LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 22, 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 AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE AND AUTHORIZE A GRANT FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THE BULL CREEK CHANNEL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT (THIRD DISTRICT — 3-VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve an alternative plan for expenditure to allow the City of Los Angeles (City) to expend the remaining $2,000,000 allocated to the City for Specified Project funds under Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (FF), Item (xii) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition) for the Bull Creek Channel Environmental Restoration Project located at the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area.

2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District), to execute a grant agreement with the City for the Bull Creek Channel Environmental Restoration Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions would allow the City to expend the remaining $2,000,000 of the specified allocation of $2,800,000 allocated to the City under Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (FF), Item (xii) of the 1996 Proposition for the Bull Creek Channel Environmental Restoration Project. The project to be done jointly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) involves the environmental restoration of the southern-most 3,000 feet of the Bull Creek Channel which flows into the Los Angeles River within the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin in the San Fernando Valley area of the City of Los Angeles. The project entails the restoration of 27.9 acres of aquatic, riparian and native upland habitat to enhance wildlife resources along the Bull Creek Channel. The total cost for the project is $6,381,000 with $4,381,000 from the Army Corps Civil Works Program Fund and the $2,000,000 remaining from the funds specified for the Sepulveda Basin in the 1996 Proposition.

Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (FF), Item (xii) of the 1996 Proposition allocates $2.8 million to the City for the development, restoration and/or improvement of recreation facilities and restoration of natural lands at the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, including an amount not less than $1 million for bicycle trails connecting to Sepulveda Basin, excluding trails along the Los Angeles River. Not less than $1 million shall be spent on restoration of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area and the development of a native plant/wildlife area west of the existing wildlife area.

The City previously committed $800,000 of the $2.8 million to a project to build the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area Garden Center. Having completed bicycle trails projects connecting to Sepulveda Basin with other funding, the City requests an alternative plan for expenditure for the remaining $2 million for the Bull Creek Channel Environmental Restoration 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), and Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by providing environmental restoration at Sepulveda Basin in the San Fernando Valley.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds for the project, in the amount of $2 million, are budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition set forth various deadlines for agencies to encumber funds allocated to them in the Proposition and further set forth procedures for agencies to request reallocation of those funds.

Specified Project funds identified in Section (3), Subsection (c), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (FF), Item (xii) of the 1996 Proposition are subject to reallocation by your Board under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e), of the 1996 Proposition. After July 1, 2003, an alternative plan for expenditure may be approved by your Board to amend specific identified projects or to expend these funds on projects that are in accordance with the purposes of the 1996 Proposition within the area of the District in which funds were originally authorized to be expended.

If your Board does not approve the alternative plan for expenditure for the project requested, the City of Los Angeles may either expend the funds for the uses originally specified, request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds. If an agency were to relinquish its claim to funds, the funds would be available to your Board for reallocation for projects in one or more of the classes of expenditures specified in Section (3) of the 1996 Proposition.

Under Section (20) of the 1996 Proposition, in cases when the Proposition allocates funding for a project at a site for which the City's Measure K also provides funding, your Board, with concurrence of the Los Angeles City Council, may reallocate the 1996 Proposition funds to another project within the City of Los Angeles. However, because Measure K provides for Sepulveda Basin improvements that are different from those for which the 1996 Proposition funds are allocated, it is recommended that your Board authorize a grant to the City to carry out the purposes identified in the 1996 Proposition and the requested alternative plan for expenditure.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District, but will allow for environmental restoration at Sepulveda Basin.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed District 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for the Bull Creek Channel Environmental Restoration Project and as such, has prepared appropriate CEQA as well as National Environmental Protection Act documents for the project.

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