COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

September 7, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SPECIFIED LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM OF THE CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2002 (PROPOSITION 40) FROM THE BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY FOR THE LA BREA GREENBELT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT
(C.P. No. 69252)
(Second District- 3 Vote Matter)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed land acquisition project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

2. Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, pursuant to the Specified Local Assistance Grant Program of the Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002 (Proposition 40).

3. Authorize and accept, contingent upon an award of grant funding, the project grant award and the grant agreement for the proposed land acquisition.

4. Authorize the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to negotiate and execute documents, including, but not limited to, a grant agreement, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adoption of the attached resolution by your Board will authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to complete the grant application process with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (Conservancy). The Department will apply for a grant in the amount of $200,000 from the Conservancy. The project grant application scope of work is for the acquisition of approximately 21.4 acres of tax-defaulted, real property from an auction list for greenbelt open space purposes and the expansion the east side of La Brea Avenue across from the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

The Conservancy is an independent State agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California, established to acquire and develop open space within the Baldwin Hills area to provide for public recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat. As a condition of applying for this grant funding, a local agency must certify, by resolution, the approval of an application, before submission of said application to the Conservancy.

With the approval and award of this grant application by the Conservancy, the Department proposes to execute a grant agreement and purchase, pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 3775, a 21.4 acre, privately-owned, undeveloped, tax-defaulted property within the City of Los Angeles. The property is a long, narrow, sloping strip of land located south of Don Ricardo Drive and immediately east of South La Brea Avenue (see Attachment 1). The acquisition would extend the eastern boundary of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area from its current border of South La Brea Avenue.

The property is in default on its property taxes and will be acquired through a Chapter 8 agreement with the Treasurer and Tax Collector via a tax deed. This is a tax-defaulted property from an auction list. On August 16, 2004, the City of Los Angeles approved the price and sale of this tax-defaulted, privately owned property to the County for use as open space land under the jurisdiction of the Department. City approval is required prior to acquisition by the County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC), pursuant to Section 3775 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. The TTC shall acquire the property and transfer it to the Department.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The action is supportive of the following two goals of the County's Strategic Plan: Goal 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) by increasing the Department's public/private partnerships, managing our resources effectively, and investing in the public infrastructure; and Goal 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being) by improving facilities used by children and families of the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total estimated project cost for the project is $200,000 and would be entirely funded by the Conservancy, if the grant application is approved. Sufficient appropriation for the La Brea Land Acquisition Project is included in the Department's 2004-05 Capital Projects/Refurbishment Budget (C.P. No. 69252). The project was previously approved for funding from the Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds allocated to the County for projects in the Second Supervisorial District. Should the application for grant funds from the Conservancy be successful, the Excess Funds would be available for other projects in the Second Supervisorial District.

Operating Budget Impact

The Department's estimate for one-time start-up costs is $37,000 for maintenance tools and equipment, including a utility truck with lift gate and a storage container. These items are necessary to perform regular brush clearance for fire prevention, maintenance for flood and erosion prevention, and litter pick-up to reduce health and safety issues. The estimated annual, ongoing cost is $44,951 to maintain and protect the acquired land. The estimate includes salary and employee benefits for maintenance staff and supplies.

The Chief Administrative Office will review the cost estimates and will work with the Department to determine the appropriate operating requirements and available funding. It is anticipated that this land acquisition will be completed during the Spring of 2005 and therefore, one-time and ongoing operational costs resulting from this acquisition project would be expected to occur during Fiscal Year 2004-05.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon adoption by your Board of the attached Resolution, the Department shall apply for grant funds from the Conservancy for this project. Upon award of funding by the Conservancy, the Department shall execute a grant agreement with the Conservancy and will be responsible for the acquisition of this property and submit all close-out documentation no later than June 30, 2007, pursuant to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Procedural Guide for Local Grant Projects.

Upon completion of the acquisition by the TTC, the property will be conveyed to the Department for use as open space.

County Counsel has approved the attached Resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15325 (a) and Class 25 (a) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the proposed project involves a transfer of ownership of land in order to preserve existing natural conditions and historic resources.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS

There are no impacts on current services or projects as a result of this action. If funding is awarded, the project will be accomplished so as to minimize the impact operationally, relative to public use of any affected facilities.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Office, Clerk of the Board, to forward one conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and two (2) conformed copies of this letter and two (2) originals of the resolution to the Department of Parks and Recreation by Thursday, September 9, 2004, for completion of the grant application.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Interim Director

Attachments (2)

c: Executive Office (22)
County Counsel

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

Grant Management Statement for Grants $100,000 or More

Department: PARKS & RECREATION

Grant Project Title and Description

LA BREA GREENBELT ACQUISITION: ACQUISITION OF 22 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATION AREA.

Funding Agency	Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)	Grant Acceptance Deadline
Baldwin Hills Conservancy	Proposition 40: Specified Local Grant Program	Open - Ongoing

Total Amount of Grant Funding: $200,000	**County Match:** None	
Grant Period: September 2004 - June 2007	**Begin Date:** Sept. 2004	**End Date:** June 2007
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	**Full Time:** 0	**Part Time:** 0

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes	(No) NA
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes	No NA
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	(Yes)	No
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:		NA
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes	No NA
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes	No NA
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes	No NA

Impact of additional personnel on existing space:

No additional personnel will be hired under this grant.

Other requirements not mentioned above: County is required to manage and maintain the land acquired.

Department Head Signature [signature] Date: 7-29-04

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SPECIFIED LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2002 (PROPOSITION 40)

LA BREA GREENBELT LAND ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the Specified Local Assistance Grant Program pursuant to the Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) which provides funds to local agencies that operate units of the State Park System; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (Grantor), a State Agency created to acquire, develop and manage land within the Baldwin Hills has been delegated the responsibility for administration of the Specified Local Assistance Grant Program, administration of the grant project and setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Grantor require the County of Los Angeles (the Grantee) to certify by resolution, the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and

WHEREAS, upon award of a grant by the Grantor, the Grantee will enter into a contract agreement with the Grantor for the subject project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for local assistance for the above project; and

2. Certifies that Grantee understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and

3. Certifies that Grantee has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and

4. Certifies that Grantee has reviewed and understands the General Provisions contained in the project contract in the Procedural Guide; and

5. Appoints the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles to accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, contracts, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was on the _____day of _____2004, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Los Angeles

By_____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By Helen S Parker
Helen S. Parker, Principal Deputy