

January 19, 2010

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 CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE
TO THE FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND
ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS TO THE
CITIES OF LONG BEACH AND PARAMOUNT
(FOURTH DISTRICT - 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District to the City of Long Beach for its Drake Chavez Greenbelt Project and City of Paramount for Ralph C. Dills Park 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 \$100,000 of Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District to the City of Long Beach for its Drake Chavez Greenbelt Project.

3. Allocate \$185,000 of Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District to the City of Paramount for its Ralph C. Dills Park Project.
4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants for the identified projects when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of \$285,000 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Fourth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition to the City of Long Beach (\$100,000) and City of Paramount (\$185,000). The funds will allow:

- The City of Long Beach to fund the \$100,000 of the environmental documentation costs associated with the acquisition and subsequent development of property which will connect City's Drake Chavez Greenbelt along the lower Los Angeles River to its Cesar E. Chavez Park. The estimated cost for the environmental documentation is \$150,000. The City of Long Beach will pay any costs beyond the requested \$100,000.
- The City of Paramount to replace dilapidated fences and walls separating residences from the nature trail at Ralph C. Dills Park. The project scope consists of installation of an approximately 1,200 linear-feet of pre-fabricated fence walls. The total project cost is estimated at \$215,000. The requested \$185,000 will be supplemented with \$30,000 of City funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grants to Long Beach and Paramount 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 grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the Cities of Long Beach and Paramount in the Fourth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$285,000 is budgeted in the Fourth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District 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. Both Long Beach and Paramount 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 Fourth Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for city projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation 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 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide, for governing the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the Cities of Long Beach and Paramount in the Fourth Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Long Beach is the lead agency for the Drake Chavez Greenbelt Project and the City of Paramount is the lead agency for the Ralph C. Dills Park 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.

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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:REGIONALPARKOPENSPOCEDISTRICT(LONG BEACH & PARAMOUNT BL)

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