

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
DON KNABE**

September 28, 2010

Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Application

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) is a local assistance program of the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (State). The intent of the program is to protect, restore and enhance wildlife habitat and fisheries that are vital to maintain California's quality of life. Approximately two million dollars for the acquisition of wildlife corridors and urban trails, nature interpretation program and other programs, which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas are allocated to this grant program annually.

In determining the projects for submission to the State, the County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department (Department) reviewed eligibility requirements, project feasibility and available matching funds based on the competitive criteria. Based on this review and assessment, the Department is proposing to submit two grant applications for the Carver Park Nature Education Urban Trail and Journey Into the Wild Program projects.

The Carver Park Nature Education Urban Trail consists of a trail development adjacent to George Washington Carver Park and along the Compton Creek Watershed which is rich in wildlife habitat. The trail segment is located between 118th Street and 120th Street along the Compton Creek. The trail will include native drought tolerant plants and educational interpretive signage about the watershed and habitat. The total estimated cost for this project is \$827,000. Matching funds of \$413,500 will be provided by the Second Supervisorial District's Proposition A funds.

The Journey Into the Wild Program will be provided at Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park, Eaton Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center, and Whittier Narrows Regional Recreational Area. The program will instill awareness,

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understanding, and promote appreciation of the beauty and value of wildlife habitats to school children, provide a wilderness outdoor learning experience, and facilitate safe, positive hands-on nature experiences. All of these objectives will encourage environmental stewardship and habitat conservation. The total estimated cost of the project is \$118,600. Matching funds of \$59,300 will be in-kind services provided by the Department and volunteer hours provided by specific chapters of the Nature Center Association.

Grant applications are due on October 1, 2010. There is a 50 percent non-state match requirement.

The State requires the Department to certify by resolution the approval of the applications and the availability of eligible matching funds before submission of said applications. Additionally, the Department must certify that the project complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. The Department will ensure compliance will all grant requirements before submitting applications.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached Resolution.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to submit the application, accept the grant, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, contracts, agreements, amendments, and payment requests.

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