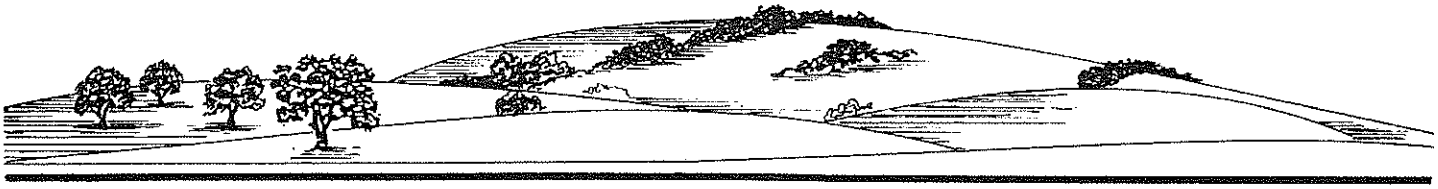

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 8, 2011

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
#1-P MARCH 8, 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 SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR A GRANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE DON WALLACE TRAIL PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $300,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third District Specified pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the County Department of Parks and Recreation to fund the Don Wallace Trail Project.

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 $300,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the County Department of Parks and Recreation for the Don Wallace Trail 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 grant in the amount of $300,000 to the County Department of Parks and Recreation for the Don Wallace Trail Project after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Department, 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 $300,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation for its Don Wallace Trail Project.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects in the Santa Monica Mountains under the 1996 Proposition, will assign the right to apply for the funds for the Don Wallace Trail Project to the County Department of Parks and Recreation (Department).

The proposed project consists of the development of approximately 2,500 linear feet, from 8 to 10 foot-wide, of a multi-use recreational trail segment of the Las Virgenes Creek Trail. The subject trail will be built on a Los Angeles County Flood Control District easement, in a portion of unincorporated County land, as well as a section in the City of Calabasas. The trail will begin south of Agoura Road and proceed under the 101 Freeway to an existing open area. The project will include brush clearance, trail edge stabilization, the building of culverts and other drainage devices, protective fencing and gates, trail surfacing, trail signage and lighting as needed.

The proposed trail project will be an integral link for multi-use trail users of the Las Virgenes Creek Trail, which is already partially developed, connecting communities in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Calabasas along Las Virgenes Creek with a transition to the Malibu Creek Lateral Trail which ends at the Pacific Ocean in Malibu.

In a related item on today's agenda, the Department is recommending approval to allocate $300,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the SMMC to the County Department for the Don Wallace Trail Project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will 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 providing access to recreational access through vital trails connections in the Santa Monica Mountains in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed project will be funded entirely with the requested $300,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of $300,000, 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 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 Department has met 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 will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for Specified projects.

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 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.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space 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 County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Don Wallace Trail 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 Department may proceed on the Don Wallace Trail Project to develop an approximately 2,500-foot long connection to the Las Virgenes Creek Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains in the Third Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions 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(DON WALLACE LAS VIRGENES TRAIL BL)

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