LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 1, 2007

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:

APPROVE THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST TO MODIFY ITS LIST OF TREE PLANTING PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1992
(FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FIFTH DISTRICTS - 3 - VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the modification of the list of tree planting projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), part of the Competitive Grant Program funded under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (3), Subparagraph (C) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended action would allow the Conservancy to complete its tree planting projects funded from the 1992 Proposition's Urban Tree Planting Competitive Grant Program. Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (3), Subparagraph (C) of the 1992 Proposition allocated $1,000,000 to the Conservancy for tree planting in public places for urban beautification purposes. The Conservancy has identified 18 projects listed, as revised, on the Attachment as high priority tree planting projects.

Beyond the reallocation of funding between grants, as shown in the Attachment, the Conservancy requests approval to add tree planting at Towsley Canyon to the scope of work for the East Canyon Tree Planting Project, and to add tree planting to the project scope of work for the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens Project, Compton Creek Enhancement Project and the Tujunga Wash Restoration Demonstration Project.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations support the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), and Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by funding tree planting projects in the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the on-going projects, totaling $171,369.53, is budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (HB&) and the District's Assessment Funds Project Fund, HB4.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section (11), Subsection (h) of the 1992 Proposition designated $1,000,000 of competitive tree planting grant funds from Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (3), Subparagraph (C) for grants to the Conservancy. Section (12) of the 1992 Proposition requires that all competitive grant funds be awarded through formal action of your Board in its capacity as governing body of the District.

Your Board authorized tree planting projects on March 29, 1994, and revisions to the list on November 8, 1994, May 14, 1996, August 19, 1997, and November 12, 2002, to fully allocate the $1,000,000 in Urban Tree Planting Competitive Grant funds available to the Conservancy.

County Counsel has reviewed this letter.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Your Board's approval of the recommended project revisions shown on the Attachment would allow the Conservancy, either on its own or through another eligible public agency with whom it may contract, to utilize the remaining balance in competitive tree planting grant funds to complete the proposed tree planting projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

All projects funded by the District are also required to comply with CEQA. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, on behalf of the Conservancy, was the lead agency for the Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park, the Los Angeles River Center, Compton Creek Enhancement and Tujunga Wash Restoration Demonstration Projects and the Conservancy, as lead agency, prepared appropriate environmental documentation for the projects listed in the Attachment.

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

RG:IV:LB:OPENSPACEDISTRICT(SMMC TREE PLANTING BL)

Attachment

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

Attachment

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
URBAN TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM – 1992 PROPOSITION

Projects	Previously Approved Grants	Reallocation/ Deletion	Requested Grant Amt
Completed Projects			
Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park	100,000.00	(8,216.23)	91,783.77
Elyria Canyon	100,000.00		100,000.00
Greenbriar Tree Planting	30,000.00	(3,022.26)	26,977.74
Liberty Canyon Connector	25,000.00		25,000.00
Bosque del Rio Hondo	30,000.00	(5,029.51)	24,970.49
Reseda Ridge Reforestation Project	322,340.00		322,340.00
San Vicente Mountain Park	25,000.00	(22,261.56)	2,738.44
Sepulveda Trailhead	50,000.00		50,000.00
Solstice Canyon	10,000.00	(10,000.00)	0.00
Top of Topanga	55,000.00		55,000.00
Wilacre	30,000.00	(179.97)	29,820.03
Wilson Canyon	100,000.00		100,000.00
Sub-Total	**$877,340.00**	**(48,709.53)**	**$828,630.47**
On-Going Projects			
East Canyon Tree Planting*	60,000.00		60,000.00
Mentryville	47,660.00		47,660.00
Red Rock Canyon Park	15,000.00	25,463.79	40,463.79
Los Angeles River Center Project **		5,029.51	5,029.51
Compton Creek Enhancement Project **		8,216.23	8,216.23
Tujunga Wash Restoration Demonstration **		10,000.00	10,000.00
Sub-Total	**$122,660.00**	**$48,709.53**	**$171,369.53**
Total	**$1,000,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$1,000,000.00**

Notes: * Add Towsley Canyon in the scope of work as additional area to plant trees.
** Amend project description to specifically include tree planting.