LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 9, 2006

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 REALLOCATION OF PER PARCEL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF WEST COVINA FOR PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996 (FIFTH 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 request from the City of West Covina (City) to fund the Aroma Parkette and Heritage Park Hiking Trail Development Projects with Per Parcel Discretionary funds, in the amount of $167,566.14, allocated to the City under Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (1) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the City to terminate its Civic Center Band Shell Project and its Municipal Pool Improvements Project, currently funded with $117,566.76 and $49,999.38 respectively in Per Parcel Discretionary funds allocated to the City under Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (1) of the 1996 Proposition. The band shell project is no longer a priority to the City and the pool improvements were funded from another funding source. Instead the City requests approval to fund two new projects:

- The Aroma Parkette Development Project will create a new passive neighborhood park featuring play equipment, picnic benches, turf and landscaping and irrigation on undeveloped city property. The total cost for the project will be $344,938 including $144,766.14 of 1996 Proposition Per Parcel Discretionary funding and $200,171.86 in City General funds.

- The Heritage Park Hiking Trail Project includes development of new recreational hiking trails, interpretive signage, and picnic areas, the planting of native vegetation and the installation of irrigation on undeveloped open space in the City. The total cost for the project is $682,000 including $22,800 of 1996 Proposition Per Parcel Discretionary funding and $659,200 in State and City funds.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC 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 enabling the City of West Covina to develop a new neighborhood park and hiking trail.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $167,566.14 are appropriated in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (District) Assessment Fund (HB4) under Other Charges to fund the projects.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Per Parcel Discretionary Funds identified in Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (1) of the 1996 Proposition are subject to reallocation by your Board under the provision of Section (5), Subsection (d) of the 1996 Proposition. Agencies eligible for these funds were required to encumber their funds by June 30, 2001. Beginning with Fiscal Year 2001-02, any Per Parcel Discretionary Funds not committed to expenditure were available for reallocation by your Board to projects that it deems to be of the highest priority and that fit within one or more of the classes of expenditures specified in Section (3) of the 1996 Proposition.

If your Board does not approve the City's request, the City may either expend the funds for the uses originally specified, request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds. If the City were to relinquish its claim to the funds, the funds would be available to your Board for reallocation for expenditure within municipalities 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 West Covina may develop a new neighborhood park and hiking trail in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA in that the action does not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the action is an administrative activity for government grants which by its terms does 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 West Covina is the lead agency for the Aroma Parkette and Heritage Park Hiking Trail Development Projects and as such, the City will prepare appropriate environmental documents for the 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

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