



DIANNE JACOB
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: February 1, 2011 & February 8, 2011

11

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: AMEND COUNTY CODE TO ALLOW A MENTORED, YOUTH-ONLY WILD TURKEY HUNT AT WILLIAM HEISE REGIONAL PARK (DISTRICT: 2)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Hunting was an integral part of the settlement and the expansion of the United States. Whether it is for recreation, to provide food or as part of a range/habitat management program, hunting continues to be practiced across the country. Currently, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has the authority to allow hunting on County of San Diego owned park land. However, existing ordinances restrict the possession and use of weapons in a County park, making hunting illegal.

The San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has approached the County with a proposal to sponsor and administer a mentored, juniors-only wild turkey hunt on County park land. This event would provide guidance to youth on safe hunting and expose them to the sport in a controlled and structured environment.

This Board letter proposes amendments to the County's Code of Regulatory Ordinances. The amendments would allow the use of firearms or archery equipment at William Heise Regional Park for a mentored, juniors-only wild turkey hunt. As a result, the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation could conduct a mentored, juniors-only turkey hunt at this park. This action will also authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation regarding the hunt.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR JACOB

1. Find that the ordinance amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304 because the proposed ordinance amendments will allow for a minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

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2. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (First Reading) on February 1, 2011, read title and waive further reading of the Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 33.101 AND 41.117 OF THE COUNTY CODE OF REGULATORY ORDINANCES RELATING TO NO SHOOTING NEAR HABITATION AND WEAPONS AND FIREWORKS IN COUNTY PARKS

If on February 1, 2011, the Board takes the actions recommended in Items 1-2 above then, on February 8, 2011:

3. Submit the Ordinance for further Board consideration and adoption (Second Reading).
4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement, upon review and approval by County Counsel, with the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to sponsor and oversee a mentored, juniors-only turkey hunt. The agreement will define the responsibilities of the parties, hunting dates and hours, hunting locations within the park, restrictions/rules during the hunt, insurance, defense and indemnification, etc.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Hunting was an integral part of the settlement and the expansion of the United States. Whether it is for recreation, to provide food or as part of a range/habitat management program, hunting continues to be practiced across the country.

The San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation approached the County with a proposal to sponsor and administer a mentored, juniors-only wild turkey hunt on County park land. This event would provide guidance to youth on safe hunting and expose them to the sport in a controlled and structured environment.

Currently, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has the authority to allow hunting on County-owned park land. However, existing ordinances restrict the possession and

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use of weapons in a County park, making hunting illegal. As a result of the proposed ordinance amendments, youth up to 15 years old will be introduced to the outdoors and will be educated on how to be responsible and ethical stewards of the natural resources, as well as instructed on the behaviors and characteristics of wild turkeys. During this event, there will be displays showing the history and habits of wild turkeys in San Diego County, demonstrations of turkey calling and the review of firearm safety. Any such hunt would be subject to the State of California laws and regulations governing hunting, as well as any applicable federal laws and regulations. The wild turkey hunt would occur for a maximum of two days per year during the youth wild turkey hunting season. During this event, the campground in the park will remain open, but portions of the park and the nearby trails will be closed for safety reasons.

This Board letter proposes amendments to the County Code to allow the use of firearms or archery equipment for a mentored, juniors-only wild turkey hunt at William Heise Regional Park. This amendment will allow the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to conduct the hunt. This Board letter also seeks authorization for the Director of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The agreement will define responsibilities of the parties, hunting dates and hours, hunting locations within the park, restrictions/rules during the hunt, insurance, defense and indemnification and other issues as may be appropriate. County Counsel would review and approve the agreement.

Environmental Statement

The proposed ordinance amendments will allow a temporary use at William Heise Regional Park in the form of a mentored, juniors-only wild turkey hunt using shotguns or bows and arrows. The hunt would be for a maximum of two days per year. This temporary use of the land will have negligible or no permanent effects on the environment. Hunting will be limited to a small group of fewer than 40 juniors and their mentors. Hunting locations within the park will be restricted pursuant to the agreement between the Director of Parks and Recreation and the San Diego Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Hunting will be allowed only in locations that will avoid cultural resource sites and favor the habitat type preferred by the wild turkey, such as open non-native grasslands with scattered trees. Because of the small number of people involved and the short duration of the hunt, the temporary hunting event would have negligible effects on this habitat. The habitat would not be permanently affected by any off trail activities associated with this short term hunting activity.

I urge your support.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)
Ordinance

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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:
N/A

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

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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