



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

Executive Offices • 433 South Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 738-2961

July 21, 2015


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:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

32 July 21, 2015


PATRICK O'GAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR THE 2015 COUNTYWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM AND ADOPT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLANS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 4, AND 5) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to submit grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program, for various projects in the First, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Proposition of 1992 and 1996.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed projects categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Adopt a resolution approving the submission of grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program, in the amount of \$2,079,400 for various projects in the First, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Proposition of 1992 and 1996.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept grant funds, execute the agreements, conduct all negotiations, and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreements, deed restrictions, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.
4. Adopt a Youth Employment Plan for the proposed projects, as required by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's guidelines.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to submit grant applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) for the 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program, in the amount of \$2,079,400, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Proposition of 1992 and 1996 (Prop A) for various projects in the First, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts as follows:

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Lake & Habitat Restoration

The proposed project is located at 1000 North Durfee Avenue in South El Monte, California. The scope of work will consist of lining Lake Aquatecos to prevent leakage, refurbishing existing observation stations, repairing existing trails, restoring native vegetation and installing interpretive signage. The estimated total project cost is \$561,800, which will be partially funded with \$501,000 in competitive countywide grant funds, \$50,000 from Department in-kind services, and \$10,800 from services provided by the Community and Senior Services Youth Labor Workforce.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4

South Coast Botanic Garden Stream Restoration

The proposed project is located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard in Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. The scope of work will include project design, stream/habitat restoration activities, and planting of native vegetation. The estimated total project cost is \$1,275,100, which will be partially funded with \$1,002,800 in competitive countywide grant funds and \$272,300 from Department in-kind services, including youth employment.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5

Peck Park Connector Trail

The proposed project is located at 5401 North Peck Road in Arcadia, California. The scope of work will consist of developing a new 0.7 mile multi-use trail that will connect the Santa Anita Wash Trail to the Peck Road Water Conservation Park (Peck Park). The estimated total project cost is \$725,600, which will be partially funded with \$575,600 in competitive countywide grant funds and \$150,000 from Department in-kind services, including youth employment.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by improving and enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Department is submitting individual grant applications for the 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program in the amount of \$501,000, \$1,002,800, and \$575,600, for various projects in the

First, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial Districts, respectively.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Based on the project description above, the Department anticipates one-time and ongoing operating costs following the project completion. The Department will work with the Chief Executive Office to confirm the appropriate level of operating cost funding and will submit a New Facilities Request in the appropriate fiscal year. The recommended actions allow the Department to apply for grant funding for the various projects as described above.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program announced the availability of approximately \$5,154,680 of competitive funding for projects in two separate grant program categories: Rivers and Streams and Santa Monica Bay. The projects may consist of restoration, rehabilitation or acquisition of natural lands and developing recreational resources along the Santa Clara, San Gabriel and Los Angeles Tributaries, and projects that restore and improve the Santa Monica Bay by reducing toxicity and/or pollutant load in urban runoff to the Bay. There is no maximum grant request and the minimum grant request is \$15,000.

The District requires that the grantee submit an adopted Resolution by its governing body authorizing the filing of applications at a duly noticed public meeting. Grant applications were due on June 3, 2015; however, draft resolutions were accepted.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Whittier Narrows Nature Center Lake & Habitat Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project, which consists of lining Lake Aquatecos to prevent leakage, refurbishing existing observation stations, repairing existing trails, restoring native vegetation and installing interpretive signage, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(d) (h) and 15303(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c)(j) and 3(b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves maintenance of existing facilities and landscaping, restoration and repair of deteriorated facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety and construction of small new facilities or structures.

The proposed South Coast Botanic Garden Stream Restoration Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of project design, stream/habitat restoration activities, and planting of native vegetation, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(i), 15303(e), 15304 (a), 15306 and 15333 (d)(2)(3)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(k), 3(b), 4(a) and 6 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves maintenance of stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources, construction of small new facilities or structures, minor alterations to land, resource evaluation activities, and stream or river bank re-vegetation and stabilization with native vegetation or other bioengineering techniques.

The proposed Peck Park Connector Trail Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of developing a new 0.7 mile multi-use trail that will connect the Santa Anita Wash Trail to the Peck Road Water Conservation Park, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 4(b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves minor alterations in the condition of land.

The proposed projects above will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed projects are 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 projects' records.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services in the First, Fourth, or Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter and Resolution to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Luva Robinson at 213-637-1845 or lrobinson@parks.lacounty.gov, Aram Pirjanian at (213) 738-2844 or apirjanian@parks.lacounty.gov, or Kaye Michelson at (213) 738-2955 or kmichelson@parks.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JW:FP:

FC:lr

Enclosures

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

ATTACHMENT I

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION COUNTYWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN

Peck Park Connector Trail

The proposed project is located at 5401 North Peck Road in Arcadia, California. The scope of work will consist of developing a new 0.7 mile multi-use trail that will connect the Santa Anita Wash Trail to the Peck Road Water Conservation Park (Peck Park).

Tasks that may be performed: Youth will assist with site preparation, fencing, and signage.

Estimated Cost of Youth Employment: \$9,600

Method of Youth Employment: Youth will be hired using the Department's as needed contract with San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps.

South Coast Stream Restoration Project

The proposed project is located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard in Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. The scope of work will include, but is not limited to, project design, stream/habitat restoration activities, and planting of native vegetation.

Tasks that may be performed: Youth will assist with landscaping and native plant installation.

Estimated Cost of Youth Employment: \$12,800

Method of Youth Employment Youth will be hired through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

Whittier Narrows Nature Center

The proposed project is located at 1000 North Durfee Avenue in South El Monte, California. The scope of work will consist of lining Lake Aquatecos to prevent leakage, refurbishing existing observations stations, repairing existing trails, restoring native vegetation and installing interpretive signage.

Tasks that may be performed: Youth will assist with planting and maintaining native vegetation.

Estimated Cost of Youth Employment: \$10,800

Method of Youth Employment:

Youth will be hired through the Community and Senior Services Youth Labor Workforce.

Youth Employment Goal

Under the provisions of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's policy on employment of youth, the Youth Employment Minimum Obligation for the County of Los Angeles of \$15,739,750 has been met. However, the Department actively pursues employment opportunities for at-risk youth on all projects where feasible.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
FOR THE 2015 COUNTYWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Los Angeles on November 3, 1992, and on November 5, 1996 enacted Los Angeles County Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beach and Wildlife Protection (the Propositions), which among other uses, provides funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the County for the purpose of acquiring and/or developing facilities and open space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Propositions also created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) to administer said funds; and

WHEREAS, the District has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Propositions, and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the District; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* must comply with; and

WHEREAS, *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* certifies, through this resolution, that the application is approved for submission to the District; and

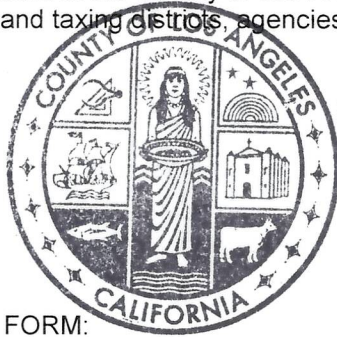
WHEREAS, *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* will enter into an Agreement with the District to provide funds for development projects at the following facilities: Peck Road Water Conservation Park, South Coast Botanic Garden, and Whittier Narrows Nature Center.

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for development projects by the governing body of the agency.

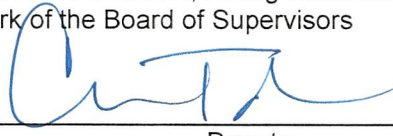
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of applications with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for funds for development projects at the above facilities; and
2. Certifies that *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity; and
4. Certifies that *County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation* will sign and return, within 30 days, both copies of the project agreement sent by the District for authorizing signature; and
5. Approves the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for the projects; and
6. Appoints the *Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation*, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, memoranda of unrecorded grant agreements, deed restrictions, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was passed on this 21st day of July, 2015, adopted 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.

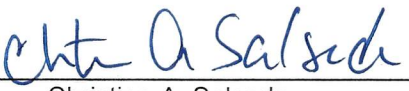


PATRICK OGAWA, Acting Executive Officer –
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By 
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mary Wickham
Interim County Counsel

By 
Christina A. Salseda
Principal Deputy County Counsel