



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

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June 12, 2018

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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:

**IMPLEMENT MEASURE A,
THE SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE,
BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND
WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE OF 2016
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will authorize implementation of Measure A, the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure of 2016, including annual allocations for grant projects; maintenance and servicing; technical assistance; and innovation and oversight funds.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions to implement the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure of 2016 are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein.
2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to take any and all actions necessary to implement the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure of 2016, including the execution and administration of contracts for grant projects, maintenance and servicing funds, and technical services and technology solutions such as grants management and special tax calculation systems as described herein.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) is a California Special District authorized under Section 5500 of the California Public Resources Code. When voters approved the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition in November 1992 (1992 Proposition), they authorized formation of RPOSD as well as a 22-year long benefit assessment on virtually every parcel of real property Countywide. Voters approved a second Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition in November 1996 (1996 Proposition), authorizing a second 22 year-long benefit assessment. Over the life of the two benefit assessments, RPOSD will have raised over \$1.2 billion of dedicated, local funding for grants to the 88 cities, State and local agencies, County Departments and non-profit organizations for parks, recreation, beaches, and wildlife protection land acquisition and capital projects as well as their maintenance.

While RPOSD is perpetual and continues beyond the life of the two benefit assessments, additional revenue is needed to continue dedicated local funding for grant projects and their maintenance. Following adoption of the 2016 Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Final Report, the Board of Supervisors (Board), in its capacity as governing body of RPOSD, adopted a resolution placing the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure (Measure A) onto the 2016 general election ballot. Measure A sought voter approval of a special tax on parcels of real property to continue RPOSD's funding programs. On November 8, 2016, 74.9% of County voters approved Measure A.

Measure A Implementation Update

Immediately following official declaration of the certified election results by the Board, RPOSD began preparing for Measure A implementation, including:

- Convening a 46-member steering committee for vetting of draft policies, procedures, and guidelines;
- Calculating and levying the Special Tax of \$0.015 per square foot of structural improvements on parcels of real property Countywide (Special Tax);
- Calculating estimated funding amounts for annual allocation and competitive grant programs as well as maintenance and servicing funds; and
- Providing information education to the 88 cities, County Departments, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and the general public.

Approval of the recommendations will authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation (Director), or his designee, in his capacity as Director of RPOSD, to implement Measure A. Due to pending litigation, and in consultation with County Counsel, it is recommended that the release of funds prior to the resolution of the litigation shall be contingent on the execution of contracts between the recipients and RPOSD that include a clause detailing the procedures for repayment of funds if required by the final court ruling. Pending resolution of the litigation, the implementation strategy shall be limited to 1) annual allocations for eligible grant projects, 2) maintenance and servicing funds, and 3) innovation and oversight funds for general Measure A administration as well as development and implementation of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), which are estimated to not exceed the following amounts in the first year:

Grant Project Funding

- Community-Based Park Investment – \$33.2 million
- Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening – \$12.3 million
- Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation & Protection to the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) – \$3.1 million
- Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility to the Department of Parks and Recreation

(DPR) – \$3.1 million

- Board of Supervisors Discretionary Projects – \$2 million

Maintenance & Servicing Funds – \$14.2 million

Innovation and Oversight including TAP – \$6.8 million

A full complement of draft policies, procedures, and guidelines for all Measure A funding programs inclusive of competitive grants are currently in the process of being vetted and finalized. RPOSD will return to the Board at a later date to recommend adoption of the final draft documents.

Approval of the recommendations will also authorize the Director to move forward with any and all actions necessary for implementation of Measure A, including execution and administration of contracts for grant projects and maintenance and servicing funds; and technical services, such as an online, paperless enterprise class grants management system and an independent special tax calculation system, for the purposes of Measure A, and up to the dollar amounts described herein; and under the authority recommended herein and/or existing authority of RPOSD under the State of California, and/or of County Offices or Departments.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Pursuing Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability (Goal III.3) and Engaging Our Customers, Communities, and Partners (Goal III.4) by implementing voter-approved Measure A annual allocation and technical assistance funding for parks, recreation, open space, beaches, cultural and related projects in all Supervisorial Districts.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The recommended funding results from revenue being collected from the Measure A Special Tax, and is budgeted in the appropriate accounts: Administrative Fund HG2, Maintenance and Servicing Fund HG3, and Assessment Grant Fund HG4.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On November 8, 2016, 74.9% of Los Angeles County voters approved Measure A and the Board declared the certified election results as official on December 6, 2016. As RPOSD completes the initial year of Special Tax, we are recommending implementation Measure A funding programs to the extent feasible.

As noted above, it is recommended that release of funds prior to the resolution of the litigation be contingent on the execution of contracts between the recipients and RPOSD that include a clause detailing the procedures for repayment of funds if required by the final court ruling. In this manner, recipients of annual allocation funding will be required to share in the responsibilities associated with utilizing Measure A funding during the ongoing litigation process.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommendations to implement Measure A and pursue State of California grant funding are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities of government grants.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

RPOSD is authorized to enter into agreements and/or contracts for grant funds, goods, and/or services under State of California Public Resources Code Section 5500, et seq. Contracts will be entered into and administered under the recommended authority only if all applicable conditions have been met. Contracts will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

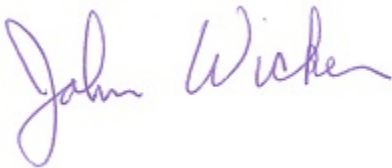
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommendations will allow the 88 cities in the County and the Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Parks and Recreation to begin utilizing their Measure A annual allocation funds for eligible grant projects as well as maintenance and servicing funds for completed RPOSD grant-funded projects. The recommendations will also allow RPOSD to develop and implement the Measure A TAP to prepare applicants and their project proposals for future competitive grant opportunities, and modernize its business processes through procurement and implementation of an online, paperless grants management system and independent special tax calculation system.

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.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN WICKER

Director

JW:JB:WRO

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