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

June 12, 2007

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

46 June 12, 2007

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM FOR THE COLD CREEK HIGH TRAIL ACQUISITION PROJECT
(Third District - 3 Vote Matter)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed 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, cited herein.

2. Adopt the attached resolution approving the filing of a grant application and authorizing acceptance of grant funds for the proposed project under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) which is administered by the California State Parks Resources Agency (State).

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to the project grant agreement, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adoption of the attached resolution by your Board will authorize the Department to complete the grant application process and accept grant funds, contingent upon an award of grant funding, from the LWCF.

The proposed project consists of the acquisition of one 10-acre lot of APN 4455-021-007 along the Cold Creek High Trail. The undeveloped lot will be acquired for open space, wildlife habitat protection, and passive recreational purposes, which is compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the project site, as required by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The 10-acre lot includes a 1.6 mile segment of the 17-mile regional Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail and is an integral part of the Cold Creek Restoration Plan.

The County will acquire the property and amend its management agreement with Mountains Restoration Trust to manage and maintain the property. The cost of the acquisition is estimated at $200,000.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) by increasing the Department's public/private partnerships, managing our resources effectively, and investing in the public infrastructure; Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being) by improving facilities used by children and families of the County; and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by improving the quality of life for residents by offering services responsive to each community's specific needs.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will not have any impact on the net County cost. The grant program requires a 50 percent funding match. A preliminary appraisal was conducted on the property by a licensed appraiser and the property appraised for $400,000. The seller is willing to sell the property to the County for $200,000 and will donate $200,000 in land value of the subject property to be used as a match for the grant request.

Upon completion of this acquisition project by the County, the Mountains Restoration Trust will enter into a Management Agreement with the County and be responsible for the management and maintenance of the property.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The LWCF program was established in 1965, and originally was authorized for a 25-year period. It has been extended for another 25 years until January 2015. The program is administered by California State Parks and provides funds to federal agencies, the 50 states and 6 territories.

The State's allocation for this year is expected to be approximately $765,000 available for competitive grants to local jurisdictions in Southern California for acquisition and development of facilities that provide for or support outdoor recreation. Development projects may include the construction of new and/or renovation of existing facilities for outdoor recreation.

This resolution has been prepared to establish the Board's intent to apply for federal grants funds that are administered by the State. Notification of award is scheduled to be announced in October 2007, and grantees will receive a contract with the award letter. Upon receipt of the award letter, the grantee must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 by conducting a Historic Resource records search and determining that the proposed project will not adversely affect cultural properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

For acquisition projects, the grantee, at its own expense, is required to have an appraisal prepared conforming to Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA). The Department will be responsible for the completion of this funded project within four years of the date of execution of a grant agreement.

Applicants must provide matching funds for LWCF funding. The funding may include cash, in-kind services, force account funds, state grant funds, or Federal Housing and Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG). No other federal funds may be used to match a LWCF grant. Donated real property used as all or part of the matching share, must meet federal appraisal standards and be acquired during the project performance period.

Projects funded by LWCF are protected under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF program and must be retained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use. Section 6(f)(3) states that LWCF projects cannot be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use without federal approval. The attached Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map delineates the protected area of the proposed project site.

Departments are required to attach the Grant Management Statement form when filing a board letter for grants of $100,000 or more. The Grant Management Statement form is attached.

County Counsel has approved the attached Resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The project described herein is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15313 (a) (c), 15316 (b), and 15325 (a) (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 13, 16 and 25 (a) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for acquisition of land for wildlife conservation, preservation of open space and lands for park purposes.

The LWCF is a federal grant program and, as such, all project proposals are subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Only federal agencies, such as the National Park Service (Service), can make findings with respect to NEPA. As part of the application process, the required Environmental Screening Form (ESF) has been completed for the proposed project. The ESF will be used by the Service to analyze the proposed project for compliance with NEPA.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS

The proposed actions will not have any impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Office, Clerk of the Board to forward one conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and three conformed copies to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director

Attachments (3)

RG.BA.fc.GrantsAdmin.BOS.ColdCreek.LWCF.GrantApp.BL.061207

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

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

Grant Management Statement for Grants $100,000 or More

Department: Parks and Recreation

Grant Project Title and Description Cold Creek High Trail Acquisition

In collaboration with the Mountains Restoration Trust, the project will acquire a 10-acre lot on the Cold Creek High Trail, in reach of the 17-mile Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Funding Agency	Program (Fed. Grant#/State Bill or Code #)	Grant Acceptance Deadline
National Park Service & State of California	Land and Water Conservation Fund	May 1, 2007

Total Amount of Grant Funding: $200,000	**County Match:** $200,000 (donated value of property)

Grant Period: 4 years	**Begin Date:** Fall/Winter 2007	**End Date:** Fall/Winter 2011
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	**Full Time:** 0	**Part Time:** 0

Obligations Imposed on the County When Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes	No X
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes	No X
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes X	No
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:		
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes	No
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes	No
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes	No

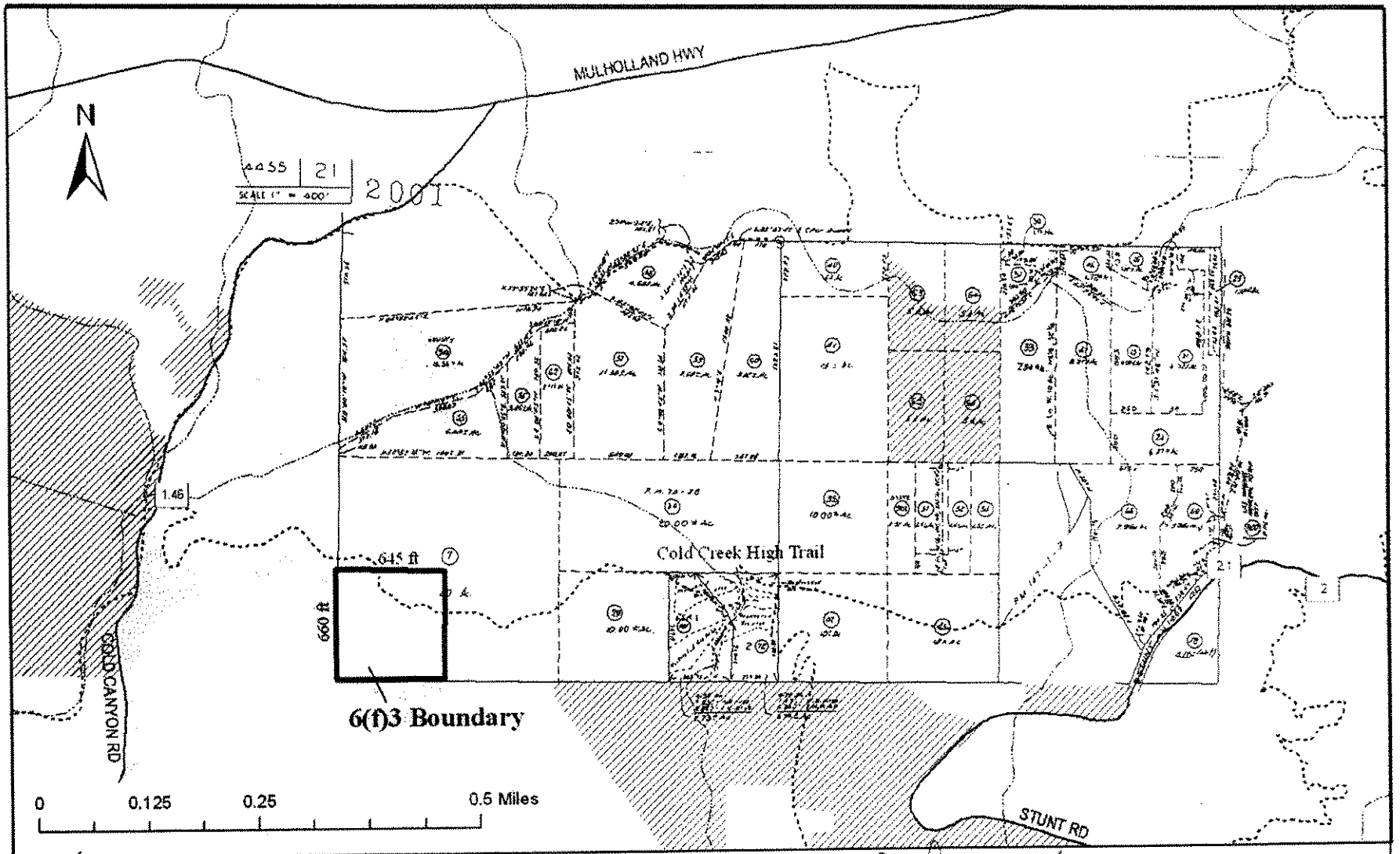
Impact of additional personnel on existing space:

None.

Other requirements not mentioned above: The following federal requirements must be met upon award notification: 1) Section 106 Compliance; 2) preparation of an appraisal conforming to Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (UASFLA).

Department Head Signature _____ Date 5-31-07

13. Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map
Cold Creek High Trail



Backbone Trail
Trail
1.46 Trail Marker
Blue-Line Stream
Protected Land
MRT Conservation Easement
Assessor Parcel

Signature of Individual Authorized in resolution

5/1/07
Date

April 27, 2007
Date of map preparation

10 acres
Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Acreage

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

APPROVING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM FOR THE COLD CREEK HIGH TRAIL LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing Matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing Applications by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, said adopted procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of Applications and the availability of eligible Matching funds prior to submission of said Applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cold Creek High Trail Land Acquisition Project is consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Resources Plan California Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Project must be compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the Project;

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

1. Approves the filing of an application and authorizes acceptance of grant funds from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

2. Certifies that the donated land value will serve as matching funds and can finance 100 percent of the project, half of which will be reimbursed; and

3. Certifies that the project is compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the project; and

4. Appoints the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles to accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, applications, contracts, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was on the 12TH day of JUNE, 2007, adopted 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 _____
HELEN S. PARKER
Principal Deputy County Counsel