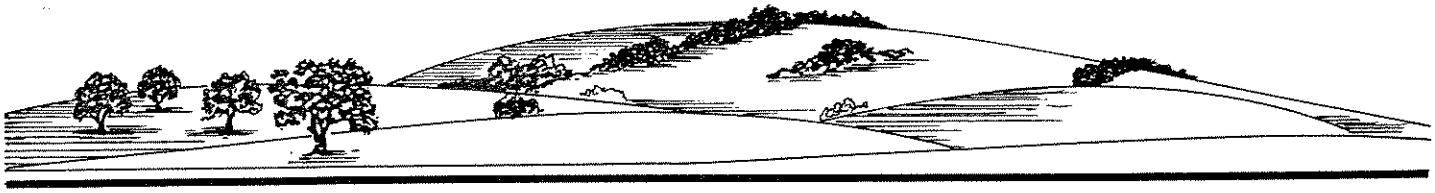

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

July 15, 2008

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 COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE ALTADENA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO REIMBURSE THE CONSERVANCY FOR COSTS INCURRED PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF A PROJECT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR THE PROJECT (FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 VOTE MATTER)

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate $40,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to enable the Altadena Foothills Conservancy to complete the development of the Altadena/Pasadena Oak Woodland Pocket Park Project. The funds will be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation who will assign the right to apply for the grant to the Conservancy. The Conservancy began the development of the park with $15,000 in County Excess Funds previously awarded by your Board.

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 County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District in the amount of $40,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Altadena/Pasadena Oak Woodland Pocket Park Project.

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 amendment to the Altadena Foothills Conservancy when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the amended grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

4. Authorize the Director to reimburse the Altadena Foothills Conservancy for costs incurred prior to the execution of the grant project agreement amendment for the Altadena/Pasadena Oak Woodland Pocket Park Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $40,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to complete the Altadena/Pasadena Oak Woodland Pocket Park Project. The Department, who is a qualified recipient of County Excess Funds under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds to the Altadena Foothill Conservancy (AFC).

On February 20, 2007, your Board approved the allocation of $15,000 to the AFC for the construction of the Oak Woodland Pocket Park on a peninsula of land at the intersection of Marengo Avenue and Woodbury Road in Altadena. The project was funded by the $15,000 above, $10,000 in State Bond funds, and $21,000 from the Metropolitan Water District. However, the State Bond funds were withdrawn due to the project not meeting the completion date of the grant deadline. While most of the work on the pocket park has been completed, cladding for the park's concrete block wall and decomposed granite walkways are unfunded. The proposed funding of $40,000 in County Excess Funds will be used to complete the project, bringing the total project cost to $76,000.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the 1992 and 1996 Propositions encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department and the AFC have met this requirement.

In a related item on today's agenda, the Department, which is a qualified recipient of County Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, is requesting that your Board, in its capacity as the County's Board of Supervisors, assign the right to apply for the funds to the AFC.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant amendment to the AFC when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the amended grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

Finally, since a portion of the project costs were incurred prior to the execution of an amended grant agreement for the funds, your Board's approval would be required to allow the Director to reimburse AFC for these expenditures.

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 allocating Excess Funds for an Oak Woodland Pocket Park in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of $65,000 is budgeted in the Fifth 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 amendment would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for County 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 amendment 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 amended grant as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement Amendment 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 Amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will fund an Oak Woodland Pocket Park in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Altadena/Pasadena Oak Woodland Pocket Park Project

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to 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 at this time to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

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(AFC BL)

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