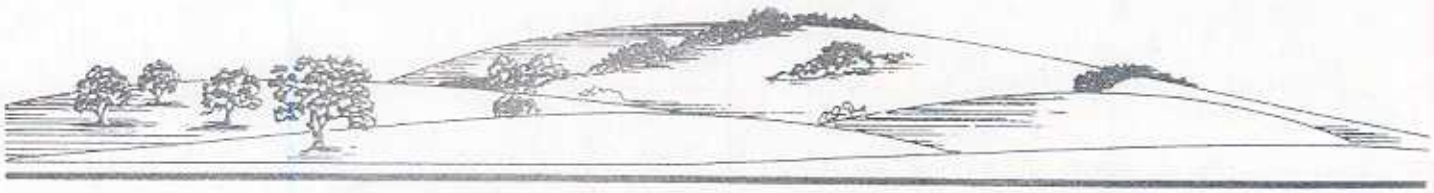

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

November 3, 2004

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

ALLOCATE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT (THIRD DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Allocate Third Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds in the amount of $500,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for the acquisition of 120 acres in the Calabasas Peak area of the Santa Monica Mountains.

2. Authorize the Interim Director 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 County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for the above acquisition when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the first recommendation will allocate $500,000 in Specified Excess Funds to the Conservancy for a portion of the acquisition of 120 acres of wilderness spanning the Topanga and Cold Creek Watersheds protecting the Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail in the unincorporated Calabasas Peak area of the Santa Monica Mountains. State grant funds will complete the $1,500,000 acquisition.

The Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (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 would be funded from the Excess Funds available for highest priority regional open space and recreation projects in the Santa Monica Mountains within the Third Supervisorial District.

The Conservancy, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects in the Santa Monica Mountains under the 1996 Proposition, will assign the right to apply for the funds to the County.

It is recommended that the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

In a related item on today's Board of Supervisors agenda, the Chief Administrative Officer is recommending that your Board approve a Notice of Intention to purchase the property in the unincorporated area near Calabasas Peak.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Service Excellence), Goal 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) and Goal 6 (Community Service) by allocating Excess Funds for enhanced recreational opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $500,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

Funds for the grant are available from the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocations of Excess Funds for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides for an annual determination of the availability of excess funds and for allocation of such funds for capital projects in four categories. On June 8, 2004, your Board identified excess funds for capital projects in Fiscal Year 2004-05.

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 Conservancy has met this requirement. The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Interim Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by your Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by your Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

County Counsel has reviewed these actions as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will provide additional recreational opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains near Calabasas Peak in the Third Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

These actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15061 (b) (3) of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that these actions will have no impact on

the environment. Any projects funded through the District to the County of Los Angeles are required to undergo the applicable CEQA review by the County.

CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Interim Director, Parks and Recreation

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel