



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

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: March 14, 2012

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TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: COUNTY DISTINGUISHED VETERANS PARK PASS

SUMMARY:

Overview

San Diego County is home to over 230,000 veterans who have fought bravely to protect the United States of America. Many of these veterans have paid a sacrifice for their service through injury or detainment by a foreign enemy. The military is a vital part of the County of San Diego's history, economy and culture. Like many Americans, our retired service men and women seek to live an active, healthy lifestyle through the usage of parks. The State of California's Distinguished Veterans Pass (DVP) program is for veterans who were honorably discharged from service, have California residency and who are either; disabled war veterans, were a Prisoner of War or are a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. This pass entitles the holder to free camping, free day use and private boat use at State Park facilities.

The County of San Diego remains devoted to helping our veterans, especially those who have become disabled or spent time in captivity due to protecting our rights and freedoms. The County of San Diego already offers many services to support veterans and their families through the Veteran Services Office.

Today's action proposes a resolution amending the current fee schedule to allow military veterans that qualify for the State of California's Distinguished Veterans Pass to access all County operated campsites and Regional Parks free of charge as a thank you for their service and sacrifice.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR JACOB

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to adopt a similar program to the State of California's Distinguished Veteran's Pass Program, which allows wounded veterans, Prisoners of War and Congressional Medal of Honor recipients the use of all County Regional Parks and County Campsites at no cost up to a maximum of 7 nights in a calendar year.

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2. Find in accordance with Section 15273(a) for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that this project is exempt from CEQA and adopt the written findings pursuant to Section 15273(c) as attached. (Attachment A)
3. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts-Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery.
4. Adopt the “Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of The County of San Diego Approving the Revised Fee Schedule for the Department of Parks and Recreation Effective March 14, 2012. (Attachment B). |

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is unknown at this time, but the State of California’s Distinguished Veteran’s Pass would have a modest impact on the Department of Parks and Recreations’ revenues.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

San Diego County is home to over 230,000 veterans who have fought bravely to protect the United States of America. Many of these veterans have paid a sacrifice for their service through injury or detainment by a foreign enemy. The military is a vital part of the County of San Diego’s history, economy and culture. Like many Americans, our retired service men and women seek to live an active, healthy lifestyle through the usage of parks.

The County of San Diego remains devoted to helping our veterans, especially those who have become disabled or spent time in captivity due to protecting our rights and freedoms. The County of San Diego already offers many services to support veterans and their families through the Veteran Services Office.

The State of California offers a Distinguished Veteran Pass to veterans, who were honorably discharged from service, have California residency and who are either; disabled war veterans, were a Prisoner of War or are a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. This pass entitles the holder to free camping, free day use and private boat use at State Park facilities. Currently the County of San Diego does not offer special park fee discounts for distinguished veterans. The proposal would offer special park fee discounts to those who have a State of California Distinguished Veterans Pass.

Since the start of the DVP program in 1979, the State has distributed over 22,900 passes. In 2010, DVP holders accounted for just over 4,000 camping nights at State Parks located in San Diego County and 24,000 camping nights statewide. Based on California State Park studies, the

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average DVP pass was used 13 times per year for day use and 6 times per year for camping. If the Board approves a similar program, the County will provide free camping to DVP holders up to a limit of 7 nights in a calendar year. If the DVP holder chooses to reserve a campsite in advance, the DVP holder would still have to pay the standard \$5.00 reservation fee. This program will also provide DVP holders free access to regional parks.

Today's action proposes a resolution amending the current fee schedule to allow military veterans that qualify for the State of California's Distinguished Veterans Pass to access all County operated campsites and Regional Parks free of charge as a thank you for their service.

I urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A - Environmental Statement

Attachment B - A Resolution Approving the Revised Fee Schedule for the Department of Parks and Recreation

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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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