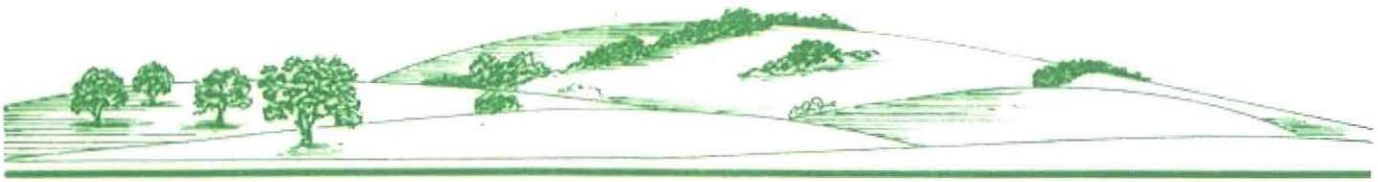

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info

December 10, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT FOR A GRANT TO THE CITY OF PALMDALE FOR THE PELONA VISTA PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $500,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Palmdale for general improvements to Pelona Vista Park.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Pelona Vista Park Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the proposed project consists of maintenance of existing facilities, replacement of existing utility systems and installation of small new structures at an existing facility, and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.

2. Allocate $500,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Palmdale for the Pelona Vista Park Improvements 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 to the City of Palmdale in the amount of $500,000 for the Pelona Vista Park Improvements Project if

applicable conditions have been met, and authorize the Director 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 ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $500,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the City of Palmdale for the Pelona Vista Improvements Project.

The Pelona Vista Park Improvement Project consists of general improvements to the existing park, including irrigation and turf improvements to the soccer field, irrigation upgrades, improvements to the existing walking and cross country trails, and purchase and installation of split rail fencing. The project is funded entirely from the requested $500,000 in Excess Funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grant, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable, and to administer the grant pursuant to the 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) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities in the City of Palmdale in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant, in the amount of $500,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (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 City of Palmdale 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 Fifth Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director 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 Project Agreement in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the District are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Palmdale is the lead agency for the proposed Pelona Vista Park Improvements Project.

The proposed Pelona Vista Park Improvement Project in the City of Palmdale is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project consists of general improvements to the existing park, including irrigation and turf improvements to the soccer field, irrigation upgrades, improvements to the existing walking and cross country trails, and purchase and installation of split rail fencing are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(d), 15302 (c) and 15303 (e) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(c), 2 (c) and 3 (b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves maintenance of existing facilities, replacement of existing utility systems, and installation of small new structures at an existing facility.

The proposed project includes no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director 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)

Approval of the recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that the City of Palmdale may proceed with the Pelona Vista Park Improvements Project in the Fifth 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

RG:JB
WRO:AA

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