



March 06, 2018

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

1-P March 6, 2018

CELIA ZAVALA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ALLOCATE EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE TRIANGLE RANCH
PHASE I ACQUISITION PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3 - 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Triangle Ranch Phase I Acquisition Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate \$2,500,000 in Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Triangle Ranch Phase I Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, 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 \$2,500,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the Triangle Ranch Phase I Acquisition Project (Triangle Ranch Project).

Triangle Ranch is a 320-acre ownership in the unincorporated Agoura Hills area of the Santa Monica Mountains. Triangle Ranch abuts open space owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in all compass directions and frames a major gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains on both sides of Kanan Road. The property provides a habitat linkage between the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor and the Ladyface Mountain core habitat area.

MRCA has an agreement in place with a private company to acquire the 320 acres in four phases by the end of 2018. The first phase encompasses 60 acres that will protect more than 2,500 feet of Medea Creek and support virtually every mammal species in the Santa Monica Mountains, riparian oak woodland, chaparral, grassland, coastal sage scrub, and rock outcropping vegetation communities.

The total estimated Project cost is \$6,100,000. The recommended \$2,500,000 Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$2,100,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and \$1,500,000 from the City of Agoura Hills.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), or his designee, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD), be authorized to award the grant when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include 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 projects. 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 Supporting the Wellness of our Communities (Goal II.2) and Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability (Goal III.3) by providing grant funds to protect natural lands for habitat preservation in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000, is budgeted in RPOSD's 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. MRCA 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 improvements projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Funds grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director or his designee would be authorized to award a grant 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 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. MRCA is the lead agency for the Triangle Ranch Project.

The recommendations to allocate and award grant funds are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities of government grants.

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)

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

CONCLUSION

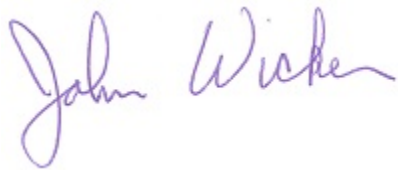
Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Programs Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

3/6/2018

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Wicker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

JOHN WICKER

Director

JW:JIB:WRO:mh

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