events and 20,000 park use permits, bringing in hundreds of millions of dollars in tourism and charity. Additionally, each year the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department approves more than 250 special events and 170 park use permits, bringing in \$140,000 in revenue. The recent ruling by the California Superior Court to enforce California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines upon limited duration events threatens our community by being excessively restrictive.

State Senate Bill 973 (Vargas) allows short term special events to receive CEQA review exemption. CEQA's true intention is to protect California's environmental diversity, not to prevent temporary events from happening throughout the state. SB 973 protects events such as community clean ups, marathons, parades, farmers' markets and other worthwhile events. Small business and non-profit organizations cannot afford the unnecessary additional costs of hiring environmental consultants and conducting an Environmental Impact Review (EIR).

Today's action will request a letter be prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer stating San Diego County's support of California State Senate Bill 973 as well as direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include this action in the Board's Legislative Program.)

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN ROBERTS

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to draft a letter communicating the Board of Supervisors' support of State Senate Bill 973.

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2.) Direct the CAO to include within the County's Legislative Program support for state legislative efforts that allow for short term events to be exempt from CEQA. |

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with approving these recommendations.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Special events bring people together and create community spirit throughout the region. Each year the City of San Diego approves more than 500 special events and 20,000 park use permits, bringing in hundreds of millions of dollars in tourism and charity. Additionally, each year the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department approves more than 250 special events and 170 park use permits, bringing in \$140,000 in revenue. The recent ruling by the California Superior Court to enforce California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines upon limited duration events threatens our community by being excessively restrictive.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was passed in 1970 to ensure that California's diverse environmental landscapes would be protected against unsafe environmental development. In recent years CEQA has been subject to litigation from exploitive attorneys who seek to distort CEQA's original intent, as seen in the May 2011 court case, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation v. City of San Diego. Recently, the Superior Court of California ruled that temporary special event and park use permits are subject to CEQA review.

State Senate Bill 973 (Vargas) allows for CEQA review exemption for short term special events. This protects the original intention of CEQA and protects events such as community clean ups, marathons, parades, farmers' markets and other important events. Small business and non-profit organizations cannot afford the unnecessary additional costs of hiring environmental consultants and conducting an Environmental Impact Review (EIR).

Today's action will request a letter be prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer stating San Diego County's support for California State Senate Bill 973 as well as direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include this action in the Board's Legislative Program.

Please join me in supporting this action.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

SUBJECT: [SUPPORTING SB 973 (VARGAS) (DISTRICTS:ALL)]

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

SUBJECT: [SUPPORTING SB 973 (VARGAS) (DISTRICTS:ALL)]

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
NA

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 4, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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