LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

October 11, 2011

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

#3-P OCTOBER 11, 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 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE LAUREL CANYON EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROJECT (THIRD DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $100,000 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 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to fund the purchase of a conservation easement for 0.75 acres of land in Laurel Canyon.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act according to Section 15325(f) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project consists of the acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

2. Allocate $100,000 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 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition 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 $100,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition Project after the Conservancy assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Authority, 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, 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 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for its Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition 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 Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition Project to the MRCA.

The proposed $100,000 project consists of the acquisition of conservation easements on approximately 0.75 acres over four adjacent parcels of land located at the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive in the eastern portion of the Santa Monica Mountains (Attachment I). The MRCA has had the subject parcels under option since 2007. Since 2007, the MRCA has acquired other adjacent parcels and parcels are an integral part of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway. MRCA's ultimate goal is to provide a six-acre natural park at the location with a trail that will extend from the MTA bus stop area at the intersections of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive to Laurel Canyon Community Park.

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 natural habitat and recreational access in Laurel Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed project will be funded entirely with the requested $100,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of $100,000, 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 funds provided to the Conservancy be expended "solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt," provided that those projects are identified in the Conservancy's annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature and as may be amended from time to time, after noticed public hearings held in August of 2004.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that your Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, your Board previously has adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed Conservancy projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed acquisition project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition and has been reviewed in accordance with the Conservancy's revised Procedural Guide, adopted by your Board on June 17, 1997.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) determined that since the subject parcels are located in the City of Los Angeles, no highways in the County Highway Plan are directly impacted. DPW further found that the proposed acquisition of the properties would not negatively impact the County's solid waste management system, since the parcels are located in the City of Los Angeles (see Attachment II)

The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) researched the list of proposed parcels for acquisition and determined that since they are located within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles, they were located outside the jurisdiction of the Department of Regional Planning. Accordingly, the department did not consult with County Counsel for conformity between the parcels and their status relative to the applicable County planning documents (see Attachment III.)

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 MRCA 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 grants 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Laurel Canyon Easement Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project consists of the acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

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 MRCA may proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements 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

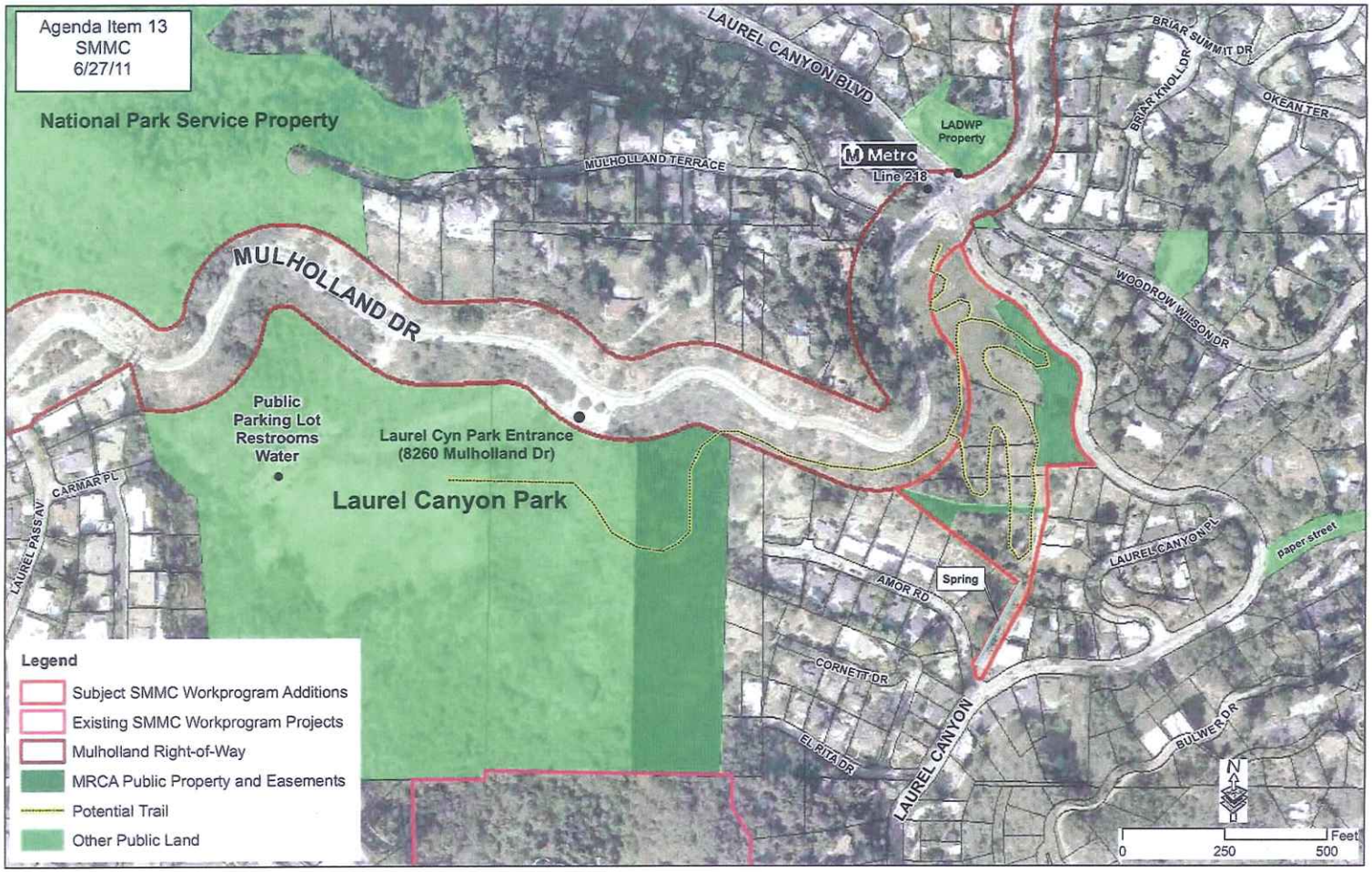
Attachments

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(LAUREL CANYON BL)

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

ATTACHMENT I
Legend
Subject 6-Lots
Potential Easement Area (approx. 0.70 ac)
MRCA Property/Easements
Other Public Land
MULHOLLAND DRIVE
LAUREL CANYON BLVD
4
5
3
2
1
MRCA
Fee Property
AMOR ROAD
LAUREL CANYON BLVD
Feet
0
100
200
N

Laurel Canyon – Mulholland Properties Project


Agenda Item 13
SMMC
6/27/11
National Park Service Property
LAUREL CANYON BLVD
BRIAR SUMMIT DR
BRIAR KNOLL DR
OKEAN TER
LADWP Property
MULHOLLAND TERRACE
Metro Line 218
MULHOLLAND DR
WOODROW WILSON DR
Public Parking Lot Restrooms Water
Laurel Cyn Park Entrance (8260 Mulholland Dr)
Laurel Canyon Park
CARMAR PL
LAUREL PASS AV
LAUREL CANYON PL
paper street
Spring
AMOR RD
CORNETT DR
EL RITA DR
LAUREL CANYON
BULWER DR
Legend
Subject SMMC Workprogram Additions
Existing SMMC Workprogram Projects
Mulholland Right-of-Way
MRCA Public Property and Easements
Potential Trail
Other Public Land
N
Feet
0
250
500

ATTACHMENT II

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

GAIL FARBER, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
http://dpw.lacounty.gov

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

July 20, 2011

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: LD-4

TO: Ilona Volkmann, Administrator
Department of Parks and Recreation

Attention Perlita Flores

FROM: Anthony E. Nyivih
for Land Development Division
Department of Public Works

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST FOR A NEW ACQUISITION PROJECTS IN THE LAUREL CANYON BOULEVARD AND MULHOLLAND DRIVE AREA

As requested, we reviewed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's list of proposed acquisition projects in the Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive area as it relates to construction of any highway depicted on the County of Los Angeles Highway Plan and impacts to the Solid Waste Management System in the County of Los Angeles. The following are our comments:

1. Assessor Parcel Nos. 5565-003-036, 037, 039, and 040 are in the City of Los Angeles; therefore, no County highways are directly impacted. If you have questions regarding the City's requirements, you may contact Mr. Tony Munoz of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (West Los Angeles District), at (310) 575-8530. The County Highway Plan shows that Laurel Canyon Road and Mulholland Drive, adjacent to the above properties, are designed as a secondary highway and a parkway, respectively.

2. We have no comments on impacts to the Solid Waste Management System. The parcels in interest are in the City of Los Angeles.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions on highway impacts, please contact Steve Burger of Public Works' Land Development Division at (626) 458-4943 or sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov. For Solid Waste Management System impacts, please contact Wu Tan of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division at (626) 458-2193 or wtan@dpw.lacounty.gov.

HW:tb
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ATTACHMENT III

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

Date: July 14, 2011

To: Ilona Volkmann
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District

From: Mark Herwick, AICP
Supervising Regional Planner
Land Development Coordinating Center
Department of Regional Planning

REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT REVIEW: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Request For New Acquisition Projects, Laurel Canyon – Mulholland Properties Project, July 2011

Pursuant to your request, my staff has researched the proposed parcels (APN: 5565-003-036, -037, -038, -039, -040, -041) for acquisition.

All of the properties within the acquisition proposal are located within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, the proposed acquisitions are located outside the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. We are not able to provide any zoning-related information regarding the acquisition proposal. Please contact the Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Alice Wong of my staff at (213) 974-6470.

MH:aw