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

February 20, 2007

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:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR PROPOSITION A 2006 COMPETITIVE NATURAL LAND FOR TRAILS GRANT FUNDS FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT COLD CREEK ACQUISITION AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(3rd District – Three-Vote Matter)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

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

2. Adopt the attached resolution approving the submission of a grant application for the Third District Cold Creek Acquisition and Trail Development Project in the amount of $300,000 under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 and 1996 Competitive Natural Land for Trails Grant Program.

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept funds, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, project grant agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Department of Parks and Recreation Project.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION/JUSTIFICATION

Approval of these actions will allow the Department to complete the application process for the Third District Cold Creek Acquisition and Trails Development Project under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 and 1996 Competitive Natural Lands for Trails Grant Program. The Program provides $1,800,000 in funding for projects in the Santa Monica Mountains in the Third Supervisorial District that is consistent with the Trails Component of the Los Angeles County General Plan (the Los Angeles County Trails Master Plan). Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate a viable trails proposal and resource protection within the Third Supervisorial District.

The proposed project consists of the acquisition of 2.66 acres (APN 4455-018-034) of natural, undisturbed open space within the Cold Creek Preserve in the Santa Monica Mountains and the development of a trail connecting to the Calabasas Cold Creek Trail.

The project will protect Cold Creek, a year-round stream fed by several natural springs from within the already protected Cold Creek Preserve; preserve an important habitat linkage between Topanga State Park and Malibu Creek State Park; protect the irreplaceable habitat and vegetation found in the Los Angeles County-designated Cold Creek Significant Ecological Area (SEA #9); and contribute to securing the existing Cold Creek Trail as a future venue for environmental education and recreation.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions supports County Strategic Plan Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) by increasing the Department's public/private partnerships, managing our resources effectively, and investing in the public infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact on the net County cost. The total project cost is $350,000, of which, $300,000 is for land acquisition, $20,000 in other acquisition costs (appraisal, escrow fees, title report, etc.), and $30,000 for the development of the trail. The appraised value of the land is $350,000; however, the seller is willing to discount the selling price to $300,000 for the County.

When acquired, the Department will incorporate this property into the Management Agreement for Western Cold Creek Preserve between Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT). As provided in the Management Agreement, MRT will assume all property management responsibility at its own cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Regional Park and Open Space District has $1,800,000 in Proposition A excess funding to provide competitive grants for acquisition of natural land for trails development within the Third Supervisorial District. Grant awards are limited to $500,000 per project and priority will be given to projects with matching funds for the project. The Mountains Restoration Trust has committed $50,000 in grant funds as matching funds for this project. The appraised value of the property is $350,000; however, the owner has agreed to sell the parcel for $300,000 and donate the remaining $50,000 in property value to the County.

Pursuant to Section B (6) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, grantee shall use monies allocated to the maximum extent practical, to employ youth from the community in which a project is being carried out. Grantee must comply fully with all State and Federal laws regarding the employment of youth on any project.

Mountains Restoration Trust will employ at-risk youth workers from Outward Bound Adventure Youth of Pasadena to assist in site preparation and development of the trail. Supervision of the youth will be provided by Sierra Club Trail Building Group.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15316 (b) and 15325 (a) (f) 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 land to create parks as well as preserve existing natural conditions.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of these actions will not impact any other current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Office-Clerk of the Board to return three conformed copies of this action and the signed original resolution to Parks and Recreation and one conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director

Attachments

c: Executive Officer (22)
Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR PROPOSITION A
EXCESS FUNDS 2006 COMPETITIVE NATURAL LAND FOR TRAILS GRANT
FUNDS FOR THIRD DISTRICT COLD CREEK ACQUISITION AND TRAIL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Los Angeles on November 3, 1992, and on November 5, 1996 enacted Los Angeles County Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beach and Wildlife Protection (the Propositions), which among other uses, provides funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the County for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing facilities and open space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Propositions also created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) to administer said funds; and

WHEREAS, the District has set forth the necessary procedures governing applications for grant funds under the Proposition, and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the Department of Parks and Recreation to certify, by resolution, the approval of the applications before submission of said applications to the District; and

WHEREAS, said applications contain assurances that the Department of Parks and Recreation must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation will enter into Agreements with the District to provide funds for development projects; and

WHEREAS, the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) has committed $50,000 as matching grant funds for this project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors;

1. Approves the filing of an application with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Third Supervisorial District Excess Funds for the above project; and

2. Certifies that the Department of Parks and Recreation understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and

3. Certifies that the Department of Parks and Recreation has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity; and

4. Appoints the Director of Parks and Recreation, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, the application, agreement, amendments, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was on the _____day of _____, 2006, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI, Executive Office,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.

County Counsel

By _____
LILLIAN D. SALINGER

Senior Deputy County Counsel

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

Grant Management Statement for Grants $100,000 or More

Department: County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Grant Project Title and Description

Cold Creek Acquisition and Trail Development Project: The project consists of acquisition of 2.66 acres of natural, undisturbed open space within the Cold Creek Preserve for development of a trail connecting to an existing footpath.

Funding Agency	**Program** (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)	**Grant Acceptance Deadline**
Regional Park & Open Space District	2006 Competitive Natural Land for Trails Grant Program	01/04/2007

Total Amount of Grant Funding: $300,000	**County Match: $100,000**	
Grant Period:	**Begin Date: 4/1/07**	**End Date: 4/1/2010**
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	**Full Time: N/A**	**Part Time: N/A**

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes:N/A	No: N/A
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes:N/A	No:N/A
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes: X	No:
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:		
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes:	No:
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes:	No:
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes:	No:

Impact of additional personnel on existing space:

Other requirements not mentioned above: The Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) will incorporate this property into an existing Management Agreement between the County and MRT.

Department Head Signature: by John Wicker Date: 2/8/07