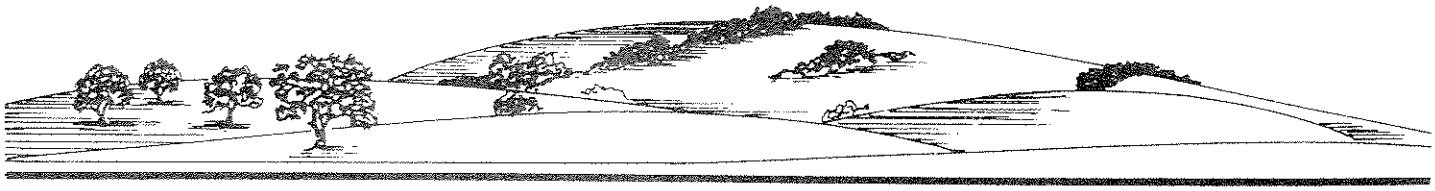

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

October 11, 2005

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE CITY OF LONG BEACH FOR A PROJECT FUNDED UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996 (FOURTH DISTRICT- 3 -VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions do not meet the definition of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as cited herein.

2. Approve the alternative plan for expenditure submitted by the City of Long Beach (City) to transfer $582,175 specified under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (9) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition) from its completed Baker Street and Golden Avenue Acquisition and Development Project to its ongoing Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the alternative plan for expenditure would allow the City to complete the funding to acquire two parcels located at 620 San Francisco Avenue, adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the City of Long Beach, which will become part of the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park.

The 1996 Proposition, Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (9) allocates $12,000,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition, development, improvement and restoration of lands along the Los Angeles River. On April 9, 2001, the MRCA assigned the right to the City of Long Beach to apply for $2,000,000 of those funds for the Baker Street and Golden Avenue Project. Having completed the Baker Street and Golden Avenue Project for a total of $1,417,825, the City now requests your Board's approval to transfer the residual $582,175 from that project to the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project. On March 1, 2005, your Board approved the allocation of $200,000 of Fourth Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds for this acquisition project. Including the residual funds of $582,175, the new grant total for the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project will be $782,175. The City will supplement the $782,175 with $850,000 in State and City funds for a project total of $1,632,175.

Implementation of Strategic Goals

The proposed recommendation furthers the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) here enables the City of Long Beach to utilize the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) funds to purchase land adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the Fourth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $782,175, for the project are appropriated in District Assessment Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Specified Project funds identified in Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (9), of the 1996 Proposition are subject to reallocation by your Board under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e), of the 1996 Proposition. After July 1, 2005, an alternative plan for expenditure may be approved by your Board to amend specific identified projects or to expend these funds on projects that are in accordance with the purposes of the 1996 Proposition within the area of the District in which funds were originally authorized to be expended.

If your Board does not approve the City's request, the City may either expend the funds for the use originally specified, request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds. The relinquishment by an agency of its claim to funds would make the funds available to your Board for reallocation for projects in one or more of the classes of expenditures specified in Section (3) of the 1996 Proposition.

County Counsel has reviewed this action as to form.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District but are required so that the City of Long Beach may utilize these funds to acquire the property along the Los Angeles River.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are exempt from CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

All projects funded by the District are also required to comply with CEQA. The City of Long Beach is the lead agency for the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt Park Acquisition Project and as such, will prepare any appropriate environmental documents prior to the receipt of any grant funds for acquisition.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel