LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
#1-P FEBRUARY 1, 2011
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

February 1, 2011

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 SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS TO AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS FOR THE CIRCLE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ALONG THE RIO HONDO CHANNEL AND THE HOLLYDALE REGIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ALONG THE LOS ANGELES RIVER (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $640,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for grants to Amigos de los Rios for the Circle Park Improvements project along the Rio Hondo channel and the Hollydale Regional Park Improvements project along the Los Angeles River, both in the City of South Gate.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are not subject to California Environmental Quality Act in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State California Environmental Quality Act 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.

2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District, in the amount of $640,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for grants to Amigos de los Rios for the following projects along the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo channel in the City of South Gate:

   - Circle Park Improvements – $320,000
   - Hollydale Regional Park Improvements – $320,000

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants for the Circle Park Improvements Project and Hollydale Regional Park Improvement Project after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns the right to apply to Amigos de los Rios and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of the award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $640,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for grants to Amigos de los Rios (ADLR) for the following projects in the City of South Gate and along the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo channel, a tributary of the Los Angeles River:

Circle Park Improvements – $320,000

The Circle Park Improvements project consists of development of a nature trail and bioswale as well as the purchase and installation of a modular restroom building at an existing park along the Rio Hondo channel. Development of the interpretive trail and bioswale includes grading and drainage improvements and the purchase and installation of decomposed granite surfacing, native plant landscaping, and interpretive signage. The total project cost is $371,000 and includes the proposed $320,000 in Specified Excess Funds as well as $51,000 from the City of South Gate's park maintenance fund.

Hollydale Regional Park Improvements – $320,000

The Hollydale Regional Park Improvements project consists of development of a nature trail and bioswale as well as rehabilitation of an existing restroom building at an existing park, located along the Los Angeles River. Development of the interpretive trail and bioswale includes grading and drainage improvements and the purchase and installation of decomposed granite surfacing, native plant landscaping, and interpretive signage. Restroom rehabilitation includes the removal of existing partitions and fixtures and the purchase and installation of new partitions and fixtures to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The total project cost is $371,000 and includes the proposed $320,000 in Specified Excess Funds as well as $51,000 in general fund in-kind services from the City of South Gate.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, will assign its right to apply for the above $640,000 in projects to ADLR.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, acting in his capacity as the Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District (Director), be authorized to award the grants to ADLR when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications; consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition; and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project; and to administer the grant under the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide) previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of $640,000 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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. MRCA and ADLR have each met this requirement.

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 grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for specified projects.

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

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of South Gate is the lead agency for the proposed Circle Park Improvements and Hollydale Regional Park Improvements projects.

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.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by your Board in 2009. The Grant Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries in the First Supervisorial District

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted 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:WRO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(ADLR LA RIVER SOUTH GATE BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors