

**DATE:** July 20, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Joseph Gonzalez, Project Analyst II

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 10: Consideration of a resolution approving a small grant to the Nature For All for the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)

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**PROGRAM AREA:** Mountains, Hills, Foothills

**PROJECT TYPE:** Planning

**JURISDICTION:** LA County Districts 1 and 5 (Solis and Barger)

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC Board authorize a grant to Nature For All for the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP), Phase I Project Planning and Development, in the amount of \$10,000 for a performance period through December 30, 2020.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

- Exhibit A – Nature For All’s Proposal. Includes Request Letter, Map of Proposed Routes, Project Summary, Objectives, Community Needs, Tasklist/Timeline, and Budget.
- Exhibit B – Twelve (12) Support Letters

With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, the RMC established Proposition 68 grant program guidelines which provided for project applications to be submitted for funding consideration (RMC Resolution 2019-06).

In Spring 2019, staff opened a Call for Projects between April 29, 2019 and July 15, 2019. Under Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, \$30,000,000 is allocated for projects throughout all of RMC territory. Note, projects within the Los Angeles River corridor have a separate RMC urban river funding source.

Projects prioritized for funding recommendations to the Governing Board are subject to multiple factors upon review, including project score and ranking amongst territory-wide submittals, project readiness, and public benefit value. Project proponents are provided the opportunity to receive higher scores based on additional information provided through staff interviews that demonstrate an alignment with RMC goals and objectives, and granting of funds is consistent with RMC programs, which include:

**Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea** - Supports the Watershed and Open Space Plan vision for the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds, seeks to restore balance between natural and human systems. Guiding principles: 1) growing greener (create, expand and improve open space and access to open space), 2) enhancing waters and waterways, and 3) coordinate regional planning efforts.

**RMC Environmental Justice Policy** - To ensure that the public, including minority and low-income populations, are informed of opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of all RMC-related programs, policies and activities, and that they are not discriminated against, treated unfairly, or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental decisions.

**Tribal Consultation** - To ensure indigenous tribes and tribal communities are able to provide meaningful input into the development of regulations, rules policies, programs, projects, plans, property decisions, and activities that may affect tribal communities; supporting AB52 and CEQA, which require separate consideration of tribal cultural resources from that of paleontological resources.

RMC received a short-term grant proposal from Nature For All on May 15, 2020 for the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP). This project has been developed in collaboration with the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative's Transportation ad-hoc committee and is seeking gap funding to complete their Phase I Project Planning and Development. This project was evaluated using the RMC Proposition 68 Regionwide Grant Program since RMC has not finalized guidelines for a Small Grants Program (but would qualify under a proposed Grant Program). RMC is seeking approval from the RMC Board for this Small Grant in order to ensure project planning is not delayed. RMC is approving Small Grants draft guidelines at the July 2020 Board Meeting to provide other local NGOs, Cities, and Agencies the opportunity to more easily access support, Small Grants funding for multi-benefit, open space projects.

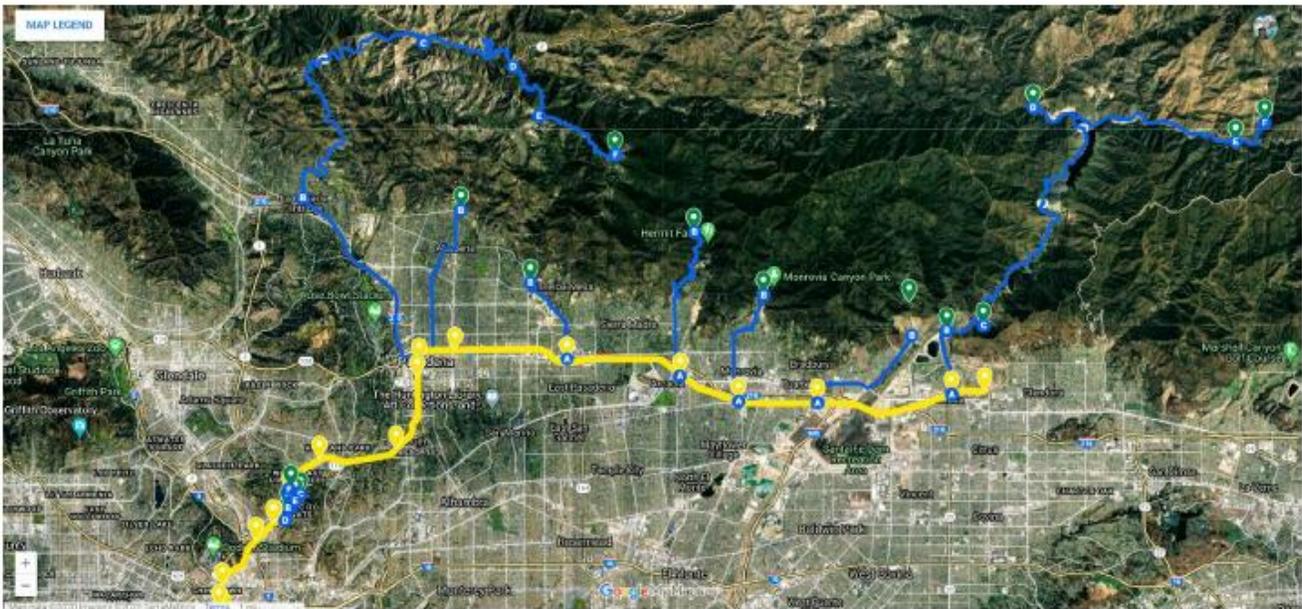
After review by RMC staff, this grant received a score of 80/100 or 80% and a recommendation for funding the planning activities.

<b>Project:</b>	San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program	
<b>Applicant:</b>	Nature For All	
<b>Program area:</b>	Mountains, Hills, Foothills	
<b>Amount requested:</b>	\$10,000	
<b>Amount recommended for funding:</b>	\$10,000	
<b>RMC PROP 68 REGIONWIDE GRANT PROGRAM - EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Project Score</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>
1. Access Value	9	10
2. Urban Land Value	3	7
3. Water Sustainability/Water Storage/Water Infrastructure	7	13
4. Habitat and Restoration Resource Values	11	19
5. Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities	27	28
6. Matching Funds	9	9
7. Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value	9	9
8. Capacity	5	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

The Nature For All (N4A) is requesting a grant for the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP), for \$10,000 with a performance period through December 30, 2020. This is in addition to a total project match of \$64,500 from corporate and non-profit contributions, individual contributions, and in-kind donations.

SGM Transit and Infrastructure Program will accelerate planning, feasibility and pilot demonstrations for Metro Gold Line (light rail) connector shuttles/buses, walk routes and related programs for at least 8 proposed routes to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces. This effort will develop a regionally coordinated, user-friendly system of Transit to Parks routes, and complement routes already being led by municipalities.

This short-term grant request to RMC will fund specific development and infrastructure assessment items in Phase I of the SGM-TIP. The program and related site improvements will include habitat enhancement and protections, green infrastructure, and address environmental justice specifically for those sites in the RMC territory (Monrovia Canyon Express, Fish Canyon [when re-opened], and San Gabriel Canyon Express).



**Proposal:** Eight routes for feasibility analysis; three will advance to become demonstration projects.



**Problem:** Inequitable access, parking congestion.



**Opportunity:** Transit to Trails pilot shuttle, Chantry Flat, 2019.

**SGM-TIP Work Plan**

- Phase I (June – December 2020)
  - Assessment of Existing Plans
  - Establish Assessment Framework and Prioritization Criteria
  - Priority Sites Selected
  - Initiate Site-Specific Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan

- Initiate Site Assessments
- Fundraising
- Phase I Milestones
  - July-September
    - Finalize Existing Plan Assessment
    - Finalize Project Evaluation Protocols
    - Initiate Community/Stakeholder Engagement Plan
    - Adopt Initial Program Branding
    - Continue Infrastructure Assessment
    - Initiate AC formation if funding is secured
    - Fundraising
  - October-December
    - Analyze and Score Project Routes
    - Priority Sites Selected
    - Initiate Site-Specific Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan
    - Initiate Site Assessments
    - Fundraising
- RMC funded elements:
  - Program and Project Development (\$3,000)
    - Include San Gabriel Canyon Plans
    - Establish Assessment Framework and Prioritization Criteria
  - Project Advisory Committee and Community Outreach (\$1,000)
    - Develop Stakeholder group to support project planning and development.
  - Existing Conditions and preliminary infrastructure and transit needs assessment report (\$4,000)
    - Future shuttle stop locations and trailheads, including San Gabriel Canyon Express route
    - Route and Site Assessments
    - Ranked priorities assessment
  - Project Management (\$2,000)

Goal of SGM-TIP is to plan routes collaboratively with local and regional agencies and NGOs with in-depth community engagement at both destination and rider communities, to ultimately launch 3-pilot demonstration projects with first/last mile pathways and transit connections, green infrastructure, test marketing, wayfinding and messaging concepts, and provide operators with metrics and support to apply for full operational funding.

N4A has submitted grant applications to the Regional Park and Open Space District and Metro's Recreational Access program and will be continually applying for future funding opportunities including the Wildlife Conservation Board Public Access Program, among others, for next phases of the project.

#### **SGM-TIP Partners:**

- US Forest Service, San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, Rivers & Mountains Conservancy, National Forest Foundation, The Wilderness Society

- Transit providers: Metro, Foothill Transit
- Municipalities: County of Los Angeles Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5, City of Duarte
- Proposed: Cities of Los Angeles, Arcadia, Azusa, Pasadena, Monrovia.

**BACKGROUND:** SGM-TIP is a multi-benefit planning and implementation project that focuses on increasing public access to the San Gabriel Mountains. The benefits will be far-reaching. LA is park-poor! Our urban core communities lack open space and without a car it is almost impossible to visit these gems which surround Los Angeles and receive the health benefits of getting outdoors—this is an environmental justice issue. Access to nature is a public health and social justice issue, boosting environmental, habitat and economic benefits as well. Connecting our investment in public transportation - the Metro Gold Line, which is so close to the San Gabriel Mountains (70% of Los Angeles County's open space) - makes clear sense, linking healthy access to world-class trails and mountain destinations for urban families who most need it. Transit to the San Gabriel Mountains will lead to cleaner air quality through lower VMTs, provide access to those that lack transportation, improvements to habitat and growth of LA's ecotourism economy, particularly as we look to the 2028 Olympic Games.

The SGM-TIP will create door-to-door transit-to-trails access for disadvantaged communities in Central, East and Northeast Los Angeles to reach the San Gabriel Mountains, via the Metro Rail system. These transit-dependent and low-income communities of color have not historically had access to these public lands and reside in some of the most park-poor urbanized areas of Los Angeles County. For this proposal only those sites within the RMC territory will be covered by this grant.

The initial Phase I assessment will cover 8 potential routes, including 3 successfully demonstrated pilot routes, and 5 additional routes to the Angeles National Forest/San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and nearby natural areas.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** This grant to Nature For All (N4A) is in the amount of \$10,000 with a performance period through December 30, 2020. Funding for this grant will come from:

Proposition 68, Chapter 852 Statutes of 2017  
California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 allocations, Chapter 8, under statute:

80110(b)(6): San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

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.
- (b) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.
- (d) To provide for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Section 32614: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (f) Recruit and coordinate volunteers and experts to conduct interpretive and recreational programs and assist with construction projects and the maintenance of parkway facilities.

Further, Section 32614 provides that: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (g) Undertake, within the territory, site improvement projects, regulate public access, and revegetate and otherwise rehabilitate degraded areas, in consultation with any other public agency with appropriate jurisdiction and expertise, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602. The conservancy may also, within the territory, upgrade deteriorating facilities and construct new facilities as needed for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and interpretation, and natural resources protection. The conservancy may undertake those projects by itself or in conjunction with another local agency; however, the conservancy shall provide overall coordination of those projects by setting priorities for the projects and by ensuring a uniform approach to projects. The conservancy may undertake those projects with prior notification to the legislative body of the local agency that has jurisdiction in the area in which the conservancy proposes to undertake that activity.

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.



VIA EMAIL

May 15, 2020

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy  
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road  
Azusa, CA 91702

Dear Mr. Stanley,

Nature for All would like to submit a short-term grant proposal request of \$9,999 for Phase I Project Planning & Development components of the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program, for the immediate term of June 1-Dec 30, 2020. The attached proposal outlines an updated work plan and budget.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 626-614-4990 or [belinda@lanatureforall.org](mailto:belinda@lanatureforall.org) or Bryan Matsumoto at [bryan@lanatureforall.org](mailto:bryan@lanatureforall.org).

Thank you for your support of increasing equitable public access to the San Gabriel Mountains. We appreciate RMC's consideration as a funding partner in the early stages of this regional collaboration.

Sincerely,



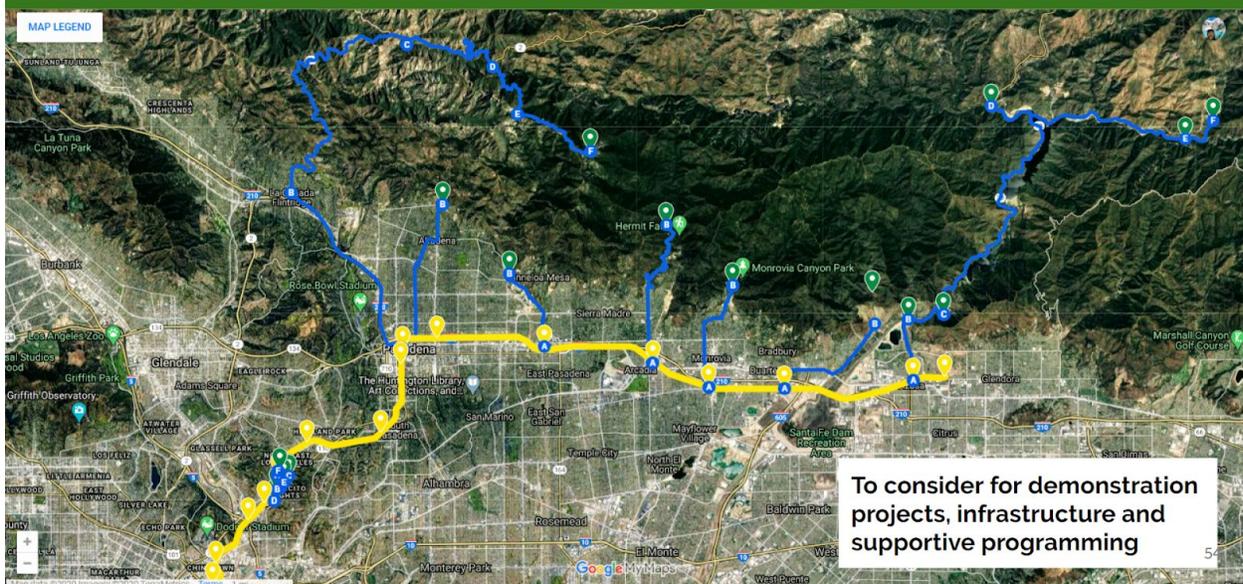
Belinda Faustinos,  
Executive Director



# San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)

Short-Term Grant Proposal: Phase I Project Planning & Development

## 8 Proposed Routes in the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)



### Proposal Summary

This short-term grant proposal of \$9,999 to the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC) will fund specific project development and infrastructure assessment items in Phase I of the San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program.

Phase I Term: June 1-Dec 30, 2020

The San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP) is a multi-benefit planning and implementation project that will significantly increase public access to the San Gabriel Mountains, directly linking underrepresented communities to outdoor recreation, positive physical & mental health outcomes, and development of lifelong connection to nature. The program and related site improvements will include habitat enhancements and protections, green infrastructure and address environmental justice specifically for those sites in RMC's territory.

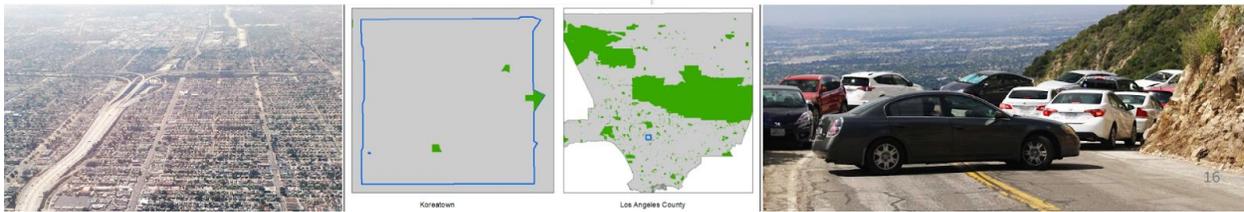
The SGM-TIP addresses key RMC objectives (RMC Prop 68 Guidelines):

Key RMC Objectives	San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)
Improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles	<p><b>The primary objective of the SGM-TIP is to improve access to open space</b> (the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby nature) <b>and low impact recreation for all communities</b> (particularly for those who have not historically had access), <b>and promote healthy lifestyles.</b></p> <p><b>Site and infrastructure development at key shuttle departure areas and stops in the forest are needed for the transit-to-trail routes' implementation.</b></p>
Environmental justice and disadvantaged communities	The SGM-TIP will create door-to-door transit-to-trails access for disadvantaged communities in Central, East and Northeast Los Angeles to reach the San Gabriel Mountains (SGM), via the Metro Rail system. These transit-dependent and low-income communities of color have not historically had access to these public lands, and reside in some of the most park-poor urbanized areas of Los Angeles County.
Involve the public through education and outreach programs	Education and outreach are integral components in the SGM-TIP, with the objective of developing visitor environmental stewardship. Multilingual educational signage integrated in the shuttles and at stops, and messaging in promotional materials and through live programming will emphasize urban nature connection, Leave no Trace principles, and volunteer opportunities in the forest.
Create, expand, and/or improve public open space throughout the region by improving water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat.	Shuttle stop sites or turnarounds along forest roads will be opportunities for green infrastructure site improvements, design for water capture or filtration, and may include habitat enhancements to mitigate site development.
Connect open space with a network of trails, accessible as appropriate to the site	The pedestrian paths necessary to connect park users from shuttle stops to trailhead destinations in the SGM will link to existing trailheads and trail networks.

<p>Encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects</p>	<p>The SGM-TIP coordinates amongst numerous jurisdictional stakeholders to achieve the multi-benefit transit-to-trails projects particularly as specified in the Metro Transit to Parks Strategic Plan..</p>
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## Regional Needs

- **LA is park-poor:** Half of LA County lives in “park-poor” areas.  
 Negative impacts:
  - **Environmental justice:** 82% communities of color
  - **Poor public health:** Childhood obesity, diabetes, air pollution, asthma
  - **Nature deficit:** Losing next generation of environmental stewards
- **Lack of transportation** is #1/#2 barrier to L.A. outdoor access
- **Need sustainable vehicle reduction:** 4 million forest visitors



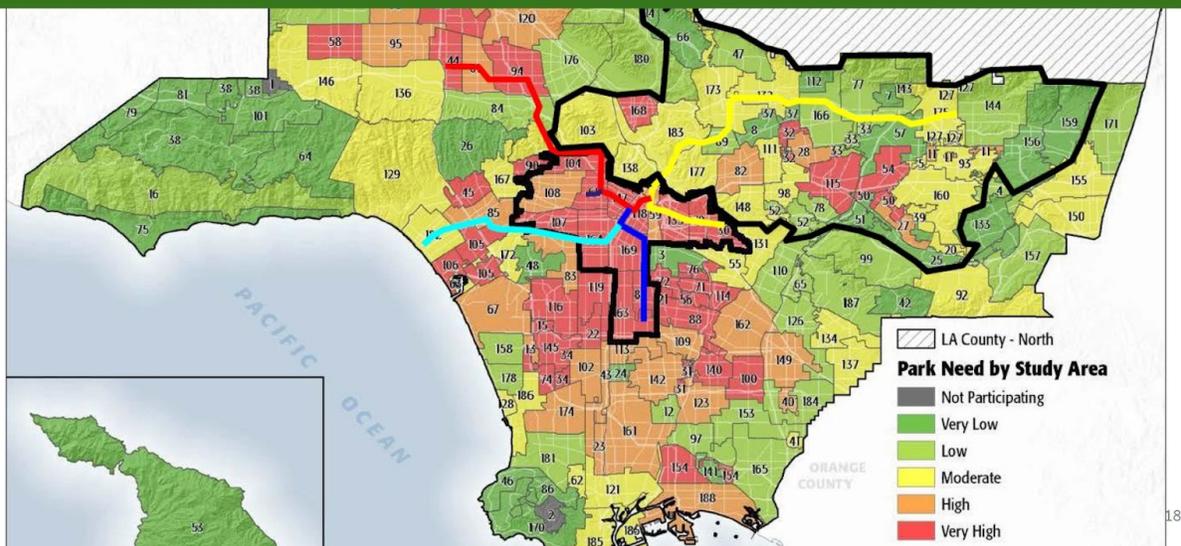
The SGM-TIP is a critical environmental justice step towards closing the access gap between transit-dependent communities and our public lands. It will also alleviate traffic congestion and safety issues at heavily impacted trailheads, and make convenient transit access to the San Gabriel Mountains a defining feature of Los Angeles County, for tourists and residents alike.

# The Opportunity: San Gabriel Mountains

- **Transit-to-Trails:** Connect the gap-public transit & public lands
- **Connect diverse families** to the Forest & National Monument
- **70%** of LA County's open space
- **1 in 20 Americans:** 17 million people within a 90-min. drive
- **Multi-benefits:** Climate action, improve air quality & congestion, support local business districts, grow eco-tourism



# Access for All: Disadvantaged Communities

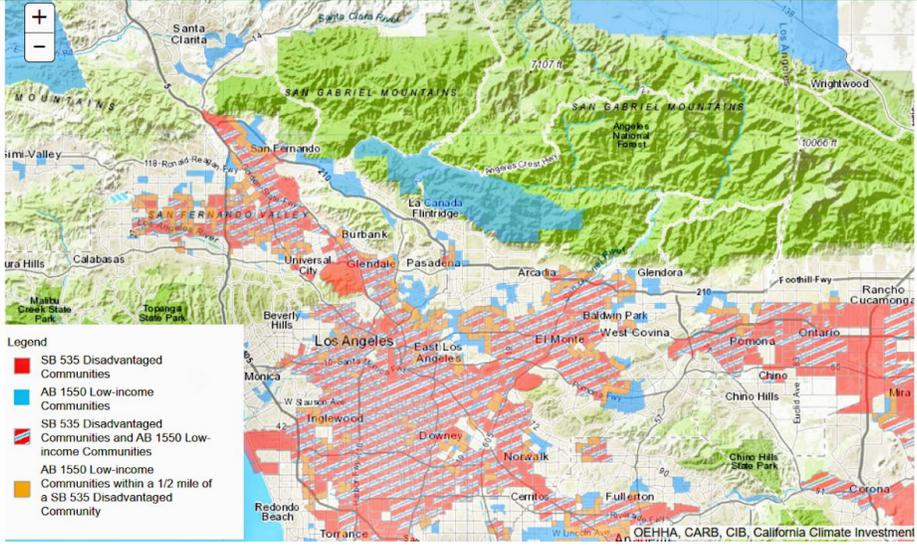


The SGM-TIP will create door-to-door transit-to-trails access for disadvantaged communities in Central, East and Northeast Los Angeles to reach the San Gabriel Mountains, via the Metro Rail system. These transit-dependent and low-income communities of color have not historically had access to these public lands, and reside in some of the most park-poor urbanized areas of Los Angeles County. For this proposal only those sites within the RMC territory will be covered by this grant.

The exhibit above overlays part of the LA County Metro Rail system (Red, Gold, Blue and Expo lines) onto the LA County Park Needs Assessment map, which shows the highest park-need

communities with least access to parks (red is very high, orange is high). The map below is from the CA State Water Resources disadvantaged communities web tool. Most high-need neighborhoods above are identified as DAC below.

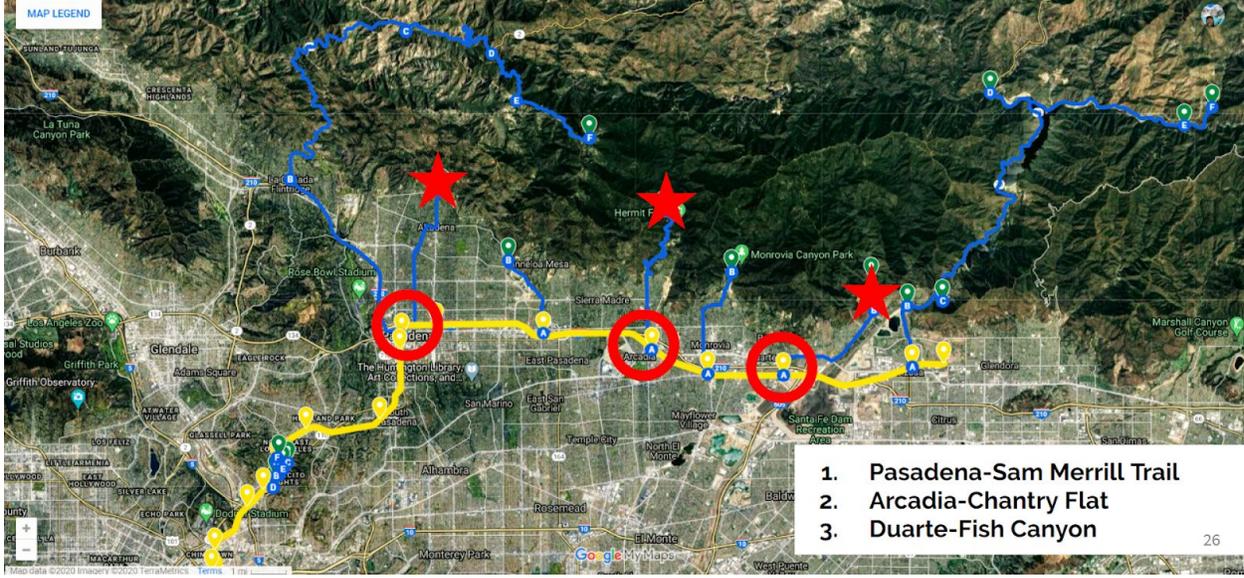
# Access for All: Disadvantaged Communities



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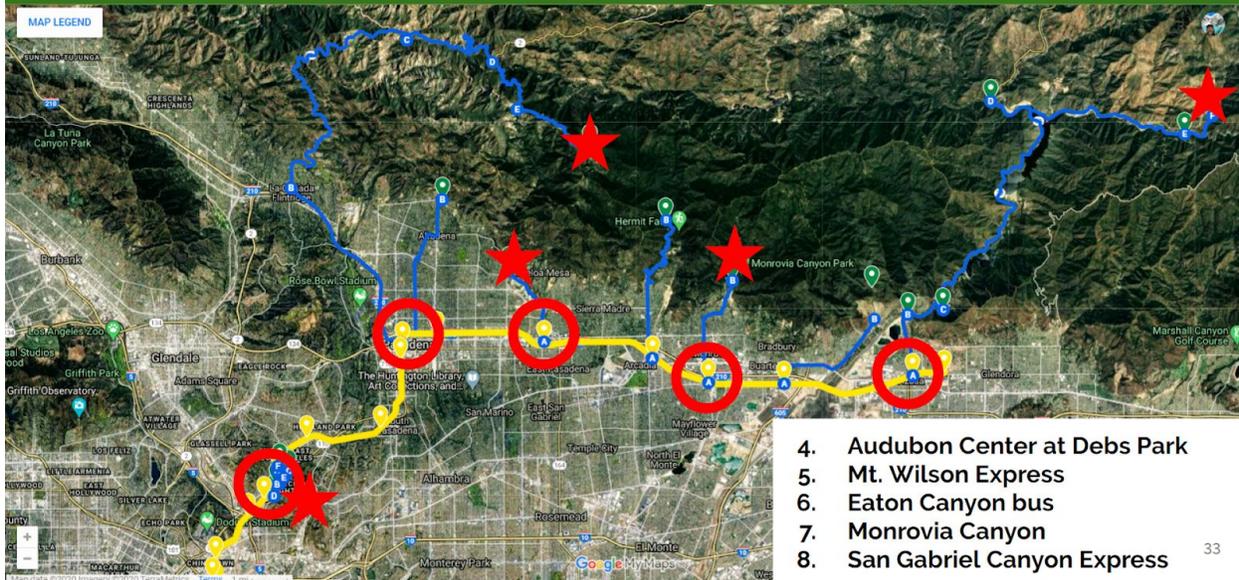
The initial Phase I assessment will cover **8 potential routes**, including 3 successfully demonstrated pilot routes, and 5 additional routes to the Angeles National Forest/San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and nearby natural areas.

# Successfully Demonstrated Pilots



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# Additional proposed SGM & nearby routes



A key study route is the “**San Gabriel Canyon Express**” shuttle route, an RMC priority which would travel up Highway 39 to the extremely popular West and East Fork San Gabriel River recreation areas. The route would depart the Downtown Azusa station and stop at the San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center and the River Wilderness Park as well.

## San Gabriel Canyon Express



**Departure:** GL Azusa Station

Popular summer destinations:

- 1. San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center**
- 2. River Wilderness Park**
- 3. West Fork of San Gabriel River**
- 4. East Fork of San Gabriel River**
  - Oaks Picnic Area
  - Bridge to Nowhere trail

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Another multi-destination route is the proposed “Mt. Wilson Express” shuttle route which is in the territory of the SMMC..

# Mt. Wilson Express



**Departure:** GL Memorial Park Station (Pasadena)

- 210 Fwy to Angeles Crest Hwy (2)
- Popular destinations:
  1. **Vista point**
  2. **Switzer Falls Trail/Picnic Area**
  3. **Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center & Trailheads**
  4. **Eaton Saddle Trailhead**
  5. **Mt. Wilson Observatory**
    - Tours, Cosmic Cafe, trailhead

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## Infrastructure and Site Improvements

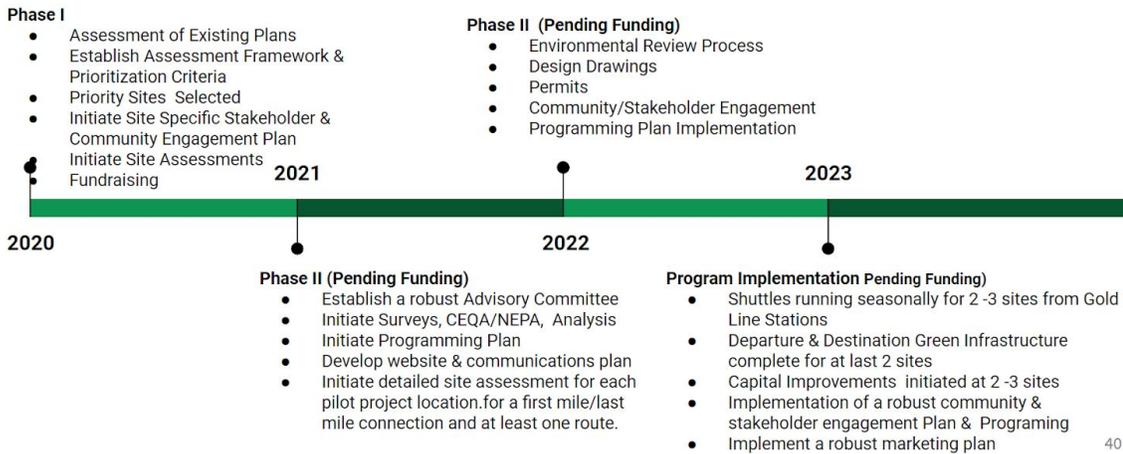
Infrastructure and site improvements to support the Transit-to-Trails routes along forest roads could include: shuttle stops, turnarounds, shelters, seating, multilingual shuttle information, wayfinding, educational signage, interpretive elements, ADA accessibility, trail improvements, habitat enhancement, green infrastructure and water sustainability features.

Infrastructure and site improvements at departure points along the Metro Gold Line stations may require similar facilities, in addition to assessing loading/dropoff areas and parking availability.

## Four Year+ Workplan

# Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP)

## FOUR YEAR+ WORKPLAN



## Scope of Work: Phase I

### Phase I Milestones



## Task 1 Program and Project Development

1.1 Analyze relevant existing plans and assessments re: recreational access to the San Gabriel Mountains including San Gabriel Canyon plans, and successful transit to trails programs in other regions. Including:

- Metro\_Transit to Parks Strategic Plan\_2019-05
- USDOT\_Angeles NF Transit Corridor Analysis\_2018-04
- USFS\_Chantry Flat Shuttle Pilot Report\_2016-12
- SGR East Fork - Visitor Use Survey\_2014-12-11
- RMC East Fork plans

1.2 Search, Interview, Hire Program Organizer (not Phase I)

1.3 Establish Project Evaluation Protocols: Assessment Framework and Prioritization Criteria

1.4 Develop Community and stakeholder engagement process

1.5 Identify participants for an inclusive working group of destinations/lead agencies

## Task 2 Project Advisory Committee & Community Outreach

Develop stakeholder group to support project planning and development.

2.1 Conduct at least 4 meetings of the Core Planning Team:

1. May 12, 2020
  - a. Status Update: We have established the Core Planning Team of 13 strategic advisors including RMC, and held the kickoff meeting. The [full slide presentation](#) and [video recording](#) (password: 1j^949P%) are available for more details.
2. July 14, 2020

- a. Finalize Existing Plan Assessment
  - b. Finalize Project Evaluation Protocols
  - c. Community/Stakeholder Engagement Plan Framework
  - d. Continue Infrastructure Assessment
  - e. Determine if Advisory Committee formation is necessary
  - f. Fundraising Update
- 3. October 2020
  - 4. December 2020

2.2 Conduct individual meetings with stakeholders as prioritized by the working group

2.3 Community Outreach & Engagement Re: All aspects of program

**Task 3 Existing conditions and preliminary infrastructure & transit needs assessment report**

3.1 Route and Site Assessment Report

- Route analysis and Existing conditions
- Preliminary infrastructure & transit needs assessment
- Ranked priorities assessment
  - Analyze and score project routes:
  - Identify short-term projects with little infrastructure needed
  - Identify longer-term projects requiring infrastructure for future consideration

To include:

- Routes, Gold Line departure points and Destination sites (e.g. in the forest) with sites 6, 7 & 8 being in the RMC territory and the focus of this grant application.

1. Audubon Center at Debs Park	2. Mt. Wilson Express (Hwy 2 sites)	3. Sam Merrill Trail	4. Eaton Canyon bus connectors	5. Chantry Flat	6. Monrovia Canyon	7. Fish Canyon	8. San Gabriel Canyon Express
Southwest Museum, Northeast LA	Memorial Park, Pasadena	Memorial Park, Pasadena	Sierra Madre Villa, East Pasadena	Arcadia	Monrovia	Duarte/City of Hope	Azusa

Data collection:

- Transit connection
  - Travel time - weekends
  - Frequency of service - weekends
  - Bus service
- Infrastructure Needs: Departure & Destination pts.
  - Route information

- Key Jurisdiction Contacts (Metro, City, County, DFW, USFS, etc.)
- Land ownership, parcel data
- GIS mapping
- Departure point data
- Destination point data
- Site Assessment/Surveying
- Biological resources
- Tools
- Accessibility ADA
- Parking spaces
- Rec Sites
- Planning
  - Concurrent projects
- Social
  - Demographic data
  - User surveys
  - DAC data
  - Neighbor Assessment
  - Business/Stakeholder Relationship Building
- Visitorship
  - Current visitorship #s
  - Demographics, stats
- Safety, Communications limitations/tech
  - No cell reception

Potential research items:

- Technical: Transit Vehicles
  - Shuttle data
  - Electric fleet mandate
  - Status on ZEV technology, bus/shuttle design innovation. vehicle power: incline.
  - Facility/Fleet requirements: Gas/Power,Charging, Maintenance
  - Connections to companies
  - Accessibility ADA
  - Bicycle carrying capacity
- Community engagement best practices
  - Inclusive lists of CBO's, Homeowner, Business groups to engage
  - Possible Partners Suggestions
- Transit-to-Trails best practices
  - Create new stewards. Pathway to stewardship. Leave no trace programming, messaging
  - Invite, seek partners to offer stewardship opportunities, volunteering, advise on messaging



**Budget Overview**

Item	Task	Total Budget	Phase I	Proposed RMC Funding
Task 1	Program and <i>Project</i> Development	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$3,000
Task 2	Project Advisory Committee & Community Outreach	\$55,000	\$15,000	\$1,000
Task 3	<i>Existing conditions and preliminary infrastructure &amp; transit needs assessment report</i>	\$31,000	\$6,000	\$4,000
Task 4	Programming	\$39,000	\$0	\$0
Task 5	Communications	\$30,000	\$3,500	\$0
Task 6	Project 1: First/Last Mile Direct Connection #1	\$66,000	\$0	\$0
Task 7	Project 2: Trailhead Shuttle or Express Route #1	\$346,000	\$0	\$0
Task 8	Project 3: Trailhead Shuttle or Express Route #1	\$346,000	\$0	\$0
Task 9	Project Management	\$150,000	\$30,000	\$1,999
Task 10	Final Project Reporting	\$55,000	\$0	\$0
	<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>\$1,143,000</b>	<b>\$74,500</b>	<b>\$9,999</b>

**Budget Detail and Task Timeline**

**Phase I RMC Request: Infrastructure/ Project development components**

Item	Task	Start Date	End Date	Budget	Phase I	RMC
<b>Task 1 Program Development (max 6 months)</b>						
<b>Task 1 Project Development</b>						
1.1	Analyze relevant existing plans, assessments re: rec access to San Gabriel Mtns, tested success programs other regions	06/2020	07/2021	\$5,000	\$5,000	
	including San Gabriel Canyon plans					\$1,000
1.2	Search, Interview, Hire Program Organizer	06/2020	07/2021	\$5,000		
1.3	Develop Evaluation Protocols & Implementation Plan	07/2020	09/2020	\$5,000	\$5,000	

	Establish Assessment Framework and Prioritization Criteria	06/2020	07/2020			\$2,000
1.4	Develop Community and stakeholder engagement process	07/2020	09/2020	\$5,000	\$5,000	
1.5	Identify participants for an inclusive working group of destinations/lead agencies	07/2020	09/2020	\$5,000	\$5,000	
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Task 2 Project Advisory Committee &amp; Community Outreach</b>						
	Develop stakeholder group to support project planning and development					\$1,000
2.1	Conduct at least 4 meetings of the group: Meetings 2, 3, 4	07/2020	11/2020	\$15,000	\$7,500	
2.2	Conduct individual meetings with stakeholders as prioritized by the working group	07/2020	11/2020	\$15,000	\$2,500	
2.3	Community Outreach & Engagement RE All aspects of program	06/2020	06/2022	\$25,000	\$5,000	
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Task 3 Existing conditions and preliminary infrastructure &amp; transit needs assessment</b>						
3.1	Infrastructure & transit needs assessment	07/2020	10/2020	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000
	Forest shuttle stop locations and trailheads. Including San Gabriel Canyon Express route					
	<b>Route and Site Assessments: Existing conditions and preliminary infrastructure &amp; transit needs assessment report</b>	07/2020	9/2020			
	<b>Ranked priorities assessment. Analyze and score project routes.</b>	10/2020	11/2020			
3.2	Conduct or contract consultants for studies, surveys and data collection as may be necessary	07/2020	8/2021	\$25,000		

	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
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**Funding**

We have submitted grant applications to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro Recreational Access program and will be continually applying for future funding opportunities including the Wildlife Conservation Board Public Access Program, among others.

Early funding received or committed for Phase I includes:

<b>1</b>	<b>Resources Legacy Fund</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>RMC</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Liberty Hill</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Nature for All</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$68,500</b>
<b>In Kind Services</b>	<b>SGM-TIP Core Planning Team partners</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Telephone (213) 974-4111 / FAX (213) 613-1739

**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

June 5, 2020

## **RE: San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)**

Dear Prospective Funder,

I am pleased to express our support for Nature for All's *San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)* proposal. The SGM-TIP will accelerate planning, feasibility and pilot implementation for Metro Gold Line Transit-to-Trails shuttles, walk routes and related programs to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces.

The SGM-TIP addresses critical regional needs. Half of L.A. County families live in "park poor" areas. A staggering 82% of communities of color lack green space, and many suffer from correlated air pollution, asthma, childhood obesity and diabetes. One way to provide parks access, thus public health and environmental benefits, is to connect families to the vast open spaces of the forest and National Monument in our backyard.

The San Gabriel Mountains are 70% of L.A. County's open space. 17 million people -- 1 in 20 Americans -- live within a ninety-minute drive. But for millions of residents without a car, lack of transportation is the #1 barrier to accessing these public lands. Even with a vehicle, limited trailhead parking is often full on weekends, further restricting public access.

The SGM-TIP is giving the opportunity to thousands of children and families living in some of the most underserved communities access to the San Gabriel Mountains and other public lands. This program can make a real difference in people's daily lives to promote the overall health of our communities. This project is about leveling the playing field and ensuring that every County resident has access to L.A. County's open space.

A solution that makes clear sense is connecting our investments in public transportation -- the Metro Gold Line, bus and active transit system -- to our public lands such as the San Gabriel Mountains. This will provide L.A. County children and families healthy outdoor access to world-class trails and mountain destinations, such as the Audubon Center at Debs Park, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Sturtevant Falls, the West Fork National Scenic Bikeway, and the wild San Gabriel River.

Page 2  
June 5, 2020

Investing in the SGM-TIP will also generate social, environmental, and economic benefits as well. Time recreating outdoors is well-documented to reduce stress, improve communities' physical and mental health, and environmental ethic. With 4 million annual forest visitors currently driving, a sustainable transit program will directly reduce traffic, greenhouse gases, smog, and improve our air quality. In tourism and business growth, L.A.'s 50 million annual visitors will gain access to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument with the SGM-TIP. Shuttle riders will additionally bring spending to local business districts and grow L.A.'s ecotourism economy, particularly as we look to the 2028 Olympic Games.

Providing access to our majestic public lands ensures that healthy recreation, education, and connection to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces are available to all generations. Thank you for your attention, and please feel free to reach out to Aydin Pasebani, Assistant Environmental & Special Projects Deputy at [AyPasebani@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:AyPasebani@bos.lacounty.gov) or at 213-974-4111 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**HILDA L. SOLIS**

Supervisor, First District

**MAYOR:**  
MARGARET CLARK

**MAYOR PRO TEM:**  
SANDRA ARMENTA

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
SEAN DANG  
POLLY LOW  
STEVEN LY



## City of Rosemead

8838 E. VALLEY BOULEVARD P.O. BOX 399  
ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770  
TELEPHONE (626) 569-2100  
FAX (626) 307-9218

February 20, 2020

Ms. Jane Beesley  
Deputy Director  
LA County Regional Park and Open Space District  
1000 S. Fremont Ave., #140  
Building A9 East, Ground Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91803

Subject: San Gabriel Mountains Access & Transit Planning Proposal

Dear Ms. Beesley,

The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) would like to extend its support for Nature for All's San Gabriel Mountains Access & Transit Planning Proposal. We represent a diverse group of civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the SGMCC and the U.S. Forest Service as a high priority.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains, however no single organization currently has enough dedicated staff or resources to coordinate this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to organize the region's stakeholders in an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders applying for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group or steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs, and interested stakeholders to coordinate transit access planning and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All is a dedicated member of the SGMCC, a collaborative group of diverse stakeholders that came together in 2015 to support the designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, including the San Gabriel Mountains, interdependent communities, watersheds, and ecosystems. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Clark". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Margaret Clark

Mayor, City of Rosemead

Steering Committee Vice-Chair, on behalf of the SG Mountains Community Collaborative

Enclosure: SGMCC Membership Organization List

San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative Membership Organization List

- Amigos de los Rios
- Angeles National Forest
- Antelope Valley Unit, Backcountry Horseman of California
- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)
- Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley) and Acton Town Council
- Bike San Gabriel Valley
- CalFire
- California Department of Transportation, District 7
- California Rifle and Pistol Association
- City of Santa Clarita
- City Project
- Community Hiking Club
- Community Partners, Trust for Public Land
- Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA)
- Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM)
- El Monte City School District, El Monte Promise Foundation
- Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC)
- Friends of the Angeles National Forest
- Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
- Gateway Council of Governments
- Gateway Water Management Authority
- City of Glendora
- John Minch & Associates
- LA County Board of Supervisors – 1st District (Solis)
- LA County Board of Supervisors – 5th District (Barger)
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Mount Wilson Bicycling Association
- Mountain High & Stevens Pass
- Mt Baldy Ski Lifts
- Mt. Baldy Lodge
- National Forest Foundation
- National Forest Homeowners
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
- Nature for All
- Palmdale Water District
- Pasadena Casting Club
- REI
- Rivers & Mountains Conservancy
- San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
- San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy
- San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers
- San Gabriel Valley Water Association
- Southern California Association of Districts
- Southern California Edison
- Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International
- The Sierra Club
- The Wilderness Society
- Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA)



**File Code:** 7730; 1580  
**Date:** February 24, 2020

Nature For All  
1817 Jackson Avenue, Room 2  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

To Whom it may Concern:

The Angeles National Forest pledges its support for Nature For All – San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements and Transit Planning Proposal. In 2019 the Angeles National Forest finalized the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) Plan, which includes a chapter on transportation planning. This grant supports the following desired conditions of the SGMNM Transportation Plan.

#### Transportation Desired Conditions

- The Monument is accessible through alternative transportation and public transportation options in coordination with other agencies and gateway communities to provide greater access for those who do not use personal vehicles, and for the benefit of reducing vehicle congestion, addressing parking capacity issues, and improving public safety.
- Road density within the Monument remains stable or is decreasing. The number of automobiles in high-use areas decreases over time as a result of alternative modes of transportation.
- Transportation connectivity to and within the Monument is improved through coordination with state, county, local, and regional government entities; municipalities; Tribal governments; other agencies; and the public.

In the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (National Monument) there are over 519 total miles of existing roads under various jurisdictions. Of these, over 276 miles are open to motor vehicle use. While there are a number of public transportation options available in municipalities surrounding the National Monument, there are currently no options for taking public transportation to and within the National Monument.

The goal of this proposal—to convene and establish a working group of interested stakeholders that may secure the agreements necessary to implement a comprehensive public transit-to-parks shuttle program to designated sites in the San Gabriel Mountains—will advance the Angeles National Forest goal to evaluate alternative transportation and public transportation opportunities, including identifying programs that facilitate access from underserved communities, ways to link public transportation options in gateway communities, and sites appropriate for bus access at key recreation areas.



In closing, I encourage you to fund Nature For All's proposal as they have been a dedicated community partner and have an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Angeles National Forest to address community access to the national forest.

Sincerely,



JEROME E. PEREZ  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Matthew Bokach, Nicholas Jamahl Butler



April 10, 2020

**SUBJECT: San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGMTIP)**

**OFFICERS**

*President*  
Cynthia Sternquist

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
Margaret Clark

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
Becky Shevlin

*3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President*  
Tim Hepburn

**MEMBERS**

- Alhambra*
- Arcadia*
- Azusa*
- Baldwin Park*
- Bradbury*
- Claremont*
- Covina*
- Diamond Bar*
- Duarte*
- El Monte*
- Glendora*
- Industry*
- Irwindale*
- La Cañada Flintridge*
- La Puente*
- La Verne*
- Monrovia*
- Montebello*
- Monterey Park*
- Pomona*
- Rosemead*
- San Dimas*
- San Gabriel*
- San Marino*
- Sierra Madre*
- South El Monte*
- South Pasadena*
- Temple City*
- Walnut*
- West Covina*
- First District, LA County  
Unincorporated Communities*
- Fourth District, LA County  
Unincorporated Communities*
- Fifth District, LA County  
Unincorporated Communities*
- SGV Water Districts*

Dear Prospective Funder,

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), we are writing to express our support for Nature for All’s San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGMTIP) proposal. The program will accelerate planning, feasibility, and pilot demonstrations for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (Metro) Gold Line rail connector shuttles, walk routes, and related programs to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces.

The SGVCOG proudly supports programs that promote environmental and sustainable efforts in the San Gabriel Valley and recognizes that the SGMTIP addresses critical regional needs as half of Los Angeles County families reside in “park poor” areas, with many of these families suffering from correlated air pollution, respiratory illnesses, childhood obesity, and diabetes. By connecting families to open space and providing access to disadvantaged communities to visit the San Gabriel Mountains, the SGMTIP can both provide parks access and address local public health and environmental justice concerns.

While 70% of Los Angeles County’s open space areas are located within the San Gabriel Mountains, millions of car-less residents are unable to visit these open space areas due to the lack of public transit services that provide access to the San Gabriel Mountains. As the population of Los Angeles County continues to increase, the San Gabriel Mountains’ popular trailheads have become overwhelmed with vehicle congestion.

By providing a solution to connect our investment in public transportation, the Metro Gold Line, and local bus and active transit systems to the San Gabriel Mountains, the SGMTIP can offer Los Angeles County children and families healthy outdoor access to world-class trails and mountain destinations, such as Mt. Wilson Observatory, Sturtevant Falls, and the San Gabriel River.

Investing in the SGMTIP will also general social, environmental, and economic benefits as time recreating outdoors is well-proven to reduce an individual’s stress levels, improve communities’ physical and mental well-beings, and promote environmental ethic. The SGMTIP can provide a sustainable transit program that directly reduces traffic, greenhouse gas emissions, and smog emissions as four million visitors travel to the San Gabriel Mountains by car every year. A shuttle service can also provide new opportunities for Los Angeles County’s 50 million annual visitors and routes can support local businesses districts and grow Los Angeles County’s ecotourism economy as the 2028 Olympic Games approach.

Providing access to our majestic public lands will ensure that our residents can enjoy the public health benefits of recreation, education, and connection to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces. The SGVCOG expresses our strongest support for Nature for All's San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program and please do not hesitate to contact us at (626) 457-1800 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Marisa Creter  
Executive Director  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments



**Foothill Transit**  
Going Good Places

March 5, 2020

**RE: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements and Transit Planning Proposal**

Dear Funder:

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal led by Nature for All in order to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains.

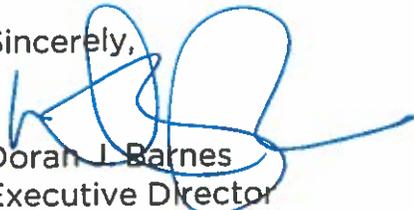
Foothill Transit is the primary public transit provider in the Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys of eastern Los Angeles County. Our service area spans from Montclair to downtown Los Angeles. For over 30 years, Foothill Transit has been committed to responsiveness and efficiency, to ensure that people are connected to their destinations. We believe that public transportation is the optimal solution to connect people to their communities.

Nature for All is proposing to establish a working group of interested members to coordinate transit access planning and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. Funds awarded for the proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for planning efforts, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

Foothill Transit supports the San Gabriel Mountain Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal. Providing access to our unique parks is beneficial to the community and ensures that everyone can enjoy the public health benefits of access, education, and connection to the San Gabriel Mountains.

We thank you for your attention to this letter. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Doran L. Barnes  
Executive Director

100 S. Vincent Ave., Suite 200 • West Covina, CA 91790 **W** [foothilltransit.org](http://foothilltransit.org) **P** 626.931.7300 **F** 626.915.1143

**MEMBER CITIES** Arcadia, Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Claremont, Covina, Diamond Bar, Duarte, El Monte, Glendora, Industry, Irwindale, La Puente, La Verne, Monrovia, Pasadena, Pomona, San Dimas, South El Monte, Temple City, Walnut, West Covina and Los Angeles County **A PUBLIC AGENCY**



Los Angeles State Historic Park  
1799 Baker Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 20, 2020

Re: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal

To: San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)

Dear Funder,

We represent civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who support the *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* led by Nature for All. We are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains to happen, however no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on tackling and coordinating this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region's stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

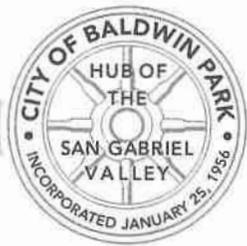
The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains.

I sincerely appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact me regarding any concerns. You can reach me by email: [Luis.Rincon@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Luis.Rincon@parks.ca.gov) or by telephone (213) 260-0492

Sincerely,

Luis M. Rincon  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Los Angeles State Historic Park – California State Parks



Manuel Carrillo Jr. • *Director of Recreation & Community Services*

Dear Funder (Potential addressees):

- Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Metro
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
- Other funders to support this planning proposal

**Subject: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal**

We represent civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who support the *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* led by Nature for All. We are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains to happen, however no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on tackling and coordinating this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region's stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sincerely,

Manuel Carrillo Jr.  
Director of Recreation and Community Services



February 25, 2020

**Subject: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal**

To whom it may concern,

- Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Metro
- Local, State and Federal Funding Programs
- Other funders to support this planning proposal

We represent civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who support the *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* led by Nature for All. We are acutely aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

Many communities and stakeholders we represent need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains and would like to see it happen. However, no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on addressing this complex challenge. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region's stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposed program will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sincerely,

**Luis Villa**  
**Executive Director**



Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District  
 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
 Measure A Competitive Grants Program - Recreation Access

February 21, 2020

**Re: Support for San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal**

Dear Selection Committee,

Special Service for Groups/Asian & Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM) is pleased to submit a letter in support of Nature for All's *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* to the L.A. County RPOSD Measure A Competitive Grants Program in the Recreation Access category. We are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains to happen, however no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on tackling and coordinating this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region's stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [henglam@apifm.org](mailto:henglam@apifm.org).

Sincerely,

Heng Lam Foong, MS  
 Program Director



905 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street | Los Angeles, CA 90021  
 Phone: (213) 553-1800 | Email: [info@apifm.org](mailto:info@apifm.org) | Website: [www.apifm.org](http://www.apifm.org)



day one

175 n. euclid ave.  
pasadena, ca 91101

p 626.229.9750  
f 626.765.6239  
[www.goDayOne.org](http://www.goDayOne.org)

board of directors

**alfred clark III**  
attorney  
lord bissell & brook, llp

**tom coston**  
president  
light bringer project

**seema satourian**  
clinical social worker  
cedars sinai medical center

**lorraine raisma**  
manager, organizational effectiveness  
Children's hospital

**darryl qualls**  
deputy chief  
pasadena police department

**natalie salazar**  
executive director  
crime stoppers

**denise sparks**  
partner spa sante

**delano yarbough**  
community activist retired PUSD  
principal

lead staff

**christy zamani**  
executive director

**claudia morales**  
community prevention director

**alfredo camacho**  
nutrition education, obesity prevention  
director

**jazmine de la torre**  
safe routes to school director

**alisha lopez**  
tobacco control and prevention director

February 21, 2020

**RE: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal**

Dear Funder,

- Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Metro
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
- Other funders to support this planning proposal

We represent civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who support the *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* led by Nature for All. We are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains to happen, however no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on tackling and coordinating this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region's stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains

Best regards,

Christy Zamani  
Day One Executive Director  
[www.dayonepasadena.org](http://www.dayonepasadena.org)  
Day One Tax ID #95-4172246

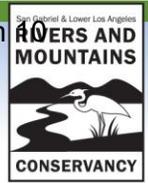


California Natural Resources Agency

Exhibit B

Item

# San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy



## Governing Board of Directors:

Frank Colonna, Chair  
Governor Appointed Public Member

Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair  
Central Basin Water Association

Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency

Denis Bertone  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Gary Boyer  
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency

Keely Bosler  
State of California, Department of Finance

Joe Kalmick  
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities

Margaret Clark  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Hilda Solis, Supervisor  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, First District

Roberto Uranga  
City of Long Beach

Ali Saleh  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Sandra Massa-Lavitt  
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities

Vacant  
Governor Appointed Public Member

Liz Reilly  
Governor Appointed Public Member

[Ex Officio Members](#)

Lena Gonzalez  
Member of the CA Senate

Honorable Patrick O'Donnell  
Member of the CA State Assembly

Lisa Mangat, Acting Director  
State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

John Donnelly  
State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board

Colonel Kimberly M. Colloton  
US Army Corps of Engineers

Shane Silsby  
Orange County Public Works Department

Stephen Johnson  
San Gabriel River Water Master

Jerome Perez  
Angeles National Forest  
US Forest Service

Mark Pestrella  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

[Executive Officer](#)

Mark Stanley

Date: 06/22/20

## RE: San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP)

Dear Prospective Funder,

I am pleased to express our support for Nature for All's San Gabriel Mountains Transit & Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP) proposal on behalf of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The SGM-TIP will accelerate planning, feasibility and pilot implementation for Metro Gold Line Transit-to-Trails shuttles, trailhead improvements, walk routes and related infrastructure improvements and programs to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces.

The SGM-TIP addresses critical regional needs. Half of L.A. County families live in "park poor" areas. This is due to development and increased density in the Los Angeles Basin that have been coupled with a lack of corresponding open space in the urban areas, which has contributed to park poverty, habitat fragmentation, and an increasing dependence on imported water to meet our needs. How can we provide better parks access while supporting public health benefits and environmental justice? One solution among many is to connect families to the vast open spaces of the forest and National Monument in our backyard.

The San Gabriel Mountains are 70% of L.A. County's open space. 17 million people -- 1 in 20 Americans -- live within a ninety-minute drive. But for millions of residents without a car, lack of transportation is the #1 barrier to accessing these public lands. Even with a vehicle, limited trailhead parking is often full on weekends, further restricting public access. A solution that makes sense is connecting our investments in public transportation -- the Metro Gold Line, bus and active transit system -- to our public lands, the San Gabriel Mountains. This will provide L.A. County children and families healthy outdoor access to world-class trails and mountain destinations, such as Mt. Wilson Observatory, Sturtevant Falls, the West Fork National Scenic Bikeway, and the wild San Gabriel River.

Additionally, with 4 million annual forest visitors currently driving, a sustainable transit program will directly reduce traffic, greenhouse gases, smog, and improve our air quality.

For 20 years, RMC has been empowering local and non-profits agencies to work with regional partners and local community groups to diligently advance sustainable open space and recreational opportunities within the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watersheds. Providing improved access to our majestic public lands ensures that healthy recreation, education, and connection to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces are available to all generations.

Thank you for your attention, and please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Stanley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Stanley  
Executive Officer

MS:jg



February 25, 2020

**Subject: San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal**

Dear Funder:

- Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Metro
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
- Other funders to support this planning proposal

We represent civic leaders and stakeholders in the Los Angeles region who support the *San Gabriel Mountains Access Improvements & Transit Planning Proposal* led by Nature for All. We are very aware of the need and opportunity to address transit gaps to the San Gabriel Mountains. This need was recently identified by both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative and the US Forest Service, Angeles District as a *high priority*.

To the point, the many communities and stakeholders we represent want and need transit to the San Gabriel Mountains to happen, however no one has enough dedicated staff or resources to focus on tackling and coordinating this challenging and complex goal. This proposal funds staff time to pull together the region’s stakeholders into an inclusive planning process, identify focused opportunities for pilot programs and transit infrastructure, pursue funding for the planning effort, and support stakeholders to apply for implementation funding.

The goal of the proposal is to establish a working group/steering committee of local, regional, state and federal agencies, NGOs and interested stakeholders to coordinate on transit access planning, and associated program services to the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposal will provide the required staffing and other resources necessary to effectively coordinate and advance this initiative in the region.

Nature for All plans to submit applications for funding this program, including, but not limited, to the Regional Park and Open Space District/Metro, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other state grant programs and private foundations. We, the undersigned, urge you to support this proposal with funding so that our communities and future generations may equitably enjoy the public health benefits of access, education and connection to our public lands -- the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sincerely,

**Demi Espinoza**  
Senior Equity and Policy Manager  
Safe Routes National Partnership

**Luis Villa**  
Executive Director  
Latino Outdoors

**Jonathan Parfrey**  
Executive Director  
Climate Resolve

**Marcus Selig**  
Vice President, Field Program  
National Forest Foundation

**Dennis Arguelles**  
Los Angeles Senior Program Manager  
National Parks Conservation Association

**Daniel Rossman**  
California Deputy Director  
The Wilderness Society

**Roberto Morales**  
Senior Organizing Representative  
Sierra Club National Office

**David Diaz**  
Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

**Casey Schreiner**  
Founder and Editor-in-Chief  
Modern Hiker

**Luis Rincon**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
CA State Parks

**Claire Robinson**  
Managing Director  
Amigos de los Rios

**Marissa Llanes**  
Deputy Director  
Community Nature Connection

**Raul Macias**  
President  
Anahuak

**Christine Tamara**  
SoCal Project Coordinator  
Hispanic Access Foundation

**Charles Thomas**  
Executive Director  
Outward Bound Adventures

**Scott Ammons**  
SoCal Regional Experiences Manager  
REI Co-op

**Dania Gutierrez**  
Southern California Program Manager  
National Forest Foundation

July 20, 2020 – Item 10

RESOLUTION 2020-28

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO NATURE FOR ALL FOR THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS TRANSIT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (SGM-TIP)

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 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (“Proposition 68”); and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects; 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, The proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project meets the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The grantee has requested a grant from Proposition 68, Chapter 8, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Water 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 Proposition 68 RMC Grant Program is consistent with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (“Proposition 68”), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
- 3 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 68.
- 4 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan.
- 5 FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan as adopted by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.
- 6 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 7 ADOPTS the staff report dated July 20, 2020.
- 8 AUTHORIZES a grant of in the amount of \$10,000 to Nature For All through December 30, 2020 for the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program (SGM-TIP).

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on July 20, 2020.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General