

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

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Date: December 13, 2016

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Toi Chisom, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: **Resolution Approving Application for Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space Grant Funds**

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**Recommendation:**

Adopt **Resolution No. 16-54**, approving the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District 2016 Excess Funds Grant Program Funding for Prime Desert Woodland Preserve Expansion and approving the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The grant application is for \$750,000 for the expansion and enhancement of the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve, inclusive of the acquisition of 20.32 acres of land.

**Background:**

In January 2007, City Council approved Tract Map No. 60291, located on 20 acres on the south side of Avenue K-4, which is positioned between an elementary school and an existing housing development to the west, adjacent to the City’s Prime Desert Woodland Preserve (the Preserve).

Subsequently, due to economic conditions, the Subdivision Map Act of California granted seven years of automatic extensions to all active maps within the State of California. An automatic extension allowed maps, including Tract Map No. 60291, to remain in the “approved state” during this time. The final automatic extension for this map expired in 2015; therefore, additional extensions had to be approved by the City in order for an approved tentative tract map to remain active.

In January 2016, Tract Map No. 60291 was reviewed for a one-year extension by the Planning Commission. Upon review, it was determined the map had no significant change in condition, map, or City regulations, which allows for extensions to be granted. Based on these findings, the Planning Commission approved the extension of Map Tract No. 60291.

The approved extension was appealed and on April 26, 2016, the City Council reviewed *PH 1 Appeal of Planning Commission's Approval of One-Year Extension to Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 60291*. During the open public hearing, residents and organizations raised their concerns to City Council regarding the approval of Tract Map No. 60291, stating that having the City purchase the land would allow for the enhancement of the Preserve. In response, City Council charged residents, organizations, and staff to create a "community group" to provide a solution to acquiring the land.

Staff and the Antelope Valley Audubon Society (AVAS) took action seeking grant opportunities to secure funding to acquire land adjacent to the Preserve. Letters of support from AVAS were sent to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors requesting Proposition "A" Excess Funds on behalf of the City be considered as a viable funding option. In partnership with AVAS, the City of Lancaster furthered the discussions with Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich resulting in an official request for funds to the Board of Supervisors utilizing grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Fifth Supervisorial District grant program furthers the Board-approved County strategic plan goal of operational effectiveness/fiscal sustainability (goal 1) by enhancing habitat and recreational opportunities.

On November 15, 2016, per the recommendation of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved \$750,000 in grant funding for the Prime Desert Woodland Expansion project.

The Prime Desert Woodland Expansion includes capital improvements, as well as the acquisition of 20.32 acres, adjacent to the Preserve.

It is staff's recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution No. 16-54, approving the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Fifth Supervisorial District Excess Funds Grant Program. Approval of the resolution is responsive to both Council direction and the concerns conveyed by residents and organizations to City Council regarding Tract Map No. 60291.

TC:mv

**Attachment:**

Resolution No. 16-54