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

April 3, 2007

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

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING TO THE BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY THE COUNTY'S RIGHT TO APPLY FOR SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS FOR BALDWIN HILLS UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996 (Second District – 3-Vote Matter)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find this project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines and the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, as cited herein.

2. Adopt the attached resolution assigning to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (the Authority) the County's right to apply for $3,454,020 of Second Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (the 1996 Proposition) for the acquisition of land and for development of related appurtenant facilities and public access in Baldwin Hills.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Authority to apply for $3,454,020 of Second Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) for acquisition of lands for park, wildlife, natural and open space purposes and for development of appurtenant recreation facilities and public access in Baldwin Hills.

The establishment of the Authority, a Joint Powers Authority established under Government Code Section 6500 between the County and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, was approved by your Board on April 27, 1999, to provide a comprehensive program to acquire, expand and improve open space, natural habitat, and recreational opportunities within Baldwin Hills and other natural and recreational areas within the Second Supervisorial District.

Under the terms of the JPA, the Authority is authorized to purchase and develop land in the Baldwin Hills area for open space and recreational purposes. The County is responsible for maintaining the land upon purchase. Ultimately, the JPA provides that the County can assume fee title to the land at some future time.

Much of the land in the Baldwin Hills is currently occupied in oil production. In negotiating the purchase from the current owners, the Authority requires the current owner and/or oil operator to comply with the California Division of Oil and Gas requirements to mitigate the site when oil extraction ceases so that the site may be used for other purposes. In addition, the County and other stakeholders are drafting community standards to be adopted by the Regional Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors that will further ensure that any future contamination concerns are addressed through a planning, monitoring and possibly fee mitigation program to ensure that any environmental issues are resolved.

Under the provisions of the 1996 Proposition, the Department is the designated agency to receive excess funds allocated to Baldwin Hills. The 1996 Proposition also 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.

In a related action on today's agenda, the District is requesting that your Board allocate $3,454,020 in Second Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds to the Department and authorize a grant and an advance of those funds to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority when applicable conditions have been met.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendation furthers the Board-approved Strategic Plan Goal Number 1, (Service Excellence), Goal Number 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal Number 5 (Children and Families Well-Being), and Goal Number 6 (Community Service) by providing for the acquisition and development of additional open space and recreational opportunities in Baldwin Hills.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This action will have no impact on the County General Fund as the project will be funded through Excess Funds allocated to the Department for acquisition and development within Baldwin Hills.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method of 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 action will allow the Authority to apply for funds from the Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District.

County Counsel has reviewed this action as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15303 (e), 15311, and 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 (b), 11 and 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for transfer of ownership of land to create parks, preserve open space, preserve existing natural conditions, and the development of appurtenant facilities. Further, the Authority will be required to comply with District procedures requiring grantee agencies to comply with the applicable CEQA review for any projects funded by the District.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended action will have no impact on any other services or any current or planned projects but will allow for the acquisition and development of additional open space and recreational opportunities within Baldwin Hills.

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 return three conformed copies to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director

Attachment (1)

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

COUNTY ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR FUNDS FOR BALDWIN HILLS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24, SUBSECTIONS b and c OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996

WHEREAS, the County, under Section 24, Subsections b and c of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 is the designated recipient of excess funds allocated to the highest priority regional open space and recreation projects in Baldwin Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, a Joint Powers Authority, was established in 1999 by the County and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the purpose of providing a comprehensive program to acquire, expand and improve open space, natural habitat, and recreational opportunities within the Baldwin Hills and other natural and recreational areas within the Second Supervisorial District; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is in the County's interest to assign the County's right to apply for those funds to the Authority, for the acquisition of land and for development of related appurtenant facilities and public access in Baldwin Hills; and

WHEREAS, the Authority will submit an application to the Regional Park and Open Space District to obtain a grant for the above-referenced project:

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

Assigns to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority the County's right to apply for $3,454,020 of Specified Excess Funds for implementation of the Project.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2007, 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 said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI, 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 _____
LILLIAN D. SALINGER
Senior Deputy County Counsel