LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

June 20, 2006

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 FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND IN THE MARSHALL CANYON CONSERVATION CORRIDOR, AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A WRITTEN CONSENT TO TRANSFER PROPERTY (FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Allocate Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funds to the Department of Parks and Recreations (Department) in the amount of $1,000,000 for the acquisition of 80 acres of unimproved real property as part of the Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor.

2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to (a) award a grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), 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 and (b) execute a written consent to transfer the above referenced 80 acres of unimproved real property by TPL to the County of Los Angeles, subject to the County's assumption of all the obligations of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 (the Propositions) and acceptance of the assignment of the grant agreement for the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will provide $1,000,000 of funding to TPL to purchase 80 acres of unimproved real property for the Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor so that said property can then be transferred by TPL to the County, as described in a related action on today's agenda from the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The cost to acquire the 80 acres of land is currently estimated at $2,450,000, of which $1,320.685 will be funded from Wildlife Conservation Board grant and $129,315 from a previous assignment of County Excess funds approved by your Board on September 20, 2005. The additional allocation and assignment of $1,000,000 in Excess Funds will fully fund the acquisition of the 80 acres of land by TPL.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Propositions encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department of Parks and Recreation meets this requirement.

As part of this action, it is recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award the grant to TPL, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

Upon transfer of the property from TPL to the County, it is also recommended that the Director be authorized to execute a written consent to transfer the above referenced 80 acres of unimproved real property by TPL to the County of Los Angeles, subject to the County's assumption of all the obligations of the Propositions and acceptance of the assignment of the grant agreement for the project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by allocating Excess Funds for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $1,000,000 is budgeted in the Fifth 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 Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocations of Excess Funds for Fiscal Year 2005-06.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 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 to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation 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.

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 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)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District, but are required so that the Trust for Public Land may proceed on the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County and transfer such property to the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions are not projects because they have no potential to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (State CEQA Guidelines section 15378).

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
Director, Parks and Recreation

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