LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

June 19, 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:

ALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS FOR THE PICKENS CANYON PARK PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT (FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Allocate Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funds in the amount of $91,000 for the Pickens Canyon Park Project.

2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) 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.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendation will allocate $91,000 in County Excess Funds for the Pickens Canyon Park Project. The proposed project, located in an unincorporated portion of the County between La Crescenta and the City of La Canada/Flintridge, consists of the construction of a new, approximately 8,000-square-foot passive park including entry sign, pathways, low retaining/seating walls, fencing, landscaping, and irrigation. The project is funded with $91,000 in County Excess Funds and $159,000 in Park In Lieu Fees for a project total of $250,000.

The 1996 Proposition 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.

It is recommended that the Director be authorized to award the grant to the Department, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

In July 2007, the Department will recommend approval of the Pickens Canyon Park Project and other related matters.

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 allocating Excess Funds for a project to enhance passive recreational opportunities at Pickens Canyon Park in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $91,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

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 from Excess Funds available for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants 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 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)

The recommended project will enhance recreational opportunities at Pickens Canyon Park in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions are not subject to 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 County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the Pickens Canyon Park Project and as such, will prepare appropriate environmental 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

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(PICKENS CANYON BL)

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