



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>

November 12, 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

2-P November 12, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN OF EXPENDITURE UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION of 1996; ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST DISTRICT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE SAN GABRIEL CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE WHITTIER NARROWS TREE PLANTING PROJECT (FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate an amount not to exceed \$178,500 in unspent Specified Funds, previously allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation, and allocate an amount not to exceed \$150,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, for a grant in a total amount not to exceed \$328,500 to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for tree planting at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Whittier Narrows Tree Planting 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. Approve an alternative plan of expenditure to reallocate an amount not to exceed \$178,500 in unspent Specified Funds, previously allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation in Section (3), Subsection (a), Paragraph (1), and Subparagraph (BBB), pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for the proposed Whittier Narrows Tree Planting Project.

3. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$150,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for the proposed Whittier Narrows Tree Planting Project.

4. 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 a grant after the Department of Parks and Recreation assigns its right to apply to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and if 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 Assessment and Excess Funds accounts.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate an amount not to exceed \$178,500 in unspent Specified Funds, previously allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) in Section(3), Subsection(a), Paragraph(1), and Subparagraph (BBB) of the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), as well as allocate an amount not to exceed \$150,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the 1996 Proposition, for a grant to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC) for the proposed Whittier Narrows Tree Planting Project (Project).

The proposed Project involves replacement of ailing trees and planting of new trees at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The estimated total project cost is \$328,500 and would be fully funded with the recommended Specified and County Excess Funds.

The Department will assign its right to apply for the \$178,500 in unspent Specified Funds and the \$150,000 in County Excess Funds to SGVCC.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant after the Department assigns its right to apply for the funds to SGVCC and only if applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Propositions, as well as grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grants under procedures 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 improving and enhancing recreational activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in an amount not to exceed \$328,500, is budgeted in the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Assessment and Excess Project Funds, \$178,500 in HB4 and \$150,000 in 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. The Department and SGVCC both 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. In addition to Specified Funds of the 1996 Proposition, the recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for County 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. Under the provisions of Section (5), Subsection (e) of the 1996 Proposition, an alternative plan of expenditure must be submitted and approved to commit the funds allocated to specified projects between June 30, 2003 and June 30, 2004. As of July 1, 2004, uncommitted Specified Project funds are subject to allocation to other projects by the Board.

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 County is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which includes replacement of ailing trees and planting of new ones, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(h) and 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(j) and 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project provides for maintenance of existing landscaping and installation of new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Project 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 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. 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 RPOSD, but are required so that the Department may utilize the unspent grant funds on the proposed Project.

CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:WRO:tb

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