

DATE: January 25, 2015

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 9: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority to extend the timeline for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (RMC09105)

PROGRAM AREA: Mountains, Hills, Foothills

PROJECT TYPE: Planning and Interpretation

JURISDICTION: County of Los Angeles Fifth District / Angeles National Forest

PROJECT MANAGER: Luz Quinnell

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC authorizes a second grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority to extend the timeline for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (RMC09105) through September 30, 2016.

PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION: The Cattle Canyon Project seeks to address unsustainable recreation practices, which includes habitat disturbance and increased risk to human health from water contact recreation. Other goals of the project seek to improve safety, and to enhance the visitor experience of recreating along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

This project, to be completed over three phases, includes a feasibility study and site design, implementation of physical site improvements including interpretive and directional signage, development and implementation of an interpretive outreach program, and a study on the effectiveness of the interpretive program. RMC09105 is a grant for Phase 1 which includes development of the summer-long outreach program and two years of implementation, as well as planning and design of a site development plan. This pilot project is being completed with the intent that it will be replicated in other areas of the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel River Watershed.

BACKGROUND: The current Phase 1 of the Cattle Canyon Project has seen the development of an outreach program focused on the prevention of specific harmful recreational behaviors. Two seasons of implementation have been completed during the Summers of 2013 and 2014. The remaining Phase 1 project component includes completion of a planning study. The study includes a comprehensive site assessment and conceptual planning process to identify opportunities for physical site improvements, as well as to a lesser extent, management considerations that will improve environmental conditions. Current project activities include WCA and Angeles National Forest's administrative review of the Final Concept Site Plan & Programming report. Once the administrative review is complete the design plan will undergo a joint CEQA/NEPA analysis process, which will include a public review period. This environmental analysis and review will complete Phase 1 of the Cattle Canyon Project.

The period of the grant agreement with RMC expired on April 30, 2016 and the WCA is requesting an extension for completion of the site planning and CEQA/NEPA analysis process. The WCA has previously requested and has received RMC Board approval to extend the grant agreement from May 30, 2013 through May 30, 2015. This extension is being requested as the

result of a delay in the project due primarily to extended administrative review period required by the United States Forest for planning documents. Although the WCA is very pleased with its partnership with the Angeles National Forest and considers this a successful project, the experimental nature of working collaboratively on natural resource conservation and recreation management projects with the federal government has required flexibility in scheduling. Exhibit A includes the revised schedule through June 30, 2017.

FISCAL INFORMATION: This item has no fiscal impact.

This grant was initially authorized by the RMC on June 28, 2010, as specified in Resolution 2010-68. RMC Resolution 2012-14 approved a grant amendment to extend the performance period through May 30, 2015. Additionally, RMC Resolution 2014-10 approved: 1) adjustment in the scope of the design and permitting scope, 2) increase the grant by \$4,000 to a total not to exceed amount of \$770,584 and, 3) adjusted the funding allocation between tasks identified in the grant budget.

Funding for this project will be allocated from the following Proposition 84 allocations, under statute:

75050. The sum of nine hundred twenty eight million dollars (\$928,000,000) shall be available for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources in accordance with the following schedule:... (g) The sum of seventy two million dollars (\$72,000,000) shall be available for projects within the watersheds of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers according to the following schedule: (1) \$36,000,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600).....

75060. The sum of five hundred forty million dollars (\$540,000,000) shall be available for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state, in accordance with the following schedule:.... (3) To the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.....\$15,000,000.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: Section 32602:

There is in the Resources Agency, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is created as a state agency for the following purposes:

- (a) To acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open-space, low-impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvement within the territory.
- (b) To preserve the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River consistent with existing and adopted river and flood control projects for the protection of life and property.
- (c) To acquire open-space lands within the territory of the conservancy.

Section 32604: The conservancy shall do all of the following:

- (a) Establish policies and priorities for the conservancy regarding the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River, and their watersheds, and conduct any necessary planning activities, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (c) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.

Section 32614.5:

- (a) The conservancy may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of this division.
- (b) Grants to nonprofit organizations for the acquisition of real property or interests in real property shall be subject to all of the following conditions:
 - (1) The purchase price of any interest in land acquired by the nonprofit organization may not exceed fair market value as established by an appraisal approved by the conservancy.
 - (2) The conservancy approves the terms under which the interest in land is acquired.
 - (3) The interest in land acquired pursuant to a grant from the conservancy may not be used as security for any debt incurred by the nonprofit organization unless the conservancy approves the transaction.
 - (4) The transfer of land acquired pursuant to a grant shall be subject to the approval of the conservancy and the execution of an agreement between the conservancy and the transferee sufficient to protect the interests of the state.
 - (5) The state shall have a right of entry and power of termination in and over all interests in real property acquired with state funds, which may be exercised if any essential term or condition of the grant is violated.
 - (6) If the existence of the nonprofit organization is terminated for any reason, title to all interest in real property acquired with state funds shall immediately vest in the state, except that, prior to that termination, another public agency or nonprofit organization may receive title to all or a portion of that interest in real property, by recording its acceptance of title, together with the conservancy's approval, in writing.
- (c) Any deed or other instrument of conveyance whereby real property is acquired by a nonprofit organization pursuant to this section shall be recorded and shall set forth the executory interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

This grant was initially authorized by the RMC on June 28, 2010, as specified in Resolution 2010-68. Subsequently, Resolution 2012-14 approved a grant amendment to extend the performance period through May 30, 2015 and Resolution 2014-10 approved a scope and budget adjustments.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (RMC/WCA 09105)
Revised Timeline

11/17/2015



Task ID	Task	Summer, 2012	Fall, 2012	Winter, 2013	Spring, 2013	Summer, 2013	Fall, 2013	Winter, 2014	Spring, 2014	Summer, 2014	Fall, 2014	Winter, 2015	Spring, 2015	Summer, 2015	Fall, 2015	Winter, 2016	Spring, 2016	Summer, 2016	
		Jul. Through Sept.	Oct. Through Dec.	Jan. Through Mar.	Apr. Through Jun.	Jul. Through Sept.	Oct. Through Dec.	Jan. Through Mar.	Apr. Through Jun.	Jul. Through Sept.	Oct. Through Dec.	Jan. Through Mar.	Apr. Through Jun.	Jul. Through Sept.	Oct. Through Dec.	Jan. Through Mar.	Apr. Through Jun.	Jul. Through Sept.	
1	Fully Execute Partnership Agreement	Shaded																	
2A	Visitor Survey & Interpretive Program Evaluation Survey Development			Shaded															
2B	Visitor Survey Implementation & Report				Shaded														
2C	Interpretive Program Evaluation Survey & Report									Shaded									
3A	Interpretive Program Development & Training			Shaded	Shaded														
3B	Interpretive Program Implementation					Shaded													
4	Site Assessment									RFP Process	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded						
5	Concept Plan & Feasibility Study									RFP Process			Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded		
6	Environmental Impact Assessment (NEPA)															Shaded	Shaded	Shaded	
7	Site Design	Task Postponed to Phase II																	
8	Water Quality Monitoring	Shaded	Shaded		Shaded	Shaded	Shaded		Shaded	Shaded	Shaded								

January 25, 2016 – Item 9

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (RMC09105).

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the grant is consistent with the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
3. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. ADOPTS the staff report dated January 25, 2016.
5. APPROVES a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority to extend the timeline for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (RMC09105) through September 30, 2016

~ End of Resolution ~

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on January 25, 2016

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General