LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

December 2, 2008

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 CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT, AUTHORIZE AWARD, ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF AVALON FOR ITS JOE MACHADO FIELD RESTORATION PROJECT AND APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR EXPENDITURE TO RETURN FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS (FOURTH DISTRICT- 3 VOTE MATTER)

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate $415,000 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District, to enable the City of Avalon to complete the restoration of its Joe Machado Field, severely damaged in flooding following a major fire on Catalina Island in 2007. Also, $415,000 in 1996 Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition funding previously assigned to the City for a community recreation center will be returned to the Department of Beaches and Harbors for a project to be brought to your Board for approval at a later date.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.

2. Allocate $415,000 of Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District to the City of Avalon for its Joe Machado Field Restoration Project.

3. Approve the alternative plan for expenditure for the City of Avalon to transfer back to the Department of Beaches and Harbors $415,000 in Specified Project funds allocated under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (1) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, (1996 Proposition).

4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant amendment to the City of Avalon, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant amendment 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 ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions would allocate $415,000 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Avalon (City) for its Joe Machado Field Restoration project. Machado Field was severely damaged by mudslides after a major fire on Catalina Island. The total cost for the restoration of the ball field is estimated at $1,400,000 and the project will be completed in four phases of work:

- Phase I – Tree removal, demolition and field preparation
- Phase II – Construction of a restroom/storage/concessions building
- Phase III – Installation of synthetic turf, fencing, lighting, and bleachers
- Phase IV – Landscaping, a scoreboard and press box

The City's Public Works Department has begun Phase I of the project which is funded through the City's operating budget. The cost for Phase II and III is $947,834.41 and is funded by the following:

- $100,000 in Competitive Excess Funds previously award to the City for Machado Field by your Board on September 4, 2007
- $12,834.41 of City residual 1996 Proposition Per Parcel Discretionary Funds allocated to the City from its completed Cabrillo Mole Tot Lot and Ball Field Improvements Project
- $220,000 in State Bond funds
- $200,000 in City General Funds; and
- $415,000 in the requested Cities Excess Funds

The funding for Phase IV has not as yet been identified.

On June 21, 2005, your Board approved an alternative plan for expenditure assigning $415,000 of Specified Funds allocated to the Department of Beaches and Harbors (Department) under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (1) of the 1996 Proposition to the City of Avalon for a project to build a community center. Since the community center project has been postponed for lack of additional funding, the alternative plan for expenditure requested in the current action will return the $415,000 to the Department of Beaches and Harbors. Your Board's approval will be requested when the Department of Beaches and Harbors identifies a project for the funds.

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. The City meets this requirement.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant amendment to the City when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects, requirements of the 1996 Proposition, grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

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), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Service), by enabling the City of Avalon to provide recreational opportunities on Catalina Island.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $415,000, are appropriated in the Fourth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6 for the Joe Machado Field Restoration Project.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e), of the 1996 Proposition an alternative plan for expenditure must be submitted and approved to commit the funds allocated to specified projects between June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004. As of July 1, 2004, uncommitted Specified Project funds are subject to allocation to other projects by your Board.

The City of Avalon is relinquishing its claim to the $415,000 allocated originally to the Department of Beaches and Harbors under Section (3), Subsection (b), Paragraph (1) of the 1996 Proposition. Under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e) of the 1996 Proposition, the Department will be required to come to your Board for approval to fund a project at that time. If your Board does not approve that request, the Department may then request your Board's approval to fund different new projects with the funds, or relinquish its claim to the funds.

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 amendment would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for City projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant 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 amendment as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement Amendment will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement Amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District but are required so that the City of Avalon may proceed with its Joe Machado Field Restoration Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Avalon is the lead agency for the Joe Machado Field Restoration Project.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to 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.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wicker for

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:RR:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICTS(AVALON 2008 BL1)

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