LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

November 29, 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:

ALLOCATE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT SPECIFIED AND CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS (FIRST 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. Allocate First Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds in the total amount of $2,502,050 as identified in the Attachment.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants as identified in the Attachment when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the second recommendation will allocate $2,502,050 in Specified Excess Funds for the projects along the Los Angeles River, its tributaries and along the San Gabriel River identified in the Attachment.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), which is the designated recipient of $2,154,050 of the $2,502,050 Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, will assign its rights to the City of Maywood, the County Department of Public Works and Amigos de los Rios, as identified in the Attachment.

The City of El Monte, which is a qualified recipient to $348,000 of the Cities Excess Funds will assign its right to Amigos de los Rios for the Durfee Thompson River Trail Project, as also identified in the Attachment.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds.

Finally, it is recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the grants to the grantees identified in the Attachment, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grants under procedures previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) and Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by allocating Excess Funds for projects to enhance recreation and improve the environment along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of $2,502,050 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

Funds for the grants are available from the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocations of Excess Funds for Fiscal Year 2005-06.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in

addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District from Excess Funds available for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

County Counsel has reviewed these actions as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance recreational opportunities and improve the environment along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the First Supervisorial District.

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 MRCA is the lead agency for the Marsh Street Park and Vista Hermosa Projects; the City of Maywood is the lead agency for the Maywood Riverfront Park Project; and the County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Bell Riverfront Project. As such, these

agencies will prepare appropriate environmental documents for the above projects. The City of El Monte is the lead agency for the Durfee Thompson River Trail, Rio Hondo River Park and Rio Vista Native Plant Garden Entrance Swale Projects.

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

Attachment

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

ATTACHMENT

PROPOSED FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT EXCESS FUNDS PROJECTS

Project	Grantee	Amount
Marsh Street Park	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)	**$288,050**

Scope: Development of access to the Los Angeles River, passive and active recreation areas, trails, picnic areas and storm water management.

Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration	MRCA	**$450,000**

Scope: Development of a park in which landforms will emphasize watershed processes through a living pond, which will support fishing, and a stream course that captures all on site water, marshlands, wetlands and adjoining riparian ecosystems and meadows.

Maywood Riverfront Park	MRCA -- City of Maywood	**$350,000**

Scope: Development of a seven acre regional riverside park including native landscaping, picnic facilities, restrooms, basketball courts and soccer fields as well as bicycle and pedestrian access to the Los Angeles River.

Bell Riverfront	**MRCA--**Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works	**$350,000**

Scope: Improvements to the existing riverfront in the City of Bell including new fencing, gates, painting existing parapet and other concrete walls, irrigation and landscaping.

Rio Hondo River Park	MRCA--Amigos de los Rios	**$287,000**

Scope: Development of greening on 2.1 miles along the Rio Hondo River, part of the "Emerald Necklace" including two decorative welcome gates and a path.

Rio Vista Native Plant Garden Entrance Swale	**MRCA--**Amigos de los Rios	**$429,000**

Scope: Development of a multipurpose trail and connections to the "Emerald Necklace" along the Rio Hondo River including the greening of 9.46 acres, a path, interpretive signage, bioswale and other amenities.

Durfee Thompson River Trail	City of El Monte--Amigos de los Rios	**$348,000**

Scope: Development of a connector to the "Emerald Necklace" along the San Gabriel River including a trail, greening and an outdoor classroom.

Total:	**$2,502,050**