



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

Executive Offices • 433 South Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 738-2961

July 29, 2014

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

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR
COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO FUND VARIOUS PROJECTS
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to submit grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, in the amount of \$328,500 to partially fund various projects.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Braille Trail and Riparian Habitat Restoration projects are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons cited herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Approve the request to submit grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, in the amount of \$328,500 to partially fund various projects.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept grant funds, execute agreements, conduct all negotiations, and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant

Agreement, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to submit grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), in the amount of \$328,500, to partially fund various projects as follows:

Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Restoration Project (\$300,000)

The proposed project is located at Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center at 19152 Placerita Canyon Road in Newhall. The scope of work will consist of restoring and preserving a riparian habitat along Placerita Creek (Creek) by installing two bridges that will raise Placerita Canyon Trail (Trail) out of the Creek at two locations; creating buffer zones between the Trail and riparian habitat with shoring walls; and planting native plants along the creek in Placerita Canyon. The estimated total project cost is \$555,000. The project will be partially funded with \$300,000 of County Excess Funds. Additional funding of \$200,000 will be provided by State of California Habitat Conservation and \$55,000 in Department in-kind labor.

Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project (\$28,500)

The proposed project is located at Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center at 19152 Placerita Canyon Road in Newhall. The scope of work will consist of developing approximately one-eighth of the Heritage Trail into a Braille Trail by installing concrete curb guides along the entire length, relocating the trail entrance area, creating Braille and high-contrast interpretive signage, installing safety railings, and creating a panoramic relief of the natural area and a miniature sculpture of the Oak of the Golden Dream. The estimated total project cost is \$99,000. The project will be partially funded with \$28,500 of County Excess Funds. Additional funding of \$45,000 will be provided by State of California Habitat Conservation and \$25,500 in Department in-kind labor.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health promoting activities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed projects will be partially funded with \$328,500 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District. Sufficient appropriation for the grant is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of RPOSD's Excess Funds Project Fund.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

The recommended actions allow the Department to apply for grant funding for the restoration and trail projects as described above. Additional operating costs may materialize from the project provisions, but will be dependent on approval and award of the grants. The Department will reevaluate the projects and identify any additional costs upon acceptance of grant funds, and

address them in its New Facilities request.

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.

County Counsel has approved this Board Letter as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Braille Trail project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project, which consists of developing a portion of the existing Heritage trail into the Braille Trail by relocating the trail entrance area, creating Braille and interpretive signage, installing safety railing, and creating a panoramic relief of the natural area and miniature sculpture of the Oak of the Golden Dream, 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), 15304 (a), and 15311 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 3(b), 4(a), and 11(d) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed project involves construction of small new facilities or structures, minor alterations in the condition of land, and installation of on-premise signs.

The proposed project above will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic 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.

The proposed Riparian Habitat Restoration Project is also categorically exempt from CEQA. The proposed project, which consists of installing two bridges that will raise Placerita Canyon Trail out of Placerita Creek at two locations, creating buffer zones between the Trail and riparian habitat with shoring walls, and planting native plants along Placerita Creek, 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 (c), (d) and 15333 (a), (b), (c), (d)(3)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 1 (f) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed project involves minor alteration to existing public facilities and topography features involving negligible or no expansion of use and small habitat restoration projects.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services at Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

7/29/2014

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Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions please contact Luva Robinson at (213) 637-1845 or lrobinson@parks.lacounty.gov, Winston Mendoza at (213) 368-5838 or wmendoza@parks.lacounty.gov, Kasey Dizon at (213) 738-2986 or kdizon@parks.lacounty.gov, or Kaye Michelson at (213) 738-2955 or kmichelson@parks.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JW:FP

WM:lr

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