LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

March 10, 2009

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 FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE CITY OF PASADENA FOR ITS ANNANDALE CANYON ACQUISITION PROJECT (FIFTH DISTRICT- 3 VOTE)

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate $500,000 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to the City of Pasadena to acquire 20.63 acres of unimproved land in Annandale Canyon in the western portion of the City of Pasadena.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

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

2. Allocate $500,000 of Cities Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, to the City of Pasadena, for its Annandale Canyon Acquisition Project.

3. 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, in the amount of $500,000 in Cities Excess Funds, to the City of Pasadena, for its Annandale Canyon Acquisition Project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions would allocate $500,000 to the City of Pasadena (City) to acquire 20.63 acres in 37 individual parcels of land located in the western portion of Pasadena, north of the 134 Freeway, for its Annandale Canyon Acquisition Project. The 37 parcels are contiguous and have not been disturbed. They feature large sycamore trees and the area contains scrub oaks, chaparral and a natural stream. The total cost of the project is $6,464,000. The City will supplement the $500,000 in Excess Funds with $2,600,000 in a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, $1,364,000 from the Annandale Canyon Open Space Benefit Assessment District, and $2,000,000 in City General 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 has met this requirement.

These actions will authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to award the grant to the City when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition and 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 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 Services), by enhancing and protecting open space in the City in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds, in the amount of $500,000, are appropriated in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6 for the Annandale Canyon Acquisition Project.

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 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 as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement 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 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 Pasadena may complete its Annandale Canyon 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 Pasadena is the lead agency for the Annandale Canyon Acquisition 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,

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:RR:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICTS(PASADENA BL)

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