COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

JAMES A. NOYES, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

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

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WM-6

November 20, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ROSEMEAD/GARVEY AND THIENES AVENUE GATEWAY GREENING PROJECTS
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1
3 VOTES

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

Find that the Rosemead/Garvey and Thienes Avenue Gateway Greening Projects, consisting of landscape and other minor aesthetic improvements to the San Gabriel River Trail, are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Hollywood Beautification Team is proposing to conduct aesthetic and native landscape improvements along the San Gabriel River Trail from approximately Garvey Avenue to the confluence of Alhambra Wash and at the Thienes Avenue entryway. The project is being funded by Proposition A excess funds. Hollywood Beautification Team's grant award is conditional upon the project obtaining CEQA approval. Since the Hollywood Beautification Team is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization they cannot act as a local lead agency for the purpose of CEQA compliance.

A large portion of the proposed improvements are located in Flood Control District right of way or within unincorporated areas of the County, thus the principle responsibility of permitting the proposed project rests with Public Works. Public Works supports these projects since they are consistent with the San Gabriel River Master Plan goals of enhancing open space and recreational opportunities and would benefit the many residents of the County who use the bike and equestrian trails.

The Rosemead/Garvey Greening Project will consist of aesthetic enhancements to an existing rest area and horse trail. The landscape improvements include planting native vegetation and shade trees adjacent to the equestrian trail and installing an irrigation system. The rest area improvements will include installing a horse hitching post, water fountain, and placing large boulders to provide seating.

The Thienes Gateway Greening Project will consist of aesthetic improvements to the trail entrance and rest area. A decorative wrought iron fence and gate will be installed at the Thienes Avenue river trail gateway. The equestrian trail improvements will include planting native vegetation and shade trees adjacent to the trail, installing a hitching post and water fountain, and resurfacing portions of the trail with decomposed granite.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence. By implementing the proposed improvements, residents of the County who recreate in these areas would benefit from the enhanced facilities and aesthetics.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Construction and maintenance of these projects will not have a fiscal impact on the Flood Control Fund. The projects will be funded entirely by Proposition A excess funds that have been designated for recreational improvements in Supervisorial District 1. Future maintenance of the proposed improvements will be provided by the Cities of South El Monte and Rosemead.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The CEQA requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their action. The projects qualify for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to Sections 15301(c) and 15304(b) of the CEQA as a minor alteration of a publicly-owned facility.

A $25 handling fee will be paid to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for filing a Notice of Exemption for each project in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Alexander

for JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel