LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

December 18, 2007

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 THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT CITIES EXCESS FUNDS TO THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT (THIRD DISTRICT – 3 VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.

2. Allocate Third Supervisorial District Cities Excess Funds in the amount of $700,000 to the City of West Hollywood as a contribution towards improvements to West Hollywood Park, which will enhance the site for the new West Hollywood Library.

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 City of West Hollywood 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 recommendations will allocate $700,000 in Third Supervisorial District Cities Excess Funds to the City of West Hollywood as a contribution towards improvements to West Hollywood Park, which will enhance the site for the City's new library. The park improvements to be funded will allow the building to be situated in a park setting and the garden elements of the park will extend into the library entry. The redesigned park will offer expansive landscape views to and from the library in all four directions. The new library will be located at the southern end of West Hollywood Park near the intersection of San Vicente Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. The total cost for the project is $52 million which includes the $700,000 in Excess Funds requested and $41.3 million City of West Hollywood General Funds in cash reserves and those generated from bond sales, as well as $10 million to be raised from private donations.

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 a grant to the City of West Hollywood, for the identified project, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition and grantee compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project, 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 contributing Excess Funds towards improvements to an urban park, which will enhance the site for a new library in the City of West Hollywood in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of $700,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

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 Third Supervisorial District for cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant 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 grant as well.

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)

The recommended project will provide additional urban recreational opportunities and will enhance the site for a new library at West Hollywood Park in the City of West Hollywood in the Third Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are not subject to the CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do 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 Hollywood is the lead agency for the West Hollywood Library and Park Project and as such, is responsible for appropriate environmental documentation for the project.

CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(WEST HOLLYWOOD BL)

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