LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

December 16, 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:

APPROVE A REVISED PLAN OF EXPENDITURE ASSIGNING TO THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA THE COUNTY'S RIGHT TO APPLY FOR SPECIFIED FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE PLACERITA CANYON NATURAL AREA (FIFTH DISTRICT- 3 VOTE MATTER)

SUBJECT

These actions will assign the County's right to apply for $250,000 in Specified Project funds of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 to enable the City of Santa Clarita to complete the acquisition of 140 acres of property adjacent to the Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

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

2. Approve the revised plan of expenditure for the Department of Parks and Recreation assigning the right to the City of Santa Clarita to apply for $250,000 in Specified Project funds allocated under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (GG) of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992, (1992 Proposition) to complete the acquisition of 140 acres of land adjacent to Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the City of Santa Clarita to apply for $250,000 of Specified Funds allocated to the County Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (GG) of the Proposition of 1992. This action will complete escrow for the City's acquisition of property adjacent to the Placerita Canyon Natural Area. The City of Santa Clarita will acquire parcel numbers 2848-011-010 and 2848-012-085, over 140 acres, and the property will be preserved as open space. The total cost of the acquisition project is $2,500,000 and is funded by:

- $1,000,000 City of Santa Clarita Mitigation Fund; $800,000 developer contribution; $450,000 City of Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District; $250,000 1992 Proposition Specified Funds

In a related item on today's agenda, the Department , which is the designated recipient of Specified Funds, allocated to the County under Section (8), Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), Subparagraph (GG) of the 1992 Proposition, is requesting that your Board, in its capacity as the County's Board of Supervisors, assign the right to apply for the $250,000 to the City.

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), by enabling the City of Santa Clarita to add to the protected open space adjacent to Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $250,000, are appropriated in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (District) Assessment Project Fund (HB4) under Other Charges for the acquisition of property adjacent to the Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 Proposition provided funding for projects that were specified in the measure and identified a procedure for revision of those projects prior to July 1, 1998. That procedure remains the method, by which specified project funds may be approved by your Board for other uses. An agency may submit a revised plan of expenditure to use the funds for a project that is consistent with the purposes of the 1992 Proposition after the grantee's governing body considers and approves the revision of its project at a public meeting.

If your Board does not approve the Department's request to assign the $250,000 in 1992 Proposition Specified Funds to the City for its project to acquire land adjacent to the Placerita Canyon Natural Area, the Department 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.

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 Santa Clarita may proceed with its acquisition 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 Santa Clarita is the lead agency for the acquisition of land adjacent to Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

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(PLACERITA BL)

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