

**DATE:** January 25, 2016  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** **Item 8:** Consideration of a resolution to approve a grant amendment to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Willowbrook Walking Park Compton Creek Project (RMC 14003)

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**PROGRAM AREA:** Urban Lands

**PROJECT TYPE:** Development

**JURISDICTION:** Unincorporated County of Los Angeles

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Marybeth Vergara

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC authorize a grant amendment to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek Project through June 30, 2018.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** In October 2013, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps submitted a grant proposal for the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek project located in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, bordering the City of Compton. The funding request was to the Strategic Growth Council for a total of \$798,815 and included the extension of the Willowbrook Walking Path, creating a ½ mile linear park along the Compton Creek. As part of this grant application, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy was listed as one of the three partners that would each provide a matching grant in the amount of \$300,000 including the office of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District and the State of California Coastal Conservancy. The total project amount is \$1,698,815 and the grantee has been notified that their grant was approved in the amount of \$798,815.

**BACKGROUND:** The initial \$300K matching grant by the RMC was approved by the RMC Board in June 2014. However, the grant has not been initiated due to delays with the grant administration component by the Strategic Growth Council. In addition, the LACC has been waiting for the final set of construction documents which were being finalized by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, a project partner. There have also been staff changes within the LACC that have caused disruptions to this grant. This grant will specifically create a ½ mile linear park along Compton Creek within the community of Willowbrook. The project site is located in one of the most impoverished communities in Los Angeles County. Unincorporated Willowbrook is part of the South Los Angeles community and unfortunately has one of the highest violent crime rates in the County. Coupled with a median household income rate well below the poverty level and excessive high school dropout rate, the project will provide youth employment to the local youth that the Corps works with as part of the construction and stewardship of the project.

The Willowbrook Walking path will provide an aesthetically pleasing and safer alternative for pedestrians and cyclists to navigate between local schools, parks, and shopping or simply offer a

place for folks to relax and take a break from urban life. Los Angeles Conservation Corps has secured commitments and permission from all public entities including the LA County Parks & Recreation Department, LA County Flood Control District, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works since the project is entirely on public lands.

The RMC has previously participated in the walking trail portion immediately north of this trail, along the Washington Carver Park (RMC10013). This project is an extension of that walking/cycling path which leads to the Compton Bike Trail.

Once the LACC receives formal approval from the Strategic Growth Council and executes the funding agreement, a refined timeline will be submitted. However, an approximate timeframe is from August 2014-December 2015.

See the attached exhibits regarding this project: Exhibit A- Tasklist/Timeline and Exhibit B: Request to extend performance period.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** Contingent upon the execution of the grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps of the requested funding of \$798,815, the recommendation is for the RMC to match funding with a grant in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Other matching funds will be provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District in the amount of \$300,000, and by the State Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$300,000.

Funding for this project will be allocated from the following Proposition 84 allocations.

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.

Staff recommends funding for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Urban Greening grant since this project exceeds the RMC's guiding principles based on its goals, objectives, timeline, matching funds and ability to complete the project within the funds awarded and timeline approved. This grant was previously approved by the RMC Board on June 23, 2014 as stated in Resolution 2014-15.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps timeline for RMC Project beginning April 2017	Timeline				
	April - June 2017	July - Sept 2017	Oct - Dec 2017	Jan - March 2018	April - June 2018
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>					
<b>Planning and Management</b>					
Project Management/Technical Support					
Planning, Design, Permitting					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Demolition</b>					
Asphalt removal					
Dirt removal					
Tree removal					
Chain Link Demo (Channel Wall)					
Chain link Demo (Yards)					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Grading and Drainage</b>					
EZ Flo drain installed for percolation					
Irrigation installation					
Fine grading					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Path Construction</b>					
Retaining Wall @ 30"					
Retaining Wall @ 48"					
Concrete curb					
Base for DG path					
DG path 3300'x12'					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>4 Ornamental Gates</b>					
150'x6'					
Omega Fencing					
Chain link Fencing					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Rip Rap Swale</b>					
2700'x6'x2' river rock pervious slope					
Mortared Swale					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Plants</b>					
120 15 gallon trees					
1000 1 gallon plants					
800 5 gallon plants					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Educational Nodes</b>					
Benches/trash cans/bike rack					
Misc amenities (Signage etc.)					
<b>Subtotal</b>					
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>					
Estimate Contingency - 10%					
<b>Total Estimated Costs</b>					



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Exhibit B- Request to extend performance period

Item 8

East LA Center  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 15868, Los Angeles, CA 90015

January 19, 2016

Marybeth Vergara, MPP  
Project Analyst/Property Manager  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy &  
Watershed Conservation Authority  
"El Encanto" 100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road  
Azusa, CA 91702

Re: Willowbrook Walking Path Phase II – Request to extend performance period

Marybeth,

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LA Corps) would like to request an extension for the Willowbrook Walking Phase II project through June 2018. Currently the LA Corps is waiting for the 100% CD's from the LA County Regional Park and Open Space District.

. Due to the mentioned delays, the LA Corps would like to respectfully request that our performance period be extended through June 30, 2018 which includes a 30 day close out period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (323) 526-1460 Ext. 122.

Sincerely,

Sam Kirk  
Senior Program Manager  
Conservation Programs  
LA Conservation Corps East LA Site  
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Los Angeles, CA 90023  
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January 25, 2016 – Item 8

RESOLUTION 2016-01

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A  
GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION  
CORPS FOR THE WILLOWBROOK WALKING PARK COMPTON  
CREEK PROJECT (RMC14003)

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, 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. AUTHORIZES a grant amendment to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek Project (RMC 14003) through June 30, 2018.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

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