Los Angeles County
Caring for Your Coast
Beaches & Harbors

*To enrich lives through effective and caring service*

**Stan Wisniewski**
Director

**Kerry Gottlieb**
Chief Deputy

March 29, 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:

**AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO JOINTLY FINANCE CONSULTANT SERVICES TO PREPARE REGIONAL GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER THE WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER, COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2002 (THIRD DISTRICT)(3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Class 4 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.

2. Authorize payment in the amount of $7,500 to the City of Malibu to assist in the cost of consultant services for the preparation of regional grant applications that conform to State requirements under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50).

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In November 2002, California voters approved the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to acquire and protect coastal wetlands and watersheds, conserve and protect water resources, and develop and improve the reliability of water supplies. The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program, funded by Proposition 50 under Chapter 8, provides $500 million for competitive grants for projects to protect communities from

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drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. The intent of the IRWM grant program is to encourage integrated regional strategies for management of water resources and to promote a new model for water management. As required by the IRWM grant program, the Department has joined together with a group of interested stakeholders, including the City of Malibu, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the West Basin Municipal Water District, and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, to form the North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds Integrated Regional Water Management Group (Group) to apply for IRWM grant funds.

The purpose of the recommended action is to authorize the Department to transfer to the City of Malibu its financial contribution toward the hiring of a consultant to develop applications to apply for Proposition 50 grant funds. The total cost of the consultant services is estimated to be $45,000, with the Department of Beaches and Harbors' financial share being $7,500.

The Group, with the assistance of the consultant, intends to submit applications for consideration by both the State Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, which are jointly administering the IRWM Planning Grant and Implementation Grant programs. Both agencies are in the process of finalizing proposal solicitation packages for both grant programs. The due date for Planning Grants is May 5, 2005, and it is anticipated that the Implementation Grants will be due in June 2005.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Your Board's authorization to transfer funding in the amount of $7,500 to the City of Malibu will enable the Department, along with others, to submit joint IRWM applications in an effort to secure grant funding to improve water quality at County beaches in the Malibu region, thereby furthering the County Strategic Plan Goals of Fiscal Responsibility and Service Excellence.

## FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation is included in the Department's FY 2004-2005 Budget to cover this contribution.

## FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Beach Commission will consider this Board letter at its March 23, 2005 meeting. The Department will advise your Board of the Beach Commission's action in advance of your consideration of this item.

County Counsel has approved the Board letter as to form.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Class 4 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.

## CONTRACTING PROCESS

The City of Malibu issued a Request for Proposals on January 14, 2005 to secure the consultant services, and two responses were received by the February 7, 2005 deadline. An evaluation committee comprised of staff members from the participants in the Group, including the Department, reviewed and scored the proposals and conducted personal phone interviews to evaluate each of the firms. Raines, Melton & Carella, Inc. (RMC) was selected based on a combination of the firm's demonstrated professional qualifications and experience specifically related to water quality, pollution control, and natural resource management, and its approach and availability to complete the scope of work.

## IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed consultant services with RMC will enhance efforts by the Group to solicit and secure grant funding by providing highly technical and specialized expertise to ensure responsiveness to the requirements of the IRWM grant program. Through the use of consultant services, the Group will be able to meet the short time frame for completing competitive grant applications. The Group and the consultant will recommend a list of project proposals, which will become the basis of an "Implementation Project Priority List" and the first component of the Implementation Grant application. The Department will return to your Board with the recommended Implementation Project Priority List resulting from this process and for approval to file an IRWM grant program application.

## CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one approved copy of this letter to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Gottlieb Silverstrom for

Stan Wisniewski
Director

SW:kgs
c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors