

DATE: September 26, 2016

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 10: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority to extend the timeline for the River Wilderness Park Entry Project (RMC14001).

PROGRAM AREA: Rivers and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Development

JURISDICTION: City of Azusa

PROJECT MANAGER: Luz Quinnell

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC authorizes a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) to extend the timeline for the River Wilderness Park Entry Project (RMC09105) through June 30, 2017.

PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION: The WCA is completing environmental impact assessment documentation and construction design documents for the development of the River Wilderness Park (RWP) Entry, a portion of the RWP Canyon Inn Property which was acquired by the WCA in 2008. The RWP, which contains the RMC offices, is located along the San Gabriel River and provides a natural setting for the gateway to the San Gabriel Canyon and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. A vicinity map is included as Exhibit A.

Goals of the RWP Entry includes: 1) an extension of the San Gabriel River Bike Path into the park, thereby creating a destination at the end of the bike path, and providing safe access to the park; 2) development of recreational amenities compatible with habitat sensitivity; and 3) restoration of natural habitat. Elements of the project include development of a roundabout on State Route 39 to calm traffic at the park entry, and to facilitate a crossing of the highway. New park facilities include a park pavilion, a group picnic area, river overlooks, a natural play area, habitat restoration, and a small café/concessionaire building.

BACKGROUND: As part of an update to the RWP Master Plan, in 2012, the WCA completed a planning process for the entry portion of the park utilizing community input which resulted in a preferred plan. This conceptual plan forms the basis of design work, as shown in Exhibit B. The continued funding provided by the RMC through this grant has also allowed the WCA to complete CEQA complacent documents for the RWP Entry, with a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation & Monitoring Reporting Program adopted by the WCA Board in June of this year.

Since the grant was awarded in March of 2014 the WCA has secured consultant services, and initiated development of construction design documents. Design reached 60% status by December of 2015. Since March the WCA has been working to complete a comprehensive geotechnical investigation needed in order to reach 90% documents for permitting.

Due to the proposed development of a roundabout within State highway right-of-way, in December of 2015 Caltrans provided WCA specific requirements pertaining to this investigation that required multiple borings within the vicinity of the park entry. In turn, these boring required an issuance of a Caltrans encroachment permit. Over the past five months the project geotechnical consultant has worked with Caltrans to obtain this permit, which was issued in late August. The field work for this investigation, including the borings, was completed on September 12th. A final report is expected by mid-October and, once the geotechnical report is completed the design development can then reinitiate.

Due to this delay WCA has requested a timeline extension to June 30, 2017. This will allow WCA to complete the grant scope, including 90% design development and permitting to a construction-ready bid package.

Please see Exhibit C for a revised tasklist and timeline.

FISCAL INFORMATION: There is no change to the total grant value of \$455,998.

Funding for this project is 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:

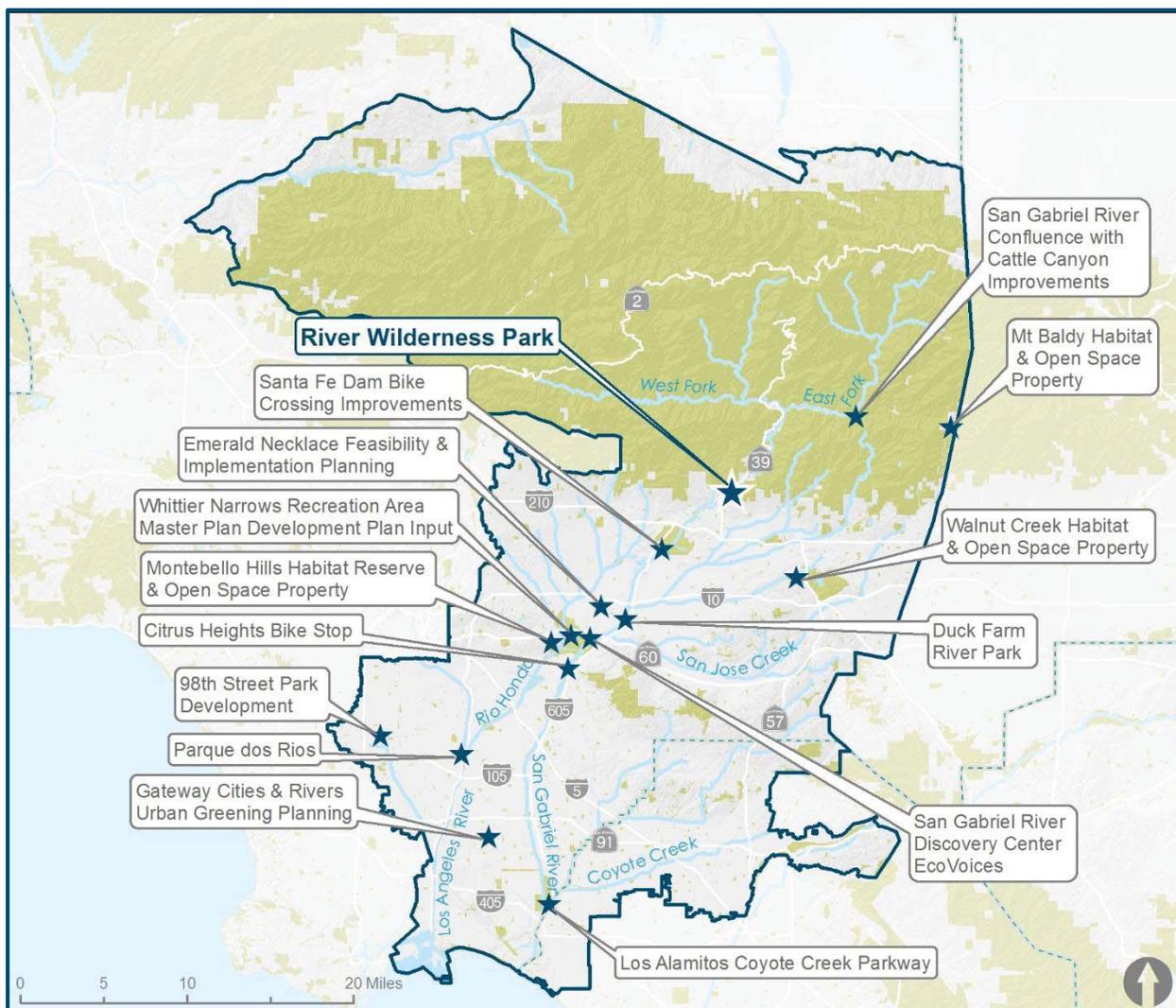
(1) \$36,000,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600).....

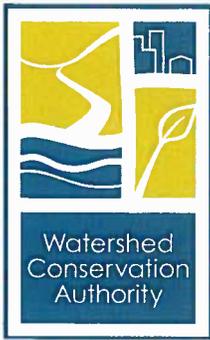
75060. The sum of five hundred forty million dollars (\$540,000,000) shall be available for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat 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: This grant was initially authorized by the RMC on March 24, 2014, as specified in Resolution 2014-04.



River Wilderness Park





Item 10
RECEIVED
1N16-510
AUG 30 2016
RIVERS & MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

August 30, 2016

Mark Stanley
Executive Officer
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.
Azusa, CA 91702

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Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mark Stanley

Re: River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project (RMC14001) Grant
Extension

Dear Mr. Stanley:

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) is hereby requesting an extension through June 30, 2017 for the RMC grant for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project (RMC14001).

Please find attached for your review and approval an amended project schedule/timeline. This extension is being requested as the result of a delay in the project completion due primarily to the complexity of certain elements of the project and the increased timing needed to resolve and fortify these design. This includes an unforeseen geochemical investigation that has taken over six months to plan and permit. This extension is needed to allow an extension of the consultant work being completed under contract.

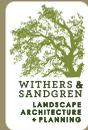
If you have any questions, please contact the WCA project manager, Rob Romanek at Rromanek@wca.ca.gov or at (626) 815-1019 ext. 108.

Sincerely,

Brian Mejia
Governing Board Chair

Enclosure: Amended Project Schedule

BM: rr



- EXTENDED BICYCLE PATH
- MONUMENT SIGN
- CLUSTERED PARKING
- REALIGNED ROADWAY
- ENTRY GATE
- INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
- GROUP PICNICKING & TENT CAMPING (BY PERMIT)
- UNDERPASS FOR BICYCLES (future)
- ADVENTURE PLAY
- CONCESSION/CAFE BUILDING
- BICYCLE LOCK-UP
- RIVER OVERLOOK
- RESTROOMS
- SWALE
- PICNIC AREAS
- STONE SEAT WALL PAVILION (rental)
- STORAGE (future)
- OVERFLOW—EVENT PARKING
- FIRE TRUCK/BUS TURNAROUND
- PARK ROAD CONTINUES TO EL ENCANTO →
- CATERING TRUCK HOOK UP
- BEAR-RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINERS

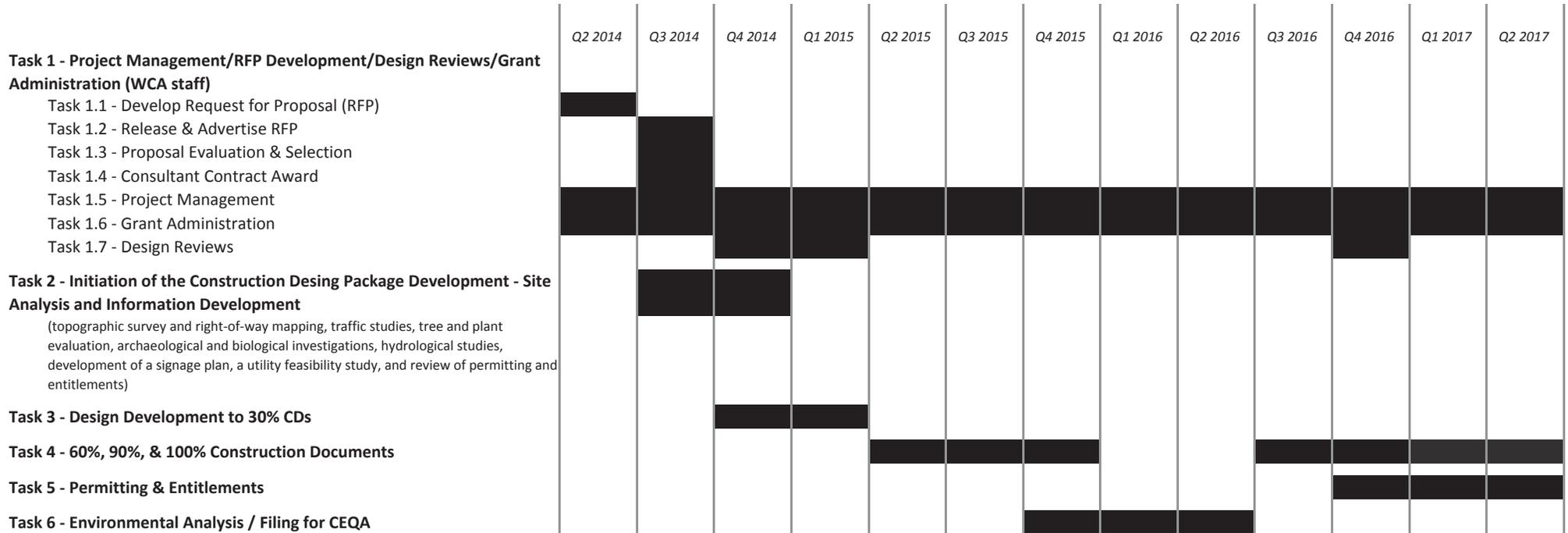


WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS

River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements - RMC14001

Exhibit C - Tasks & Timeline



September 26, 2016 – Item 10

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-20

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 RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY PROJECT (RMC14001).

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. APPROVES a grant amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority to extend the timeline for the River Wilderness Park Entry Project (RMC14001) through June 30, 2017.
5. ADOPTS the staff report dated September 26, 2016.

~ 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 September 26, 2016

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General