

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

OCTOBER 24, 2017

Development of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Tree Grove at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

April 4, 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Dr. King). To pay proper tribute to this trailblazing civil rights leader, the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), in coordination with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and other community stakeholders, envisioned dedicating a tree grove at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (Hahn Park) in Dr. King’s honor.

Inspired by Dr. King’s speech during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the tree grove would enhance an existing overlook with additional oak trees, landscaping, a combination of concrete and decomposed granite pathways, and amenities such as seating, boulders and monument signage. With sweeping vistas of downtown Los Angeles, this hilltop location along the eastern edge of Hahn Park provides an ideal space for peaceful reflection and inspiration. The approximately 15,000 square foot tree grove will become an enhanced feature along the previously-approved Park to Playa Trail: Stoneview Nature Center to Scenic Overlook, Capital Project No. 69784, which runs through Hahn Park, and will connect the Baldwin Hills Parklands to the Pacific Ocean over a contiguous 13 mile trail, once it is completed in 2020.

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MOTION

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS
OCTOBER 24, 2017
PAGE 2**

The estimated budget for the tree grove is \$400,000 which includes funds for construction, landscaping, and County services. DPR will submit grant applications for \$200,000 in California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 Grant Funds, also known as Proposition 40, from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and \$200,000 in Excess Funds Grant Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, also known as Proposition A, from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to fully fund the tree grove.

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 that the proposed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tree Grove (MLK Tree Grove) is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Sections 15301(a) and (h), 15303(e), 15304(b) and 15311(a), as well as Classes 1(d) and (j), 3(b), 4(c) and 11(d) and (f) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, since the MLK Tree Grove includes new gardening or landscaping. The action includes a minor alteration of public land, involving the installation of small equipment and signage and new landscaping, and does not include the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees,. Further, based on the County's records, the MLK Tree Grove will comply with all applicable regulations, is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource. Upon the Board of Supervisor's approval of the recommended actions, the Department of Parks and Recreation will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines;

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS
OCTOBER 24, 2017
PAGE 3

2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$200,000 in Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for implementation of the MLK Tree Grove; and
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant not to exceed \$200,000 for the MLK Tree Grove 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; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the proposed Martin Luther King, Jr. Tree Grove (MLK Tree Grove) is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on the same grounds specified above, which are incorporated by reference herein;
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Director of the Department of Public Works, to amend the scope of work and increase the project budget for the Park to Playa Trail, CP 69784: Stoneview Nature Center to Scenic Overlook Capital Project to include the MLK Tree Grove, which consists of additional oak trees, landscaping, concrete and decomposed granite pathways, and amenities such as seating, boulders and monument signage; and incorporate the appropriate budget adjustments into the Park to Playa Trail: Stoneview Nature Center to Scenic Overlook Project budget;
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to accept grant funds, conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements,

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS
OCTOBER 24, 2017
PAGE 4

amendments, payment requests, and deed restrictions that may be necessary for the completion of the MLK Tree Grove;

4. Adopt the Resolution to apply for Proposition 40 grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy;
5. Adopt the Resolution to apply for Proposition A funds in the amount of \$200,000 with the Regional Parks and Open Space District;
6. Adopt the Youth Employment Plan as required by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District; and
7. Approve the MLK Tree Grove and delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Director of the Department of Public Works, to deliver the MLK Tree Grove by March 31, 2018, using a potential combination of a Board-approved Job Order Contract for the site preparation and landscaping work, collaboration with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and a change order to the existing Board-approved contract with Zusser Company, Inc., which is currently completing the related Park to Playa Trail: Stoneview Nature Center to Scenic Overlook Project to complete the remaining portion of the work. Approve the proposed change order, including construction of the concrete and decomposed granite pathways, and installation of the amenities, at an amount not to exceed \$160,000. The work to be performed under the change order is related to and falls within the broader scope of Park to Playa Trail Stoneview Nature Center to Scenic Overlook Project.

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