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

August 29, 2006

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

Dear Supervisors:

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN
(Fifth District - Three-Vote Matter)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, cited herein.

2. Accept an in-kind donation, valued at $80,000, from the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, Inc. for the purchase and installation of a deck garden and arbors at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

3. Instruct the Mayor to prepare and send an appropriate letter of appreciation to the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, Inc.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

In accordance with County policy, donations with a value in excess of $10,000 require acceptance by your Board. The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") is providing an in-kind donation that exceeds this amount. The Foundation received an in-kind donation for the purchase and installation of a deck garden and arbors from Trex Company, Inc. and wishes to donate these improvements to the County. The installation of the deck garden and arbors commenced in December 2005 with a nationwide advertisement of the deck in March/May 2006 and is scheduled to be completed in August 2006. Approval of the above recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to formally accept the in-kind donation for decking improvements at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden ("The Arboretum") from the Foundation.

Trex Company, Inc. is the manufacturer of Trex® decking and railing, a leading brand of alternative decking lumbers in North America. The company makes a wood/plastic alternative for building residential and commercial decks. Pursuant to a Joint Operating Agreement of February 1998 between the County and the Foundation, the Foundation negotiated the donation of a deck with arbors constructed in part of Trex® to enhance aesthetics and demonstrate environmentally sensitive products in place of an aging kiosk at The Arboretum.

The recommended acceptance of this donation at The Arboretum from the Foundation will enhance the visitor experience, increase educational opportunities and help build long-term relationships throughout the community with companies and individuals who may assist in further development and support of The Arboretum in the future.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Acceptance of the donation supports the County's Strategic Plan Goals: Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence) by improving services to the public, Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) by contributing to efforts that enhance management of financial resources, Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by modeling a public-private partnership to provide outdoor amenities, and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by providing a deck garden that will enhance the open space experience and thereby improve the quality of life.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The improvements will be maintained and operated without impact to existing resources. Therefore, the donated decking improvements will not impact the Department's operating budget. The Foundation will support any miscellaneous costs that may arise beyond the scope of the completed project.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

State law authorizes acceptance of gifts for specific county purposes in Government Code Section 25355.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15303 (e) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 3 (b) of the County of Los Angeles Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, which provides for new construction of small structures.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The donation by the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, Inc. will provide an innovative deck garden and arbors that will enhance the recreation and educational experience of the community.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to send an appropriate letter of appreciation to:

Dr. G. Arnold Mulder, President
Board of Trustees of the
Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007-2697

In addition, send a conformed copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectively submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director

RG:KC:RR:LB:REGIONAL FACILITIES AGENCY(5TH DISTRICT DONATION ARBORETUM FOUNDATION)

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