



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

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June 8, 2007

Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Officer
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265

Subject: Funding Request to Supervisor Knabe's for \$5 million in Proposition A Los Angeles River Funds

Dear Ms. Skei:

The City of Long Beach is requesting \$5 million in Proposition A Excess Funds now available for projects located along the Los Angeles River. Supervisor Knabe's office and the Los Angeles County Regional Park & Open Space District have directed our agency to request a resolution from the MRCA assigning the right to apply for these funds to the City of Long Beach. The project list for this proposed funding is attached and includes:

- Deforest Wetlands Development, \$2.5 million
- Drake/Chavez Greenbelt Acquisition, \$1 million
- Wrigley Greenbelt Development, \$1 million
- Baker Mini-Park Development, \$500,000

Please review the attached project information. If you have any questions regarding this proposed resolution, please call me at (562) 570-3165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil T. Hester".

Phil T. Hester
Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

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Attachment

Request to Supervisor Knabe for \$5 million in Proposition A Los Angeles River Funds

- DeForest Wetlands Development, \$2.5 million
Re-creation of 34 acres of historic wetlands, scrub and woodland habitat, provide water quality improvement, passive recreational amenities, and interpretive enhancements, while retaining flood control properties to create a river parkway along the lower Los Angeles River. Located along the Los Angeles River from the existing DeForest Park south to Del Amo Boulevard, the project is part of a larger lower Los Angeles River parkway plan that will implement multipurpose wetlands in several Los Angeles County river flood detention basins. The project is a joint project between the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the City of Long Beach, the California Coastal Conservancy and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The Project site and the River are surrounded on most sides by developed areas, including single-family residential, high-density residential, business corridors, public right-of-way areas, and the Interstate 710 Long Beach Freeway. This project will add much needed public open space and wildlife habitat in the northern section of the city, and provide a rest area for those traveling along the LARIO trail.

- Drake/Chavez Greenbelt Land Acquisition, \$1 million
Acquisition of 0.78 acres of land along the lower Los Angeles River to begin to connect Chavez Park (23 acres) and Drake Park (6 acres) to 16 acres of recently acquired land to form a 46-acre greenway and parkland area on the East bank of the Los Angeles River. In the future, the acquired land will be developed into a greenway with wetlands and trails and environmental interpretation opportunities to provide open space and wildlife habitat along a biologically significant and unique area of the Los Angeles River where salt water meets freshwater. The project will link downtown Long Beach with the LARIO trail. The cost of the parcel is \$2.7 million. \$1.7 million in existing funding from the City of Long Beach along with \$1 million from Proposition A River Funds will provide for the full acquisition of the parcel.

(City of Long Beach funding: \$850,000 from Prop 13 through the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, \$582,175 transferred from Baker/Golden project, \$200,000 from LA County Prop A Excess Revenue, and \$32,000 from City Redevelopment Funds).

- Wrigley Greenbelt Development, \$1 million
The project is located along the east bank of the lower Los Angeles River, between Willow and 34th Streets. The pie shaped property is approximately one mile long by 40-100 feet wide and covers nearly 8 acres of land, which is owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Currently, the site consists of an area with numerous trees that were planted in 2000 but little native landscaping and groundcover. The proposed project will enhance the site and complete the park with native plants, a multipurpose DG trail, a drinking fountain, and a storm water runoff swale. The area will also provide a rest area with bike racks for bikers riding along the Los Angeles River (LARIO) bike trail.

- Baker Mini-Park Development, \$500,000
Development of a 1.34-acre neighborhood mini-park in the Wrigley Heights area of Long Beach near the Los Angeles River and the 405 Freeway. The project consists of site grading, and the installation of irrigation, playground equipment, turf, trees and picnic tables. The property was acquired with Los Angeles County Proposition A funding.