



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

June 13, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES AND FOR THE PURCHASE OF RECYCLED
WATER AT WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA
(First District - 3 Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD

1. Certify that the Board, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project (as described below) and the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment B) adopted by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) as lead agency; determine that the documents adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed project; find that your Board has complied with the requirements of CEQA with respect to the process for a responsible agency and adopt by reference the Upper District's Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
2. Approve the attached Agreement in substantially similar form with the Upper District and the San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) to allow the Upper District to construct, operate and maintain a recycled water pipeline at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area; allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase recycled water from the SGVWC; and allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to lease adjudicated pumping rights to SGVWC and authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to execute the Agreement, upon final approval by County Counsel. The Agreement will be effective immediately upon execution by the Director of Parks and Recreation and will terminate on June 30, 2017, and will result in a positive impact on the General Fund estimated at \$792,000 annually throughout the term of the Agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of these actions will allow the Department to utilize recycled water for irrigation purposes at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, assisting in the conservation of potable water supplies with the Main San Gabriel Basin while providing the Department with a reliable source of water for irrigation of Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

Currently, Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is irrigated through the use of well water pumped from wells located on the property using a portion of the Department's adjudicated water rights in the basin. In addition, the Department utilizes approximately 540 acre feet of domestic water supplied by SGVWC to irrigate a portion of the park known as Area B.

Under the terms of the Agreement, the Upper District would be allowed to construct, operate and maintain a water pipeline and related appurtenances for the conveyance of recycled water produced at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant. In turn, the recycled water will be sold to SGVWC for resale to Parks and Recreation for use at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

As part of the Agreement, the Upper District also is required to install the recycled water irrigation system within the park and to extend it to areas along the perimeter to allow for additional landscaping that is planned as part of the Whittier Narrows Beautification Project. In order to facilitate the Beautification Project, the Agreement also provides for the Upper District to install landscaping along parts of Rosemead Boulevard and other areas, for which the Department will reimburse the District with grant funds provided from State Proposition 12 per capita funds earmarked for urban forestation projects within the First Supervisorial District.

In addition, the Agreement requires SGVWC to purchase from the Department one acre foot of temporary production rights for each acre foot of recycled water that the Department purchases. Further, the Agreement requires SGVWC to purchase, at the Department's option, any excess or carryover production rights within the basin that the Department may have in any fiscal year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Approval of this recommendation enhances the County Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility (Goal Number 4) by providing for the use of recycled water at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and providing revenue from unused production rights within the basin.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Based on the average irrigation usage at Whittier Narrows the past three years, the Agreement will result in a decrease in net County cost at Whittier Narrows of approximately \$420,000 annually. In addition, based on a three year average of excess production rights, the Department will receive additional revenue of \$372,000 for a total net County cost decrease of \$792,000 annually, as shown in Attachment A.

The Upper District will finance all aspects of the water pipeline construction project, including the provision of the park irrigation and beautification within Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The total cost of the park irrigation and beautification is currently estimated at \$1,045,822, for which the Department will contribute up to \$300,000 from Proposition 12 per capita funds allocated for urban forestation projects within the First Supervisorial District. The capital funds are currently budgeted in the Capital Projects and Refurbishment Budget under Capital Project No. 69477.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Adjudicated water production rights were awarded to the County in 1972 via Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District v. City of Alhambra et al. The Watermaster, as governing body of the Main San Gabriel Basin, allows for excess water production rights to be temporarily leased by the water producer, in this case the Department, to another agency.

The attached agreement will terminate on June 30, 2017, and is subject to review as requested by either party. In addition, the Department reserves the right to cease use of recycled water at any time for any reason, including if the Department finds that it is no longer financially advantageous to continue using the recycled water, and the Upper District is required to pay for any work necessary to allow the Department to revert back to the use of well and domestic water.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Upper District, in its role as the lead agency in matters pertaining to compliance with the CEQA, adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration on August 10, 2004, and determined that with the imposition of mitigation measures as a condition of approval of the project there was no substantial evidence that the project would have a significant effect on the environment; found that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflected the independent judgment of the Upper District; approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and found that the project will have no adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources. As part of the scope of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, a Mitigation and

Negative Declaration, a Mitigation and Reporting Program has been included. This program will be implemented and monitored by the Upper District.

With respect to your Board's approval of the Agreement described herein, the County acts as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA and, therefore, we recommend that your Board independently consider and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached as Attachment B.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS

There are no anticipated impacts to current services and projects associated with the proposed action.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that two (2) conformed copies of this letter be returned to the Department, and one (1) conformed copy be provided to the Chief Administrative Office.

Respectfully submitted



Russ Guiney
Director

Attachments (2)

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