



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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May 03, 2016

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:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3-P May 3, 2016

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A
GRANT TO THE MOUNT WILSON INSTITUTE FOR
THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mount Wilson Institute to make improvements to the Mount Wilson Observatory.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Mount Wilson Observatory Improvements Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the records of the project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mount Wilson Institute for the Mount Wilson Observatory Improvements 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 when 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 \$500,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mount Wilson Institute (MWI) for the Mount Wilson Observatory Improvements Project (Project).

The proposed Project involves safety and water conservation improvements to the Mount Wilson Observatory, including replacement of the existing water reservoir roof and purchase and installation of a rainwater harvesting system. The total estimated Project cost is \$500,000, which will be fully funded by the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

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 when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include as grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) by providing grant funds to enhance healthy activities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, is budgeted in the Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Project Funds, 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. MWI meets 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 Specified Projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will 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 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 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 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. RPOSD is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of replacement of the existing water reservoir roof and purchase and installation of a rainwater harvesting system, 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) and 15303 (e), and of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1 (c) and 3 (b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment at an existing facility and installation of accessory structures.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and 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.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant 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)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District. The recommended projects will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

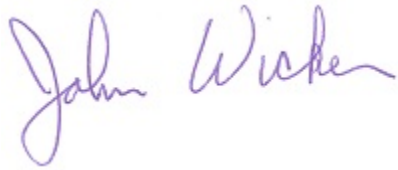
Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Programs Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

5/3/2016

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Wicker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN WICKER

Director

JW:JB:WRO:tb

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