LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

April 5, 2011

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

#1-P APRIL 5, 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 FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE RIO HONDO BIKE TRAIL ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $200,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, who will then assign its right to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to apply for a grant for the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements Project along the Rio Hondo channel in the City of Montebello.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15301, 15303, and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1, 3, and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project involves installation of small structures and minor alterations to land and vegetation.

2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District, in the amount of $200,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority who will then assign its right to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to apply for a grant for the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access 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 $200,000.00 grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements project after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Corps, 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 $200,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements Project.

The Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements Project consists of the purchase and installation of split rail entry gates, boulders, hardscaping, and native plant landscaping at the Lincoln Avenue access point to the existing Rio Hondo Bike Trail in the City of Montebello. The project site is adjacent to Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The total project cost is $200,000 and will be fully funded by Specified Excess Funds.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the above $200,000 to LACC.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, acting in his capacity as the Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District (Director), be authorized to award the grant to LACC only if applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications; consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition; and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project; and to administer the grant under 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 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 enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities along the Rio Hondo Channel in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $200,000 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's 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. MRCA and LACC have each 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 First Supervisorial District for specified projects for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects including projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (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. RPOSD is the lead agency for the Rio Hondo Bike Trail Access Improvements Project.

This proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15301, 15303, and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1, 3 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project involves installation of small structures and minor alterations to land and vegetation.

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 only if applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Grant Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities along the Rio Hondo Channel in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Office-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:WRO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(LACC RIO HONDO BIKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS BL)

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