Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant Program- 2015
Project Narrative

1. Grant Application Form
2. Project Description Including (Sections 2a-2g should not exceed 7 pages, single-spaced, 11 point font minimum)
    a. Complete Project Description
    b. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project
    c. Description of audience and geographic area served
    d. Description of Goals and Objectives
    e. Community Outreach
    f. Monitoring and Assessment Plan
    g. Organization Capacity

3. Conservation Corps Consultation
4. Certified Youth Employment Program
5. Tasklist and Timeline
6. Budget
7. Resolution
8. Environmental Compliance
9. Permits, Easements, or Certifications
10. Operation and Maintenance
11. Agreements
12. Non-profit
13. Design/Construction/Project Site Photographs
14. Project Location Map
15. Letters of Support

SAMPLE PROJECT*

Please note this is a SAMPLE ONLY and provides ONLY a brief synopsis and it is NOT A COMPLETE grant application, PLEASE DO NOT COPY this verbiage as it includes a variety of projects' budget, timelines, monitoring plans, etc.

SAMPLE PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR THE CITY OF LONG BEACH DEFOREST PARK WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

2a. Description of Project:

The City of Long Beach is requesting a $1 million grant for the DeForest Park Wetlands Restoration Project, which will provide for Phase 1 of the recreation of 26 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. The project was identified after consideration of alternative ecological and recreational restoration options evaluated in a prior extensive feasibility study. The Project, a partnership between the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and the California Coastal Conservancy, is located in the City of Long Beach.

2b. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project

The Project is part of a larger Lower Los Angeles River Parkway plan that will implement multipurpose wetlands in several River flood detention basins, and is joint project between the DPW and the City that includes the Dominguez Gap Wetlands and the DeForest Wetlands project. The DPW has constructed the lower Dominguez Gap wetlands basins. The City is taking the lead to construct the Market Street basin (MSB). The MSB is divided into northern and southern reaches by Long Beach Blvd. The northern reach runs from Long Beach Blvd. on the south to DeForest Park on the north. The DPW has permitted this area to the City since 1975 for development and maintenance of a nature trail. Three storm drains enter the northern segment, where storm and street water supports a small but well-established willow woodland and emergent marsh, which has degraded due to a history of erosion and siltation.

Additionally the proposed project achieves the RMC main goals to provide new and improved access and connections from communities to the rivers and tributaries parkways; multi-benefit project which will improve storm water and site runoff management practices; improve passive recreational opportunities and improve has a high habitat and restoration value which will enhance and create new trails and connection to a regional trail system. The project includes educational elements and community partnerships and recently acquired 100% matching funds from the Coastal Conservancy. The project is located in an Urban Target Area which will provide additional recreational opportunities for target populations within the RMC.

Further, the project will fulfill Proposition 1 Objectives which include:

1. Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.
2. Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
3. Protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048 and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8 and Division 23 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.

2c. Description of audience and geographic area served

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. There is substantial deficiency of open space in Long Beach. The Project is in the Los Angeles/Long Beach metropolitan area, the second most populated urban area in the nation. The Project is highly accessible by foot, car, bicycle, horse, and city bus, and is located in a neighborhood with on-street parking, where local residents can walk or drive to the site. It is also located along the Los Angeles River Bike Trail, a 50-mile trail from downtown Los Angeles to downtown Long Beach. With the exception of rain days, as the project is within a flood control basin, the Project will be open to the public from dawn to dusk every day, 365 days per year. The Project is located adjacent to the Los Angeles River and the site of historical wetlands. Interpretive signage will be installed on the site to educate the public as to the value of the river, wetlands and riparian habitat to the environment, people and animals that call it home. The intended audience is the general public.

2d. Description of Goals and Objectives

The project will greatly enhance access to a local and regional Los Angeles River Trail (LARIO), and create a new recreational site and natural area by providing an open, safe, and accessible area. New control and directional signage will be installed at several locations to direct the public to both the wetlands and the LARIO Trail. The Project will rehabilitate a degraded river, riparian and woodland habitat and will increase native a floral and faunal biodiversity throughout the planting of wetland riparian and woodland flora. It will also provide for in-stream wetland and native riparian habitat. The Project protects and connects to an identified protected habitat linkage for wildlife by linking on the southern end to the Dominguez Gap wetlands and on the northern end to DeForest Park.

Goal #1: Restore tidal wetland processes and functions to the maximum extent possible.

Goal #2: Maximize contiguous habitat areas and maximize the buffer between habitat and sources of human disturbance.

Goal #3: Create a public access and interpretive program that is practical, protective of sensitive habitat, economically feasible, and will ensure a memorable visitor experience.

2e. Community Outreach

The project will be carried out by the City of Long Beach, in coordination with the LA County Department of Public Works to design and implement this project. Community involvement includes project support from Friends of the Los Angeles River; Partners for Parks; a local non-profit organization supporting parks, open space and habitat in Long Beach; the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency; the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Chapter; Audubon Society, El Dorado Chapter; and the local neighborhood associations. The final project will have education and interpretive value.

2f. Monitoring and Assessment Plan- See attached example

The City of Long Beach will operate and manage the site and provide long-term habitat protection through proper maintenance. A landscape maintenance manual is planned for the site but has not been developed. In addition, the City will include a plan for the water quality elements, including monitoring and maintenance.

2g. Organizational capacity

The City of Long Beach has the capacity to complete and maintain the project long-term given it has an annual budget of over twenty million dollars. In addition, this park will be included in the City's annual parks budget and will include an annual budget line item for the long-term maintenance of park.

3. CCC and Certified Youth Employment Program (Please attach)

4. Tasklist and Timeline (Please attach)

5. Budget (Please attach)

Date: November XX, 2015

RESOLUTION 2015-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF XXX APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014 (PROPOSITION 1), FOR THE DEFOREST PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program in its jurisdiction, setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the RMC require the Applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of the Application before submission of said Application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California for the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby;

Approves the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program for the DeForest Park Wetland Restoration Project under the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1); and

Certifies that the DeForest Park Wetland Restoration Project is consistent with local or regional land use plans or Programs (or if it is not, that the project is still approved); and

Certifies that the Project is consistent with the goals of Proposition 1 including multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

Certifies that the Application has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project that is being submitted for funding consideration; and

Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines; and

Appoints the City Manager (or authorized representative) as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute, and submit all documents including, but not limited to Applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at this meeting of XXX, 2015 by the following vote.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

_____

City Clerk

ATTEST:_____

Authorized Signature

8. Environmental Compliance- Submit necessary documentation
9. Permits, Easements, or Certifications

10. Operation and Maintenance

Water Quality Improvement Project, like all projects within the City of XXX, will be maintained regularly through the City's Public Works Department. Once a week the city's maintenance workers will mow the grass, weed, including removing weeds form the Native Demonstration Garden, and remove graffiti. Once a day a park maintenance worker will collect all trash from bins and all recycle material from the recycle bins located within the park. **(Provide details for specific component of project being submitted for consideration)**

With the changes in seasons the park maintenance workers will be assigned to trim flowers and plants. Dead heads will be removed and trees will be trimmed on an as needed basis.

The Water Quality Improvement Project will be irrigated with a low emitting irrigation system, MP Rotator to maintain turf and other vegetation. The system will also include a water saving precipitation based controller, CalSense Controller. This system will be set on an automatic timer and will be monitored and maintained by Public Works.

The City sets budgets funds in the General Budget under Building and Grounds Maintenance. This fund provides funds for the irrigation, fence, turf care products, tree trimming, lighting repairs, pest control, plant materials, and other things necessary for park maintenance. Each Park has it's own account to draw down funds for yearly park maintenance. Upon completion of construction of the proposed Development of Palm Street Linear Park, a maintenance account will be set up for the care of the park as well. This account will be funded through the General Budget yearly.

In addition to the City's everyday maintenance of the park, the City will encourage community involvement in the maintenance of the park through park clean up days. Here residents and stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to the upkeep and sustainability of the proposed park.

Stewardship/Management Value

As mentioned above, the City will continue to encourage its residents and stakeholders to have an active role in maintaining the park. Trash bins and bins for the recycling of cans and bottles, will be placed throughout the park to discourage littering and to encourage recycling. The City is proposing to host yearly events that would allow the stakeholders and various other Public Service Agencies and residents an opportunity to actively care for the park including graffiti removal, gardening, and trash pickup.

The overall and day to day maintenance of the park will be accomplished through the City's Department of Public Works.

Public Works employees will empty trash cans and recycle bins on a daily basis. Once a week Public Works will mow the lawn, weed, and remove any graffiti. When seasonally favorable public works will trim flowers and plants and remove dead heads and trees will be trimmed on an as needed basis.

Public Works has also developed un-permitted uses in all parks in order to encourage long term health of vegetation, to reduce unnecessary wear and tear on park facilities and to ensure the park is a safe environment for pedestrians.

The proposed park will include a low water emitting irrigation system. The system will be placed on a timer and this will be monitored and maintained by Public Works as well. The project will also include grading to keep all water from precipitation on site. In addition, water from the nearby freeway will be collected into the dry swale on the park site.

11. Agreements:

12. Non-Profit

13. Design/Construction Documents and/or Project Site Photographs

14. Project location map

15. Letters of Support:

SAMPLE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project: Monitoring and Assessment Plan

Since this is an environmental planning project, it will not incorporate a formal monitoring effort as an implementation project would; however, it will utilize former baseline assessment data and will also reference several studies that will be completed as part of the preliminary environmental studies. The preliminary environmental studies will be referenced in the EIR and will set eventual parameters for a monitoring program once the project begins its implementation phase.

Biological Assessments

In 2012 a habitat assessment was completed for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex. This report is part of the appendices for the LCWA's Conceptual Restoration Plan. This report documented the locations of specific habitat types throughout the project site as well as the location of special status species populations. Furthermore, it contains list of all floral and faunal species that have been observed in Los Cerritos Wetlands.

The 2012 habitat assessment will provide the spring board for further ecological studies that will inform the environmental impact report. During the first 4 months of the environmental review process our consultants will perform specific surveys for all special status species, as well as surveys for certain keystone species like coyotes or other understudied groups of organisms like reptiles and amphibians. These focused surveys will complement the 2012 report with information that will help with analyzing potential impacts from the restoration project on existing populations of plants and wildlife. This with inform us how to mitigate or avoid certain impacts.

Soil Assessments

Similarly a baseline report of soil content from 2012 exists as an appendix to the Conceptual Restoration Plan. This report will also be complemented by focused surveys to investigate locations of contaminated soils and provided specific data on each constituent so that the impacts of the remediation process can be analyzed in the EIR. Soil cores will be strategically sampled from throughout the project area using the baseline study as a guide for locating the most critical areas that needs to be analyzed.

Performance Measures Table

Using the Performance Measures Table, identify performance measures designed to assess progress towards achieving the project's objectives. The performance measures should be linked to the goals and objectives. Differentiate between those results that are expected to occur within the term of the grant versus those that will require additional time. At least some of the performance measures must be feasible to meet during the term of the grant (e.g., can be met within 1-2 years post-implementation).

Project Objective(s)	Identify the project objective(s). Objectives are specific, often quantitative, statements of the desired outcomes that the project is expected to achieve. Where feasible, the objectives should be measurable and quantifiable.
Project Output Performance Measures	Identify project output performance measures for each objective. Output performance measures evaluate factors that may be influencing outcomes and include tracking project implementation (e.g., activities, products, deliverables, acres of habitat restored, etc.). These should include measurable targets or benchmarks against which project success can be measured.
Project Outcome Performance Measures	Identify project outcome performance measures for each objective. Outcome performance measures evaluate ecosystem responses to the project activities (e.g., improvement in environmental conditions). These should include measurable targets or benchmarks against which project success can be measured, at least some of which must be feasible to meet during the term of the grant (e.g., can be met within 1-2 years post-implementation).
Measurement Tools and Methods	List methods of measurement or tools that will be used to document project performance, using standard approaches/protocols, as applicable. This will be expanded upon in the monitoring plan described below.