LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 11, 2010

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:

APPROVE A REVISED PLAN OF EXPENDITURE FOR SPECIFIED FUNDS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1992 FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to utilize unspent Specified Project funds of the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 for its new Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 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.

2. Approve the revised plan of expenditure for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to transfer $100,000 in Specified Project funds allocated under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subsection (DD) of the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 from its existing Welch Property – Arroyo Seco Park Trail Connection Project to its new Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant, in the amount of $100,000 consisting of the funds from the aforementioned source, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for its new Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to transfer unspent Specified Project funds in the amount of $100,000 into a new grant for its Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project.

The $100,000 in Specified Project funds is part of a $5,000,000 allocation to the County of Los Angeles under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subsection (DD) of the 1992 Proposition for acquisition and development of trails and restoration and protection of natural resources along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the area bounded by Glendale Boulevard on the north and by the City of South Gate on the south.

On December 11, 1997, your Board approved an assignment of the right to apply for $100,000 of the above Specified Project funds to MRCA for its Welch Property – Arroyo Seco Park Trail Connection Project. The project consists of a 2.5 acre land acquisition and trail development thereon adjacent to the Arroyo Seco in the First Supervisorial District to link the existing Arroyo Seco Park to the Cypress Avenue Pedestrian Bridge. However, the existence of soil and groundwater contamination on the property resulted in termination of acquisition negotiations and the cancellation of the project, leaving the entire $100,000 in allocated funds available for reallocation by your Board.

The new Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project will consist of general improvements to the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, including rehabilitation of a community room, development of existing restrooms, and development of access improvements. The estimated total project cost is $100,000.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grant to MRCA when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1992 Proposition, and grantee agreement with CEQA requirements for the project, and to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide) previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) by allowing MRCA to utilize unspent grant funds to improve public facilities at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $100,000 is budgeted in Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 Proposition set forth various deadlines for agencies to encumber funds allocated to them in the 1992 Proposition. Furthermore, the 1992 Proposition set forth procedures for agencies to request reallocation of the funds as follows:

Specified Project Funds – 1992 Proposition
The 1992 Proposition provided funding for projects that were specified in the measure and identified a procedure for revision of those projects prior to July 1, 1998. That procedure remains the method by which specified project funds may be approved by the Board for other uses. An agency may submit a revised plan of expenditure to use the funds for a project that is consistent with the purposes of the 1992 Proposition after

Specified Project Funds – 1992 Proposition
The 1992 Proposition provided funding for projects that were specified in the measure and identified a procedure for revision of those projects prior to July 1, 1998. That procedure remains the method by which specified project funds may be approved by the Board for other uses. An agency may submit a revised plan of expenditure to use the funds for a project that is consistent with the purposes of the 1992 Proposition after the grantee's governing body considers and approves the revision of its project at a public meeting. MRCA has fulfilled this requirement.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District (District) grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

If your Board does not approve MRCA's requests, MRCA may either request your Board's approval to fund a different project with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by your Board in 2009. The Grant Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District but are required so that MRCA may utilize the unspent grant funds on the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the Los Angeles River Center Improvements Project.

The administrative actions proposed by the District 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 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 adopted 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:WO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(RIVER CENTER IMPROVEMENTS BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors