

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
*"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"*



March 1, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN  
APPLICATION AS A COSPONSOR  
FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,  
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE,  
URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION PROGRAM  
FOR THE RIO HONDO IN THE WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA  
(First District — 3 Vote Matter)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that the approval of the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on Section 15301 (i) of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 1 of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.
2. Adopt the attached resolution endorsing the application previously submitted by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and declaring the County as a cosponsor for an Urban Streams Restoration Grant for the Rio Hondo River in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and determining appropriate environmental impact document, conditionally accepting grant if offered, and designating contract manager and fiscal agent.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On January 25, 2005, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) submitted a grant application requesting funding in the amount of \$267,553.69 from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Urban Streams Restoration Program. The scope of the proposed grant project is to clear in excess of one mile of the unchannelized portion of the Rio Hondo River, located within Whittier Narrows Recreation Area of accumulated litter, debris, sediment and invasive plant species to ameliorate and restore its natural flow patterns.

All grant projects for this program must have two sponsors. The LACC acted as sponsor or lead agency for the project and is requesting that the County cosponsor the grant application. As a cosponsor, the Board of Supervisors must adopt a resolution endorsing the grant application. The attached resolution satisfies this requirement and authorizes the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to act as the County's agent for the grant.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action. If approved, the LACC would be responsible for implementing the project.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/ LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program currently has \$4.6 million in Proposition 40 funding to provide competitive grants for local projects that reduce flooding and erosion on urban streams, improve environmental values and promote community stewardship. Grant awards are limited to a maximum of \$1 million per project and have averaged approximately \$350,000. This program requires a local contribution to the cost of the project. In addition, the program requires two sponsors: a sponsor or lead agency and a cosponsor. The deadline for submittal of grant applications to DWR was January 25, 2005. Announcement of grant awards are scheduled for May 24, 2005.

On January 25, 2005, the LACC submitted a grant application requesting funding in the amount of \$267,553.69 and an estimated total project cost of \$299,868.49. As sponsor for this grant application, the LACC will also serve as project manager and be directly responsible for the project scope of work, which includes clearing in excess of one mile of the unchannelized portion of the Rio Hondo River of accumulated litter, debris, sediment and invasive plant species. All work will be completed within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. LACC members and a project consultant, Riparian Repairs, and other volunteer groups will undertake and complete the project. Volunteer labor and in-kind equipment support will fulfill the local contribution required of this grant program.

On January 19, 2005, staff of the LACC met with staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation and expressed interest in serving as the sponsor in preparing a grant application for a project at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. It was determined at that time to prepare a project application for the clean up of a portion of the Rio Hondo River.

time to prepare a project application for the clean up of a portion of the Rio Hondo River.

A cosponsor for the grant application and an authorizing resolution are also program requirements. The Department agreed to act in this capacity and provide this documentation. Submittal of an authorizing resolution by the application deadline of January 25, 2005, was not a requirement.

Upon adoption of the attached resolution, the Department will transmit the resolution to the Grantor to fulfill this application requirement.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15301 (i) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board adopted on November 17, 1987, because the project involves maintenance of existing stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (WNRA) is a federal facility under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and is operated and maintained by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. As a federal facility, all projects at WNRA must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The U.S ACOE has determined that the project is in compliance with NEPA as a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.4 and 33 CFR 230.9 and that the project when considered individually and cumulatively does not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS**

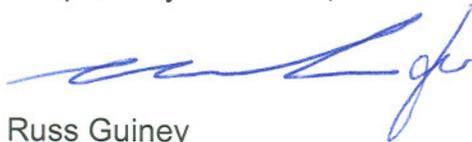
There are no impacts on current services as a result of this action. The Department, as an in-kind support contribution for the project, will provide the use of a tractor to assist with the work required of the project. In addition, semi-annual site inspections through the end of the grant contract period will be conducted by the Department in conjunction with the LACC.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
March 1, 2005  
Page 4

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Office, Clerk of the Board to forward one (1) conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and two (2) conformed copies of this letter and the two (2) original resolutions to the Department of Parks and Recreation by March 3, 2005, for completion of the grant application.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney  
Director

Attachments (2)

c: Executive Office (22)  
Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**ENDORING THE APPLICATION AS COSPONSOR FOR AN  
URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT FOR THE RIO HONDO IN THE  
WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA AND  
DETERMINING APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DOCUMENT,  
CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING GRANT IF OFFERED, AND DESIGNATING  
CONTRACT MANAGER AND FISCAL AGENT**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Urban Streams Restoration Program has announced the availability of funds for grants; and

**WHEREAS**, said grants are intended to help solve flooding and erosion problems in a way that provides environmental enhancement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps has proposed to sponsor a grant with the County of Los Angeles; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles has proposed to cosponsor a grant application with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps; and

**WHEREAS**, the project proposed for funding with the grant funds would be environmentally beneficial and categorically exempt from requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15301 (h) and (i) of the State CEQA guidelines and Class 1 (j) of the County CEQA Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, we have concluded the project proposed for funding with the grant funds would be environmentally beneficial and categorically excluded from requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.4 and 33 CFR 230.9 and that the project when considered individually and cumulatively does not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment; and

**WHEREAS**, we consider the prospects of receiving a grant to be reasonably likely.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors:

1. Approves the joint application with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for an Urban Streams Restoration Program grant; and
2. If offered such a grant as a cosponsor, authorizes the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles to accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including but

not limited to, applications, contracts, agreements, amendments and so on, for the administration of the grant funds, in compliance with all current state and federal laws, which may be necessary; and

3. Authorizes the Senior Environmental Programs Manager of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to act as Project Manager for the project and delegates authority to the LACC Project Manager to manage the Agreement and to delegate authority to others to provide management and support services required for performance of the work and administration of the Agreement. The delegation of authority to submit invoices requires written consent by both grantees which will be provided to the Department of Water Resources.

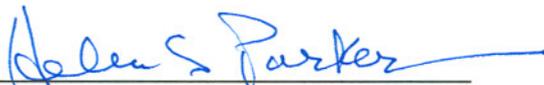
The foregoing resolution was on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which the Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer,  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
of the County of Los Angeles

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.  
County Counsel

By   
Helen S. Parker  
Principal Deputy County Counsel

# Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

## Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More

<b>Department: PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>		
<b>Grant Project Title and Description</b>		
<p>TO CLEAR IN EXCESS OF ONE MILE OF THE UNCHANNELIZED PORTION OF THE RIO HONDO RIVER, LOCATED WITHIN WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA OF ACCUMULATED LITTER, DEBRIS, SEDIMENT AND INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES TO AMELIORATE AND RESTORE ITS NATURAL FLOW PATTERNS.          THIS PROGRAM REQUIRES A GRANT SPONSOR AND COSPONSOR; THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS (ILACC) SHALL SERVE AS THE LEAD AGENCY OR SPONSOR AND THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION SHALL SERVE AS A COSPONSOR.</p>		
<b>Funding Agency</b>	<b>Program (Fed. Grant#/State Bill or Code #)</b>	<b>Grant Acceptance Deadline</b>
CA. DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES	URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION PROGRAM	JANUARY 25, 2005
<b>Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$267,553.69</b>		<b>County Match: 0</b>
<b>Grant Period: UP TO 3 YRS. FROM DATE OF CONTRACT EXECUTION</b>	<b>Begin Date: 6/05</b>	<b>End Date: 6/08</b>
<b>Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant: 0</b>	<b>Full Time: 0</b>	<b>Part Time: 0</b>
<b>Obligations Imposed on the County When Grant Expires</b>		
Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes	No NA
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes	No NA
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes	No NA
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:		NA
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes	No NA
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes	No NA
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes	No NA
<b>Impact of additional personnel on existing space:</b>		
NONE/NOT APPLICABLE		
<b>Note: NA = Not Applicable</b>		
Other requirements not mentioned above: THE LACC IS THE LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED GRANT PROJECT AND COMPLYING WITH ALL TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT.		

Department Head Signature 

Date 2/16/05