



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices. 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

October 07, 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 EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE RIO HONDO TRAILHEAD ACQUISITION PROJECT (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the proposed Rio Hondo Trailhead Acquisition Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Rio Hondo Trailhead Acquisition Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the proposed Rio Hondo Trailhead Acquisition 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 grant to the Watershed

Conservation Authority for the proposed Rio Hondo Trailhead Acquisition Project, after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply to Watershed Conservation Authority and if applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant 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 an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 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 (MRCA) for a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) for the proposed Rio Hondo Trailhead Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of the acquisition of up to 11 acres of fee simple land or up to 22 acres of conservation easement for open space, wildlife habitat, and future trailhead development, adjacent to the Rio Hondo tributary of the Los Angeles River. The total estimated project cost is \$8,000,000. The recommended Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented by State and Federal grants totaling \$5,000,000. WCA has applied to the State and Federal grants, which must be secured as a condition of the recommended Excess Funds grant.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, will assign its right to apply for the \$3,000,000 to WCA.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant, after MRCA assigns its right to apply to WCA and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant 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/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$3,000,000, 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. MRCA and WCA 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 public agency 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. WCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 13 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements (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 Agreements 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 RPOSD. The proposed Project 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 one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

10/7/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO

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