LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 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:

APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE JACKIE ROBINSON PARK ACQUISITION PROJECT FUNDED UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996 (FIFTH DISTRICT- 3 -VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the Jackie Robinson Park Acquisition Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15316 (a) and 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 16 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, cited herein.

2. Approve the alternative plan for expenditure submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to change acquisition and/or preservation of wetland habitat in the Antelope Valley to acquisition of land in the Antelope Valley for $350,000 specified under Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), Subparagraph (C) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition) to allow the Department to purchase land adjacent to Jackie Robinson Park.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the alternative plan for expenditure would allow the Department to acquire 4.65 acres of land adjacent to Jackie Robinson Park. The 1996 Proposition, Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), Subparagraph (C) allocates $350,000 to the Department for acquisition and/or preservation of wetland habitat in the Antelope Valley, including interpretive exhibits, public facilities and/or restoration. Having found no suitable wetlands in the Antelope Valley for purchase, the Department instead requests your Board's approval to revise the project description to allow for the acquisition of land to expand Jackie Robinson Park. Your Board previously approved the reallocation of the funding for this acquisition project in a Board action on January 4, 2005. The previous approval, however, did not extend to the requested change in project scope.

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) and Goal No. 6 (Community Service) by enabling the Department to utilize District funds to purchase land adjacent to Jackie Robinson Park in the Antelope Valley portion of the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $350,000, for the project are appropriated in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (District) Assessment Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Specified Project funds identified in Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), Subparagraph (C) 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, 2003, 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 Department's request, the Department 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 Department may utilize these funds on the Jackie Robinson Park Acquisition Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Jackie Robinson Park Acquisition Project is exempt from CEQA according to Section 15316 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 16 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for the transfer of ownership of land in its natural condition in order to create a park and a management plan for the park has not been prepared.

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