LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

August 10, 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:

REALLOCATE AND ADVANCE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT FROM THE YVONNE B. BURKE DRIVING RANGE PROJECT TO THE BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S BALDWIN HILLS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended action will reallocate and advance $6,728,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District back to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority from the cancelled Yvonne B. Burke Driving Range Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as 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.

2. Reallocate $6,728,000 of Specified Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District from the Department of Parks and Recreation from its cancelled Yvonne B. Burke Driving Range Project to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority for further acquisition and development in the Baldwin Hills.

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 amendment and advance the funds, in the amount of $6,728,000 to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On November 25, 2008, your Board approved the assignment of $6,728,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District from the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) to the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund the Yvonne B. Burke Driving Range Project. The Yvonne B. Burke Driving Range Project is not deemed feasible at this time, thus we are recommending the reallocation of the $6,728,000 in Specified Excess Funds to the BHRCA to whom the funds were originally awarded by your Board.

On October 19, 1999, your Board authorized the advance of project funds for BHRCA projects and since then each award of Specified Excess funds to the BHRCA has included an advance of those funds. Subsequent to your action to fund the Yvonne B. Burke Driving Range Project, BHRCA returned $6,728,000 that had been advanced. The recommended actions will also authorize the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) to advance the $6,728,000 to the BHRCA again.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by funding acquisition of lands for park, wildlife, natural, and open space purposes, and for development of related recreation facilities and public access in the Baldwin Hills in the Second Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant amendment in the amount of $6,728,000 is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District portion of the RPOSD Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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. The BHRCA meets this requirement.

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 Second Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) would be authorized to award a grant amendment to the BHRCA 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.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide), for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant amendment as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The BHRCA is the lead agency for the Baldwin Hills Acquisition and Development Project.

The administrative actions proposed by RPOSD 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.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

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

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will enhance accessible recreational opportunities in the open space areas in the Baldwin Hills in the Second Supervisorial District.

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:WRO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(BHRCA REALLOCATION BL)

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