

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

OCTOBER 4, 2016

Vermont/Manchester Tree Planting Project

The Vermont/Manchester Tree Planting Project (Project) is an effort to enhance the tree canopy in the northern area of the unincorporated community of West Athens, south west of the Vermont Avenue/Manchester Avenue intersection. This community has been identified by various departments of the County of Los Angeles as having a lack of tree canopy coverage, insufficient green spaces, and a high rate of pedestrian fatalities due to unsafe walking and biking conditions.

Trees are fundamental to creating healthier and safer neighborhoods. They cool urban areas by creating shade over homes and streets, improve air quality, and help conserve energy. Trees can provide a barrier between pedestrians and vehicles, increasing safety as well as making walking more enjoyable.

The Project involves employing local youth through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) to plant 250 trees along the unincorporated roadways. The LACC crews will outreach to surrounding residents about potential tree planting locations and species, prepare the sites for planting, purchase and install the trees, and care for the trees for three years in order to establish healthy tree growth.

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The total estimated cost for the Project is \$373,000. Awarding a grant to LACC in a timely manner will allow for immediate commencement of planning activities and the planting of this much-needed tree canopy within the West Athens neighborhood during Fall 2016.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ALSO ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT:

1. Find the proposed Vermont/Manchester Tree Planting Project (Project) categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the records of the proposed Project. The proposed Project, which consists of tree planting along roadways in the unincorporated community of West Athens, south west of the Vermont/Manchester Intersection, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment because the proposed Project consists of new landscaping and because it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 4 (c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is 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 Project's records;
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$373,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the proposed Project; and

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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 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps not to exceed \$373,000 for the proposed 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 Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

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