LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 1, 2011

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
#1-P MARCH 1, 2011
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

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 FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR A GRANT TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH FOR ITS SLEEPY HOLLOW GREENBELT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT (FOURTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $100,000 in Fourth District Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fourth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the City of Long Beach to fund landscaping at the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act as the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State California Environmental Quality Act 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. Allocate $100,000 in Fourth Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the City of Long Beach for its Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a $100,000 grant to the City of Long Beach for the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply for the funds to the City, if 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, Per Parcel and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $100,000 in Specified Excess Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to fund a grant to the City of Long Beach for the development of the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project providing access to the recreational trail system at the Los Angeles River in the City.

The MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), will assign the right to apply for the funds for the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project to the City of Long Beach. The proposed project consists of native landscaping along an existing Los Angeles County Flood Control channel right-of-way at 47th Street in Long Beach and extends from the end of Sleepy Hollow Park to the horse trail right-of-way along Deforest Wetlands at the Los Angeles River. The project area is approximately 1,295 feet in length and 35 feet wide. The project will provide public access to the Los Angeles River for hikers and bicycle riders on the Los Angeles River Bike Trail with views of the Deforest and Dominguez Gap Wetlands.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operations Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by providing additional green space and access to the Los Angeles River trails in Long Beach.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of $100,000, is budgeted in the Fourth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) 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 City of Long Beach 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 grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects including projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and from Excess Funds available for cities.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants 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 a Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District grants. This Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the District are required to comply with 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 City of Long Beach is the lead agency for the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that 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.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The 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 by the District but are required so that the City of Long Beach may proceed on the development of the Sleepy Hollow Greenbelt Project, if all applicable conditions of the grant are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(SLEEPY HOLLOW PROJECT BL)

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