



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
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GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

June 15, 2010

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:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#47 JUNE 15, 2010

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND ADOPT A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN FOR THE BIG TUJUNGA HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

These actions will allow the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to accept Proposition 84 grant funding for the Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and to adopt a Youth Employment Plan which is a requirement for entering into a funding agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for a \$500,000 Proposition A grant previously approved for the project by your Board. This project will restore and enhance habitat along Tujunga Wash below Big Tujunga Dam for the Santa Ana Sucker, a federally listed (threatened) fish.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the project.
2. Accept the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project; and authorize the Chief Engineer or her designee to execute all documents

and to take all related actions in connection with the acceptance of grant funds, including negotiating and executing the grant agreement and signing requests for reimbursement.

3. Authorize the Chief Engineer or her designee to act as an agent for the County of Los Angeles to execute grant amendments as may be necessary to complete the project, including extensions of time, minor changes in project scope, and alteration of the project budget or grant amount of up to 10 percent, subject to approval of such documents by County Counsel.
4. Approve and adopt the Youth Employment Plan, which is a requirement for entering into a funding agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the \$500,000 Proposition A grant previously approved by your Board.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); to accept \$1,000,000 of the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) grant funds available from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project; to authorize the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) or her designee to negotiate and enter into an agreement, in a form approved by County Counsel; and approve and adopt the Youth Employment Plan (Enclosure A). On December 15, 2009, your Board approved the acceptance of a Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition (Proposition A) Grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District). For Proposition A grant agreements, the District requires the governing body of District grantees to adopt a Youth Employment Plan which identifies how, to the extent feasible, the grantee will employ at-risk youth in the project implementation.

This project is part of the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project. This project scope is to restore and enhance habitat along Tujunga Wash below the Big Tujunga Dam for the Santa Ana Sucker, a federally listed (threatened) fish.

The Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project consists of several elements: (1) LACFCD, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, will determine beneficial flow regimes for the Santa Ana Sucker by conducting habitat suitability surveys and fish population surveys, installing temperature and stream gages, and developing hydraulic models of the dam and wash; (2) these flow regimes will be used to revise the operational guidelines for low-flow discharges from the dam, to achieve the beneficial flow regimes to the greatest extent feasible; and (3) the revised operational guidelines for low-flow discharges will be implemented using the new low-flow valve, valve house, and control system that will be installed at the dam in connection with the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project. These operational changes are expected to commence after construction of the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project is completed by October 2011.

The grant funds from the RMC and Proposition A will be used by the LACFCD to offset the cost of constructing the low-flow valve, valve house, and control systems.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). This action actively seeks grant funds to augment the LACFCD's funding sources to address potential impact to the Santa Ana Sucker, a federally listed fish present in the wash below the dam.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated cost of the Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project is approximately \$6,300,000. The \$1,000,000 of grant funding from the RMC will be used to offset the cost of constructing the low-flow valve, valve house, and control systems. Funding for this is included in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Proposed Flood Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On June 26, 2007, your Board approved a construction contract with Shimmick Construction Company for the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project. The Santa Ana Sucker, a federally listed (threatened) fish, is present in the wash below the dam. The Endangered Species Act requires that we operate the dam in a manner that does not harm the Santa Ana Sucker.

Prior to the Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project construction, Public Works made periodic low-flow discharges from the dam for water conservation purposes. The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project will include the determination of beneficial flow regimes for the Santa Ana Sucker that will be used to revise the existing operational guidelines for low-flow discharges from the dam. In accordance with those revised guidelines, the new low-flow valve and control systems at the dam will be used to supplement stream flow during dry periods to enhance the habitat for the Santa Ana Sucker.

On July 11, 2000, your Board approved the guidelines for the acceptance of State and Federal grants in the amount of \$100,000 or more. These guidelines include a requirement that a County department prepare a Grant Management Statement for your Board's review prior to the Department carrying out activities covered under the grant. The Grant Management Statement (Enclosure B) for the RMC Agreement has been prepared to conform to this requirement.

The RMC Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director of Public Works in her capacity as the Chief Engineer of the LACFCD or her designee.

Pursuant to Proposition A's Procedural guide, a Youth Employment Plan must be adopted by the governing body of the grantee at a duly noticed public meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

On January 31, 2006, Agenda No. 40, your Board adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and

Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared for the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project. The construction of the new low-flow valve, valve house, and control systems is within the scope of the project addressed in that previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 (e), (i), and (m) of the CEQA guidelines and Class 1 (g), (l), and (w) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987. These exemptions provide for replacement of mechanical equipment and minor alterations to existing dams. In addition, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the project records.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will enhance the habitat for the threatened Santa Ana Sucker, thereby allowing the LACFCD to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Big Tujunga Dam Seismic Rehabilitation and Spillway Modification Project.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Water Resources Division.

Respectfully submitted,



GAIL FARBER
Director

GF:MP:yg

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office
Department of Public Works (Programs
Development)

**Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Big Tujunga Dam – Santa Ana Sucker Habitat Enhancement Project
58J6-10-2247
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN**

Background

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has received a commitment of \$500,000 in Proposition A County Excess Funds through the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, to perform the project.

The proposed project includes the restoration and enhancement of habitat for the Santa Ana Sucker, a federally listed (threatened) native fish along Tujunga Wash below the Big Tujunga Dam. The Proposition A funding will offset the cost of constructing the low-flow valve, valve house, and control systems to support the Santa Ana Sucker Habitat Enhancement effort.

Tasks that may be performed by at-risk youth

There are no tasks that may be performed by at-risk youth. Installation of the valve must be by a licensed Class A Contractor. The project also involves developing an operational flow regime that will benefit the federally listed native fish (Santa Ana Sucker). Development of the plan and the subsequent monitoring of this threatened species requires regulatory agencies meetings and special permits. Due to the specialized nature of this project, no tasks from this project can be performed by at-risk youths.

Estimated Cost of Youth Employment

Total estimated hours of youth employment on the project: **N/A**

Estimated cost per hour: **N/A**

Total estimated cost of youth employment: **\$0**

Method of Youth Employment

As stated in this Youth Employment Plan, due to the specialize nature of this work, LACFCD will not be able to employ local youths for this project.

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Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More

Department: Public Works		
Grant Project Title and Description		
Big Tujunga Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project The project will include structural modifications to Big Tujunga Dam to meet current seismic and spillway requirements. These modifications will allow the comprehensive management of native water supply to downstream spreading grounds for the San Fernando Groundwater Basin.		
Funding Agency	Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)	Grant Acceptance Deadline
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	Proposition 84	Upon Board Approval
Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$1,000,000		County Match: 5,600,000
Grant Period: 60 months	Begin Date: 12/1/2008	End Date: 08/31/2013
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	Full Time: 0	Part Time: 0
Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires		
Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?		N/A
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?		N/A
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?		N/A
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		N/A
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)		N/A
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.		N/A
Impact of additional personnel on existing space:		
N/A		
Other requirements not mentioned above: N/A		

Department Head Signature *Maui Falter*

Date: 6-1-10.