COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Parks Make Life Better!"
Russ Guiney, Director John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

September 18, 2012

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

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS FROM STATE OF CALIFORNIA GRANT PROGRAMS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of competitive grant applications to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation under the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project consists of construction of small new structures, minor alterations to the condition of land, and installation of signs for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.

2. Adopt a Resolution to complete the submission process of two competitive grant applications to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of $200,000 for the Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project and $29,000 for the Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project under the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program.

3. Delegate the authority to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, contracts, agreements, deed restrictions, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of these recommended actions is to complete the grant submission process as required by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (State). The State has specific guidelines for grant programs and requires an adopted resolution to approve the projects from the applicant's governing Board.

Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project: The project will restore and preserve approximately three miles of Placerita Creek by installing two aluminum bridges, elevating the multi-use trail out of the creek bed. The project will include rock face leveling and shoring to assist in the restoration and preservation of the creek bed and Riparian Habitat. In addition, the leveling will enhance public safety for trail users. Interpretive signage will also be installed.

Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project: The project will involve installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of concrete curbing, fabrication and installation of Braille interpretive signage. In addition, a detailed, miniature sculpture of the historic Oak of the Golden Dream will be created and will offer a unique, tactile and educational experience for the visually-impaired.

The location of these two proposed projects is the Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center at 19152 Placerita Canyon Road, in Newhall.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), by enhancing recreational opportunities that benefit County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will not have an impact on net County cost.

The total project cost for Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project is $555,000. The grant request is $200,000. If awarded, the Fifth Supervisorial District will allocate $300,000 of Proposition A Excess Funds. The Department of Parks and Recreation will provide $55,000 of in-kind labor.

The total project cost for the Placerita Braille Trail Project is $65,000. The grant request is $29,000. If the grant is awarded, the Fifth Supervisorial District will allocate $29,000 of Proposition A Excess Funds. In addition, the Department of Parks and Recreation will provide $7,000 of in-kind labor.

Operating Budget Impact

The recommended actions allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to propose park development projects and programs for grant funding. Additional operating costs may materialize from the project provisions but will be dependent on the final provisions of the grant. The Department will re-evaluate the project and identify any additional costs upon acceptance of grant funds.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The resolution is to authorize the submission of two grant applications to the State under the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program. This grant program is funded by Proposition 117 enacted by the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

The grant guidelines require adoption of a resolution to establish the governing Board's intent to apply for and accept the State provisions in the guidelines. The resolution will complete the grant submission process for both grant programs.

County departments are required to attach Grant Management Statement forms when filing a Board Letter for grants of $100,000 or more. The Grant Management Statement form for the Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project is attached.

County Counsel has reviewed this letter and approved the Resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The conceptual plans for the proposed Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project consist of preservation of approximately 150 feet of Placerita Creek by installing two, 50-foot aluminum bridges, elevating the multi-use trail out of the creek bed and providing interpretive signage along the trail. Once construction plans are finalized, the Department intends to return to your Board with the appropriate CEQA documentation as needed.

The proposed Placerita Canyon Braille Trail Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA. The project, which consists of installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of concrete curbing, fabrication and installation of Braille interpretive signage, and installation of a detailed, miniature sculpture of the historic Oak of the Golden Dream, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets criteria set forth in Sections 15303 (e), 15304 (a), and 15311 (a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 (b), 4 (a), and 11(d) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because it consists of construction of small new structures, minor alterations in the condition of land, and installation of on-premise signs.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed actions will not have any impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that one adopted copy of this action be forwarded to the Chief Executive Office-Capital Projects Division, and two adopted copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

RUSS GUINEY
Director

RG:JW:FP
IP:vd

Attachments

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS
AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS
FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which provides funds to the State of California for grants to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the Habitat Conservation Fund Program, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the Habitat Conservation Fund Program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of grant applications before submission of said grant applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of grant applications for two projects: Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project and Placerita Braille Trail Project both located at the Placerita Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center at the 19152 Placerita Canyon Road, in Newhall.

2. Authorizes acceptance of grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund;

3. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the projects included in these applications, the required match and sufficient funds to complete the projects;

4. Certifies that the applicant has or will have the sufficient funds to operate and maintain the projects;

5. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown grant administration guide;

6. Delegates the authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, applications, contracts, agreements, deed restrictions, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects; and

7. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2012, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN KRATTLI
County Counsel

By Christina A. Salseda
Christina A. Salseda
Principal Deputy County Counsel

Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants $100,000 or More

Department: County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Grant Project Title and Description

Placerita Canyon Riparian Habitat Project: The project will restore and preserve approximately three miles of Placerita Creek by installing two aluminum bridges, elevating the multi-use trail out of the creek bed. The project will include rock face leveling and shoring to assist in the restoration and preservation of the creek bed and Riparian Habitat. In addition, the leveling will enhance public safety for trail users. Interpretive signage will also be installed.

Funding Agency	Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)	Grant Acceptance Deadline
State of California Department of Parks and Recreation	Habitat Conservation Fund – Riparian Habitat	October 1, 2012

Total Amount of Grant Funding: $200,000	**County Match: $300,000** **In-kind Match: $55,000**

Grant Period: 5 years from appropriation	**Begin Date: 7/1/2013**	**End Date: 6/30/2018**
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	**Full Time: N/A**	**Part Time: N/A**

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? N/A	Yes:	No:
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? N/A	Yes:	No:
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes:	No: X
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will: N/A		
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes:	No:
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)	Yes:	No:
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes:	No:

Impact of additional personnel on existing space: N/A

Department Head Signature: _____ Date: 9-4-12