



**STAFF REPORT
HOLLISTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: November 3, 2025
REPORT # Airport-2025-26**

AGENDA ITEM: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A 0.6-ACRE CREDIT OF CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER UPLAND HABITAT IN RELATION TO THE RUNWAY 6 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

DEPARTMENT: Airport

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jeff Crechriou, Airport Director

STAFF CONTACT: Jeff Crechriou, Airport Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt a resolution:

1. Approving an agreement with South Bay Conservation Resources, LLC. for the purchase of a 0.6-acre credit of California Tiger Salamander upland habitat at the Sparling Ranch Conservation Bank as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Hollister Municipal Airport Runway 6 Safety Improvements Project; and
2. Approving FY 2025/2026 appropriations for completion of the fiscal activity for the Runway 6 Safety Improvements Project; and
3. Authorizing the Finance Department to make necessary accounting and budgetary entries; and
4. Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Agreement.

DISCUSSION: In July 2023, the Airport/City received a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant, no. 3-06-0105-027-2023, for the Runway 6 Safety Improvements Project. Runway 6 is the crosswind/east to west aligned runway. The project removed the unsafe Runway 6 and Taxiway C pavement, constructed and striped a new section of pavement connecting Taxiway C to the Runway 6 threshold, constructed drainage improvements, included electrical improvements, and installed new LED Runway Edge Lights and installed several Taxiway C LED Edge Lights in the area of new construction.

In September 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) completed an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2023-045-04 for the Runway 6 Safety Project and determined that permanent protection and perpetual management of compensatory habitat is necessary and required pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) to fully mitigate project-related impacts. CDFW has required the purchase of 0.6-acre credit of California Tiger Salamander (CTS) upland to compensate for the permanent impacts to 0.23 acre of CTS habitat, and for their approval of the project.

Sparling Ranch Conservation Bank (Bank) is an approved habitat bank with CDFW, and South Bay Conservation Resources, LLC. is the Bank Sponsor. As stated in the attached purchase agreement, the Project Applicant (City) shall have no obligation whatsoever by reason of the purchase of the Conservation Credits, to support, pay for, monitor, report on, sustain, continue in perpetuity, or otherwise be obligated or liable for the success or continued expense or maintenance in perpetuity of the credits sold, or the Bank. Pursuant to the Agreement and any amendments thereto, Bank Sponsor shall monitor and make reports to the CDFW on the status of any Conservation Credits sold to Project Applicant.

Bank Sponsor shall be fully and completely responsible for satisfying any and all conditions placed on the Bank or the Conservation Credits by the CDFW, and other state or federal jurisdictional agencies. The cost of the 0.6-acre credit of CTS upland habitat is \$50,000.

The purchase price for said credits shall be paid by cashier's check or, at the option of Bank Sponsor, wire transfer of funds according to written instructions by Bank Sponsor to Project Applicant. Project Applicant must exercise his/her/its right to purchase the Conservation Credits within 30 days of the date of this Agreement. After the 30-day period, the Agreement will be considered null and void.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Runways 6 Safety Improvements Project total estimated cost is \$3,776,000. Funding for this project is 90% FAA Grant, 5% State/Caltrans Match Grant (5% of FAA/Federal Amount), and the remaining amount, approximately 5% Airport/City.

The Budget Adjustment Request Form identifies the necessary FY 2025/2026 appropriations in the Federal Aviation Administration Grant Fund 212 to establish the budget for completion of the project fiscal activity (revenues and expenditures), including the \$50,000 habitat credit purchase.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL OR COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

CEQA: Permittee (City) shall implement and adhere to the mitigation measures related to the Covered Species in the Biological Resources section of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study (SCH No.: 2023090117) adopted by the City of Hollister on June 2, 2025, as lead agency for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. FY 2025/2026 Budget Adjustment Request Form
3. Agreement with South Bay Conservation Resources, LLC.