



## 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:

**ALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS FOR  
THE ACQUISITION OF LAND IN THE PROPOSED MARSHALL CANYON  
CONSERVATION CORRIDOR AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND  
ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT  
(FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15316 (a) and 15325 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 16 and 25 (a) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.
2. Allocate Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$500,000 for the acquisition of land in Phase I of the proposed Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor.
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 a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant 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 recommended actions will allocate \$500,000 in County Excess Funds to the Department to be used as matching funds for a California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant of \$5,130,000, which was awarded to the Department on February 24, 2005, for the acquisition of land for Phase I of the Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor.

The proposed Phase I of the Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor, with a total Project Cost of \$5,630,000, is located in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County in the cities of La Verne and Claremont. The western project boundary is defined by San Dimas Canyon; the northern portions of the project area are bounded by the Angeles National Forest and comprise a portion of the San Dimas Experimental Forest; the eastern boundary is adjacent to the newly established Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and other properties proposed to be added to Claremont Hills Wilderness Park; and the southern project boundary is defined by the residential streets in northern La Verne. A map of the project, with the Phase I parcels marked P-1 through P-6, P-11 and P-12 and P-20, is included as an attachment. The primary purposes of acquiring the lands identified are to ensure future conservation of dwindling biological resources in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, to protect open space and the watershed, to preserve wildlife corridor linkages, to provide a critical buffer between the Angeles National Forest and the urban areas, and to provide new passive recreation areas.

In a related item on today's agenda, the Chief Administrative Officer is requesting that your Board approve a Notice of Intention to purchase the above properties and other related actions.

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.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the grant to the Department, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grant 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), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by allocating Excess Funds for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$500,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

Funds for the grant are available from the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocations of Excess Funds for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

### **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 grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County 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**

A Grant Project Agreement 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 Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **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 proceed on the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The allocation of funds for the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15316 (a) and 15325 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 16 and 25 (a) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes and transfers of ownership of interest in land to preserve open space and habitat.

Projects funded through the District are also required to undergo the applicable CEQA review by the County of Los Angeles.

The Honorable Board of Directors  
March 29, 2005  
Page 5

**CONCLUSION**

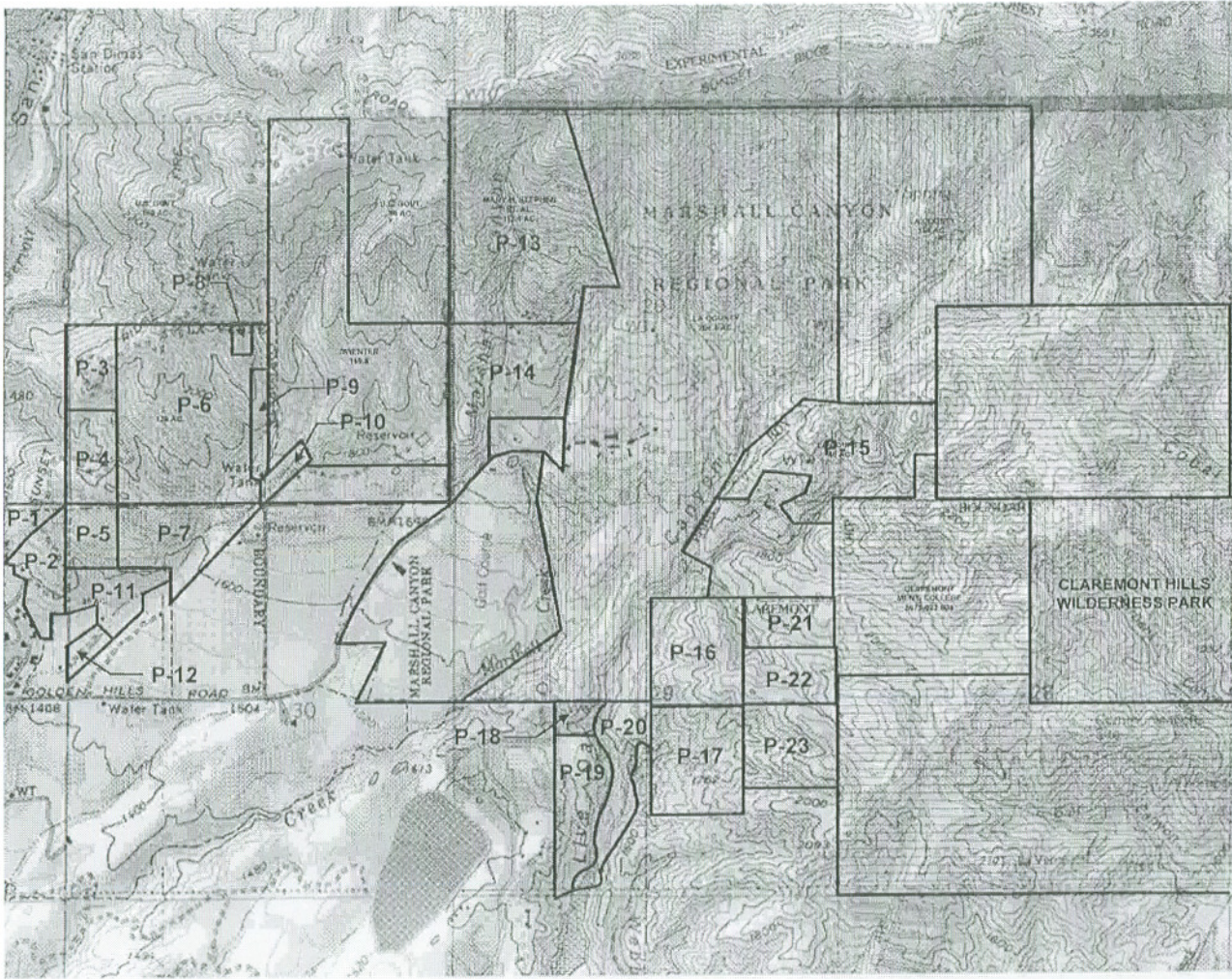
Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney  
Director, Parks and Recreation

Attachment

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





-  - CLAREMONT CAPP
-  - EXISTING PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OPEN SPACE

FIGURE 2  
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION MAP  
MARSHALL CANYON CONSERVATION CORRIDOR