



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

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June 12, 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:

**APPROVE A COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR REHABILITATION OF THE
ROWHER FLATS OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA
(Supervisory District 5) (3 Votes)**

SUBJECT

Request approval for expenditure of the Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle CN7 funds to assist the United States Department of Agriculture, for rehabilitation of the Rowher Flats Off-Highway Vehicle area.

Approval will allow for the utilization of the County's Off-Highway Vehicle CN7 funds received from California State Parks, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, to increase the Off-Highway Vehicle recreation amenities within Los Angeles County.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, because the project involves rehabilitation of an existing OHV area, construction of small new structures, minor alterations to land for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Approve the attached Forest Service Collection Agreement, and adopt the request to provide funding from the Department's Off-Highway Vehicle CN7 Fund to the United States Department of Agriculture to assist in the rehabilitation of the Rowher Flats Off-Highway Vehicle Area.
3. Approve the project and authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to carry out all project-

related responsibilities under the agreement.

4. Authorize issuance of a warrant in the amount of \$116,050 from the Department of Parks and Recreation's Off-Highway Vehicle CN7 Fund to the Angeles National Forest Service, as a contribution to partially fund Phase One of the, "Rowher Flats Off-Highway Vehicle Rehabilitation Project".

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of these actions will provide for the rehabilitation of the Angeles National Forest (ANF) Rowher Flats Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area, specifically Staging Areas "One", "Two", and "Three". Under the agreement the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) will utilize OHV grant funds that have been held for the purpose of providing OHV recreation areas within Los Angeles County, since at this time the Department does not own, operate, nor manage an OHV Park within the County of Los Angeles.

Per agreement, the County will contribute \$116,050 to the ANF, a federal agency dedicated to the management and maintenance of lands and facilities in the Angeles National Forest. The Counties contribution is a match to an OHV grant recently approved by the California State Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to the ANF for upgrades to the Rowher Flats OHV Area.

The rehabilitation project consists of replacing two blighted dysfunctional restrooms with two dual-vault Sweet Smelling Toilets's (SST's), installation of one single vault SST, twelve 8' x 10' steel shade structures with concrete slab and steel picnic tables, two loading/unloading ramps, three informational signage kiosks, and a minimum of forty trail signs.

The County's contribution for this project has been budgeted in the Department's OHV CN7 fund. The CN7 fund was established by your Board in 1982 to finance development, construction, operation, and maintenance of OHV recreational facilities, OHV enforcement, environmental mitigation, and education via the County's share of State OHV registration fees. Under the Public Resource Code Section 5090.61 and the California Vehicle Code 3-8240, these fees are collected by the State and distributed to cities and counties based upon the population and OHV parks within each jurisdiction. The County's portion is deposited and budgeted in the Department's OHV CN7 Fund.

Currently, there is a shortfall of OHV recreation sites within Los Angeles County, resulting in a critical lack of OHV recreation opportunities for Los Angeles County residents. Due to the insufficient amount of OHV recreation areas, this is an excellent opportunity to rehabilitate and utilize an existing federal OHV area, with use of the Department's OHV CN7 fund for the benefit of County residents.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of this recommendation meets the County Strategic Plan Goals for Service Excellence (Goal 1) by partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture (Forest Service) utilizing the Department's OHV funds to assist with rehabilitation of the Rowher Flats OHV Area.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no impact to the County General Fund. The County's contribution for aforementioned rehabilitation is entirely funded by the Department's OHV CN7 fund. Under the terms of the

agreement, the Forest Service will deposit the funds to a Forest Service Cooperative OHV Project Fund, to be used solely for the Rowher Flats OHV Rehabilitation Project.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the proposed agreement, both parties agree that the work will be preformed on Forest Service lands within the Rowher Flats OHV Area. Forest Service construction standards will be utilized for the upgrade to facilities, and the Forest Service and County will coordinate efforts to establish joint signage standards. Further, both parties are required to indemnify, defend, and save harmless one another, their elected or appointed officers and employees. The agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act according to Sections 15301 (d), 15303, and 15304 and Classes 1(c), 3, and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, as the project involves rehabilitation of an existing OHV area, construction of small new structures, and minor alterations to land.

Additionally, the proposed project is located in and under the jurisdiction of the ANF within the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers District. As a federal facility, the proposed project must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service has determined that the proposed project is in a category of actions that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. The category of exclusion selected is pursuant to Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 31.2 (1).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this action will cause no impact on current services and projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office and one adopted copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/12/2012

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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:NG:RE:ts

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