



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

December 10, 2013

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

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

2-P December 10, 2013

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT FOR A
GRANT TO THE CITY OF SAN DIMAS FOR THE WALNUT CREEK WILDLIFE HABITAT AND
OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$850,000 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of San Dimas for the Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the proposed project consists of demolition of small structures, installation of small new structures, minor alterations in the condition of land, and new landscaping and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate \$850,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of San Dimas for the Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the

amount of \$850,000 to the City of San Dimas for the Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project if applicable conditions have been met and authorize the Director to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$850,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the City of San Dimas (City) for the Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project.

The Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project includes general improvements to the property including demolition of existing structures; development of access point improvements as well as trails with interpretive signage and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility; and purchase and installation of native plant landscaping, fencing and gating. The total project cost is \$905,000. In addition to the requested \$850,000, the project will be funded with \$55,000 in City general funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grant when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities in the City of San Dimas in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant, in the amount of \$850,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, 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 City of San Dimas has met 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. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a Project Agreement in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the District are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of San Dimas is the lead agency for the proposed Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project.

The proposed Walnut Creek Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Development Project in the City of San Dimas is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of general improvements to the property including demolition of existing structures; development of access point improvements as well as trails with interpretive signage and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility; and purchase and installation of native plant landscaping, fencing and gating is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(l), 15303 (e), and 15304 (a) (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(h) , 3 (b), and 4(a)(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves demolition of small structures, installation of small new structures, minor alterations in the condition of land, and new landscaping.

The proposed project above includes no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature 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 Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation 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 by the District but are required so that the City of San Dimas may proceed with the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Development Project in the Fifth Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB
WRO:AA

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