

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

Last November, Proposition P, which sought to set a \$23 assessment on all landowners throughout the County of Los Angeles (County) in order to continue a revenue stream of \$54 Million annually for developing and keeping up trails, park maintenance, beach clean-up and park construction, failed passage with 62% in favor and 38% opposed.

The process that led to the placement of Measure P on the ballot suffered from several shortcomings. These included a short time frame for the Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval of the ballot measure for consideration by the voters, and the absence of a substantial analysis that described the needs that the additional revenue would address. The practice of identifying significant projects has been a critical aspect of previous voter-approved funding measures including the 1992 and 1996 Proposition A's, which established and secured funding for the Regional Park and Open Space District, as well as the successful Measure R half-cent sales tax in 2008 which is funding local transit projects.

While the Board has subsequently confirmed that a combined approximate balance of \$162 Million is still available from the 1992 and 1996 Proposition As, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has outlined a clear spending plan that, based on the current rate of expenditure, is likely to exhaust those resources by 2019.

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
PAGE 2**

Nonetheless, expanding recreational resources so they are easily accessible to all residents in the County, addressing aging recreational infrastructure, securing open space and improving water quality, remain high priorities for the County. However, a Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) has never been completed that would be able to quantify the magnitude of need, and potential cost, equitably across the region.

On November 12, 2014, the Board directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and DPR to develop a plan to produce this type of Needs Assessment. The plan presented to the Board would involve a comprehensive analysis of current public parks, open space, cultural and recreational assets, deferred maintenance and modernization needs, including all 88 cities, State and local agencies, town councils and non-profit organizations throughout the County.

The Needs Assessment will require an analysis of current park and recreation assets and needs drawing upon GIS-based spatial analysis, community-led outreach processes, and will integrate spatial data, community statistics, and feedback from community residents and parks staff within cities and unincorporated areas within the County. The final product will not only identify geographic areas with the highest need for parks and open space, but will identify, prioritize, and outline costs for specific park and/or open space projects.

In addition, the Needs Assessment would include an inventory of potential projects, which would be vetted and prioritized through a community engagement process within each planning area, as well as estimates of the total costs to complete the prioritized projects. A \$2,500 stipend would be made available for each planning area to help offset the costs of this community engagement process. It is estimated that up to 200 planning areas will be defined for the purposes of the Needs Assessment, for a total not to exceed \$500,000 in available stipends for community engagement.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
PAGE 3**

The final Needs Assessment would then be made publicly available for extensive use by the County and our city, state and local agency and non-profit partners. The data could guide the prioritization of projects for expenditure of existing funding sources as well as in the development of any future local funding mechanisms. In addition, it would also position the County and its partners to better compete for funding from State, Federal, and private sources.

The development of the Needs Assessment is an audacious and unprecedented effort which is anticipated to take 16 months, with a total estimated cost of \$3,500,000. It is critical that the County move forward expeditiously in completing this Needs Assessment so that it can be well positioned to capitalize on future funding opportunities, including potential consideration by voters of a ballot measure in 2016, to expand the rich legacy of park and recreational resources it has established over the past few decades.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the following actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines since the actions are administrative activities which do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.
2. Approve the Department of Parks and Recreation's recommended plan, with a project budget of \$3,500,000, to produce a Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment that will be based on community outreach activities and a Countywide analysis of current public parks, open space, cultural and recreational assets and needs, including all 88 cities, State and local agencies, and non-profit organizations.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
PAGE 4**

3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to identify a source of one-time funding to allocate to the Department of Parks and Recreation's Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,500,000, as part of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2014-15 Mid-year Budget Adjustment, for costs associated with project administration, consultant services and community outreach activities.
4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to execute funding agreements with cities, State and Local agencies and non-profit organizations, after approval as to form by County Counsel, for up to \$500,000, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 per planning area.
5. Authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works, to amend one of its as-needed professional project management services agreements to allow its use by the Department of Parks and Recreation at the pricing levels provided in the agreements, and increase the contract limit amount by \$300,000 for the contract years required by the recommended project.

###

(KK)