LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

August 17, 2010

ADOPTED
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
2-P August 17, 2010
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE COASTAL SLOPE TRAIL PROJECT (THIRD DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate $1,500,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for its ongoing Coastal Slope Trail Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

2. Allocate $1,500,000 of Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for its Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant amendment for the project when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of $1,500,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for its ongoing Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition Project. The project is administered by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) on behalf of the Conservancy as authorized in the Conservancy's Procedural Guide adopted by your Board on June 17, 1997.

On September 25, 2007, your Board allocated $4,617,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for the acquisition of land in Malibu to add to the Coastal Slope Trail that extends from Topanga State Park in the east to the Ventura County line in the west. In that action, 12 parcels were identified for potential acquisition. On July 21, 2009, your Board approved the inclusion of 25 addition parcels to the previously approved project list of potential acquisitions. The recommended actions will allocate $1,500,000 to the current $4,617,000 budget for a revised project budget total of $6,117,000. To date, the MRCA has acquired three of the parcels from the approved list with a total of $2,868,625. The additional $1,500,000 will allow for the purchase of more of the approved parcels as properties become available.

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

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being (Goal 3), by acquiring land for trails in the Malibu area of the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of $6,117,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District 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 Conservancy and MRCA meet 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 grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for specified projects.

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

On June 17, 1997, your Board approved the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Procedural Guide for governing the administration of the Conservancy's Regional Park and Open Space District grants. That Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant amendment as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The MRCA is the lead agency for the Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition Project.

The administrative actions proposed by RPOSD are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which, by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement amendment will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended project will enhance accessible recreational opportunities in the open space areas in the Malibu area in the Third Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:WRO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPACEDISTRICT(COASTAL SLOPE 2010 BL)

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