



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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June 04, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

ALLOCATE SPECIFIED, CITIES, AND COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT, AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$1,168,000 in Specified Excess Funds, \$310,000 in Cities Excess Funds, and \$545,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a total of \$2,023,000 in grants to various recipients.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed projects categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Allocate \$1,168,000 of Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for grants as follows:
 - a. \$668,000 to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for its LA River Tributaries and San Gabriel Foothills Trail Signage Project
 - b. \$500,000 to the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County for its Grand Park Playground Project
3. Allocate \$310,000 of Cities Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for grants as

follows:

a. \$185,000 to the City of South El Monte for its Community Center Skate Park and Community Center ADA Improvements Project

b. \$125,000 to the City of West Covina for its Walmerado Park Baseball Field Project

4. Allocate \$545,000 of County Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for a grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for the Pellisier Village Equestrian Trailhead Project.

5. 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 grants to the recipients identified herein, after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply for Specified Excess Funds to both the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County, and when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines 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 \$1,168,000 in Specified Excess Funds, \$310,000 in Cities Excess Funds, and \$545,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for various projects as follows:

Specified Excess Funds

- \$668,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for its LA River Tributaries and San Gabriel Foothills Trail Signage Project; and
- \$500,000 to the MRCA for a grant to the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County (Music Center) for its Grand Park Playground Project.

MRCA will then assign the right to apply for Specified Excess Funds to both DPR and the Music Center.

Cities Excess Funds

- \$185,000 to the City of South El Monte for its Community Center Skate Park and Community Center ADA Improvements Project; and
- \$125,000 to the City of West Covina for its Walmerado Park Baseball Field Project.

County Excess Funds

- \$545,000 to DPR for its Pellisier Village Equestrian Trailhead Project.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grants to the various grantees, after MRCA assigns its rights to apply to both DPR and the Music

Center, and when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$2,023,000 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of Regional Park and Open Space District's (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 identified grantees each meet 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 Excess Fund grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Specified, Cities, and County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees 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, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by 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. DPR is the lead agency for the LA River Tributaries and San Gabriel Foothills Trail Signage Project and Pellisier Village Equestrian Trailhead Project. The City of South El Monte is the lead agency for the Community Center Skate Park and Community Center ADA Improvements Project. The City of West Covina is the lead agency for the Walmerado Park Playground Project. The RPOSD is the lead agency for the Music Center's Grand Park Playground Project.

DPR's proposed LA River Tributaries and San Gabriel Foothills Trail Signage Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of a comprehensive signage program, including fabrication and installation, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to

have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15303(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 3(b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves construction of small new facilities or structures.

DPR's proposed Pellisier Village Equestrian Trailhead Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of improvements to approximately 1,920 feet of trail and trailhead and the installation of signage, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(d), 15303(e), and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c), 3(b), and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves restoration and repair of existing facilities, construction of small new facilities or structures, and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The City of South El Monte's proposed Community Center Skate Park and Community Center ADA Improvements Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of the conversion of an existing tennis court to a skate park, installation of modular skating units on the existing concrete slab and new fencing, construction of an independent entrance to the facility, and upgrades to the Community Center restrooms, including installation of new tiles, partitions, and fixtures, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(d), 15302(c), 15303(e), and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c), 2(a), 3(b), and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves restoration of existing facilities, replacement of existing structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity, construction of small new facilities or structures, and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The City of West Covina's proposed Walmerado Park Playground Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of construction of a new baseball-themed playground at Walmerado Park is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 3(b) and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves construction of small new facilities or structures, and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The Music Center's proposed Grand Park Playground Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of construction of a new playground on the south side of the Event Lawn in Grand Park, including a snake-like walkway and sliding and climbing equipment, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 3(b) and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves construction of small new facilities or structures and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The proposed projects above include no expansion of an existing use, meaning structures replaced will be located on the same site as existing structures and will have the same purpose and capacity, and the proposed projects will not involve the removal of healthy, mature or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed projects are 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 projects records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements 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 grants have been met. The Project Agreements have been 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 RPOSD. The recommended projects will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

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