



## Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices. 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors  
County of Los Angeles  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

1-P September 30, 2014

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO NORTH EAST TREES FOR THE FLAT TOP HILL ACQUISITION PROJECT  
(FIRST DISTRICT)  
(3 VOTES)**

### SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,475,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to North East Trees for the proposed Flat Top Hill Acquisition Project.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed Flat Top Hill Acquisition Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,475,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to North East Trees for the proposed Flat Top Hill Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant not to exceed \$1,475,000 to North East Trees for the proposed Flat Top Hill Acquisition Project, after the Mountains

Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns the right to apply to North East Trees and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,475,000 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 a grant to North East Trees (NET) for the proposed Flat Top Hill Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of acquisition of approximately 36 acres of open space and wildlife habitat land, known as Flat Top Hill, located in Montecito Heights along the Arroyo Seco tributary of the Los Angeles River, for preservation as a natural area and for recreational trails uses. The estimated total project cost is \$1,475,000, and will be fully funded by the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the Excess Funds in the amount of \$1,475,000 to NET.

The City of Los Angeles will ultimately be the owner of the property and the successor to the grant obligations.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant, after MRCA assigns its right to apply to NET and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by creating additional publicly-owned open space in the First Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, an amount not to exceed \$1,475,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) 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 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. MRCA and NET each meet 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 acquisition would 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 would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees 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, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

All public agency projects funded by the RPOSD 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 Los Angeles is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15325 (a)(f) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 25 (a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of land for the preservation of existing natural conditions and preservation of open space for park purposes.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

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

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these recommendations will allow for the acquisition of approximately 36 acres of land along the Arroyo Seco tributary of the Los Angeles River. It will have no impact on any other RPOSD-funded project.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

9/30/2014

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WO:aj

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