

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
“Rivers and Mountains Conservancy” (RMC)  
will be held on  
**Monday, September 21, 2020**  
**at 1:30 pm**

**At the following locations:**

**Per Executive Order N-29-20, Paragraph 3, issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020 and related to the State of Emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 virus, RMC board meetings will be temporarily conducted remotely via the below remote access information.**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING VIA ZOOM ADDRESS:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84688372728?pwd=enIxMlkvTDJPcU55Wm5ldGh5blpHUT09>

**Meeting ID: 846 8837 2728|Password: 450023 And by phone at 1-669-900-9128**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment

*Individuals wishing to offer public comment can fill out the [online form](#) for the official record and submit on or before September 18, 2020, by 4:00 pm by email to the RMC Board Secretary ([JFierro@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:JFierro@rmc.ca.gov)) to be read by Chair during the meeting. Public comment can also be made by individuals during the meeting by virtual means or phone which will be noted in the meeting minutes for official record and will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak. Although not required, in order to facilitate an orderly remote meeting, it is helpful to let RMC staff know in advance if you would like to make a public comment at the meeting. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers. Public comment will be limited to sixty (60) minutes.*

5. Approval of Minutes
6. Chair’s Report
7. Deputy Attorney General’s Report
8. **Executive Officer’s Report**
  - a. Legislative
  - b. Capital Outlay & Support Budget
  - c. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary
  - d. Project and Liaison Activities
  - e. COVID-19 Updates

**Regular Calendar**

9. Project Update for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center, Final Concept Design Phase Presentation (RMC 19509)
10. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to ratify a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order amendment to provide additional Concept Phase project outreach, construction cost estimate, shifting of environmental investigations, and timeline extension with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC19509)
11. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers

- and Mountains Conservancy to approve a Professional Services Agreement to provide Architectural Design Services for the Schematic Design Phase with Gehry Partners, LLP for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20503)
12. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to approve a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order to provide Engineering and Permitting Consulting Services for the Schematic Design and CEQA Phases with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20502)
  13. Announcement of RMC's Proposition 68 Regionwide Call for Projects
  14. Consideration of a resolution approving RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small and Very Small Grants Program Final Guidelines and Call for Projects
  15. Consideration of a resolution approving a Very Small Proposition 68 Grant to From Lot to Spot for the Community Engagement for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center and Lower LA River projects
  16. Board Member comments
  17. Announcement of next meeting date – Monday, November 16, 2020, @ 1:30 pm
  18. Adjournment

*The RMC may hold a closed session on any public hearing item pursuant to Section 11126(c)(7)(A), Section 11126(e) and Section 11126.3(a) of the Government Code. For additional information concerning the meeting, please contact the RMC Executive Officer, Mark Stanley at (626) 815-1019 or visit the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy web page at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov).*

*Note: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Board Secretary at (626) 815-1019 at least 3 days prior to the meeting.*

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)**

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

**Held at  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING VIA ZOOMADDRESS:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88592595115?pwd=cldBWWlvSGtlUm9XTWtuNW9NYmJhZz09>  
Meeting ID: 885 9259 5115|Password: 494340 And by phone at 1-669-900-9128**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was recited by all who were in attendance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Voting Members Present**

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Chair Frank Colonna                  | Vice Chair Dan Arrighi                     |
| Ms. Gary Boyer                       | Ms. Margaret Clark                         |
| Ms. Liz Reilly                       | Ms. Joe Kalmick                            |
| Mr. Denis Bertone                    | Mr. Amanda Martin (for Secretary Crowfoot) |
| Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt              | Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)       |
| Mr. Roberto Uranga                   | Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)   |
| Mr. Sally Lukenbill (for Ms. Bosler) | Mr. Ali Saleh                              |

**Non-Voting Members Present**

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mark Pestrella) | Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly) |
| Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Bazmi)     |                                    |

**Members Absent**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)                        | Mr. Ed DeMesa (for Ms. Colloton) |
| Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)                        | Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)  |
| Vacant (for Senator Gonzalez)                          |                                  |
| Ms. Marisol Barajas (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell) |                                  |

**Staff Present**

David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General  
Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst  
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager  
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager  
Sally Gee, Project Manager  
Arturo Gonzalez, Project Manager  
Jennifer Fierro, Executive Secretary

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made during the meeting.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections noted by the Board.

**Ms. Reilly motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0. Minutes were approved.**

**6. CHAIR’S REPORT**

There was no report given.

**7. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL’S REPORT**

There was no report given.

**8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

**A. Legislative**

Marybeth Vergara commented that the California State Legislature is currently not in session, however, the budget was signed by Governor Newsom and the Legislative leaders this past June. The budget deal that was reached includes member specific requests like funding for the Lower LA River and Compton Creek; although, budget revisions are still anticipated to occur in the month of August. She explained this could lead to adjustments based on the States revenue at that time, since this could potentially impact the conservancy it will be tracked and reported at the future board meetings.

Ms. Vergara reviewed SB1296, the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020. She stated this bill would require State Conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish independent grant programs with a focus on disadvantaged communities, encourage work force development, as well as jobs and training for disadvantaged communities. While discussions of an Economic Development, Parks, Climate, and Drought Tolerance Bond was in the works, it is no longer anticipated to be on the November ballot. She explained this bill has been held in suspense; however, it is possible to be reintroduced.

Mr. Stanley commented to the board that the bills for the RMC’s expansion and Park Districts along the San Gabriel River and LA River are being held in suspense until next session. Nevertheless, the bills will be tracked and reported and will possibly come with new bill numbers. He stated the next session would start in January 2021, but due to the impacts of the pandemic it could start later.

**B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget**

Salian Garcia stated the Capital Outlay report contains information on the total capital outlay funds appropriated, encumbered, and remaining from Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68, and 84 as

of June 30, 2020. She noted little activity because there are no recently approved grants and stated there was an addition to the direct funding for the budget act of 2019 of \$3 million to the LA River and \$3 million to the Compton Creek. This funding is anticipated to be available for encumbrance until 2023.

Ms. Garcia stated the total available funding for encumbrance and expenditure is \$112,541, 692. The Support Budget report is still being updated as there are invoices still being received from the last fiscal year and will be accrued for fiscal year 2020. She noted that Exhibit A-1, Support and operations Budget has been reduced. This is mainly because support funds for Propositions 40, 50, and 84 are running out. The focus is on using 0140 funding, Proposition 1 and 68 with an additional 5% reduction across the board. Exhibit B has not changed, and there have been no advanced funds. Lastly, the cumulative contract report will show that for the current fiscal year that older contracts that have fallen off the chart.

Board Member Bertone asked amount of \$112,541, 692, noted on page 2 of the report, was how much the board has? Ms. Garcia responded yes.

Board Member Bertone then asked when the next round for Call for Projects will take place? Mr. Stanley responded the next round of Call for Projects would take place in September for Proposition 68 region-wide funding.

### **C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary**

Ms. Garcia reported these are projects identified by funding source, Proposition 1, 40, 50, and 84. As of this date RMC has authorized 261 total projects, which consist of 204 completed projects, 45 are certified, 0 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 12 withdrawn projects.

### **D. Project and Liaison Activities**

The Project Managers gave updates about the various projects and activities for RMC.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the Strategic Planning Board Retreat and stated he is still looking to have this but due to the pandemic the planning for this event has changed in terms of the gathering potential of the board members. Efforts will be made to move forward with this, and the board will hear more in the future months.

Sally Gee reported on the River Ranger program and stated this project is at the pilot stage of establishing REACH zones and referred to a map on page 3 noting various REACH zones along the Rio Hondo. She noted some funding has been made available to implement programs leading to a collaboration with WCA to plan the implementation of the program. The next steps are to create a community advisory committee to discuss the programming, planning and implementation of the programs.

Joseph Gonzalez stated the IAG Meeting was last held June 24, 2020 where RMC provided updates on various projects. He noted a few from the liaison report: Measure A, a competitive grant program that is set to kick off at the end of the year with applications being accepted in September; an update of the Lower LA River Pocket Parks; a review of the Sleepy Lagoon Projects design and concept; a review of Deforest Park Projects vision plan; an update on Urban Orchard moving forward with construction this fall; and a review of

Parque dos Rios artistic gates and park signage. He also wanted to note that Trails Unlimited will be likely to send an application for the City of Paramount channels for habitat improvements. He stated the next meeting would occur in September.

Ms. Vergara gave a report on the Compton Creek Implementation Plan and stated they were able to retain the \$3 million, for allocation of the State 2019 Budget Act. She noted the Working Group continued to meet via phone and emails to stay updated on the analysis of properties identified in other planning efforts for the Compton Creek Watershed. These were narrowed down to two project sites in Compton but are still waiting to hear from the city to determine a site. The site identification should be confirmed by August, at which time they will have to return to the Board for an amendment to the contract with Studio MLA to complete construction documents to implement the project.

Ms. Vergara reported on the San Gabriel River and Wilderness Park Restoration Downey. She stated the Board had approved this project back in January 2017 as well as a grant amendment in the amount of \$1.3 million. This project is now in construction along the 605 freeway where you can see the lakes have been fully drained and improvements like the recycled irrigation system, native plant life gardens, trail improvements and signage have begun. She invited the Board to tour the construction site prior to completion and noted the board would receive a notice via email.

Ms. Vergara reported on the Urban Orchard Project Construction and stated the planning components of the project have been completed and are now working on the wetland components. The Trust for Public Land in partnership with the City of South Gate are working together to convert 30 acres of vacant land along the 710 freeway. Phase one of this portion will convert 7 acres of the property to a wetland and orchard and will pull water from the Bandini Channel to filter for the wetlands. This project is in process, although, delays like contaminated soil has left the project at a stand-still until additional funding can be identified. She noted the Trust for Public Land is waiting for possible approval for a grant from Urban Greening in efforts to proceed with the project

Board Member Reilly asked what the problem with the soil was? Ms. Vergara responded that the soil was more contaminated than first anticipated and this left an anticipated \$4 million cost for removal.

Board Member Clark asked if anyone knew what was done with the water that was drained from the lakes? Ms. Vergara stated she would have to ask the city what happened to the water and report back to her about that.

Ms. Gee reviewed the LCWA Planning and Restoration Project and noted that during the last board meeting comments were made regarding the LCWA's public engagement process carried out during as a part of the impact report. She stated the draft PIR went out May 8<sup>th</sup> for a 45-day public comment period which was set to close June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The public comment period was extended two more weeks and ended July 6<sup>th</sup> for a total 60-day comment period. During this time LCWA held two public virtual meetings to walk participants through parts of the EIR and allow the public to ask questions. After the public comment period closed, they received 23 letters from the public and are now being processed and responded to.

Ms. Gee reported on the Canyon Country Community Center and stated they have completed most of the construction of the storm water basins underground. During the last

meeting they requested an extension to complete some of the landscaping and interpretive elements that were delayed because of the pandemic.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH FOR THE MUNICIPLE URBAN STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECT.**
10. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SMALL GRANT TO NATURE FOR ALL FOR THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS TRANSIT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (SMG-TIP).**

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote –Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

11. **PROJECT UPDATE FROM GLAAC BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOR THE TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (RMC 18006)**

This report was a receive and file.

12. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY’S FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Nicole Law gave a presentation on this item and started by sharing the WCA’s mission. She reviewed the WCA’s Fiscal Year 2019-2020 accomplishments and noted that Administrative and Accounting established a \$1.5 Million Subvention Fund agreement with the RMC to provide WCA with project cash flow stability and that the Acquisition of Properties received a \$1,064,200 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the 40-acre Vasquez Overlook parcel. The Grants and Contract Awards Grants noted \$2,024,020 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for Duck Farm River Center Development Project. The Major Project Milestones include the Duck Farm Project that on February 27, 2020, several members of both the WCA & RMC Board of Directors participated in a construction site tour highlighting construction and landscaping elements of the park, and as of As of May 2020, a number of important tasks/deliverables have been completed; and Parque Dos Rios for which WCA, contracted with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to construct the habitat improvements and overlook bike stop along the Lower Los Angeles River in the City of South Gate.

She then reported the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Program Highlights and Opportunities like the Duck Farm River Park implementation project, the 30-acre park will be completed during the new fiscal year and arrangements will be made to open the park to the public; and the Parque dos Rios/South Gate Riparian Project, the 7-acre habitat restoration and overlook bike stop along the Lower LA River will be completed in August 2020 and will soon after be open to the public. A quick Budget Overview for the Consolidated Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 showed that the Total Revenue is 5,918,973, the Total Expense is 5,972,081, the Change in Net Position Before Transfers is 53,108, and the agency plans to use the

reserves to cover the deficits. She explained that the Revenue Overview projected a total of \$5,918,973 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Revenue available for general administrative and operational expenditures totals \$695,094 or 12% of all revenue. Revenue expected to be available and utilized for grant and special projects during the fiscal year totals \$5,223,878, of which \$2,619,351 or 50% is expected to be derived from federal, state, county, local funds, consultant contracts and other project revenue, \$2,604,528 is expected to be derived from grants from the RMC. The Expenditure Overview showed FY 20/21, expenditures are projected to total \$5,972,080. This total reflects 38% or \$3,719,596 decrease from FY 19/20 budgeted expenses. The decrease is primarily due to an anticipated decrease in capital outlay projects and costs from awarded grants and contracts for the agency's grants and special projects. The expenditure components are as follows: 1) General Administrative Expenses, \$179,797 or 3%, 2) General Operational Expenses, \$389,069 or 7%, 3) Personnel, \$681,713 or 11%, and 4) Grant & Special Projects Capital Outlay Expenses, \$4,721,501 or 79%. Lastly, Ms. Law reviewed the Grants and Special Projects Expenditure and stated the WCA anticipates that it will utilize \$5,223,878 of its grants and special project funding in FY 20/21, with a portion on hand being carried from the previous fiscal year. Expenditures allocated to capital activity are expected to total \$4,721,501. Capital activity accounts for all project expenditures except for personnel expenses and administrative overhead. The remaining \$502,377 is allocated to cover personnel expenses and administrative overhead as permitted by the grant and project agreements and in accordance with the WCA's Billable Rate Plan.

Board Member Reilly asked what the Compensation Plan Adjustment was for? Ms. Law responded that in June 2020 WCA issued an RFP to award a contract to a consulting firm to develop a Compensation Analysis Plan for which they are still waiting for responses.

Board Member Boyer noted discrepancies in the Revenue and Expenditure section, he asked if revenue intended for Administrative Costs are transferred around? He wondered why the revenues are not budgeted closer to what the actual expenditures are. He asked if this is standard practice for WCA? Mr. Stanley replied that the WCA receives funding from several sources through grants, bonds, Measures and more, of which a percentage is set aside for Administrative costs. Ms. Garcia added the percentage is determined by the prospective JPA agreements. Each JPA provides a certain amount each fiscal year which have not changed since 2010.

**Mr. Uranga motioned to approve this item. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote –Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STUDIO MLA FOR THE COMPTON CREEK PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (RMC19513)**

This item was pulled from the regular calendar.

**14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN RMC PROPOSITION 1 AND 68 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM DRAFT GUIDELINES**

Mr. Gonzalez recommended the RMC adopt a resolution approving RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Program Draft Guidelines. He stated the RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Draft Program Guidelines ("Small Grants Program") explain the process and criteria

that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds. The Small Grants Program will be limited to 15% of each allocation from Proposition 1 and 68. These guidelines have been adapted from the RMC Proposition 68 Regional and Lower LA River (LLAR) Final Guidelines, which were developed in consideration of public comment from four (4) public meetings in November 2018 and approved by the Board in January 2019 (Reso 2019-06). Additionally, the RMC Proposition 1 LLAR Guidelines are based on RMC Proposition 1 Regional Guidelines. Some of the key differences highlight in the Small Grants Program include: program places an emphasis on smaller quick start projects with grant awards between \$10,000 and \$300,000, and provides Proposition 68 grant funds for technical assistance to help develop and implement projects that achieve Conservancy's goals.

He went on to explain that the grant project continuum includes web design and development resources, technical advisors, training and development, and ongoing RMC support and professional services. Assistance in applying for grants, performing feasibility and other technical studies, and administrative grants is included to support grantees directly. He mentioned RMC is also looking at elements for smaller grants of up to 10,000, for GAP emergencies or small project implementations which is intended to be accepted as a proposal versus a complete application. The evaluation criteria for these grants would be 70% to allow these grantees to apply competitively. This will be an ongoing Call for Projects once the final guidelines are approved.

Board Member Chang asked if this program was only available to cities? Mr. Gonzalez replies yes, it is open for any qualifying candidates.

**Ms. Reilly motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote –Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

**15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no board member comments.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Colonna announced the next meeting would be held Monday, September 21, 2020.

**17. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 3:05 p.m.

X

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Frank Colonna  
Governing Board Chair

X

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Jennifer Fierro  
Board Secretary

**DATE:** September 28, 2020  
**TO:** Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board  
**FROM:** RMC Staff  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 8A: Legislative Report

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## Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>

State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

### Current as of 08/20/2020

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the RMC and its respective Joint Powers Authorities. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

## PARKS AND WATER

### **AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Outdoor Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/14/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder, this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve pupils who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program include interpretative/naturalist aptitudes, the program envisioned in this bill may underwrite these positions.

The Governor's January Budget proposed \$20 million to underwrite the development and implementation of the provisions captured in this bill. However, given the state of economic affairs in California, this appropriation was struck in the May Revise.

### **AB 2103 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/6/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Current law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the functions and duties of the

conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified areas of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located along the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River and tributaries along those rivers. Current law, for purposes of those provisions, defines “territory” to mean the territory of the conservancy that consists of those portions of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located within the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, as described. This bill would additionally include the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island, as described, within that definition of territory, and would make various related changes to the boundaries of that territory. This bill represents a repeat attempt at expanding the boundaries of the RMC. Last year’s AB 1694 stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee and the author has made a concerted effort to partner with legislative colleagues in the joint authoring of this measure. Given the shift in focus and priority of the Legislature in light of recent events, authors were encourage to downsize bill portfolios. This bill was among the many casualties subject to leadership directives.

**AB 2519 (Wood D) Conservation Projects: Grants: Advance Payments**

**Introduced:** 2/19/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 06/04/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board to administer various grant programs relating to natural resources. This bill would require, to the extent not in conflict with any other law, the Natural Resources Agency, the conservancy, the department, and the board, when awarding grants for conservation projects, as defined, to provide an advance payment of up to 25% of the total grant award if requested by a grant recipient.

**SB 474 (Stern D) Very high fire hazard severity zone: state responsibility area: development prohibition**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/19/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Formerly titled the California Wildfire Protection Act of 1990: Habitat Conservation Fund, this bill would establish the Wildlife Protection Subaccount in the Habitat Conservation Fund and would require the Controller, if an appropriation is made for this purpose in any fiscal year, to transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the subaccount, less any amount transferred from specified accounts and funds, to be expended by the board for the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat.

**SB 886 (Archuleta D) Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District: Establishment: Board of Directors**

**Introduced:** 1/23/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/18/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the establishment of the Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District by petition or resolution submitted to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission before January 1, 2020. Current law authorizes specified city councils, including the city council of the City of Montebello, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint members to serve on the initial board of directors of the district. Under existing law, a violation of any rule, regulation, or ordinance adopted by the board of directors of a recreation and park district is a crime. This bill would extend the deadline to submit the petition or resolution establishing the district from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2023.

**SJR 14 (Archuleta D) Whittier Narrows Dam: Flood Protection Improvements: Federal Funding**

**Introduced:** 2/26/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** This measure would urge the United States Congress to include and approve in its 2021 budget an appropriation of approximately \$385,000,000 to the United States of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program to perform the critically needed construction and repair work on Whittier Narrows Dam to protect the citizens of southeastern Los Angeles County from catastrophic flooding.

**AB 3030 (Kalra A):** Resource conservation: land and ocean conservation goals

**Introduced:** 2/13/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Existing law declares it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands, as defined, is an important strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, and requires all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands.

This bill would declare it to be the goals of the state by 2030 to protect at least 30% of the state's land areas and waters; to help advance the protection of 30% of the nation's oceans; and to support regional, national, and international efforts to protect at least 30% of the world's land areas and waters and 30% of the world's ocean. The bill would declare it a further goal of the state to improve access to nature for all people in the state and to provide for recreational and educational opportunities, including wildlife-dependent recreational activities, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

The bill would authorize the state to achieve these goals through specified activities. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to ensure that actions made in furtherance of these goals are conducted in a specified manner.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

**AB 2619 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Program for Climate Resilience, Adaptation, and Access**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**AB 3256 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/18/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Would enact the Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,980,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for an economic recovery, wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Prevention, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 1/23/2020, **Status:** Failed Deadline

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. Would also restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific. This is the Senate climate/resources bond vehicle that will serve as a compliment to AB 3256. This bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

**FEDERAL**

**Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)**

**Signed: August 4, 2020**

**Summary:** Fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and providing \$9.5 billion in funding to address a maintenance backlog at American national parks

There has not been a single year since the creation and enactment of the Land & Water Conversation Fund (LWCF) back in 1965 where the account was fully funded to its authorized amount of \$900 million. Funded through off-shore oil lease revenues and royalties, the LWCF is the only program at the federal level that provides for annual funding for park and conservation improvements in the US. Through the enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), the LWCF will be fully funded in perpetuity. The allocation or distribution formula associated with the LWCF is generally on a per capita basis or the percentage of a state's population compared to the rest of the nation. As the most populous state, California has always received the lion's share of available funds. The bulk of the allocated funds are typically routed through the California Department of Parks and Recreation both for state park unit improvements and for sub-allocations on a competitive basis to local agencies for park and greenspace improvements. Conservancies such as the RMC are not eligible for allocations or awards. However, in addition to cities, counties and park-specific providing special districts, Joint Power Authorities (JPA's) such as the WCA can compete for local dollars. It is difficult to predict the amount of funds that will be available on an annual basis for local grants but it is estimated that it will exceed \$25 million. Importantly, grantees must provide a 50% match or greater to compete. In addition to the full funding of the LWCF, The Great American Outdoors Act provided for more than \$9 billion in one time funding for conservation, access and user amenity improvements on federal lands such as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. It has been sited that there is a backlog of deferred maintenance on these lands exceeding \$10 billion and this investment will go far to address this need. California is experiencing record numbers in state, local and federal land visitations due in large part to the outset of Covid-19 and the enactment of (GAOA) could not be more timely.

**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Salian Garcia, Staff Services Manager I  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 8B: Capital Outlay & Support Budget

**BACKGROUND:** This report includes information on the RMC's revenue and expenditures from local assistance, capital outlay, and Lower Los Angeles River-specific projects.

The Capital Outlay report contains information on the total capital outlay funds appropriated, encumbered and remaining from Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68, and 84. For a detailed report on each approved grant and associated fund level, please refer to agenda Item 8C Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary. This report reflects balances as of August 31, 2020.

|   | Bond  | Appropriation  | Encumbered / Expended | Approved Pending Encumbrance | Projects Pending Board Approval | Balance       |
|---|---|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Local Assistance & Capital Outlay (Urban/Lower LA River-specific) | Prop 1 [§79735(a)]                                    | \$ 18,450,000  | \$ 8,498,037          | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 9,951,963  |
|   | Prop 68 - Prj/PM [§80100(a)(1)(B)]                    | \$ 25,196,345  | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 25,196,345 |
|   | Prop 68 - SDAC [§80100(a)(1)(B)]                      | \$ 7,507,155   | \$ 332,450            | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 7,174,705  |
|   | Prop 68 - TA/CA [§80100(a)(1)(B)]                     | \$ 2,559,000   | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 2,559,000  |
|   | Lower LA River Sub-Grant Program (Prop 1)             | \$ 28,100,000  | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 28,100,000 |
|   | Sub Total   | \$ 81,812,500  | \$ 8,830,487          | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 72,982,013 |
| Local Assistance & Capital Outlay (Territory-wide/Other)          | Prop 40   | \$ 37,097,363  | \$ 37,097,363         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ -          |
|   | Prop 50   | \$ 17,604,909  | \$ 17,604,909         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ -          |
|   | Prop 84   | \$ 36,000,000  | \$ 36,000,000         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ -          |
|   | Prop 1 [§79731(f)]                                    | \$ 28,305,875  | \$ 25,855,135         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 2,450,740  |
|   | Prop 68 - Prj/PM [§80110(b)(6)]                       | \$ 19,402,000  | \$ 3,738,920          | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 15,663,080 |
|   | Prop 68 - SDAC [§80110(b)(6)]                         | \$ 6,300,000   | \$ 1,996,380          | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 4,303,620  |
|   | Prop 68 - TA/CA [§80110(b)(6)]                        | \$ 2,048,000   | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 2,048,000  |
|   | Sub Total   | \$ 146,758,147 | \$ 122,292,707        | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 24,465,440 |
| Budget Act/Direct Funding   | Lower LA Restoration & Revitalization Funds (BA 2018) | \$ 19,000,000  | \$ 16,695,513         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 2,304,487  |
|   | Lower LA Restoration & Revitalization Funds (BA 2019) | \$ 3,000,000   | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 3,000,000  |
|   | Compton Creek Funds (BA 2019)                         | \$ 3,000,000   | \$ 220,248            | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 2,779,752  |
|   | Rio Hondo Confluence Signature Project                | \$ 7,000,000   | \$ -                  | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 7,000,000  |
|   | Sub Total   | \$ 32,000,000  | \$ 16,915,761         | \$ -                         | \$ -                            | \$ 15,084,239 |

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Appropriations                  | \$ 260,570,647        |
| Total Encumbered                      | \$ 148,038,955        |
| Total Approved Pending Enc.           | \$ 0                  |
| Total Projects Pending Board Approval | \$ 0                  |
| <b>Total Available for Enc/Exp.</b>   | <b>\$ 112,531,692</b> |

### **Projects Approved Pending Encumbrance**

None to report

### **Support Budget and Expenditures**

The attached Exhibit A is the Support & Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 which displays and tracks the administrative and operational expenses for the RMC. The revenue section of the report delineates the six fund sources for operations: Environmental License Plate Fund, Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68, and 84. The reports include expenditures that have been processed and sent to Contracted Fiscal Services for payment through June 30, 2020.

The attached Exhibit A-1 reflects the RMC's draft Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Support and Operations Budget. The RMC is currently awaiting proposed annual expenditures from the Department of General Services, specifically in contracted Human Resources, before finalizing its budget.

The attached Exhibit B outlines projects that have received advanced funds. Each project that receives advance funds must reconcile upon expenditure.

The cumulative contract report for the support budget is attached as Exhibit C. This report includes contracts executed under the Executive Officer's Discretionary Approval for under \$10,000.00 and those over \$10,000.00 that have been approved by the RMC Board.

***Exhibit A – FY 2020/21 Support & Operations***

***Exhibit B – Advanced Funds Report***

***Exhibit C – Contracts***

**RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
FY 2020 - 2021**

**Date of Report August 31, 2020**

| <b>REVENUE</b>               |                         |               |               |                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>ITEM</b>                  | <b>BUDGET</b>           | <b>FUND #</b> | <b>% Exp.</b> | <b>Balance</b>   |
| ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATES | 456,000                 | 0140          | 28.6%         | 456,000          |
| PROPOSITION 40               | 94,455                  | 6029          | 5.9%          | 94,455           |
| PROPOSITION 50               | 0                       | 6031          | 0.0%          | 0                |
| PROPOSITION 84               | 107,000                 | 6051          | 6.7%          | 107,000          |
| PROPOSITION 1                | 251,733                 | 6083          | 15.8%         | 251,733          |
| PROPOSITION 68               | 686,738                 | 6088          | 43.0%         | 658,396          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>         | <b>1,595,926</b>        |               | <b>100%</b>   |                  |
|                              | additional 5% reduction |               |               | <b>1,516,130</b> |

|                 |                         |         |         |         |     | <b>Month</b>             | <b>FY Completed</b>               |                                      |                                     |                         |                          |                       |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|                 |                         |         |         |         |     | <b>Aug</b>               | <b>17.0%</b>                      |                                      |                                     |                         |                          |                       |                         |
| <b>EXPENSES</b> |                         |         |         |         |     | <b>FY 2020/21 BUDGET</b> | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE</b> | <b>AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (\$)</b> | <b>AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (%)</b> | <b>BUDGET SPENT (%)</b> | <b>FY 2019/20 BUDGET</b> | <b>As of 06/30/20</b> | <b>% FY20 over FY19</b> |
| 5100000         | Civil Service Employees | 929,167 | 165,805 | 763,362 | 82% | 18%                      | 951,440                           | 761,673                              | -2.3%                               |                         |                          |                       |                         |

Operating Expenses and Equipment

General Expense

|                         |  |       |   |       |      |    |        |       |        |
|-------------------------|--|-------|---|-------|------|----|--------|-------|--------|
| <a href="#">5301200</a> | Dues and Memberships                     | 500   | 0 | 500   | 100% | 0% | 1,000  | 159   | -50.0% |
| <a href="#">5301700</a> | Miscellaneous Office Supplies            | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 100% | 0% | 5,000  | 1,945 | -60.0% |
| <a href="#">5301700</a> | Miscellaneous Office Supplies - COVID-19 | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 100% | 0% | 0      | 0     | 0.0%   |
| <a href="#">5301050</a> | Advertising                              | 500   | 0 | 500   | 100% | 0% | 5,000  | 4,070 | -90.0% |
| <a href="#">5301150</a> | Conferences                              | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 100% | 0% | 5,000  | 1,507 | -80.0% |
| <a href="#">5301500</a> | Meeting                                  | 200   | 0 | 200   | 100% | 0% | 2,000  | 115   | -90.0% |
| <a href="#">5301450</a> | Library purchases                        | 0     | 0 | 0     |      |    | 1,000  | 0     | 0.0%   |
| <a href="#">5368115</a> | Office Equipment (non capital)           | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 100% | 0% | 10,000 | 422   | -90.0% |
| <a href="#">5301620</a> | Office equipment rental, maint.,& repair | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 100% | 0% | 1,000  | 185   | 0.0%   |
| <a href="#">5368045</a> | Furniture                                | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 | 100% | 0% | 60,000 | 0     | -96.7% |
| <a href="#">5301350</a> | Freight                                  | 500   | 0 | 500   | 100% | 0% | 10,000 | 0     | -95.0% |

Exhibit A

Item 8B

| ITEM  | FY 2020/21 BUDGET | TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE | AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (\$) | AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (%) | BUDGET SPENT (%) | FY 2019/20 BUDGET | As of 06/30/20 | % FY20 over FY19 |  |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| <a href="#">5105100</a> Board Members                                   | 4,200             | 0                          | 4,200                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 2,800             | 1,555          | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5150900</a> Staff Benefits (ie. Employee Wellness Program)  | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 6,500             | 4,290          | 0.0%             |  |
| Printing  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5302800</a> Photocopy (ie. Konica)                          | 5,000             | 0                          | 5,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 8,000             | 3,514          | -37.5%           |  |
| <a href="#">5302300</a> Office copier expense (ie. maint.)              | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 0                 | 0              | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5346700</a> IT Supplies (ie. Paper, toner)                  | 2,500             | 0                          | 2,500                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 4,500             | 304            | -44.4%           |  |
| <a href="#">5302600</a> Office Copier Supplies (ie. staples, cords)     | 500               | 0                          | 500                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 500               | 0              | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5302900</a> Printing - Not Otherwise Classified             | 500               | 0                          | 500                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 2,500             | 1,424          | -80.0%           |  |
| Communications  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5304100</a> Cell phones, PDAs, pagers                       | 5,000             | 93                         | 4,907                         | 98%                          | 2%               | 3,000             | 1,907          | 66.7%            |  |
| <a href="#">5304700</a> Telephone                                       | 4,000             | 243                        | 3,757                         | 94%                          | 6%               | 5,000             | 3,212          | -20.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5304800</a> Communications -Not Otherwise Classified        | 2,000             | 42                         | 1,958                         | 98%                          | 2%               | 2,000             | 1,359          | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5304260</a> Maintenance                                     | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 0                 | 0              | 0.0%             |  |
| Postage   |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5306200</a> Postage, stamps, stamped envelopes, etc.        | 500               | 0                          | 500                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 500               | 17             | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5306600</a> Postage Meter (rent, repair, refills, supplies) | 2,500             | 0                          | 2,500                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 5,000             | 1,832          | -50.0%           |  |
| Travel: In State & OST  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5320220</a> Travel - In State Lodging                       | 500               | 0                          | 500                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 1,000             | 788            | -50.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5320480</a> State Vehicle - related travel                  | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 1,000             | 654            | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5390850</a> State Vehicle - General Maintenance/Repair      | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 2,000             | 61             | -50.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5390800</a> State Vehicle - Gasoline                        | 2,500             | 0                          | 2,500                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 2,000             | 1,092          | 25.0%            |  |
| <a href="#">5308700</a> Insurance - Vehicle                             | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 1,000             | 657            | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5320400</a> Commercial Air Transportation                   | 4,000             | 0                          | 4,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 12,000            | 5,329          | -66.7%           |  |
| <a href="#">5320240</a> Travel - Per Diem Allowances                    | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 2,000             | 540            | -50.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5320440</a> Private Car (ie. Mileage)                       | 3,000             | 15                         | 2,985                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 4,500             | 3,341          | -33.3%           |  |
| <a href="#">5320470</a> Rental Car                                      | 500               | 0                          | 500                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 1,500             | 120            | -66.7%           |  |
| <a href="#">5320610</a> Travel - OST Lodging                            | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 800               | 773            | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5320630</a> Travel - OST Per Diem Allowances                | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 400               | 101            | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5320260</a> Travel Agency Mgmt & Transaction Fees           | 200               | 0                          | 200                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 200               | 119            | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5390870</a> Other Vehicle Operations Services               | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 1,000             | 0              | 0.0%             |  |

Exhibit A

Item 8B

| ITEM  | FY 2020/21 BUDGET | TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE | AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (\$) | AVAILABLE BUDGET BALANCE (%) | BUDGET SPENT (%) | FY 2019/20 BUDGET | As of 06/30/20   | % FY20 over FY19 |  |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Training  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5322400</a> Tuition and Registration Fees                 | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 8,500             | 6,635            | -88.2%           |  |
| Facilities Operation  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5324250</a> Facilities Planning - General Svs, etc        | 20,000            | 0                          | 20,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 20,000            | 13,942           | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5324150</a> Facilities Operations - other                 | 19,500            | 0                          | 19,500                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 40,000            | 0                | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5324150</a> Facilities Operations - other (COVID19)       | 2,000             | 0                          | 2,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 0                 | 0                | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5324450</a> Rent, Buildings and Grounds                   | 49,564            | 8,020                      | 41,544                        | 84%                          | 16%              | 49,560            | 48,120           | 0.0%             |  |
| Professional Services   |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| Planning and Monitoring   |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5340330</a> Interdepartmental Professional Services       | 10,200            | 0                          | 10,200                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 3,000             | 1,014            | 240.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5340210</a> Accounting Interdepartment (PRO RATA PROCES   | 146,825           | 0                          | 146,825                       | 100%                         | 0%               | 232,100           | 233,932          | -36.7%           |  |
| <a href="#">5340220</a> Administrative Interdepartment                | 33,345            | 0                          | 33,345                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 25,000            | 20,596           | 33.4%            |  |
| <a href="#">5340310</a> Attorney General                              | 70,000            | 0                          | 70,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 70,000            | 64,938           | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5150800</a> Workers Compensation                          | 4,500             | 0                          | 4,500                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 25,000            | 3,865            | -82.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5340420</a> External Administrative Services              | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 10,000            | 0                | -100.0%          |  |
| <a href="#">5340490</a> External Prof Svs-IT                          | 68,229            | 5,415                      | 62,814                        | 92%                          | 8%               | 120,000           | 69,160           | -43.1%           |  |
| <a href="#">5340580</a> External Prof Svs-Other Consulting & Prof Svs | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 45,000            | 11,762           | -100.0%          |  |
| Information Technology  |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5368025</a> Computer & Computer Equip (Non Capital)       | 10,000            | 0                          | 10,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 13,500            | 10,503           | -25.9%           |  |
| <a href="#">5362240</a> Computer & Computer Equip (Capital)           | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 10,000            | 0                | -100.0%          |  |
| <a href="#">5362290</a> Office Equipment (Capital)                    | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 10,000            | 0                | -100.0%          |  |
| <a href="#">5346390</a> IT Services - Other (Security, Archival, etc) | 8,000             | 48                         | 7,952                         | 99%                          | 1%               | 12,000            | 6,402            | -33.3%           |  |
| <a href="#">5346340</a> Software                                      | 6,000             | 0                          | 6,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 10,000            | 5,139            | -40.0%           |  |
| <a href="#">5346320</a> Hardware Maintenance                          | 1,000             | 0                          | 1,000                         | 100%                         | 0%               | 0                 | 0                | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5346500</a> Internet Service Provider                     | 20,000            | 0                          | 20,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 20,000            | 19,004           | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5346800</a> Electronic Waste and Disposal Fees            | 200               | 0                          | 200                           | 100%                         | 0%               | 200               | 27               | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5346900</a> IT - Hardware/Construction                    | 0                 | 0                          | 0                             |                              |                  | 14,000            | 13,000           | 0.0%             |  |
| Central Administration Services                                       |                   |                            |                               |                              |                  |                   |                  |                  |  |
| <a href="#">5432000</a> Grants & Subventions - Governmental           | 55,000            | 0                          | 55,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 55,000            | 55,000           | 0.0%             |  |
| <a href="#">5432500</a> Grants & Subventions - NonGovernmental        | 10,000            | 0                          | 10,000                        | 100%                         | 0%               | 50,000            | 15,350           | -80.0%           |  |
| <b>OPERATIONS SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>586,963</b>    | <b>13,876</b>              | <b>573,087</b>                | <b>98%</b>                   | <b>2%</b>        | <b>1,011,560</b>  | <b>639,620</b>   | <b>-42.0%</b>    |  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>1,516,130</b>  | <b>179,680</b>             | <b>1,336,450</b>              | <b>88%</b>                   | <b>12%</b>       | <b>1,963,000</b>  | <b>1,401,293</b> | <b>-22.8%</b>    |  |

Exhibit B: Report on Advance Funds

Fiscal Year 2020-2021  
Balances as of 08/31/20

| RMC Project Number | Project Name | Grantee | Total Funds Granted from RMC | Advance Amt. Requested | Date on Advance Check from SCO | Remaining balance from advance request | Deadline for Expenditure of Advance | Status |
|--------------------|--------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------|
|                    |              |         |                              |                        |                                |  |                                     |        |
|                    |              |         |                              |                        |                                |  |                                     |        |
|                    |              |         |                              |                        |                                |  |                                     |        |
|                    |              |         |                              |                        |                                |  |                                     |        |
|                    |              |         |                              |                        |                                |  |                                     |        |

| Contract Number | Contractor Name                     | Amount of contract | Start Date | End Date   | Scope of Work   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|---|
| RMC18510        | Urbanism Advisors                   | \$ 90,000.00       | 03/01/19   | 06/30/22   | Specialized consulting services related to the RMC's expansion (AB 1694/AB 2103), including outreach to local governments and agencies, attendance in meetings with team and elected officials, and other tasks necessary to support the expansion. Other services are related to the Green Incubator.  |
| RMC18514        | US Bank CAL-Card                    | \$ 10,000.00       | 4/24/2019  | 12/31/2020 | The CAL-Card is a "no cost" program unless an unpaid invoice has accrued late penalties; late penalties are assessed on day 46 from the invoice date. Card will be used for vendors that do not accept purchase orders (i.e. Dropbox)   |
| RMC19506        | Watershed Conservation Authority    | \$ 1,500,000.00    | 7/1/2019   | 6/30/2021  | Benefits accruing as a result of the transactions completed by this Agreement, including, without limitation, (i) fulfillment of the Authority's mission (ii) direct benefits such as revenues from the projects and increased revenues from property, parking, business, utility, (iii) the enhanced economic opportunities for business surrounding the projects and in the Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds, and (iv) the benefits such as revitalization of the Lower Los Angeles River together with the Authority's obligations under this Agreement, its communities, partners, and grantors, represent fair consideration for all of the obligations to be understood by the Conservancy as contemplated by this Agreement. |
| RMC19507        | Cyber Specialists, Inc              | \$ 255,000.00      | 12/01/19   | 06/30/23   | Professional services included, but not limited to, assisting in the design, configuration and on-going maintenance/service of existing onsite network and GIS servers, and support.  |
| RMC19508        | Citibank, N.A.                      | No max             | 01/29/20   | 10/31/21   | Agreement is under DGS MSA 5159906 for Travel Payment System.   |
| RMC19509        | Geosyntec Consultants               | \$ 2,188,970.00    | 01/06/20   | 07/31/20   | Professional services include architectural, engineering, planning, and community engagement services through the Concept Design phase, and prelim Section 408 permit coordination.   |
| RMC19511        | Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc (MIG)  | \$ 148,070.00      | 01/02/20   | 09/30/20   | Update to the Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea Open Space Plan  |
| RMC19512        | Department of Water Resources (DWR) | \$ 4,800.00        | 07/01/19   | 06/30/22   | IAA for IT shared-services and/or computer resources, including website hosting and website compliancy assessment/redesign  |
| RMC19513        | Studio-MLA                          | \$ 220,248.00      | 11/18/19   | 12/31/20   | Planning and engagement services for the landscape architectural scope for the Compton Creek Implementation project   |

**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Salian Garcia, Staff Services Manager I  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 8C: Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

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The Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary report reflects projects with activity during the current fiscal year, including those that were approved, certified, completed or withdrawn. Each project is identified by funding source, Proposition 1, 40, 50, and 84; project name; applicant name; allocated amount; and the project status. The report is sorted by grant number. The status section for each grant has been updated to provide additional detail on the grantees' current activities and progress toward project completion.

Since 2003, the RMC has authorized 262 total projects, which consist of 204 completed projects, 46 are certified, 0 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 12 withdrawn projects. The total number of projects excludes any potential projects that are awaiting board approval.

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Status Report as of 08/31/20

| Project ID | Project Manager  | Project Name  | Applicant                        | Workprogram Status | Project Description  | Project Status                           | Prop 1          | Prop 68 | Prop 40 | Prop 50         | Prop 84         | Total Funding   |              |
|------------|------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| RMC3609-1  | Joe              | Duck Farm Phase IA Implementation                             | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 23 acre river adjacent park project.  | Amend 9 - end 12/31/20                   | \$              | - \$    | - \$    | 1,979,818.96 \$ | 1,170,223.03 \$ | 2,649,958.01 \$ | 5,800,000.00 |
| RMC09105   | Joe              | San Gabriel River confluence w/Cattle Cyn Improvement Project | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | Project seek to provide improvements on the portion of the confluence of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River with Cattle Canyon and its creek.  | Need extension                           | \$              | - \$    | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | 869,584.00 \$   | 869,584.00   |
| RMC14001   | Joe              | Azusa River Wilderness Park Entry                             | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | The design development for front entry improvements at the River Wilderness Park are underway.   |  | \$              | - \$    | - \$    | 439,935.00 \$   | - \$            | 91,019.00 \$    | 530,954.00   |
| RMC14003   | Marybeth/Ar turo | Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek Project                | Los Angeles Conservation Corps   | Completed          | The Willowbrook walking path project will create a 1/2 linear park along Compton Creek within the unincorporated community of Willowbrook.   | Related to RMC18001                      | \$              | - \$    | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | 300,000.00 \$   | 300,000.00   |
| RMC16001   | Sally            | Vasquez Property Acquisition                                  | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | Funding for the acquisition of ±40 acres of undeveloped open space located in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills above the City of Azusa, within unincorporated Los Angeles County.  | Close out in process                     | \$              | - \$    | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | 720,000.00 \$   | 720,000.00   |
| RMC17001   | Marybeth         | View Park & Recycled Water Campus                             | City of Signal Hill              | Certified          | The project will reclaim a municipally owned industrial site and provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks, connect an urban trail system, and prevent runoff pollution.                           | Need extension                           | \$ 2,000,000.00 | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 2,000,000.00 |
| RMC17002   | Marybeth         | San Gabriel River and Wilderness Park Restoration Project     | City of Downey                   | Certified          | This project will significantly enhance these ponds by improving the habitat (creating wetlands) for native birds and plant species and provide a respite for migratory birds.   | Need extension                           | \$ 3,210,000.00 | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 3,210,000.00 |
| RMC17003   | Marybeth         | Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan                   | City of Cudahy                   | Completed          | The plan seeks to develop a long range water conservation an park plan to establish a blueprint that will identify and create an inventory of: water efficiency, conservation, runoff, etc.; and sites for new parks.  | Project complete                         | \$ 293,000.00   | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 293,000.00   |
| RMC17004   | Marybeth/Jo e    | Recycled Water Campus on San Gabriel River Parkway            | Water Replenishment District     | Completed          | The project includes many interpretive and education aspects with an outdoor amphitheater, demonstration gardens for native plants, eco-friendly gardening, multi-lingual signage, and other visitor facilities  |  | \$ 1,000,000.00 | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 1,000,000.00 |
| RMC17005   | Joe              | Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project       | Amigos de los Rios               | Completed          | This project will enhance campus "green infrastructure", urban habitat, and demonstrate sustainable public landscaping in terms of water use, improved infiltration, and storm water management.   | Final payment, plus retention, completed | \$ 652,520.00   | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 652,520.00   |
| RMC17006   | Joe/Marybeth     | Planning for the Urban Orchard                                | Trust for Public Land            | Completed          | Project will transform 30 acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths. | Project complete                         | \$ 845,000.00   | \$      | - \$    | - \$            | - \$            | - \$            | 845,000.00   |

Status Report as of 08/31/20

| Project ID | Project Manager     | Project Name   | Applicant  | Workprogram Status | Project Description   | Project Status  | Prop 1          | Prop 68 | Prop 40 | Prop 50 | Prop 84       | Total Funding   |
|------------|---------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|---|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| RMC17007   | Sally               | West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition                           | City of Fullerton                                | Certified          | Funding for acquisition of this property would assist in purchasing 10.4 acres of open space adjacent to Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve.  | Acquisition to be completed by Fall 2020  | \$ 2,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 2,000,000.00 |
| RMC17009   | Sally               | Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (MUST)                        | City of Long Beach                               | Certified          | The LB-MUST Project proposes to improve water quality by intercepting and treating the dry weather flows and a portion of the first flush of stormwater runoff normally discharging into the Los Angeles River.                                 | Need extension  | \$ 2,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 2,000,000.00 |
| RMC17011   | Sally               | Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project                    | County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works | Certified          | The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County.  |   | \$ 268,500.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 268,500.00   |
| RMC17013   | Sally               | Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties         | Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority                  | Certified          | The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue.  |   | \$ 1,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 1,000,000.00 |
| RMC17014   | Sally               | Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project             | Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority                  | Certified          | The LCWA is completing the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the CEQA and the NEPA.  |   | \$ 500,000.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 500,000.00   |
| RMC17015   | Joe                 | Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo & Peck Water Conservation Project       | Amigos de los Rios                               | Certified          | This project will enhance biodiversity, water quality, stormwater & urban run-off management along Rio Hondo Emerald Necklace & within Peck Park by adding green infrastructure elements along River Parkway                                    | Close out in process  | \$ 617,385.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 617,385.00   |
| RMC17017   | Marybeth            | Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration & Water Quality Improvement | City of Lynwood                                  | Completed          | Project seeks to replace the parking lot asphalt with permeable pavers; establish green space with native plants and shrubs in the parking lot perimeter; and install bio-swale along the parking lot median, to improve stormwater management. | Project move from Lynwood Park to Fernwood Avenue (RMC19002) due to poor percolation at the site. | \$ 41,822.45    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 41,822.45    |
| RMC17018   | Joe/Marybeth/Arturo | Phil and Nell Soto Park  | City of Pomona                                   | Certified          | Development of a new recreational passive community park that incorporates the City's history and features amenities including a bioswale system, decomposed granite walking trails for water permeability, and                                 | Need extension  | \$ 1,150,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 1,150,000.00 |
| RMC17019   | Joe                 | San Gabriel Mountains & Foothills Acquisition Master Plan Project  | Watershed Conservation Authority                 | Certified          | This plan will provide for the preservation and enhancement of vital habitat, watersheds and related biodiversity protection to improve ecological function.  |   | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 250,000.00   |
| RMC17020   | Joe                 | River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development                          | Watershed Conservation Authority                 | Certified          | This proposed project will reshape and vegetate the arroyos and adjacent landscape to be both functional and to showcase the power of natural systems.  |   | \$ 1,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 1,000,000.00 |
| RMC17022   | Sally/Marybeth      | LA River Ranger Implementation                                     | Watershed Conservation Authority                 | Completed          | In partnership with the MRCA, the WCA will provide oversight of the implementation of the LA River Ranger program.  | Phase I complete. See RMC18003 for Phase II.  | \$ 250,000.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ 250,000.00   |

Status Report as of 08/31/20

| Project ID | Project Manager | Project Name   | Applicant  | Workprogram Status | Project Description  | Project Status                       | Prop 1          | Prop 68 | Prop 40       | Prop 50      | Prop 84         | Total Funding   |
|------------|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| RMC17023   | Sally           | Duck Farm House Landscape and Water                                    | Watershed Conservation Authority                         | Certified          | The improvements will be a resource for local disadvantaged communities, the greater region and will seek to catalyze change to climate adaptive home landscape design throughout the watershed.   |                                      | \$ 891,200.00   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 891,200.00   |
| RMC17024   | Joe             | San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative                          | National Forest Foundation                               | Certified          | Facilitate the implementation of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) Action Plan. The plan will align goals and intentions with the US Fores Service's priorities.   |                                      | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ 66,009.50    | \$ 66,009.50    |
| RMC17026   | Sally           | Pacific Visions  | Aquarium of the Pacific                                  | Certified          | The AOP is developing a series of exhibits and interactive experiences as part of its current expansion, Pacific Visions, that will allow visitors to explore the interactions among food, water, and energy in California.  | Pacific Visions Opening May 24, 2019 | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ 372,000.00 | \$ 65,000.00 | \$ 1,463,000.00 | \$ 1,900,000.00 |
| RMC17027   | Joe/Marybeth    | Magic Johnson Park   | County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works         | Certified          | Support of the water infrastructure improvements and construction near South Lake, a component of the park's larger \$50 million, multi-phase Master Plan Project.   |                                      | \$ 3,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 3,000,000.00 |
| RMC18001   | Arturo          | Compton Creek Walking Path Phase II                                    | Los Angeles Conservation Corps                           | Certified          | This grant will specifically help fund the retaining wall to ensure safe passage for the trail users as well as obtain the permits required, waterproof the wall, and related expenditures for the drainage system associated with the wall.   | Related to RMC14003, need close out  | \$ 300,000.00   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 300,000.00   |
| RMC18002   | Joe             | Duck Farm Phase IA - Step 2  | Watershed Conservation Authority                         | Certified          | Development of a 31-acre river adjacent park that includes a pocket park and entry, parking, 1.25 mile rail and wildflower meadow. This grant will primarily be used for construction, plant establishment, and project close out.   | Related to RMC3609                   | \$ 796,000.00   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ 404,000.00   | \$ 1,200,000.00 |
| RMC18003   | Joe             | Gateway Greening Plan  | Watershed Conservation Authority                         | Certified          | Funding for completion of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan, including developing the draft report, green solution palette, and launch online Greening Plan.   | Grant ended 06/30/20                 | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ 130,000.00   | \$ 130,000.00   |
| RMC18004   | Arturo          | Sleepy Lagoon Planning Elements  | East Yard Communities                                    | Certified          | The outreach, design and planning process will involve a collaboration with a number of organizations and agencies including Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), La Cosecha Colectiva (the Collective Harvest) and various local homeowner associations near Bell and surrounding cities   | Grant ended 02/29/20                 | \$ 325,000.00   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 325,000.00   |
| RMC18005   | Sally           | LA River Ranger Program Implementation Phase II                        | Watershed Conservation Authority                         | Certified          | Professional project management services and oversight of the River Ranger Program Study, continuing with Phase II. This includes ongoing outreach, completion of the Plan and pilot program development.  | Project close out in process         | \$ 240,831.16   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 240,831.16   |
| RMC18006   | Joe             | Trask Scout Reservation Water System Improvement & Enhancement Project | GLAAC Boy Scouts of America                              | Certified          | Funds will hire an engineering consultant to determine the camp's various water system needs and provide an engineering estimate of expected costs. The expectation is to replace a portion of the existing water treatment to meet water demands of youth, families, and greater community and provide fire suppression storage.  |                                      | \$ 130,800.00   | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 130,800.00   |
| RMC18007   | Marybeth        | Walnut Park Acquisition  | County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation | Certified          | Walnut Park, located approximately 5 miles south of Downtown Los Angeles and approximately 3 miles from the Los Angeles River. This acquisition will remove a potential nuisance property from the community and expand parkland by acquiring three parcels: APN 6201-028-014, 6201-028-016, and 6201-028-018, totaling an area of approximately 0.5 acres, which are currently vacant but are located | Need extension/budget amendment      | \$ 1,265,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -          | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ 1,265,000.00 |

Status Report as of 08/31/20

| Project ID | Project Manager | Project Name  | Applicant                        | Workprogram Status | Project Description  | Project Status  | Prop 1          | Prop 68       | Prop 40 | Prop 50 | Prop 84 | Total Funding   |
|------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| RMC18008   | Salian          | Acquisition of the LA River Incubator Site                        | Watershed Conservation Authority | Withdrawn          | The funding would cover acquisition of a site in the vicinity of the Lower Los Angeles River or the Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo River Confluence, and related build-out expenses, and project management for due diligence and site selection.   | Unable to move forward with sale                          | \$ 6,510,000.00 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 6,510,000.00 |
| RMC18009   | Joe             | Emerald Necklace San Gabriel River Habitat Restoration            | Amigos de los Rios               | Certified          | The project will remove invasive weeds and plant 600 native trees and 1,600 shrubs along the San Gabriel River right of way. Currently, present invasive species impair water quality and availability, and harbor pests like the shot hole borer beetles that infest and kill regional trees.   |   | \$ 1,117,588.00 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,117,588.00 |
| RMC18010   | Joe/Marybeth    | Urban Orchard Project   | Trust for Public Land            | Certified          | The Project is an identified priority (Project 155) in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan and is part of a larger vision to transform 30-acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths |   | \$ 1,387,401.44 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,387,401.44 |
| RMC18012   | Joe             | Community Center at DeForest Park                                 | Conservation Corps of Long Beach | Certified          | The Conservation of Long Beach (CCLB) proposes to develop a master plan for the entire DeForest Park, as well as to design and install a satellite site at the DeForest Wetlands to better serve the needs of the LLAR while training youth as river stewards.   |   | \$ 1,132,261.00 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,132,261.00 |
| RMC18013   | Joe             | LA River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis          | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | The ultimate outcome is to provide technically sound recommendations and alternatives to the Water Boards for consideration and implementation of a water flow standard that takes into consideration the existing and planned recreation and habitat uses of the Los Angeles River.   |   | \$ 250,000.00   | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 250,000.00   |
| RMC19001   | Joe             | East Fork Sustainability River Access Project at the Oaks Areas   | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | Planning for the East Fork Sustainable River Access Project at the Oaks Area would initiate Phase 2 of the East Fork Project in the Oaks Areas, only, and would complete the design, engineering, and permitting for the Oaks Areas improvements.  |   | \$ 128,700.00   | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 128,700.00   |
| RMC19002   | Marybeth        | Fernwood Avenue Development and Water Quality Improvement Project | City of Lynwood                  | Certified          | Create new accessible park and public open space that will service over 45,000 residents in the areas of influence. It will include several recreational and educational elements, featuring native drought-tolerant plantings.  | Disencumbered RMC17017 as project moved from Lynwood Park | \$ 1,650,752.55 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,650,752.55 |
| RMC19003   | Sally           | Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project     | City of Santa Clarita            | Certified          | The project will redevelop a blighted space in Canyon County and transform it to an environmentally sustainable community space and gathering location.  |   | \$ 1,076,921.00 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,076,921.00 |
| RMC19004   | Joe             | Shiwaka Urban Forest Planning                                     | Camp Fire Angeles Council        | Certified          | The overall proposed project will encompass the development of an urban forest, including an extensive landscaping master plan with trails, interpretive signage, vernal pools as well as a new trail, called the Discovery Trail. These improvements will allow for the use of Camp Fire's facility and provide for significant enhancements to its fully accredited camp.    | Grant ended 06/30/20                                      | \$ 46,259.00    | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 46,259.00    |
| RMC19005   | Sally           | Implementation of the LA River Ranger Program Reach Zones         | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | The Implementation of the LA River Ranger Program Reach Zones will facilitate coordination between Los Angeles River and tributary-adjacent governments to develop a river ranger pilot program.   |   | \$ 250,000.00   | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 250,000.00   |
| RMC19006   | Sally           | Vasquez Acquisition Overlook                                      | Watershed Conservation Authority | Certified          | Acquisition of the 39-acre Vasquez Overlook parcel (AIN#: 8684-024-001) protects one of the last remaining undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses      |   | \$ 880,000.00   | \$ 184,200.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,064,200.00 |

Status Report as of 08/31/20

| Project ID | Project Manager | Project Name                            | Applicant                         | Workprogram Status | Project Description   | Project Status | Prop 1        | Prop 68         | Prop 40 | Prop 50 | Prop 84 | Total Funding   |
|------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| RMC19007   | Sally           | Jefferson HS Greenways                  | Trust for Public Land             | Certified          | The Project will renovate a 54,446 square-foot public alley right of way in a high density 100-acre neighborhood block in South Los Angeles.  |                | \$ 645,362.00 | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 645,362.00   |
| RMC19008   | Sally           | Banna Community Park Project            | City of Covina                    | Certified          | The Banna Community Park project will develop a new 2.0-acre neighborhood park in the City of Covina along Banna Avenue at Cypress Street. This 2.0-acre park will incorporate several amenities that will directly benefit the local community.  |                | \$ -          | \$ 1,000,000.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,000,000.00 |
| RMC19009   | Marybeth        | Lower LA River Pocket Park Project      | From Lot to Spot                  | Certified          | FLTS will be converting a 4800 sq ft vacant lot adjacent to the LA River and owned by LAUSD in the City of Cudahy into a community-designed passive park.   |                | \$ -          | \$ 332,450.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 332,450.00   |
| RMC19010   | Joe             | Lakewood Equestrian Center              | Conservation Corps of Long Beach  | Certified          | The Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) will help re-envision a 60-acre open space region of Lakewood that centers around the Lakewood Equestrian Center, and includes Rynerson Park, the San Gabriel River Trail, and Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka.  |                | \$ -          | \$ 312,015.00   | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 312,015.00   |
| RMC19011   | Joe             | Monrovia USD Campus Green               | Amigos de los Rios                | Certified          | The Monrovia Unified School District Campus Green Infrastructure Development Project will plant 160 native and drought-tolerant trees and 900 shrubs around the campus perimeters and at key locations throughout the school sites, helping to beautify, create 'nearby nature' and serve their nearly 1,000 students and the region's families.                            |                | \$ 609,693.00 | \$ -            | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 609,693.00   |
| RMC19013   | Sally           | DF River Center Development Project     | Watershed Conservation Authority  | Certified          | The Duck Farm River Center Development Project will transform a 1929 Spanish colonial revival iconic farmhouse into a waterwise educational resource and visitor center for the public. The Center will include interpretive elements that explore the watershed history of the San Gabriel River.  |                | \$ -          | \$ 2,024,020.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 2,024,020.00 |
| RMC19014   | Arturo          | Salazar Park Water Conservation Project | County of LA Dept of Public Works | Certified          | The project proposes the creation of a native and drought-tolerant demonstration garden space (Central Garden) that will be central to the park. The new Central Garden will replace existing impervious paving and basketball courts as well as water intensive turf with a collection of climate-appropriate and native plant materials that have low water requirements. |                | \$ -          | \$ 1,996,380.00 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 1,996,380.00 |

**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 8D: Liaison and Activities Report

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## **RMC ACTIVITIES**

### **Strategic Planning Board Retreat**

Current world health response to COVID-19 has impacted RMC's strategic planning process. In recognition of impacts on social conditions and economics the way to plan may be significantly altered for a period, no less than the end of the calendar year. Staff is considering the feasibility of a virtual strategic planning Board Retreat.

The RMC Governing Board (Board) plays a critical role in ensuring the agency appropriately governs and fulfill their mandate to advance the public interest. In today's rapidly changing environment, it is important that RMC strategically plan for its sustainability and future. It must also ensure that the agency effectively serves the needs of the public. The Board assumes a share of the responsibility for the success of the agency as it provides an important link between the agency and the outside environment in which the agency functions.

The purpose of the strategic planning board retreat is to develop a three to five-year blueprint for the agency's future. A Strategic Planning Board Retreat benefits RMC in the following ways:

- 1) Brings clarity and agreement on mission and vision.
- 2) Helps the agency to prepare for the future by anticipating and managing change.
- 3) Increases effectiveness and efficiency in allocating resources to achieve goals.
- 4) Aligns the board and staff.
- 5) Improves decision-making.

To accomplish this, it is important that the Board work with the Executive Officer to establish a strategic planning process, participate in the process, and approve the final strategic plan.

Because strategic planning takes time and effort, it is recommended that the Board delegate a Strategic Planning Retreat subgroup comprised of 2-3 board members to provide guidance throughout the process and to help conduct a 1-day strategic planning retreat with the board and staff.

### **River Ranger Program (AB 1558- C. Garcia)**

RMC staff is working with Watershed Conservation Authority staff to continue to hold one-on-one meetings with project stakeholders this month as the team works toward the implementation of a Lower LA River REACH zone pilot program. A virtual meeting was conducted with LA County Department of Parks and Recreations regarding their participation and to obtain feedback regarding the program and rangers. WCA, MRCA and RMC participated in a safe social distancing tour of REACH Zone 1 hosted by the City of South Gate to study areas of high density of homelessness and public safety issues.

Consultants will be sought to provide services including but not limited to achieving the following program goals:

- 1) Recreational and/or Interpretive/Educational Programs to creatively activate the LA River in REACH Zone 1.
- 2) LA River Safety Ambassador Program to improve public safety for visitors on the LA River in REACH Zone 1.

The work of the consultants will be to create a robust outreach and engagement plan to ensure ongoing information and communication with the public and stakeholder of use and enjoyment in and around the LA River. A Request for Qualification is being finalized for release in September.

Work is being done to establish next steps to rollout the River Ranger Program and the establishment of REACH (River, Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat) Zones. These will be 3-4 mile stretches along the River, including tributaries, with specific aspects that will lend itself to a highly visible location for River Rangers including access to the River, proximity to a publicly accessible park, trails and open space. The establishment of a REACH Zone will create River appreciation, the benefits rippling out into surrounding communities and revitalization efforts. The Plan identifies criteria and factors to consider when locating these REACH Zones.



Since July 20, 2020, RMC and WCA has met with LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, staff from Supervisorial District 1, and City of South Gate staff to identify potential partnerships for the River Ranger Program. Additionally, on July 30, 2020 RMC, WCA, and MRCA staff held a site tour with South Gate Chief of Police and Director of Parks and Recreation in the portion of the

REACH Zone in South Gate to identify areas of need for services the River Ranger Program would provide. A brief report on various stakeholder conversation the team has had to date and an exploration of a governance structure for REACH Zone 1 is currently being completed by the project team.

Since February 2018, The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and their respective JPA's (WCA and MRCA) have been collaborating jointly on the implementation of the River Ranger Plan Development, intended to develop a framework for a network of River Rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The bill was enacted in 2017 to address the limited contact with and responsibility for the river by communities, working in coordination with current revitalization programs to encourage engagement with the river as a welcoming community resource.

Under the bill, the program is intended to do the following:

- Establish a Los Angeles River identity; Improve public safety for visitors,
- Foster collaboration among those with jurisdiction over the river,
- Protect parks, open space, and other public space,
- Engage communities in the protection and preservation of the River and its resources,
- Promote diversity and inclusion,
- Promote equal access and equity among all communities along the River regarding the development and placement of improvements along the River,
- Monitor the physical conditions, environmental health, and development of green space along the River,
- Coordinate the work of river rangers with programs and services.

On May 31, 2019, the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was delivered to the State Legislature. The full report and supplemental documents may be downloaded at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

### **Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District (SB1374) (SS)**

Senate Bill SB 1374 (PRC § 5795 et seq.) authorizes the establishment of the LLARRPD by petition or resolution submitted to the LAFCO before January 1, 2021, subject to specified existing laws governing recreation and park districts, including their formation, except as provided. Through the formation of the LLARRPD, working in collaboration with the Working Group and the RMC, SB 1374 will help facilitate the construction, improvement, and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, and promote the development of open space and parks for the benefit of communities along the Lower Los Angeles River. The bill also establishes the Board of Directors of the district, made up of two public members, appointed by the Los Angeles County Item 151 Board of Supervisors and one representative appointed by each of the following cities: Vernon, Maywood, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Paramount, and Long Beach. Additionally, one representative may be jointly appointed by the city councils of the cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera.

RMC recently hired a Conservancy Project Development Specialist (CPDS) to facilitate the establishment of the Lower Los Angeles Rivers Recreation and Park District (District). The CPDS will resume the work conducted by the consultant that was hired to initiate the execution of SB1374. The CPDS will coordinates and facilitates active engagement from the cities named in SB-1374 by meeting with and encouraging city officials to cooperate with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and to form the initial Governing Board of the District in the revitalization of the Lower Los Angeles River in accordance to SB-1374, LAFCO, and the cities' respective laws and procedures,

and provides support to the initial Board in developing the articles, laws, and budget of the District so it may continue to function in perpetuity in carrying out the purposes of SB-1374.

Resolutions from 11 of 14 cities named in Senate Bill 1374 (SB-1374) was obtained for the District application. While engaging with the cities to obtain resolutions, the Cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera requested an amendment to grant each city one (1) representative with one (1) vote. The amendment language was developed in December 2019 and was introduced in SB886 (Archuleta) in January 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration on March 2020, all legislative activity was paused. SB886 was suspended and there is a plan to re-introduce it in the 2021 legislative cycle.

A petition in the form of an application to establish the District was submitted and received by the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is prior to the January 2021 deadline. The District application is currently being reviewed by the Los Angeles County CEO office. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the review timeline process, however, it is under review.

### **Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530): (SS)**

The next Lower LA River IAG Meeting is scheduled for **September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** at 10am as an online meeting/conference call.

RMC staff along with leadership for the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) is working on organizing a meeting with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan Working Group to provide the members and the general public an update on activities since the completion of the revitalization plan in 2018. The timing of the meeting is anticipated for fall 2020.

With the completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) in 2018, the IAG continues to meet at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra. The purpose and charge of the IAG is to:

- 1) Provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects/programs related to the Lower LA River;
- 2) Ensure proposed projects/programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan; and
- 3) Maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits by encouraging collaboration among the many project proponents and organizations in the project area.

In its role as an advisory body, the IAG will provide guidance on issues presented before them, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will continue to have decision-making authority. The IAG aims to ensure that subsequently implemented projects are carried out in accordance with the LLARRP and that stakeholders continue to have a voice in implementation. Project proponents interested in submitting their projects to the IAG can fill out the [Project Review Package](#) and send it to [LowerLARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:LowerLARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov) for review.

The IAG members and committees will work together to further define the roles and guidelines of the IAG in the upcoming months. The IAG will include four sub-committees, including:

- 1) Programs & Policies;
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure;

- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement; and
- 4) Future Committee TBD (as-needed).

The committee meetings is mostly comprised of members of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan Working Group; however, the committees has invited representatives of other agencies and organizations as needed to address committee needs.

Steering and sub-committee meetings are held quarterly. The next Sub-Committee was September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. RMC presented on the SELA Cultural Center and Reconvening the Lower LA River Working Group in September/October 2020 to provide the members an update on the implementation of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, as well as the status of key Signature Site projects that are in progress or being planned, as well as funding opportunities. The Reconvening is likely to occur after next IAG meeting to allow for stakeholder input and coordination.

There is a new committee meeting format where all three committees will be present, and the meeting will be run by the three committee chairs. The sub-committees and Chairs are:

- 1) Programs & Policies
  - a. Suely Saro, RMC
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure
  - a. Kelsey Jessup, The Nature Conservancy
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement
  - a. Laura Cortez, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

All committees are continuing to work on establishing a project review process and will discuss how each committee can support the development and implementation of projects, programs, policies, and efforts. Regarding a review process, the two main objectives for the sub-committees will be to:

- 1) Allow projects that have been submitted for funding to present and retain feedback, which will then be delivered to a governing Board/reviewing body for consideration, and
- 2) Allow developing projects the opportunity to gain feedback on concepts and ideas, as well as to find additional partners and funding.

RMC encourages and schedules relevant project presentations and updates (as needed) by RMC grant applicants and grantees before the appropriate IAG committees to allow Lower LA River stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on projects. Any comments received on projects will be included in liaison or recommendation reports.

*The IAG consists of the District as the chair, the RMC, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the fifteen Lower LA River cities and the chairs of the committees. The IAG and the committees will each meet quarterly. All meeting materials and schedules will be posted on the website – [www.LowerLARiver.org](http://www.LowerLARiver.org)*

### **Compton Creek Implementation Plan (RMC 19513)**

Compton Creek Prioritization and Implementation (RMC 19513): The RMC is spearheading this effort, in collaboration with the Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson (AD 64), for the prioritization and implementation of projects throughout the Compton Creek watershed. After many months of coordination beginning in January, the Working Group has selected a project site for

conversion into a passive park, located at Alondra Blvd. adjacent to the Compton Creek in the City of Compton. The next steps include making a formal presentation to the Compton City Council sometime this month, formalizing this process and moving forward with next steps, including moving towards construction documents. Studio MLA will continue to lead this process as part of their contract in the amount of \$191,520 for their facilitation, planning, landscape architecture and construction documents for this project.

This funding was provided from a 2019-2020 State budget request in the amount of \$3 Million. The Working group includes the participation of local non-profit organizations and other key stakeholders including: From Lot to Spot, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, GRID Alternatives, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, the Office of Mayor Aja Brown-City of Compton, LA County Public Works, LA County Parks-Trails Planning Division, and the Nature Conservancy, among others. The working group meetings will continue through November 2020.

### **IRWMP Planning Activities**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the [draft recommended funding list](#) for four funding areas for the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Solicitation—see list for Greater LA Area on next page. The draft recommendation would provide approximately \$34.3 million in Proposition 1 funding to the greater Los Angeles Area.

| IRWM Region | Population (millions) | Area (Sq miles) | Grant Request | Draft Award  | % of Grant Request | % of FAA |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| USCR        | 0.30                  | 786             | \$10,582,604  | \$10,582,604 | 100%               | 30%      |
| Ventura     | 0.83                  | 1,781           | \$12,553,000  | \$11,858,680 | 95%                | 35%      |
| GLAC        | 10.10                 | 2,133           | \$30,077,625  | \$11,858,680 | 39%                | 35%      |

These funding recommendations are subject to public review. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, on behalf of the Greater LA County IRWM Group, has provided a comment letter (dated 5/27/20) on Proposition 1 Round 1 draft recommendations to DWR. Greater LAC IRWM Group feels that the draft distribution did not appear to take into consideration each regions' size and population to provide the most equitable investments for the Los Angeles Funding Area. **DWR is considering a reallocation of the grant funds based on this comment.**

The next Greater LA County Leadership Committee meeting is scheduled on September 23, 2020, at 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., location TBD.

### **RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS**

#### **Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (RMC14003):**

The first phase of the Willowbrook Walking Path has been completed and closed out. Due to unforeseen construction issues a second phase was approved by the RMC board in 2019 will be completed by the end of 2020 (RMC18001).

The RMC provided a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The LACC applied for an Urban Greening Grant through the Strategic Growth Council and was awarded the full request in the amount of \$798,815. Additional matching funds were committed by other project partners including

the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District). Matching funds provided by the funding partners and the grant funds received by the Strategic Growth Council bring the total project cost to \$1,698,815.

This project includes the creation of a ½ mile permeable walking path and 2,700 linear foot by 6-foot riprap swale constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek between 120th streets and El Segundo Boulevard. Work began on this project in September 2018 with grubbing of the site. The LACC continued through 2019 and early 2020 with grading and construction of a fence line, retaining wall, and landscaping as well as building a drainage swale behind the retaining wall and catch basin. Construction was completed in March 2020.



#### **View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001):**

Due to delays with approvals needed for the recycled water lines required by the State Water Resources Quality Control Board, park construction has been delayed. The City has requested a timeline extension through 2021.

The View Park and Recycled Water Development Project is underway. Project grant to the City is for \$2,000,000 which includes a wildlife corridor project in the City of Signal Hill that will establish a new 1.86 acre park and the associated construction of a recycled water system. The project will reclaim a municipally owned industrial site and provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks and the Promontory Home Owner's Association common landscaped areas, connect an urban trail system, prevent runoff pollution from contaminating the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and annually save approximately 40- acre feet of potable water.

#### **San Gabriel River and Wilderness Park Restoration Downey (RMC17002)**

On August 26, 2020, RMC Board, RMC and WCA staff participated in a construction site tour to see the progress of the Wilderness Park improvements, specifically the North and South ponds, as well as other sections of the park. Walt Eden of Eden Co. described the improvements to the ponds, irrigation improvements, connection to recycled water lines for landscape irrigation and other amenities including estuaries and a butterfly area near the South pond. Extensive engineering has taken place at this park, along with other unforeseen improvements that were not

part of the original budget. This project was re-scored in May of 2020 and received a score of 80.5 points.

Wilderness Park is a 26-acre park, originally opened in 1973 with 2,550 feet of frontage along the San Gabriel River. The original grant was approved by the RMC Board at the January 23, 2017 meeting in the amount of \$1,660,000. That funding included installation of a new recycled water irrigation system, hydrologically connecting to the lakes, installation of an aeration system, native and drought tolerant plants, new trails and signage.

**West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition (17007):**

A 4-month extension was granted administratively to the City to December 31, 2020. The City opened escrow on July 21, 2020, and is expected to request funds to be deposited into escrow in October 2020.

Grant to the City is in the amount of \$2,000,000 for this acquisition. The City of Fullerton informed the RMC that they have been successful in obtaining all funds needed to complete the acquisitions of Neighborhoods 1 and 3. The City has completed its appraisal and is awaiting review by a third-party agency. The City has also completed a Preliminary Title Report. A Purchase and Sale agreement as well as a Remedial Action Plan are being developed currently and under review by State Granting agencies.

**Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Project (RMC 17009):**

The City has completed 90% construction drawings for the wetlands development.

The Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Project is underway, this grant to the City is for \$2,000,000 and will improve water quality by intercepting and treating the dry weather flows and a portion of the first flush of stormwater runoff normally discharging into the Los Angeles River. The byproduct of the LB-MUST water quality treatment is recycled water which can be used to sustain proposed wetlands riparian habitat. The wetlands will be part of the total treatment train of the LB-MUST as well as function as a storage basin for the recycled water.

**Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project (17011):**

The County and The River Project has already begun to monitor the functions of these basins and to coordinate with the Stewards to maintain the basins. Follow-up infiltration tests continue as planned, but stewardship follow-up has been halted due to the stay at home order. The County has been exploring alternative means of outreach during this time.

The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project grant to the County of Los Angeles is in the amount of \$268,500 and includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County. A Parkway is typically defined as the area between a road's curb and the sidewalk. Parkway basins are designed to capture and treat stormwater and dry season flow (urban runoff), utilizing urban runoff for irrigation and facilitating infiltration to groundwater. These basins are constructed by excavating and lowering a portion of parkway, then cutting an opening in the curb to facilitate the flow of water from the street. The basins contain rock reinforced slopes to prevent erosion, along with the vegetation which will detain, remediate, and help infiltrate urban runoff. When a basin is full, any additional urban runoff will be unable to enter and will continue to travel in the gutter eventually to the storm drain system. Parkway basins have been successfully constructed for many years in numerous cities including: Tucson, Arizona; New York City; Portland, Oregon; and

other municipalities. Locally, parkway basins have been constructed successfully in Panorama City and Studio City.

**Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties (RMC 17013):**

Negotiations with the Landowner have ceased. Toward the end of May 2020, LCWA was informed by the landowner that they are no longer interested in selling the property to LCWA. They experienced large revenue losses from declining oil prices at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and wished to pursue other opportunities for their property. The LCWA will initiate the process to close out this grant and return funds to the RMC. The LCWA thanks the RMC for your continued support of projects and the Los Cerritos Wetlands, and we hope to be able to revisit this acquisition in the future.

This grant to the LCWA is in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) currently owns approximately 177 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in the Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the LCWA is seeking to acquire the frontage and remaining Bryant-Dakin, LLC Properties located along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

**Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014):**

The public comment period for the Draft Program EIR for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan ran from May 8, 2020 - July 6, 2020. The document is available the LCWA website at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/the-lcws-eir/>, and on the State Clearing House website at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019039050/2>. The LCWA is currently preparing responses to comment and anticipate certifying the EIR later this year. Additionally, LCWA was awarded a grant from CDFW to pursue next steps in restoration planning for the 100-acre South LCWA site.

This grant is to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) in the amount of \$500,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands is one of the last remaining estuarine systems in southern California, located in the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach. The LCWA adopted the Final Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) in August 2015 with the next step being environmental review of the CRP. The LCWA is seeking to complete the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The CEQA approach is to complete a Programmatic EIR for the entire 500-acre property. The CEQA process was initiated on March 8, 2019 with the filing of the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study.

**Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015):**

RMC staff will perform a walkthrough of the project in September to close out the grant.

Grant to Amigos de los Rios in the amount of \$617,385 for this project which will enhance biodiversity, water quality, stormwater & urban run-off management along Rio Hondo Emerald necklace & within Peck Park by adding green infrastructure elements along River Parkway. This area is located within eastern Los Angeles County's underserved El Monte and is adjacent to County Bike Trail, residential areas and schools. Arterials cross the right of way and produce runoff and air pollution that negatively impacts river parkway and local ecosystems. The proposed multi-objective water quality project will improve watershed health, habitat, and trails along the Emerald Necklace's

Rio Hondo River. It will remove invasive plants and restore biodiversity by planting over 1175 native & drought-tolerant trees and shrubs suited to multi-year droughts.

Significant invasive removal has been completed, with the monitoring, treating, and removing of previously removed areas continuing. 1205 shrubs and 120 trees have been planted. Tree stakes were installed for trees previously planted; shrubs cared for. Installation of the Irrigation to support trees and shrubs planted along the entrance bioswale was completed July 18, 2019. The second phase of the irrigation will be integrated into the construction of the parking lot BMP's.

### **Fernwood Avenue Development Lynwood (RMC17017)**

The Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration, and Water Quality Improvement Project is proposed to be relocated to Fernwood Avenue and State Street, which is an extension of the existing Lara Linear Trail in the City of Lynwood. The reason for the relocation is due to the lack of permeability at the original site near City Hall. In an effort fulfill grant requirements for the completion of the project scope of work the City identified the new site at Fernwood Ave and State Street and conducted a series of percolation tests and have submitted their results. Based on the results of the boring percolation test, the site soils are coarse-grained and have high percolation rates for infiltration systems in general. The timeline for the Fernwood Avenue Development and Water Quality Improvement Project will be extended to March 2022 from the original timeline of February 1, 2020.

### **Phil and Nell Soto Park (RMC17018):**

On September 27, 2018, the City of Pomona conducted the official groundbreaking for the Phil and Nell Soto Park in the City of Pomona. The 1.76 acre park will provide for active and passive recreation opportunities and includes a variety of California native plants and trees throughout the park, a butterfly habitat, and a bird sanctuary.

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy provided a grant for the acquisition of this park and the City has recently accepted an additional grant in the amount of \$1 Million for the park construction from Proposition 1 (water bond). The park design includes natural systems to treat urban stormwater runoff, infiltration and retention of stormwater to mitigate flooding. The park was designed by Architerra Design Group and the Construction will be managed by CEM Construction. There has been a request by the City to extend the completion date to June 30, 2020 and an additional \$186,257, pending RMC approval. There was a grand opening on February 8, 2020 and project is moving towards grant close out.

### **San Gabriel Mountain Community Collaborative (RMC17024):**

On July 23, 2020, the SGMCC held a virtual meeting via Zoom. Angeles National Forest and Collaborative members conducted a partnership workshop focused on sharing best practices for building partnerships with the Forest Service. Fabian Garcia (Angeles National Forest) presented an overview of approval and decision-making process in the Forest Service. Fabian will be going on a 120-day detail as a National Partnership Coordinator to help align the Forest Service to work with partners. Joseph Gonzalez (RMC) gave an overview of the EIR/EIS for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project. Steven Messner (CORBA) shared a case study of the Strawberry Peak Trail Restoration Project. Belinda Faustinos (Nature For All) presented on partnership agreements. Break-out sessions among committees focused on partnering strategies.

The next SGMCC meeting will be Thursday, September 24th, 2020.

National Forest Foundation project continues through March 2021, the Collaborative will be finalizing the Action Plans and start implementation of the Action Plan through 2021.

*The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meetings occur every other month.*

#### **Willowbrook Walking Path Phase II (RMC 18001)**

Construction has progressed on the second phase of the walking path and is expected to be completed November 2020. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps is currently working on finishing touches such as signage installation

The RMC provided a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The second phase addresses construction issues with the first phase (RMC14003), specifically with abutting properties and the retaining wall between 120<sup>th</sup> street and El Segundo boulevard in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook. This project also includes the creation of an over 2,700 linear foot by 6-foot bioswale and catch basin constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek. The project began in October of 2019 and is currently underway with work being performed by the LA Conservation Corps. For image, see RMC14003.

#### **Sleepy Lagoon Planning Project (RMC 18003)**

The grantee kicked off several community meetings which were well attended and gathered input regarding the prospective monument, design ideas, and its potential location. The consultant DakeLuna has completed the feasibility study and RMC is awaiting a presentation of deliverables and final payment to close out the grant.

The RMC provided a grant of \$325,000 to the East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice for a feasibility study to develop a Sleepy Lagoon monument. The outreach, design and planning process involved a collaboration with a number of organizations and agencies including Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), La Cosecha Colectiva (the Collective Harvest) and various local homeowner associations near Maywood, Bell and surrounding cities.

#### **Trask Reservation Water System Improvement Project (RMC 18006)**

Comments were received from SWRCB DDW on the preliminary design concept report, noting additional requirements for safety and compliance. BSA is incorporating these comments into the revised 30% project design and the technical specifications. The final geotechnical report was received, and recommendations were incorporated into the 30% design and technical specifications. The revised 30% project design was submitted to SWRCB DDW to obtain any additional comments. Based on the revised project design, the project construction cost was updated for our pending Proposition 68 proposal and forwarded to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for consideration.

The Boy Scouts of America, Greater LA Area Council, (GLAAC BSA) requested funding from RMC to hire an engineering consultant to determine the camp's various water system needs and provide an engineering estimate of expected costs. The resulting report will enable GLAAC BSA to pursue additional funding opportunities to move forward with the necessary procurement, installation, and construction of the proposed improvements and upgrades, and ultimately restore the camp's potable water access.

BSA received approval for an \$90,200 and extension through September 30, 2020 to complete their environmental compliance at the Board meeting in January 2020.

**Emerald Necklace San Gabriel River Habitat Restoration Project (RMC 18009)**

Amigos' received a grubbing permit from LA County Flood Control District on March 23, 2020. Working with Landscape architects to review complete tree planting plan with respect to easement restrictions.

As of March 2020, all volunteer outreach events have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, California Conservation Corps was scheduled to participate in site prep and grubbing at this time but work has also been delayed because of COVID. Amigos' continues to boost awareness of green infrastructure work along the San Gabriel River via Amigos' Constant Contact email service, Facebook, and Amigos' website.

This project will restore a river parkway trail on the San Gabriel River between Live Oak Avenue and Peck Road that is part of the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, the LA County Regional Bike Plan, and the Emerald Necklace Plan. This project will be implemented by Amigos de los Rios, and will improve watershed health, rain water and runoff infiltration, urban forest coverage and native habitat, and provide significant heat island reduction and recreation benefits to local communities and regional trail users of the San Gabriel River Trail.

**Urban Orchard Project Construction (RMC 18010 / 17006)**

TPL submitted close-out documents for RMC17006 on April 28, 2020, and continuing to work on permitting and implementation with next phase RMC grant (RMC 18010).



The Urban Orchard Development is a multi-benefit, passive park located along the LA River and the Rio Hondo Channel confluence in the City of South Gate. The Project is an identified priority (Project 155) in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan and is part of a larger vision to transform 30-acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths. The Phase 1 site comprises seven acres owned by the City of South Gate and will create one acre of functioning wetland habitat in a heavily developed, urban area that would treat and utilize stormwater from the adjacent Bandini Channel to irrigate the park and provide the community with a new greenspace. Construction is planned to start Fall 2020.

RMC provided a grant for Planning for the Urban Orchard Development grant to the Trust for Public Land is in the amount of \$845,000 (RMC 17006). In May 2019, RMC provided an additional \$1,387,401 for design and construction of the wetlands component for the Orchard (RMC 18010).

The City continues to host public workshops to receive input from the community for this project and has also received grant funds for the project implementation. The RMC previously approved a grant extension from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and reduction in project scope. This allows sufficient time to complete 100% construction drawings for the 7 acres and the stormwater management system that includes pumping water from the Bandini Channel and obtaining permits for the constructed wetland and diversion structure from the Bandini Channel.

### **The Community Center at DeForest Park (RMC 18012)**

The majority of the outreach has been conducted over Q1 2020, but public engagement was scheduled to continue throughout July 2020. The goal is to continue the vision plan development and have it on city council's agenda in July 2020. In addition to outreach, CCLB contracted with a geo-engineering firm to conduct soils testing at the proposed building location.

In order to bring about positive changes to DeForest Park in North Long Beach, its wetlands, and the greater LLAR Region, the Conservation of Long Beach (CCLB) will develop a master plan for the entire DeForest Park, as well as design and install a satellite site at the DeForest Wetlands to better serve the needs of the LLAR while training youth as river stewards. By implementing a satellite site, CCLB will not only be able to oversee the master plan as it is carried out, but more importantly,

have the resources to carry out necessary functions to sustain the health and vitality of the LLAR and its surrounding communities in the long term. During construction, the satellite site will function as a Lower LA River restoration center and crew training location.

Over Q1-2020, CCLB and its partners continued to focus on community outreach and preparing the Vision Plan for City review. During this time, the Team pivoted midway to an online platform due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the various stay-at-home orders. CCLB and its partners held a lengthy design concept meeting to discuss the practicality of the Vision Plan and the building. These concepts are being used in the final public workshop series which will be integrated into the Vision Plan. On March 31, 2020, CCLB launched the online survey as part of Workshop Series 3.

### **LA River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (RMC 18013)**

In Spring 2020, WCA contributed locations to the SCCWRP flows study model that represent proposed future uses in WCA/RMC territory which would be affected by the amount of flow in the channel. These locations include channel reaches in proximity to Ralph C. Dill Park (restoration/channel enhancement proposed by Trout Unlimited); three Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study locations along Compton Creek proposed by US Army Corps of Engineers (Gonzalez Park, Raymond Street Park, and Compton HS); and the Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (in-channel park access and restoration elements proposed by project lead LACFCD). WCA and RMC Staff attended Stakeholder meeting #4 and Technical Advisory Committee meeting #5. WCA is compiling a list of entities to reach out to for the outreach component of WCA's scope.

The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows resulting from increased wastewater re-use upstream. An RMC grant funds WCA's participation in the Stakeholder group and adding third-party review of the analysis.

RMC finalized a Conservancy Agreement with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to move this project forward and awarded a \$250,000 grant to WCA in April 2019. WCA entered into a contract with SCCWRP in March 2020 to perform the supplemental scope as part of Flows Study.

### **Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project (RMC 19003)**

The City of Santa Clarita has made substantial progress on the project, which is near completion. The infiltration system and vortex system have both been installed and covered. Due to COVID-19 the signage on manhole covers and the bike trail have been substantially delayed and will be completed by Summer 2021.

The Development of the Santa Clarita Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project will redevelop a blighted space in Canyon County and transform it to an environmentally sustainable community space and gathering location. Included in the overall project is to establish a riverfront greenway stormwater treatment and infiltration project that is the focus of the grant request. The Project will improve the Santa Clara River (SCR) watershed within the City of Santa Clarita and will increase regional self-reliance through improved local ground water recharge and result in integrated, multi-benefit solutions of ensuring sustainable water resources.

### **Central Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project (RMC 19007)**

During the second quarter of 2020 TPL executed the Memorandum of Understanding with LA Sanitation. TPL also finalized, distributed and received proposals back from four qualified consultants to conduct design development and construction drawings for the project. They plan to hire a design team in the coming quarter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, direct outreach in the community has been challenging, however, TPL project staff has been working to maintain existing relationships with community members. On June 26th, TPL staff held a food distribution event in the parking lot of South Park in an effort to provide food to the most vulnerable families in the community. Over 200 food boxes and 400 gallons of milk were provided by the Regional Food Bank and passed out to community members by TPL staff. Notice of the food distribution event was conducted via phone and mail so community members were informed.

The TPL Los Angeles team continues to discuss opportunities for a socially distanced alley clean up this fall.

The Central-Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project will renovate a 54,446 square-foot public alley right of way in a high density 100-acre neighborhood block in South Los Angeles. Project improvements will include the installation of high albedo pavement, permeable pavers, permeable pavement, street tree planting, infiltration trenches, a dry well system, planting of native vines and trees, educational and mile marker signage, public art and traffic calming measures including planted bump-outs, crosswalk striping, lights and way finding signage. Of the total alley, 34,733 sq-ft will include stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and an underground drywell system capturing a total tributary area of approximately 7.31 acres. The remaining 19,713 square feet of alley will include stormwater BMPs, comprised of native vine and tree plantings, and porous pavement. The green alley network in total will capture runoff and percolate at least 1,890,000 gallons of stormwater per year.

#### **Banna Community Park Project (RMC 19008)**

The City of Covina has made great progress on the construction of the park and installation of playground equipment. Construction is scheduled to have been completed by mid-September

The Banna Community Park project will develop a new 2.0-acre neighborhood park in the City of Covina along Banna Avenue at Cypress Street. This 2.0-acre park will incorporate several amenities that will directly benefit the local community. Near-by residents and local high schoolers expressed strong support for native and drought tolerant plants, an abundance of trees, passive recreation trails, open space, and fitness areas, which were incorporated into the City's design. The project will include carbon-sequestering and drought-tolerant native plants that aid in improving the environment and climate, stormwater collecting bioswale green spaces and underground retention basins for groundwater replenishment and treatment, pollinator gardens to attract wildlife, nature inspired playground, and nature play areas.

#### **Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (RMC19010)**

With funding approved in February, CCLB and its partners have worked to kick-off the Lakewood Equestrian Center and Surrounding Open Space Master Plan project. When our preliminary meeting was held, there was no indication of the coronavirus pandemic. However, as March progressed, partners began talking about how to adapt outreach to meet the needs of the project while keeping with stay-at-home orders. In addition to the kick-off meeting, CCLB worked with LA Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) and the City of Lakewood to develop rosters for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Currently, CCLB and partners are aiming for the first TAC meeting in May, but dates may change depending on COVID-19 developments.

The Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) will help re-envision a 60-acre open space region of Lakewood that centers around the Lakewood Equestrian Center, and includes Rynerson Park, the San Gabriel River Trail, and Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka.

The Master Plan will link these various spaces, to integrate the community's recreational desires and needs with sustainable, long-term practices, and guide the City of Lakewood's regional management and programs. While these facilities sit adjacent to each other, they currently lack safe and marked connections to one another. The area has the potential to entertain a multitude of recreational and educational activities, connect the local community to the outdoors, and host best management practices (BMPs) for natural resources.

### **WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES**

**Duck Farm Project:** New trails are being formed around and through the northern dry streambed, footbridge footings are being prepared and seating areas placed. Southern bioswale/wetlands are being dug and prepared for filter fabric, boulders, cobble and sand. The fabrication of the shade structures are being readied for installation. Colors are being confirmed for site furnishings and metal work prior to final painting and delivery. Landscaping and weed control continue as the soil is prepared for additional plants and mulch to come. Conservation Corps of Los Angeles and County of Orange are preparing to start their work of installing thousands of 4" native plants along the



pathways. Submittals continue to be processed and RFI's answered. Construction team meetings resumed in August and will continue until the end of the project later this year. WCA's Construction Manager is working with the General Contractor, Fast-Track Construction, on finalizing change orders for new and deleted work.

*Riparian Dry Streambed, trails, and footbridge footings taking shape as the project nears completion.*



*-Updated illustrative site plan for the Duck Farm River Park currently under construction.*

*The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.*

**San Gabriel River Center and Gardens (Duck Farm House) Project:** Following consultation with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, WCA Staff conducted an internal design charette to envision the San Gabriel River Center as indoor / outdoor space, with direct integration of the planned water conservation gardens. Staff has prepared a request for an Environmental Testing firm, to test the farm house for hazardous materials, in preparation for future partial demolition of a portion of the house structure and attached garage. Staff is also engaging Positive Plumbing to evaluate the existing septic system, in preparation for potential refurbishment / expansion. Following the results of these evaluations, Staff will prepare an RFP for a demolition contract, which will be brought before the Watershed Conservation Authority Board for approval.

WCA continues to move forward with its application for Supplementary Environmental Funds in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

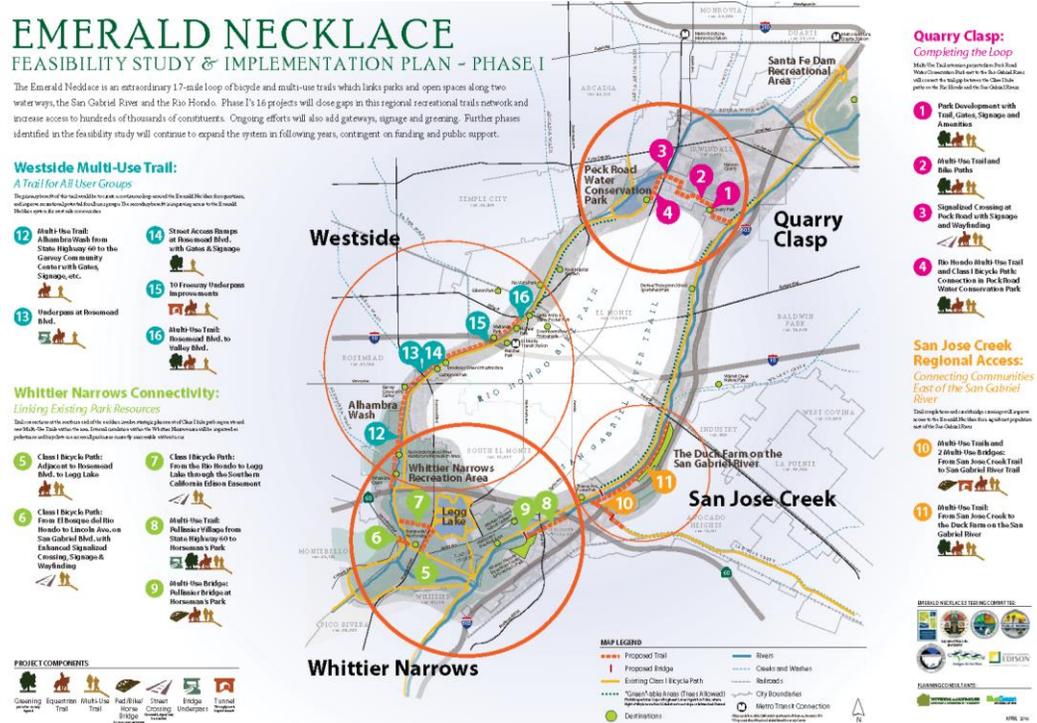


*SGR Center and Gardens (Duck Farm House) Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes.*

**San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network:** The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan is a multi-objective effort to transform existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District right of way in the San Gabriel Valley into a world-class Greenway Network in conjunction with identifying ways to upgrade and enhance the District's existing flood control facilities. The Plan will build upon the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative - Greenway Feasibility Study and will highlight connectivity with other planned active transportation components and green urban infrastructure projects throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

The Plan will accelerate development of greenway design standards and create cooperative agreements with other agencies to expedite project delivery for shovel ready projects. This approach will enable simultaneous implementation of high priority greenway projects while ensuring consistency with the broader master planning of the Greenway Network.

**Emerald Necklace:** No change, next meeting is scheduled to occur on July 14th, after the publishing of this report. An update of which will be provided in the September report. This meeting brings together County and WCA staff to more closely collaborate to move projects forward. Priority projects continue to focus on the San Jose Creek Bridge and River Trail extension to the Duck Farm and the Rosemead Blvd complete street project between Legg Lake and Durfee within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This working group will continue to meet in an effort to identify funding, prepare grant applications and seek to partner to develop projects identified in the Emerald Necklace Plan.



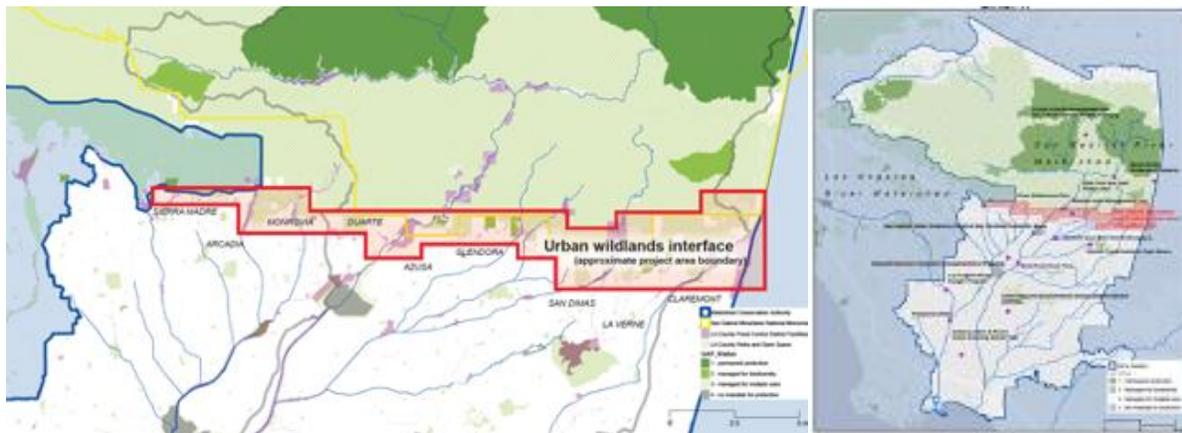
The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north

to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.

The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

**San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan:** Psomas continues work on the Report on Regional Biological Opportunities. A presentation of work in progress was shared with some key stakeholders, and feedback is being used to shape content.

WCA has been compiling content for the plan. An RFP will be issued to engage additional consultants to refine specific topics for the completed Plan.



*San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve habitat and open space, improve watershed health, and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.*

**Vasquez Acquisitions and Interim Land Management Plan:** Botanical field surveys of Vasquez Overlook (Vasquez II) have concluded. WCA is awaiting a draft report of the results.

As part of due diligence, legal counsel has suggested the City of Azusa, the Vasquez Ranch, WCA, and the County all approve, execute, and record a modification of the City's easement to clarify rights over the unpaved road before WCA seeks to the property. Such agreement is expected to require approvals from the Azusa City Council and the County Board. WCA has been discussing such a document with City of Azusa. Legal counsel is drafting language to be considered for approval by the City of Azusa.

Consideration of a contract for survey is on the consent calendar. A survey and legal description are necessary in order to draft a purchase contract.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment will be taking place.

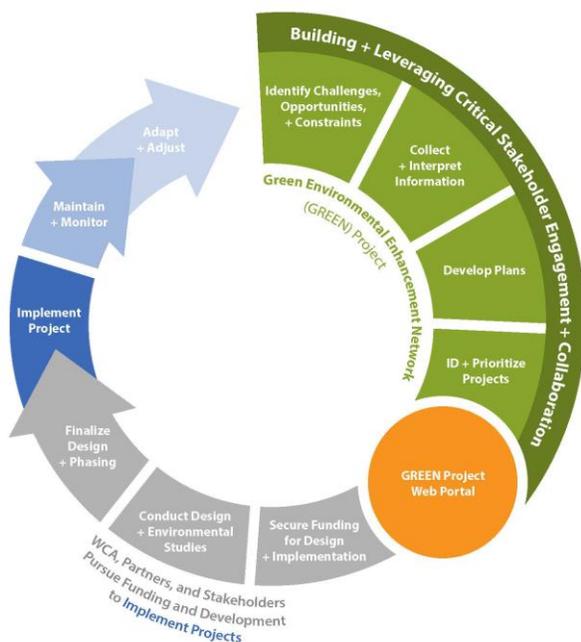
Environmental writer, Ilsa Setziol, began a series of interviews that will form the basis of a short article on the Vasquez land and its history. Interviews so far have included Art Vasquez Senior and

Jeffrey Cornejo, author of Azusa, Images of America, by Arcadia Publishing. The article will provide source material for future blog posts, social media, press releases and interpretive content. More importantly, it will provide an additional perspective to articulate the contemporary context of conservation in the foothills.



*The Vasquez acquisitions (Vasquez I in 2016 and Vasquez II in 2020) protect some of the last undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses. WCA acquisition of these lands augments an existing cluster of contiguous public conservation lands in the Azusa Foothills that includes WCA’s River Wilderness Park, Azusa-RMC Open Space, and City of Pasadena Open Space.*

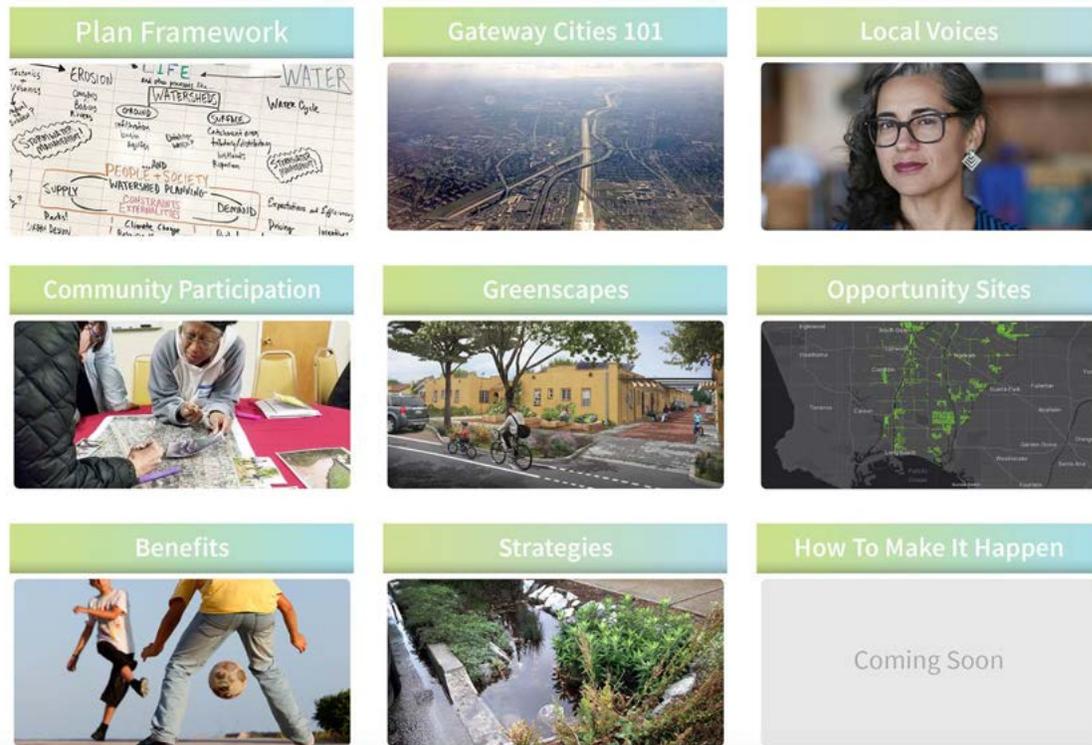
**GREEN Project:** The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA/RMC territory which has included engagement and support for regional plans as well as neighborhood and site-scale opportunities. Staff continues to engage in efforts including the Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), and advancement of proof-of-concept for the GREEN Portal through specific improvements for the Gateway Greening Plan intended for incorporation. A request for proposals for technical assistance in development of the GREEN Portal is also planned this quarter for Board review in November. At the site scale a contract for Duck Farm Equestrian Center design services including conceptual plan and construction drawing development has been awarded to Blue Green Consulting which received the highest scores among proposers.



*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments,*

identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.

**Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan:** In August, WCA staff presented the Plan and website to RMC staff for feedback. WCA will re-engage with other stakeholders over the coming months prior to launch for additional buy-in.



Navigation buttons from the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan homepage

With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the work of the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.

**Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** WCA is exploring a partnership with Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) to manage and eradicate invasive plants at the Preserve. IERCD will be mapping a proposed project area, and preparing a proposal for weed management.

WCA staff has been evaluating a proposal was made by Vista Communications in August 2019, to site a cell tower on the Preserve. Staff has been clarifying the process and the proposal so that the Board may discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

Within this time, WCA has received eleven letters from nine community members voicing concerns about the proposal. WCA staff has also fulfilled two public records requests regarding WCA’s communications with various parties about the proposed tower, and has received additional

commentary on the provided records, pointing out perceived inconsistencies in Vista's communications to WCA. WCA has recently been informed that a petition supporting an alternative location of Spring Hill (rather than Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve) has obtained more than 70 signatures, and is still being circulated. Most of the letters received point out that a tall tower on the WCA property will mar the views currently enjoyed. Most letters express the belief that an alternative site called "Spring Hill" will have less impact on views. Several cite the legal precedent of "prudent avoidance" in cell tower siting. Several letters express a perception that Vista has not been transparent with the community about discussing possible options.

WCA staff is currently evaluating the lease terms proposed by Vista, and plans to ask Vista to hold an additional community meeting to clarify the facts regarding the proposal so that the consideration of a cell tower lease can be fully discussed by the WCA board at a future date.



*Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.*

**Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning:** Due to three fires in the Forest, USFS staff has been unavailable to review and comment on the Request for Bid packages for Demolition and Construction work and have requested additional time to provide their feedback. The package will therefore be finalized and published by in September. Work is targeted to begin in October/November 2020 as a result. Work includes the construction of new camp host sites, kiosks and iron rangers at both Crystal Lake and Coldbrook campgrounds. Improvements to the Crystal Lake Visitor Center and the construction of a trash transfer station at Rincon Fire Station site. Additionally, the demolition of several old, unused restrooms and dilapidated ancillary buildings. Design work for the second access point at the East Fork/Oaks Picnic area is on-going. San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, utilizing COVID-19 precautions, are continuing their conservation efforts in the San Gabriel Canyon under the direction of US Forest Service staff.

*Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning, authorized by U.S. Forest Service under a Supplemental Project Agreement with WCA, to implement a redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles*

National Forest, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources. Additionally, the implementation of maintenance and site improvements has been approved by USFS.

**River Wilderness Park:** Plans are in development to prepare for a construction phase for the entry improvements beginning in the next year. Due to both funding gaps and timeline limits on grant awards the roundabout and main visitor center are expected to be omitted from a first phase of implementation. These proposed changes to expedite timeline and near-term workforce opportunities are included as part of a staff report on the regular agenda for this September meeting.

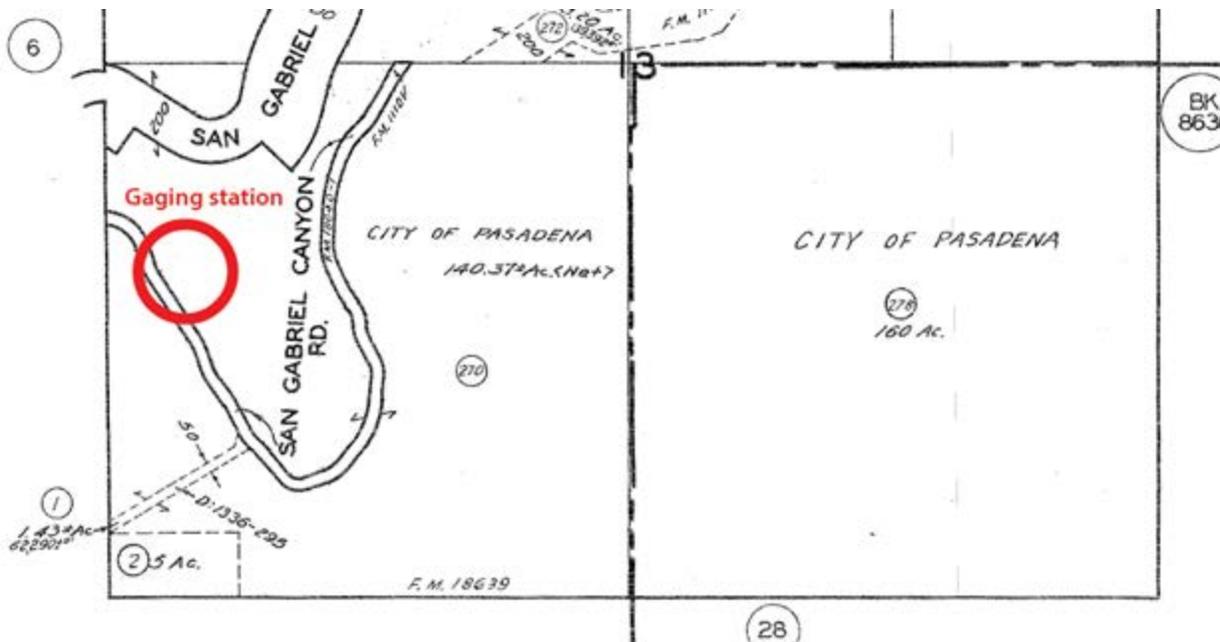


During the pandemic River Wilderness Park has been inundated with visitors from all over the County, often from more urbanized areas. On weekends and especially on holidays, WCA has had to organize extra staffing to manage and educate crowds about lack of water access at the Park. Water access is not safe at River Wilderness Park due to the high water flows that occur from dam releases.

In the last year, WCA staff has experimented with various approaches to signage and staffing to keep visitors out of the river in this dangerous location. However, numerous internet sites which WCA cannot control perpetuate the misconception that river access is possible at the Park.

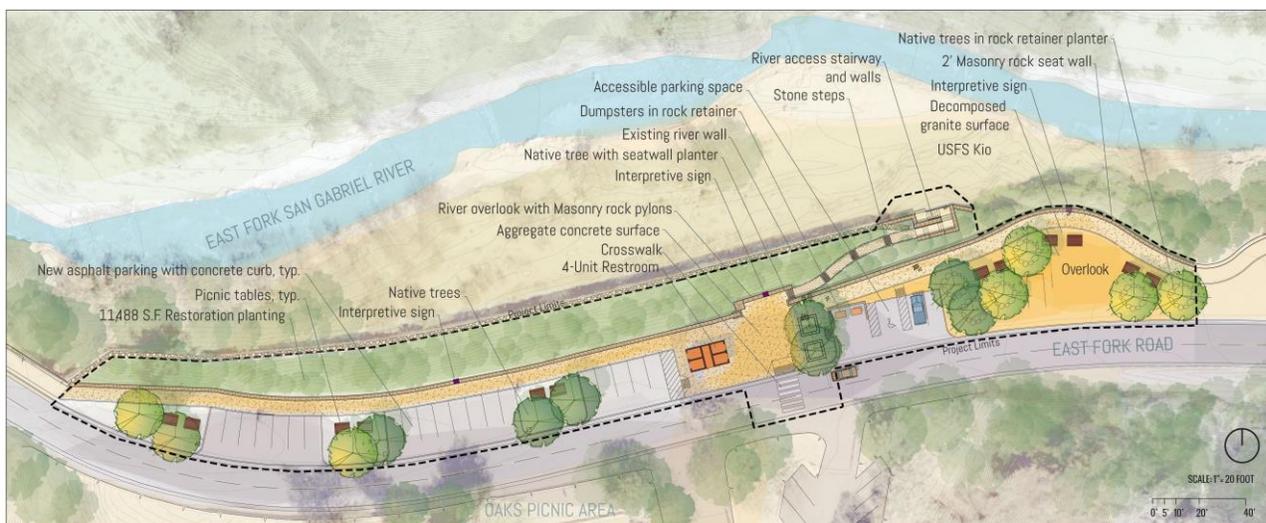
Besides continuing to post and improve signage and procure staffing for anticipated busy weekends, staff is considering 1) changing the name of park to avoid confusion with locations that do provide safe river access 2) posting signage at the Gaging Station, the location where visitors are most likely to attempt to enter the water. WCA has regularly received reports of water rescues that occur when users of River Wilderness Park hike down the unpaved County road and attempt to enter the water at a Gaging station below Morris Dam.

WCA has always posted no swimming signs at RWP, due to the danger posed by high water flows and water releases. However, WCA is trying to confirm whose property the Gaging Station location is so that the appropriate reminder warnings may be posted at this location. LACFCD and USFS have confirmed this is not in their jurisdiction. The County parcel map shows this to be City of Pasadena jurisdiction, but this is yet to be confirmed by that party.



The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** WCA consultant, BlueGreen, has completed its work on the site design for the project’s first access point, and is in the process of designing an additional access point which extends the footprint of the current design. This portion will be funded through WCA’s Master Participating Agreement with the Forest Service that was extended for an additional 12-months due to COVID-19 related impacts. WCA is awaiting notification from RMC of its grant award for construction of the Oaks River Access Project (first access point) under the Prop 68 grant. U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project in 2020.



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.

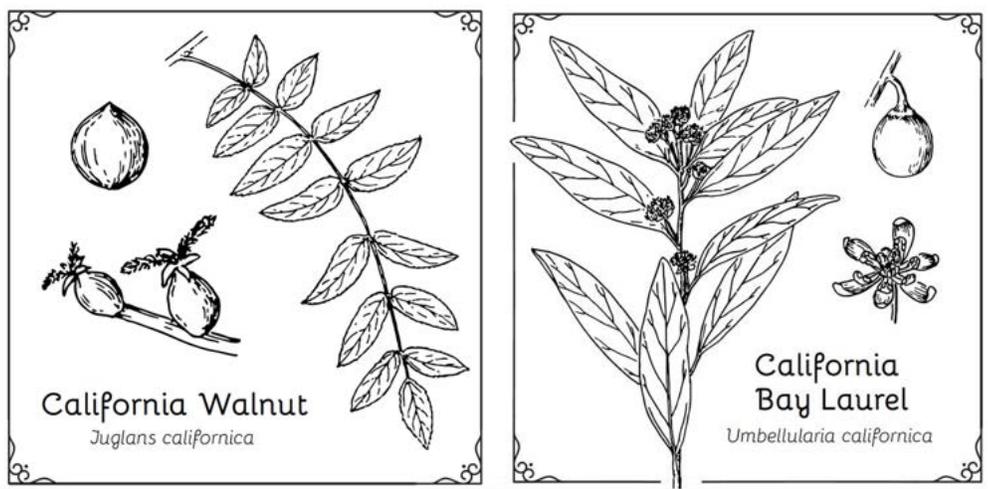
Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** The project team has reassemble and a notice to remobilize has been sent by the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (General Contractor) to their subcontractors. The project has been de-mobilized since February 2020 related initially to awaiting permit amendment approval for LA County Flood Control District and then later due to COVID-19 stay at home orders throughout the nation. The interpretive signs have since been completed and are awaiting delivery to the general contractor, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

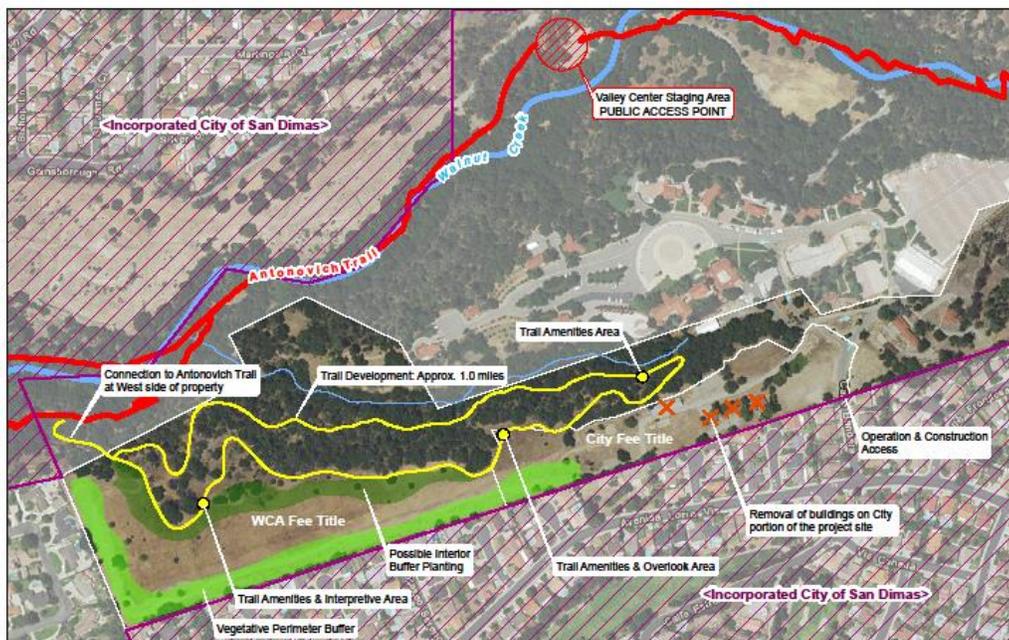


Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.

**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** Construction of the West Trail Loop and overlooks are complete with minor punch list items to be followed up on by the Contractor before the City of San Dimas closes out their contract. WCA has provided signage design for botanical metal plates to be installed on boulders along the trail. The signs will identify to visitor's the types of native plants they will see along the trail – samples of artwork shown below. Two interpretive panels will be designed by WCA and will be purchased by the City for WCA to install at the two overlooks.



**WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY**



Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.

City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.

**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Joseph Gonzalez, Project Analyst II  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 9: Project Update for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center, Final Concept Design Phase Presentation (RMC 19509)

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RMC and consultant team will provide an oral presentation for the the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center, the Final Concept Design Phase Presentation (RMC 19509).

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**DATE:** September 21, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

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

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 10: Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to ratify a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order amendment to provide additional Concept Phase project outreach, construction cost estimate, shifting of environmental investigations, and timeline extension with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC19509)

**PROGRAM AREA:** Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries

**PROJECT TYPE:** Implementation

**JURISDICTION:** Lower Los Angeles River Corridor

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board ratify a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order amendment with Geosyntec Consulting to provide additional Concept Phase project outreach, construction cost estimate, shifting of environmental investigations, and timeline extension with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC19509)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A – Lower LA River Revitalization Plan – Rio Hondo Confluence Signature Project

Exhibit B – Site Map/Aerial View

Exhibit C – Geosyntec Service Order – Contract Modification

Exhibit D – Geosyntec Service Order – Contract Budget Worksheet

Following the Feasibility and Pre-Concept phase (completed December 2019), Geosyntec Consulting and the Consultant Team have been providing additional architectural, engineering, planning, and community engagement services through Concept Design Phase and for Preliminary US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 408 permitting discussion.

Concept Phase work began January 6, 2020 and was anticipated to be completed in 6 months, through July 31, 2020, at a cost of \$2,188,970. This Amendment would adjust Concept Phase project outreach for the COVID-19 crisis, in addition to shifting environmental drilling, sampling, and testing from Concept Phase to Schematic Phase, and getting a second opinion on the construction cost estimate (for detail, see Exhibit C – Consultant Contract Modification).

The amendment will also extend the performance period by 2 months, through September 30, 2020, and increase the contract total by \$57,092 to \$2,246,062. See summary table below (for more details, see Exhibit D: Budget Worksheet,):

Table I) Geosyntec Concept Phase Amendment, Changes to Costs by Task:

|  | <b>Task</b>                               | <b>Proposed Cost</b>  |
|--|---|-----------------------|
|  | Outreach Pivot                            | \$86,856.00           |
|  | Environmental Investigations              | (\$50,000.00)         |
|  | Construction Cost Estimate                | \$20,236.00           |
|  | <b>Subtotal</b>                           | <b>\$57,092.00</b>    |
|  | <b>Original Agreement Amount</b>          | <b>\$2,188,970.00</b> |
|  | <b>Amendment 1 – New Agreement Amount</b> | <b>\$2,246,062.00</b> |

The Scope of Work (SOW) amendments include the following project components:

1. Project Outreach Pivot
2. Environmental Investigations
3. Construction Cost Second Opinion

Each component is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. Project Outreach Pivot (+\$86,856)

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the team was able to successfully complete engagement efforts at pre-existing community meetings and in-person stakeholder meetings but has now needed to pivot and shift its outreach strategy to remove public meetings from the approach.

The new engagement approach will include more virtual stakeholder meetings and the original Phase I Digital Public Engagement Tool (DPET) deployment (quantitative survey), and will add direct mailers, stakeholder meetings, and an online digital campaign to include social media advertising and direct emails to community members. This approach is intended to reach a wide community base in the absence of public meetings and will have an additional benefit of more fully engaging folks that do not attend traditional community meetings. The direct mail campaign will target 20+ zip codes in English and Spanish and has a potential target audience of about 18,000 households (majority of amendment costs).

2. Environmental Investigations (-\$50,000)

During the Concept Phase, Geosyntec proposed to carry out three (3) days of shallow direct push sampling and analytical testing in order to better understand the subsurface conditions at proposed stormwater drainage feature locations. As location of potential stormwater drainage features are in flux, it is assumed that a project conceptual design and location of stormwater drainage features will be narrowed down at the end of the concept phase, thus Geosyntec will perform the direct push sampling and testing during schematic design phase instead of during concept phase.

3. Construction Cost Second Opinion (+20,223)

During concept phase, the Geosyntec team has developed a construction cost estimate in addition to several value engineering exercises. Due to the magnitude and scale of the proposed project, it is prudent to do proper due diligence and confirm unit rates and built-in conservatisms at this early design phase of the project. Under the direction of Gehry Partners, a second preliminary construction cost estimate will be developed by Oltmans Construction Company, a Contractor who has built a similar Frank Gehry designed facility in South Central Los Angeles.

**BACKGROUND:** Projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

One of the projects identified in the LLARRP was a Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo (See Exhibit A). RMC, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles (Public Works) and other local and regional entities, was identified as the appropriate state agency to lead the development of the SELA Community Cultural Arts Center.

In order to efficiently carry out the planning, development, and construction for projects related to the LLARRP and the Cultural Center, RMC released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant services in December 2018 to provide professional services as required for project planning and development on an as needed basis. The RFQ was released on December 5, 2018 with a submittal deadline of January 7, 2019. The RFQ's primary purpose was to establish a pool of individual consultants and firms who have been pre-screened for their relevant level of expertise in urban river community projects, outreach, incubator and urban river improvement programs and projects. Subsequently, those on the list are highly qualified and readily available to provide professional consulting services for various projects within the Lower Los Angeles River region to support the Lower LA Revitalization Plan (AB 530).

Submittals were evaluated based upon a set of nine criteria for those firms who have complied with the minimum qualification requirements and to one or more of the following desirable qualifications and expertise, including: knowledge of the Lower Los Angeles River and its Revitalization Plan, Incubator Oversight and Contract Management, and Post-Incubation, and Availability, Schedule, and Project Management. Sixteen proposals were received and were each evaluated by three RMC staff members for desirable qualification and expertise.

Geosyntec consulting was identified as a top-tier candidate through RMC's RFQ process. As the lead consultant on the Los Angeles River Master Plan update, which is being led by Los Angeles County Public Works, Geosyntec not only demonstrates the technical expertise to lead the feasibility study for the Cultural Center but the Geosyntec Team is best suited to coordinate planning efforts with regional entities between this project and other studies in the LA River.

Since there are a number of significant issues that can impact the feasibility of the project, Geosyntec proposed a single integrated team to facilitate site selection, iterative solutions, and development of a site development strategy that effectively and cost-efficiently meets site requirements and stakeholder expectations starting from the site selection and feasibility stage.

The scope of the Site Selection and Feasibility phase included a technical evaluation of three potential sites along the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo in the cities of South Gate, Cudahy, and Bell Gardens. It was through this analysis that a preferred site was selected: the LA County

Public Works' Flood Control District's Imperial Maintenance Yard (see Exhibit B). The objective was to collect information related to RMC/Project goals, site options, team responsibilities, and community and other influences to evaluate if the project is generally viable within the understanding of the cost and technical constraints and if the project is viable to establish the next steps in the project development process.

Included in the Feasibility phase were initial geotechnical, civil, and environmental engineering investigations of the selected site, including pre-concept technical studies. The Geosyntec team provided drafts of all reports which were reviewed by RMC and provided to LA County Public Works for review and comment. The Feasibility studies were completed December 31, 2019.

The Concept Design Phase began on January 6, 2020. In the Concept Design phase, the basic Project conditions and scope as well as program areas and site are confirmed and various approaches to the Project massing and siting are developed. During the Concept Design phase there has been public outreach with appropriate project stakeholder groups and local community members to further engage and understand project objectives and constraints. Due to the public health situation with COVID-19 the public outreach has taken place largely using digital approaches.

The preliminary building program that forms the basis of the Project is as follows:

- Building Programming (approximately 80,000 sq. ft.), includes:
  - Community/Cultural facilities
  - Music Program facilities
  - Visual Arts Program facilities
- Site Programming (approximately 108,000 sq. ft.)

*Note that the preliminary building program is based on certain assumptions for Project and will need to be further defined.*

Deliverables by Activity:

#### 1. Concept Design

In the Concept Design phase, the basic Project conditions and scope as well as program areas and site are confirmed and various approaches to the Project massing and siting are developed.

Geosyntec's services for the Concept Design Phase consist of the following:

- Geotechnical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
  - review the information collected during the site investigation and work with the Design team to develop approaches to mitigate site contamination, if needed, such as capping, encapsulation, or limited removal
- Civil Engineering
  - Draft Design Basis Summary Tech Memo for Civil Design
  - Design Concept Drawings

- Traffic Engineering
  - Provide design input regarding the project entry intersection with Imperial Highway
  - Develop a concept improvement plan for the segment along Imperial Highway along the project frontage
  - Prepare concept improvement exhibits for up to two (2) intersections providing access to the proposed project
- Cost Estimating
  - Review and alignment of opinions of probable construction costs with the expectations of the Owner and the design team.
  - Comparison of the budget cost model to the budgeted funds for the project.
- Engagement Support

## 2. Preliminary USACE 408 Pre-Coordination

Based on the current conceptual layout, a USACE 408 permit may be required due to potential levee impacts. Therefore, an activity to meet with USACE has been included and will explore their permit requirements related to the planned Project. However, the NEPA documentation and USACE 408 permitting are not included as part of this scope of work. Obtaining an early decision on the 408 Permit can help prevent this process from introducing a project delay.

## 3. Quality Management

Geosyntec work product is prepared following a rigorous quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) process defined in a Corporate Quality Management Plan. The goal of their Quality Management Program (QMP) is to promote quality in their services and work products thereby enhancing the performance, reliability, and safety of our solutions and recommendations and the satisfaction of our clients. The QMP includes using an internal quality management system (QMS) to document and track all peer and senior reviews.

On December 16, 2019, the RMC Board authorized RMC staff to negotiate and award a contract Geosyntec Consulting to provide Concept Design and Permitting Pre-Coordination services for the Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles (Resolution 2019-46). The Service Order and Standard Agreement were executed on January 15, 2020, and ratified February 3, 2020 (2020-03).

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** This amendment will increase the budget for the Professional Services Agreement and Service Order with Geosyntec Consulting for the Concept Design and Permitting Pre-Coordination services for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 19509) by \$57,092 for a cost not to exceed \$2,246,062. This work will take place beginning January 6, 2020 and continue through September 30, 2020 (amendment approves a 2-month extension).

Funding for the Professional Services Agreement and Service Order will be allocated for Los Angeles River Community Restoration from the Budget Act of 2018 allocation:

Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840)

For local assistance, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency: Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects, in the amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), of this amount, allocation to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000).

**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 projection. 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.
  - (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 executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

# LLARRP SIGNATURE PROJECTS



Source: www.LLARRP.org

# LLARRP RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE SIGNATURE PROJECT

## LEGEND

### CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

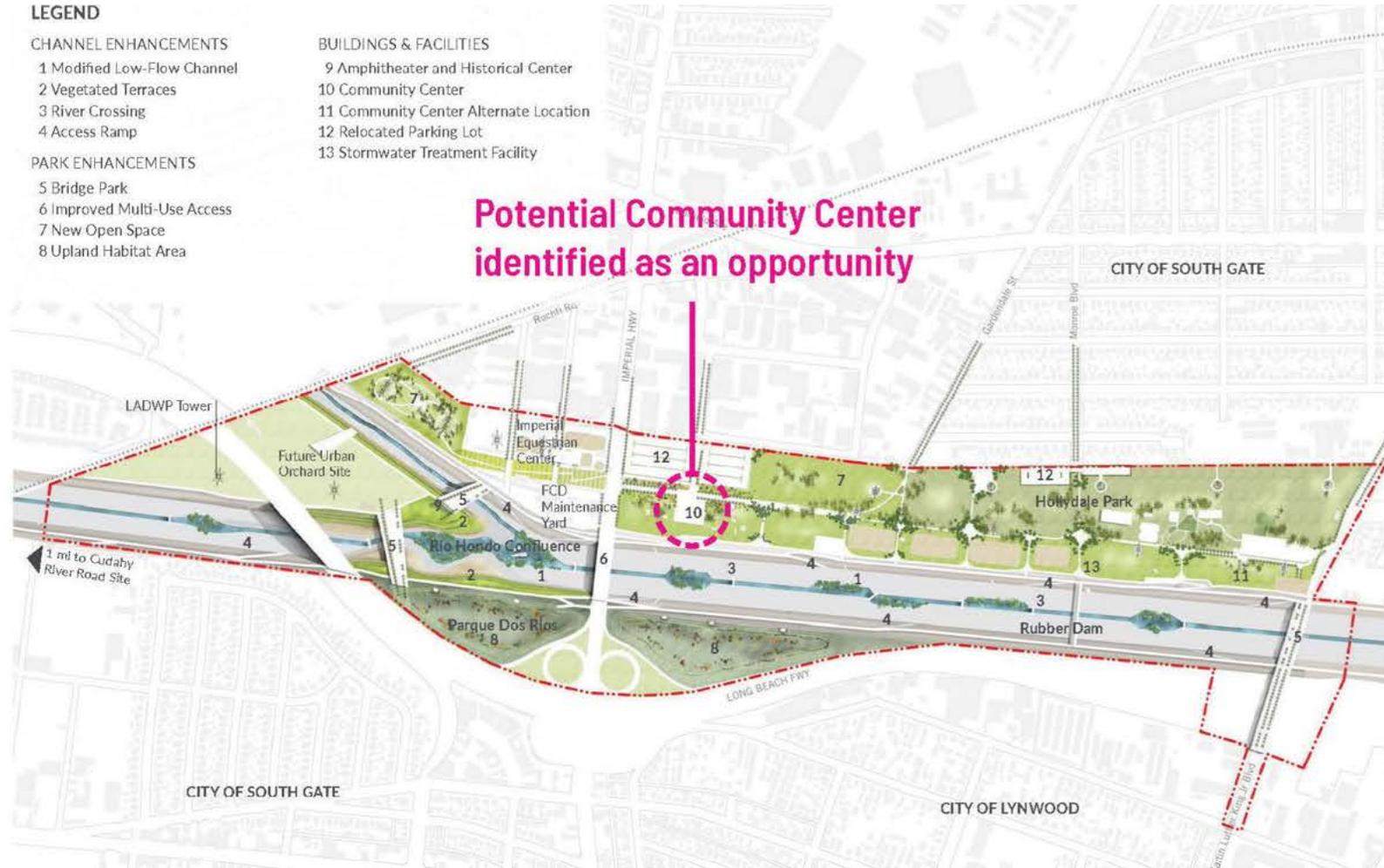
- 1 Modified Low-Flow Channel
- 2 Vegetated Terraces
- 3 River Crossing
- 4 Access Ramp

### PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- 5 Bridge Park
- 6 Improved Multi-Use Access
- 7 New Open Space
- 8 Upland Habitat Area

### BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

- 9 Amphitheater and Historical Center
- 10 Community Center
- 11 Community Center Alternate Location
- 12 Relocated Parking Lot
- 13 Stormwater Treatment Facility



Potential Community Center identified as an opportunity

City of South Gate, 2017

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

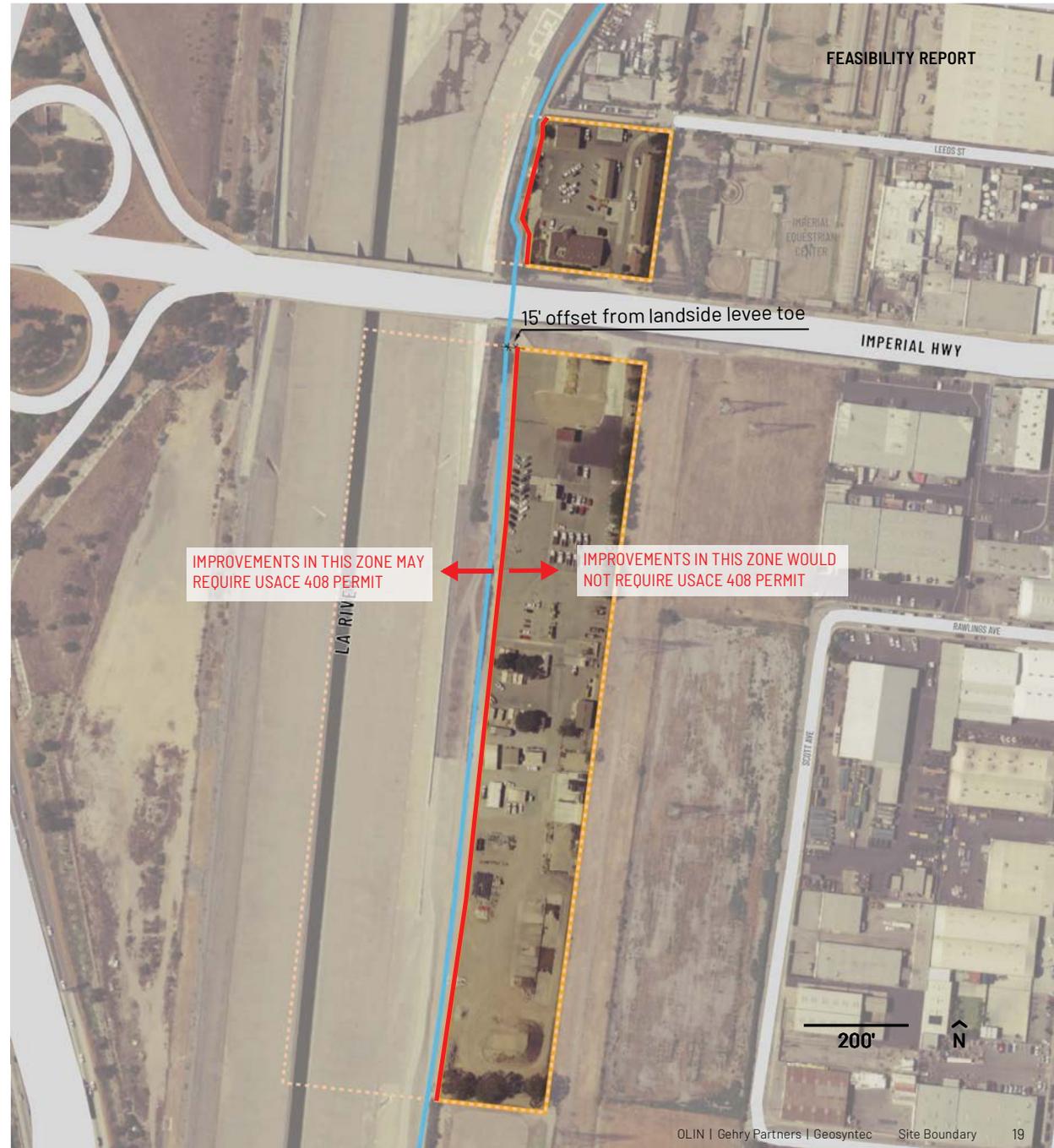
# SITE BOUNDARY

(Site south of Imperial Hwy only)

## LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- Levee Landside Toe

Source: OLIN; Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal, Assessor Parcels - 2016 Tax Roll, 2016 NAIP Aerial 2017



SELA CULTURAL CENTER

# AERIAL VIEW



FUTURE WEST SANTA ANA  
BRANCH (WSAB) LINE

SELA CULTURAL  
CENTER SITE

IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

RIO HONDO

I-710

LA RIVER

## CONSULTANT CONTRACT MODIFICATION

The Geosyntec team is currently providing professional architectural and engineering services to the RMC (Owner) for Concept Design of a proposed Community Cultural Center (Project) in Southeast Los Angeles. This proposal has been prepared by Geosyntec for the Owner in order to amend the current agreement to adjust the Concept Phase project outreach for the COVID-19 crisis, in addition to shifting environmental drilling, sampling, and testing from Concept Phase to Schematic Phase, and getting a second opinion on the construction cost estimate. The organization of this document is as follows:

1. Project Outreach Pivot
2. Environmental Investigations
3. Construction Cost Second Opinion
4. Professional Fees

### 1 PROJECT OUTREACH PIVOT

During Concept Phase, the original outreach strategy was to engage community members by participating in pre-existing community events that already attract a large crowd. The project engagement and outreach subconsultant team planned to participate in these pre-existing community meetings and convene two separate (2) public community meetings, in addition to conducting individual stakeholder engagement meetings, sending direct mailers, and deploying a Digital Public Engagement Tool (DPET) to promote project awareness and gather community input into the design process.

Prior to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the team was able to successfully complete engagement efforts at pre-existing community meetings and in-person stakeholder meetings, but has now needed to pivot and shift its outreach strategy to remove public meetings from the approach. The new engagement approach will still include virtual stakeholder meetings and the DPET deployment, and will add more direct mailers, stakeholder meetings, and an online digital campaign to include social media advertising and direct emails to community members. This approach is intended to reach a wide community base in the absence of public meetings and will have an additional benefit of more fully engaging folks that do not attend traditional community meetings.

While the plan has been modified, the overall goals for outreach have not changed. The goal for Phase 1 (formerly public Community Meeting A) is to outline the project, it's anticipated timeline, and opportunities for community engagement. The goal for Phase 2 (formerly public Community Meeting B) is to share initial ideas/concepts that are being proposed for the project for feedback. The specific goal for the new social media campaign is to reach 60,000-80,000 people, have 700-1,000 website visits, and 100-150 email sign-ups. The direct mail campaign will target 20+ zip codes in English and Spanish and has a potential target audience of about 18,000 households.

The outreach subconsultant's full revised scope is provided in Attachment A.

## 2 ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

During the Concept Phase, Geosyntec proposed to carry out three (3) days of shallow direct push sampling and analytical testing in order to better understand the subsurface conditions at the southern end of the site where potential stormwater drainage features were proposed. The design team has performed some value engineering exercises to evaluate ways to reduce construction costs for the Cultural Center Site, and in doing so has developed design options that have shifted the location of stormwater drainage features. It is assumed that a project conceptual design and location of stormwater drainage features will be narrowed down at the end of Concept Phase, and Geosyntec will perform the direct push sampling and testing during Schematic Design Phase.

## 3 CONSTRUCTION COST SECOND OPINION

During Concept Phase, the Geosyntec team has developed a construction cost estimate in addition to several value engineering exercises. Due to the magnitude and scale of the proposed project, it is prudent to do proper due diligence and confirm unit rates and built-in conservatism at this early design phase of the project. Under the direction of Gehry Partners, a second preliminary construction cost estimate will be developed by Oltmans Construction Company, a Contractor who has built a similar Frank Gehry designed facility in South Central Los Angeles. Gehry Partner’s proposal is provided in Attachment B.

With regards the construction cost second opinion, RMC acknowledges and agrees as follows:

- (1) The Preliminary Cost Estimate is for reference purposes only based on concept-level design materials; will be used for comparison with an estimate of Construction Cost prepared by Directional Logic; and is not intended to establish a finite budget for the construction of the Project.
- (2) Neither Geosyntec, Gehry Partners nor Oltmans has control over: the cost of labor, materials or equipment; the Contractor’s methods of determining bid prices; or competitive bidding, market or negotiating conditions.
- (3) No warranties or representations are made as to the adequacy, completeness or accuracy of the Preliminary Cost Estimate.

## 4 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND CONTRACT

We propose to carry out the tasks outlined in this scope of work in addition to the tasks outlined in the scope of work dated January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on a net lump sum basis total of **\$57,092**. The fees are broken down by activity as follows:

| SCOPE FEES                   |              |                           |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Activity                     | Geosyntec    | *Subconsultants           |
| Outreach Pivot               |              | \$86,856 (Gehry Partners) |
| Environmental Investigations | -\$20,000    | -\$30,000 (Driller TBD)   |
| Construction Cost Estimate   | \$3,000      | \$17,236 (Oltmans)        |
|                              | <b>Total</b> | <b>\$57,092</b>           |

*\*Other direct costs, including direct subconsultant fees, include a 12% mark-up to cover insurance, processing, and administration.*

These fees are in addition to the already approved contract amount of \$2,188,970 dated January 6, 2020, which brings the new project total to **\$2,246,062**. A breakdown of the total project budget by activity and deliverable is shown on the following page. Geosyntec proposes to provide these services in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Professional Services Agreement between Geosyntec and the RMC dated April 22, 2019.

| Activity  | Deliverable  | Geosyntec                       | *Environ. Invest. (TBD)    | *Urban Crossroads | *Survey (TBD)   | *Directional Logic | *GP (and direct subs)              | *RVA            | Total              |
|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| CONCEPT DESIGN  |  |                                 |                            |                   |                 |                    |                                    |                 |                    |
| Geotechnical Engineering  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to four (4) meetings with structural engineer and specialty contractors for planning of ground improvement program</li> <li>Technical Memo on concept level ground improvement program</li> </ul>  | \$80,000                        |                            |                   |                 |                    |                                    |                 | \$80,000           |
| Environmental Engineering   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental and Risk Assessment Technical Memo (<b>removal of drilling, sampling, testing, and mgmt of</b>)</li> </ul>  | \$60,000<br><b>(- \$20,000)</b> | \$0<br><b>(- \$30,000)</b> |                   |                 |                    |                                    |                 | \$60,000           |
| Civil Engineering   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Design Basis Summary Technical Memo</li> </ul>  | \$155,000                       |                            |                   |                 |                    |                                    |                 | \$155,000          |
| Traffic Engineering   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conceptual Improvement Exhibits for Imperial Hwy and up to 2 additional intersections</li> </ul>  | \$6,000                         |                            | \$9,520           | \$40,000        |                    |                                    |                 | \$55,520           |
| Cost Estimating   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Concept Cost Plan</li> <li><b>Construction Cost 2<sup>nd</sup> Opinion</b></li> </ul>   | \$13,000<br><b>(+ \$3,000)</b>  |                            |                   |                 | \$94,080           | <b>+ \$17,236</b>                  |                 | \$124,316          |
| Architectural Services<br>(incl Landscape Architecture and Outreach)<br><br><b>(Removal of two (2) public engagement meetings, presentation materials, and summary reports)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawings as necessary to describe selected massing options, site layout, and other conceptual designs to support a preliminary cost estimate</li> <li>Program and area summaries as necessary for the massing options</li> <li>Photographs of physical and/or 3-D computer models for the massing options</li> <li>One (1) presentation of the in-progress design to the RMC decision committee, if required</li> <li>Up to two (2) progress concept design reports in preparation of each design meeting</li> <li>Up to three (3) concept design meetings</li> <li><b>Direct Mailers (18k households), Social Media Campaign, and Direct emails</b></li> <li>Up to 12 stakeholder meetings</li> <li>Digital Public Engagement Tool survey report</li> <li>Final concept design report</li> <li>Presentation materials for a final concept design</li> <li>One (1) presentation of the final design to the RMC decision committee, if required</li> </ul> | \$6,000                         |                            |                   |                 |                    | \$1,718,306<br><b>(+ \$86,856)</b> |                 | \$1,718,306        |
| Concept Subtotal  |  | \$320,000                       | \$0                        | \$9,520           | \$40,000        | \$94,080           | \$1,735,542                        |                 | \$2,199,142        |
| USACE 408 Pre-Coordination Subtotal   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to three (3) meetings with USACE</li> <li>Up to three (3) meetings with LACFCD</li> <li>Summary Notes of Conversations</li> </ul>  | \$15,000                        |                            |                   |                 |                    |                                    | \$31,920        | \$46,920           |
| <b>Total</b>  |  | <b>\$335,000</b>                | <b>\$ 0</b>                | <b>\$9,520</b>    | <b>\$40,000</b> | <b>\$ 94,080</b>   | <b>\$1,735,542</b>                 | <b>\$31,920</b> | <b>\$2,246,062</b> |

September 21, 2020 – Item 10

RESOLUTION 2020-31

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) TO RATIFY A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONCEPT PHASE PROJECT OUTEACH, CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE, SHIFTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTRIGATIONS, AND TIMELINE EXTENSION WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTING FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (SELA) CULTURAL ARTS CENTER (RMC 19509)

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 State of California has authorized an expenditure of local assistance funds enacted in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for local assistance for the Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects; and,

WHEREAS, The RMC may enter into any 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; and

WHEREAS, the RMC issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish a list of individual consultants and firms to provide professional consulting and/or contracting services to support the Los Angeles River Community Restoration & Revitalization Projects, including Green Incubator and Cultural Center; 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 this action is consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and Lower Los Angeles Revitalization Plan and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the Los Angeles River.
- 3 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Resolution No. 2020-31

- 4 ADOPTS the staff report dated September 21, 2020.
- 5 RATIFY a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order with Geosyntec Consulting for the Concept Design and Permitting Pre-Coordination services for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 19509) by \$57,092 for a cost not to exceed \$2,246,062. This work will take place beginning January 6, 2020 and continue through September 30, 2020 (2-month extension).

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

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

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

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General

**DATE:** September 21, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

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

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 11: Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to approve a Professional Services Agreement to provide Architectural Design Services for the Schematic Design Phase with Gehry Partners, LLP for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20503)

**PROGRAM AREA:** Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries

**PROJECT TYPE:** Implementation

**JURISDICTION:** Lower Los Angeles River Corridor

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy approve a Professional Services Agreement to provide Architectural Design Services for the Schematic Design with Gehry Partners, LLP for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20503)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A – Lower LA River Revitalization Plan – Rio Hondo Confluence Signature Project  
 Exhibit B – Site Map/Aerial View  
 Exhibit C – Gehry Partners, LLP’s Proposal for SD – Cover Letter  
 Exhibit D – Gehry Partners, LLP’s Proposal for SD – Payment/Deliverable Schedule

On December 16, 2019, the RMC Board authorized negotiation and award of professional services contract(s) to Gehry Partners, LLP under a request for proposal (RFP) to provide Architectural Design Services for Schematic Design phases through Construction Administration for the SELA Cultural Center project (Resolution 2019-47). This SD Phase contract is the first service proposal with Gehry Partners, LLP (GP) under the RFP. The scope of services and task order have been negotiated based on approved fee schedules and service qualifications.

Following the Feasibility and Pre-Concept phase (completed December 2019), Geosyntec Team, which included GP, have provided architectural, engineering, planning, and community engagement services through Concept Design Phase. Concept phase work began January 6, 2020 and anticipated to continue through September 30, 2020.

In moving into the next phase of design, Schematic Design or SD phase, the selected concept will be developed into an architectural scheme and the area, program mix, and budget are fixed, as expressed in 2-D drawings and a three-dimensional building information computer model (“BIM”) that will be further developed in subsequent phases. Deliverables during SD are more detailed sketches and models that convey the selected design option and the interaction of the design elements. Outreach efforts initiated during the Concept Design phase will continue during this phase. The Schematic Design will have a 5-month performance period, in anticipation of the being design complete within the first quarter of 2021.

GP will work closely with the Site and Environmental Engineering Team led by Geosyntec Consulting (and includes RVA planning firm). Geosyntec’s team will provide geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, civil engineering, traffic engineering, and cost estimating input during the SD Phase. GP’s scope of services covers all Architectural Design Services.

The Team Fee Table is below which breaks down the contract by discipline, consultant, and costs (See Exhibit D for Payment/Deliverables Table). Total contract cost is: \$2,256,965.

| Discipline                   | Consultant                 | Schematic Design | SD Reimbursable Expenses |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Architecture                 | Gehry Partners             | \$895,690        | \$120,000                |
| MEP                          | ARC                        | \$180,000        | \$15,000                 |
| Structural Engineering       | MKA                        | \$116,500        | \$7,500                  |
| Acoustics                    | Nagata                     | \$75,232         | \$0                      |
| Landscape                    | Olin                       | \$352,000        | \$17,450                 |
| Life Safety                  | SGH                        | \$15,450         | \$500                    |
| AV                           | Sonitus                    | \$35,988         | \$0                      |
| Vertical Transportation      | HKA                        | \$22,800         | \$0                      |
| Lighting Design              | LOBS                       | \$85,000         | \$25,450                 |
| Room and Isolation Acoustics | NBA                        | \$19,000         | \$100                    |
| Outreach*                    | River LA//DakeLuna/Mercury | \$80,000         | \$24,000                 |
| Theater                      | TDNA                       | \$78,500         | \$185                    |
| BIM Coordination             | Trimble                    | \$81,120         | \$9,500                  |

The specific Scope of Services description for GP during SD Phase are organized into the following categories:

- 1. Project Management**
- 2. Site Analysis**
  - 2.1 Topographic Analysis
  - 2.2 Analysis of deed, zoning, and other legal restrictions
  - 2.3 Site visits
  - 2.4 Review of Surveys (surface and subsurface site data)
  - 2.5 Site photography
- 3. Program**

- 3.1 Design objectives, limitations, and criteria *(assist)*
- 3.2 Space requirements and relationships *(assist)*
- 3.3 Number and function responsibilities of personnel *(assist)*
- 3.4 Flexibility and expandability *(assist)*
- 3.5 Special equipment and systems *(assist)*
- 3.6 Site related program issues *(assist)*
- 4. Preliminary Diagrams**
  - 4.1 Pedestrian, vehicular, and material handling circulation *(assist)*
  - 4.2 General space allocations
  - 4.3 Adjacency
- 5. Site Studies**
  - 5.1 Land utilization
  - 5.2 Structures placement
  - 5.3 Facilities planning
  - 5.4 Movement systems, circulation
  - 5.5 Landscape planning
  - 5.6 Utilities system *(assist)*
  - 5.7 Surface and subsurface conditions *(assist)*
  - 5.8 Review of soils report
  - 5.9 Slope analysis
- 6. Architectural Design/Documentation**
  - 6.1 Documentation of site and building concepts describing the designs
  - 6.2 Preliminary selection of architectural building systems and materials
  - 6.3 Development of approximate areas and volumes
  - 6.4 Study model(s)
  - 6.5 Provide 3d-model of basic exterior surfaces (not fully closed)
- 7. Structural Design/Documentation**
  - 7.1 Develop recommended structural system based on Architect's design intent
  - 7.2 Alternate structural systems
- 8. Mechanical Design/Documentation**
  - 8.1 Energy conservation
  - 8.2 Heating and ventilating and air conditioning
  - 8.3 Plumbing
  - 8.4 Fire protection
  - 8.5 Special mechanical systems
  - 8.6 General space requirements
- 9. Electrical Design/Documentation**
  - 9.1 Building power service and distribution
  - 9.2 Lighting concepts
  - 9.3 Electrical systems
  - 9.4 Communication systems
  - 9.5 Fire protection systems
  - 9.6 Security systems
  - 9.7 Special electrical systems
  - 9.8 General space requirements
- 10. Civil Design/Documentation**
  - 10.1 On-site utility systems *(assist)*
  - 10.2 Drainage systems *(assist)*
- 11. Landscape Design/Documentation**
  - 11.1 Development of conceptual design solutions for paving, pedestrian plazas, and forms, planting and water features

- 11.2 Program requirements (*assist*)
- 11.3 Analyze physical site characteristics and environmental determinants
- 11.4 Research and advice regarding plantscape and technical issues appropriate to design intent
- 12. Interior Design/Documentation**
  - 12.1 Development of conceptual design direction for all public and interior spaces
- 13. Materials Research/Specifications**
  - 13.1 Identify potential architectural materials, systems, and equipment and their criteria and quality standards consistent with the design
  - 13.2 Investigate availability and suitability of alternative architectural materials, systems, and equipment
  - 13.3 Provide design narrative
- 14. Economic Feasibility**
  - 14.1 Develop initial approximate gross facility areas and unit cost data (*assist*)
  - 14.2 Develop probable construction cost range for the Project based on the most recent Schematic Design studies, current and historic area, volume, or other unit costs, expected Project delivery process, and appropriate contingencies (*assist*)
  - 14.3 Estimate related costs such as site development, landscaping, utilities, services, furniture, equipment, and design services (*assist*)
  - 14.4 Review all cost estimating provided by the Cost Estimating Consultant
- 15. Presentations**
  - 15.1 Presentations of Schematic Design Documents
- 16. Value Engineering**
  - 16.1 In accordance with Agreement
- 17. Community Outreach**
  - 17.1 Conduct Virtual Stakeholder meetings
  - 17.2 Utilize the City of South Gate's email list-serve to inform community stakeholders of project updates
  - 17.3 Distribute information to a curated email list and request feedback as appropriate
  - 17.4 Conduct paid and organic social media posts

Gehry Partners has assembled an outreach team to work with the design team and RMC on an engagement plan that reflects the changing Los Angeles landscape where digital platforms will be a constant source of outreach as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The engagement strategy will focus on the physical programming and design of the SELA Cultural Center facility.

Outreach tactics will include:

- **Virtual Stakeholder meetings:** While Team will continue more personal communications with project's critical stakeholders, Team will also continue to execute on larger scale virtual stakeholder meetings where we invite significantly involved community members and organizations to join a presentation over Zoom. There, they can provide more personalized feedback and ask any questions. The goal of these meetings is largely informational, to ensure key members of the community are aware of what's happening and spread the word to their respective organizations, and to elicit feedback into the process.
- **Email List-serve:** Continue to use the City of South Gate's email list-serve, as well as surrounding communities, to keep them apprised of project updates and to introduce them to new project elements. Team will continue to develop new language that directs people to project website and encourages them to provide input on Schematic Design elements. In doing so, Team will maintain our widespread audience and continue to attract constituents to get involved.

- **Email Outreach:** Utilize curated email list for the Project as developed through the Concept Design phase. Team will utilize this list to regularly distribute information pertaining to the project to those interested, and request feedback where appropriate.
- **Social Media** (paid and organic): Team will continue to use Facebook to drive awareness of the projects and drive community input. Team will build out organic posts that speak to the different project elements, from arts to educational programming, to derive feedback. Team will ask individuals to comment their thoughts and gear our language towards receiving feedback. Team will also tag our partners to boost the content. Simultaneously, we will launch a second set of advertisements that will drive people to our website and provide information about Schematic Design elements. We will gear our content and our geo-targeting utilizing lessons learned from our efforts during Concept Design.
- **Complete Phase 2 of the Digital Public Engagement Tool (DPET):** Launch and complete Phase 2 DPET (Online Community) to engage in a longer-term qualitative discussion for feedback on specific programming aspects of the SELA Cultural Center. Will recruit a demographically representative sample of 50 participants, identified via the previous Phase 1 DPET to participate and collect and analyze qualitative data.
- **Additional Engagement Treatments for hard-to-reach and Spanish-language residents:** work towards building trust within the Southeast LA community to garnish support for the Project. Will develop a variety of strategies to notify stakeholders and hard to reach residents, particularly focusing on Spanish language speakers. Will conduct one-on-ones with community leaders and opinion influencers with the goal of learning from them and engaging them in Project's development process. Seek to partner with local non-profit organization who's work is anchored in Southeast LA.
- **Billboard:** Team will utilize the City of South Gate's billboard (adjacent to the 710 and near the project area) to regularly advertise for the project, directing the public to website and call-in number for more information.

**BACKGROUND:** Projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

One of the projects identified in the LLARRP was a Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo (See Exhibit A). RMC, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles (Public Works) and other local and regional entities, was identified as the appropriate state agency to lead the development of the SELA Community Cultural Arts Center.

In order to efficiently carry out the planning, development, and construction for the SELA Cultural Center project, RMC released a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking an individual or firm to provide creative architectural design, preconstruction support, and construction administration services for the Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles (the "Project").

The RFP was released on October 11, 2019 with a submittal deadline of November 4, 2019. The RFP's primary purpose was to identify the best qualified architectural services proposal that is the most advantageous for the Cultural Center Project based on qualifications and proposed fees. The RFP Scope of Work included Schematic Design through Construction Administration.

By the submittal deadline, the RMC received ten proposals. RMC staff scored and ranked the ten proposals so as to provide the Selection Committee the top three proposals whose applications demonstrated the most specialized skills in disciplines requested. These proposers were evaluated based upon the nine areas of selection criteria listed in the RFP as well as desirable qualifications and expertise, cost/value effectiveness and cost adequacy and reasonableness of the overall merit and cost. The Selection Committee, which consisted of representatives from the RMC Governing Board, City of South Gate, and County of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works, helped finalize the selection of the Architectural consultant to lead the Project.

The Selection Committee and the RMC held interviews with the three highest scoring firms on December 6, 2019 in the City of South Gate. The interviews provided the Selection Committee greater insight on the firms' expertise, qualifications, and overall understanding of the needs of Southeast Los Angeles in relation to the Cultural Center in order to adequately and fairly evaluate their respective proposals.

Based on the Selection Committee's aggregated and averaged scores of each firm's Technical Merit and the Cost Component (quoted average cost of services per hour converted from a standard formula into score values), it was recommended to award the Architectural Design Services contract to Gehry Partners, LLP as the lead firm for the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center (Resolution 2019-47)

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:** Since there are a number of significant issues that can impact the feasibility of the project, Geosyntec Consulting proposed a single integrated team to facilitate site selection, iterative solutions, and development of a site development strategy that effectively and cost-efficiently meets site requirements and stakeholder expectations starting from the site selection and feasibility stage.

Included in the Feasibility phase were initial geotechnical, civil, and environmental engineering investigations of the selected site, including pre-concept technical studies. The Geosyntec team provided drafts of all reports which were reviewed by RMC and provided to LA County Public Works for review and comment. The Feasibility studies were completed December 31, 2019.

On December 16, 2019, the RMC Board authorized RMC staff to negotiate and award a contract Geosyntec Consulting (including GP) to provide Concept Design and Permitting Pre-Coordination services for the Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles (Resolution 2019-46). The Service Order and Standard Agreement were executed on January 15, 2020, and ratified February 3, 2020 (2020-03).

The Concept Design Phase began on January 6, 2020. In the Concept Design phase, the basic Project conditions and scope as well as program areas and site are confirmed and various approaches to the Project massing and siting are developed. During the Concept Design phase there has been public outreach with appropriate project stakeholder groups and local community members to further engage and understand project objectives and constraints. Due to the public health situation with COVID-19 the public outreach has taken place largely using digital approaches.

The preliminary building program that forms the basis of the Project is as follows:

- Building Programming (approximately 80,000 sq. ft.), includes:

- Community/Cultural facilities
  - Music Program facilities
  - Visual Arts Program facilities
- Site Programming (approximately 108,000 sq. ft.)

*Note that the preliminary building program is based on certain assumptions for the project and will need to be further defined.*

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** The Professional Services Agreement with Gehry Partners, LLP to provide Architectural Design Services for the Schematic Design Phase for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20503) is for a cost of \$2,256,965. The Schematic Design phase has a 5-month performance period.

Funding for the Professional Services Agreement and Service Order will be allocated for Los Angeles River Community Restoration from the Budget Act of 2018 allocation:

Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840)

For local assistance, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency: Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects, in the amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), of this amount, allocation to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000).

**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.
  - (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 executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

# LLARRP SIGNATURE PROJECTS



Source: www.llarp.org/llarp-101

# LLARRP RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE SIGNATURE PROJECT

## LEGEND

### CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

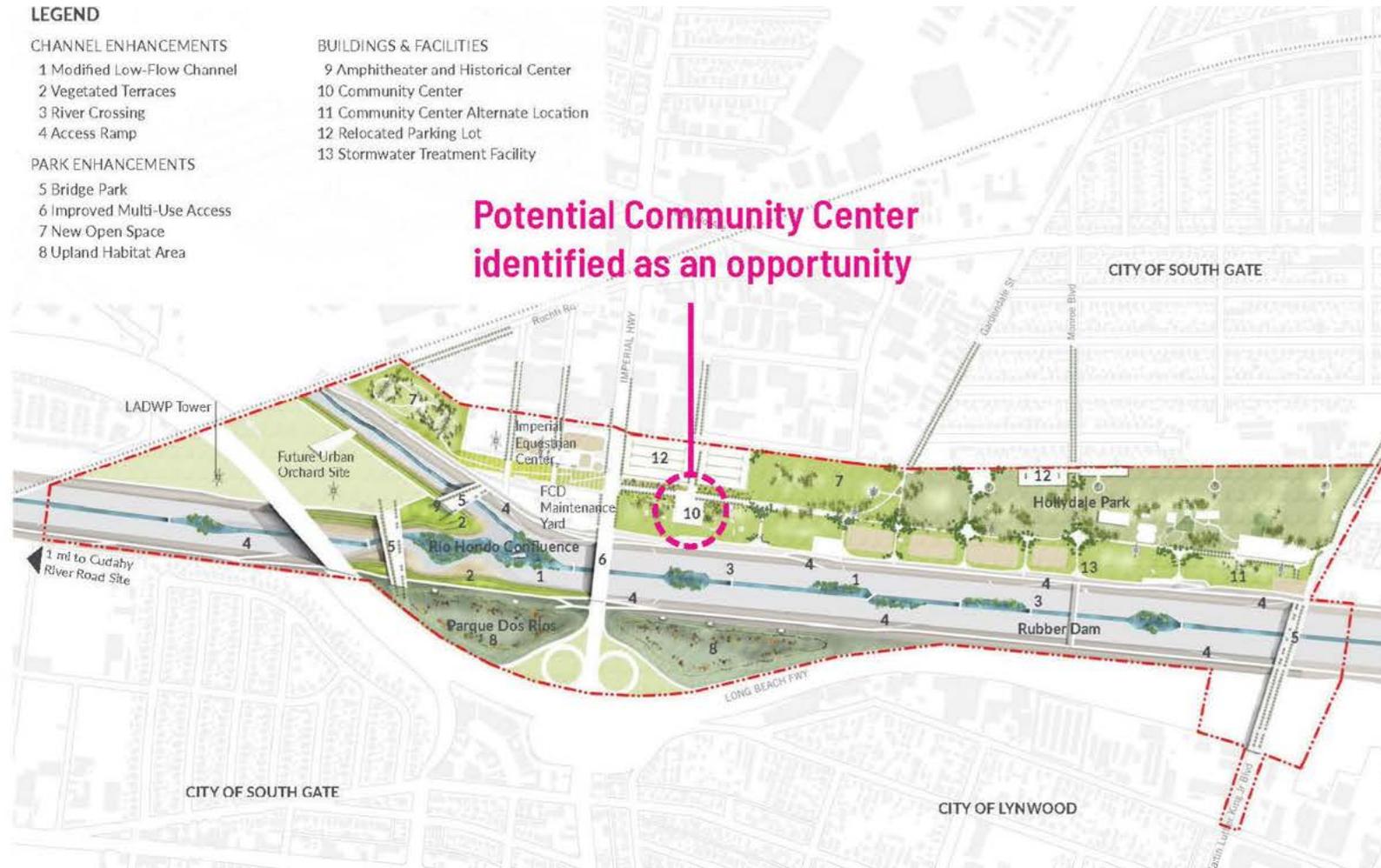
- 1 Modified Low-Flow Channel
- 2 Vegetated Terraces
- 3 River Crossing
- 4 Access Ramp

### PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- 5 Bridge Park
- 6 Improved Multi-Use Access
- 7 New Open Space
- 8 Upland Habitat Area

### BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

- 9 Amphitheater and Historical Center
- 10 Community Center
- 11 Community Center Alternate Location
- 12 Relocated Parking Lot
- 13 Stormwater Treatment Facility



Potential Community Center identified as an opportunity

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

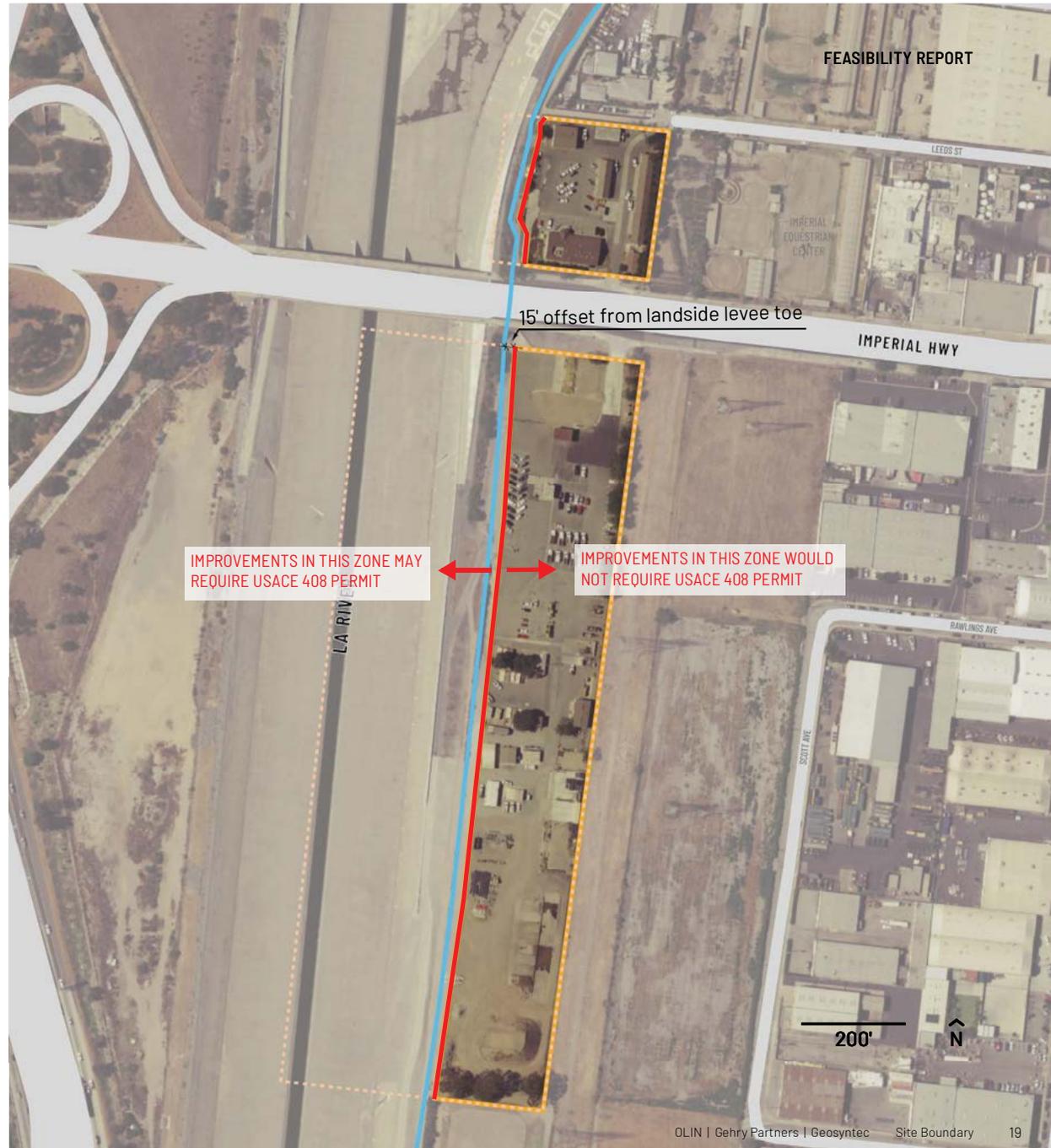
# SITE BOUNDARY

( Site south of Imerial Hwy only)

## LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- - - Parcel Boundary
- Levee Landside Toe

Source: OLIN; Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal, Assessor Parcels - 2016 Tax Roll, 2016 NAIP Aerial 2017



FEASIBILITY REPORT

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

# AERIAL VIEW



FUTURE WEST SANTA ANA  
BRANCH (WSAB) LINE

SELA CULTURAL  
CENTER SITE

IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

I-710

RIO HONDO

LA RIVER

Exhibit C  
**Gehry Partners, LLP**

**Item 11**  
Frank Gehry

John Bowers  
Jennifer Ehrman  
Berta Gehry  
Meaghan Lloyd  
David Nam  
Tensho Takemori  
Laurence Tighe  
Craig Webb

*May 15, 2020, Updated June 4, 2020, Updated July 13, 2020, Updated July 30, 2020, Updated August 3, 2020, Updated August 31, 2020*

River and Mountains Conservancy  
Att: Mark Stanley – Executive Officer  
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road  
Azusa, CA 91702

**Re: Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Arts Center**  
***Clarifications to Gehry Partners, LLP's Proposal for the Schematic Design Phase***

Dear Mark:

At the request of Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Gehry Partners, LLP provides this clarification to our proposal for Schematic Design phase for the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Arts Center project. We do not believe that these clarifications fundamentally or materially alter the terms of our original proposal, but rather are intended to clarify the intended payment schedule and further explain our services as related to community outreach.

In that regard, please find proposed revisions to the relevant portions of the compensation and Scope of Services sections to clarify our proposal. In addition, we have included a preliminary payment schedule for discussion.

We look forward to discussing and resolving these items with you.

Sincerely,

Tensho Takemori

*Partner*

## Executive Summary

Gehry Partners and its proposed consulting team are unparalleled assets uniquely positioned to deliver real value to the design of the SELA Cultural Center. Our team, which includes OLIN, Geosyntec, and River LA as key consultants, has been working together for more than 5 years on the issues surrounding the LA River. We understand the issues as well as anyone working on the river, and the time we have taken to get to know the leaders of the southeast community is unmatched. In addition to our strong relationships, we are engaged in other adjacent projects that complement the SELA Cultural Center, we have conducted extensive research on the site and surrounding area, have achieved success in developing projects that deliver a cultural impact and have a solid technical foundation to successfully carry out this specific project as demonstrated below.

After studying the LA River for 4 years, our collective team was selected by the County of Los Angeles to update its 1996 LA River master plan. Under the leadership of Geosyntec, our team started work on the update in early 2018, and is due to complete our work in mid-2020. Our work on the master plan is resulting in a deep analytical study of the primary water, environmental, social, economic and cultural issues facing the southeast cities, giving us the unique advantage of possessing a deep knowledge base unparalleled by any other consultant team, from which we will begin the project.

In 2018, the County of Los Angeles hired our team to begin a more detailed design study for The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project situated in the Lower LA River. This opportunity has allowed the team to develop their analytical study at a census tract level, and to continue strategic outreach with community and local leaders in a more focused manner for this area. The team has completed the feasibility study, and is currently developing the Concept Design for the area, which includes 12 projects that surround and complement the SELA Cultural Center. As such, our team is uniquely positioned to integrate both the design and outreach efforts for the SELA Cultural Center with that of the Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project that is occurring concurrently.

This year, our team worked with Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to perform the feasibility study for the SELA Cultural Center. The feasibility study allowed the team to continue its analysis and research on a more detailed level and on a site-by-site basis. The team analyzed several sites, three sites in detail, to arrive at the currently recommended site. Our team has spent significant time studying the proposed SELA cultural center site, understanding its constraints and opportunities from a site planning and initial environmental perspective. Our knowledge of the site will be extremely advantageous to RMC as the project moves into Schematic Design as any other consultant team would need to allocate significant resources to accumulate the same level of knowledge of the site before starting Schematic Design activities.

Over the past 5 years through the various efforts described above, our team has spent significant time developing relationships with local leaders at the city, county and state level. Frank Gehry has met with local leaders of the southeast on a regular basis, including South Gate, Cudahy, Bell, Bell Gardens, Downey, Lynwood, Paramount, and Long Beach amongst others. Our team has met with all five supervisors and staff to brief them on the progress of our work, and has received support for our efforts from all five districts. Frank Gehry has established a strong relationship with Speaker Anthony Rendon, a state level leader representing this area. We believe these efforts allow our team to be strongly positioned to support the outreach efforts required through the life of the project. We have assembled a strong outreach team that includes a former leader of a southeast city that provides an important and unique understanding of the area to develop an outreach process tailored to the specific needs of this project.

## Exhibit D. Payment Schedule

## Schematic Design Phase

| Discipline                                 | SD TOTAL LABOR FEE | SD EXPENSES | SD TOTAL LUMP SUM | Lump Sum Fee | Deliverable  | Lump Sum Fee | Deliverables   |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| <b>Architecture</b><br>Gehry Partners      | \$895,690.00       | \$120,000   | \$895,690.00      | \$507,845.00 | Progress Schematic Design drawings, narratives, and images. Reports on outreach completed. | \$507,845.00 | Schematic Design drawings, narratives, and images. Reports on outreach completed.      |
| <b>MEP</b><br>ARC                          | \$180,000.00       | \$15,000.00 | \$195,000.00      | \$97,500.00  | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$97,500.00  | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>Structural Engineering</b><br>MKA       | \$116,500.00       | \$7,500.00  | \$124,000.00      | \$62,000.00  | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$62,000.00  | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>Acoustics</b><br>Nagata                 | \$75,232.00        | \$0.00      | \$75,232.00       | \$37,616.00  | Progress Schematic Design narratives   | \$37,616.00  | Schematic Design narratives  |
| <b>Landscape</b><br>Olin                   | \$352,000.00       | \$17,450.00 | \$369,450.00      | \$184,725.00 | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$184,725.00 | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>Life Safety</b><br>SGH                  | \$15,450.00        | \$500.00    | \$15,950.00       | \$7,975.00   | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$7,975.00   | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>AV</b><br>Sonitus                       | \$35,988.00        | \$0.00      | \$35,988.00       | \$17,994.00  | Progress Schematic Design narratives   | \$17,994.00  | Schematic Design narratives  |
| <b>Vertical Transportation</b><br>HKA      | \$22,800.00        | \$0.00      | \$22,800.00       | \$11,400.00  | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$11,400.00  | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>Lighting Design</b><br>LOBs             | \$85,000.00        | \$25,450.00 | \$110,450.00      | \$55,225.00  | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$55,225.00  | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>Room and Isolation Acoustics</b><br>NBA | \$19,000.00        | \$100.00    | \$19,100.00       | \$9,550.00   | Progress Schematic Design narratives   | \$9,550.00   | Schematic Design narratives  |
| <b>Outreach</b><br>Mercury, DakeLuna, RLA  | \$80,000           | \$24,000    | \$104,000         | \$52,000     | Summary reports of meetings held, and summary analysis outreach on scope that applies.     | \$52,000     | Summary reports of meetings held, and summary analysis outreach on scope that applies. |
| <b>Theater</b><br>TDNA                     | \$78,500.00        | \$185.00    | \$78,685.00       | \$39,342.50  | Progress Schematic Design drawings and narratives  | \$39,342.50  | Schematic Design drawings and narratives   |
| <b>BIM Coordination</b><br>Trimble         | \$81,120.00        | \$9,500.00  | \$90,620.00       | \$45,310.00  | Summary report of work completed.  | \$45,310.00  | Summary report of work completed.  |

September 21, 2020 – Item 11

RESOLUTION 2020-32

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE WITH GEHRY PARTNERS, LLP FOR SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (SELA) CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

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 State of California has authorized an expenditure of local assistance funds enacted in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for local assistance for the Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects; and,

WHEREAS, The RMC may enter into any 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; and

WHEREAS, the RMC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking an individual or firm to provide architectural design, preconstruction phase and construction phase services for the Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the RMC established a Selection Committee that evaluated Proposals and made a recommendation to the Board for final approval; 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 this action is consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and Lower Los Angeles Revitalization Plan and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the Los Angeles River.
- 3 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Resolution No. 2020-32

- 4 ADOPTS the staff report dated September 21, 2020.
- 5 AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer to award a Professional Services Agreement with Gehry Partners, LLP to provide Architectural Design Services for the Schematic Design Phase for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20503) is for a cost of \$2,256,965. The Schematic Design phase has a 5-month performance period.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

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

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

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General

**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Joseph Gonzalez, Project Analyst II  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 12: Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to approve a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order to provide Engineering and Permitting Consulting Services for the Schematic Design and CEQA Phases with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20502)

---

**PROGRAM AREA:** Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries

**PROJECT TYPE:** Implementation

**JURISDICTION:** Lower Los Angeles River Corridor

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Governing Board authorizes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to ratify a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order to provide Engineering and Permitting Consulting Services for the Schematic Design and CEQA Phases with Geosyntec Consulting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20502)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A – Lower LA River Revitalization Plan – Rio Hondo Confluence Signature Project

Exhibit B – Site Map/Aerial View

Exhibit C – Geosyntec Service Order – Cover Letter

Exhibit D – Geosyntec Service Order – Tasklist/Timeline

Exhibit E – Geosyntec Service Order – Cost Breakdown

Exhibit F – Geosyntec Service Order – Scope of Work

Exhibit G – Table of Contents of Geosyntec's corporate Quality Management Plan

The Geosyntec team has previously provided professional architectural and engineering services to RMC for Site Selection and Feasibility and Pre-Concept phases, and is currently providing the same services for the Concept Design of the proposed Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center (Project) through September 30, 2020, see Exhibit A and B for site context and boundary.

A proposal was submitted by Geosyntec on June 4, 2020 to provide additional engineering, environmental planning, and community engagement support services through the Schematic Design (SD) and initial California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) phase of the Project. Geosyntec's scope of work for SD has been developed in collaboration with the Architectural Design Team (Gehry Partners, LLP) to help ensure relevant issues are addressed in alignment with the Project direction at time of the proposal. The RMC Board approved RMC's Executive Officer to negotiate and award an SD phase and initial CEQA phase contract at the June 15, 2020 Board Meeting (Resolution 2020-25) for a cost of \$909,760.

To ensure efficiency and a timely transition between future SD and CEQA phases, RMC staff made a strategic decision to execute a contract for SD phase and full CEQA/EIR phase (not just initial CEQA). This increased the contract amount to \$1,390,320, an increase of \$480,560. This was important because of the ability to start CEQA during SD phase, and the many critical and time sensitive tasks at the end of SD phase.

During the SD phase the selected concept will be developed into an architectural scheme and the area, program mix, and budget are fixed, as expressed in 2-D drawings and a three-dimensional building information computer model ("BIM") that will be further developed in subsequent phases. Deliverables during SD are more detailed sketches and models that convey the selected design option and the interaction of the design elements. Outreach efforts initiated during the Concept Design phase will continue during this phase. The Schematic Design and CEQA phases will have an 18-month performance period, starting August 28, 2020 and ending February 28, 2022.

The Geosyntec Team will work closely with the Architectural Design Team led by Gehry Partners (and includes OLIN Landscape Architects, MKA Structural Engineers). Geosyntec team will provide geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, civil engineering, traffic engineering, and cost estimating input during the SD Phase. The specific Scope of Work (SOW) description for Geosyntec during SD Phase are organized into the following categories:

1. **Schematic Design Phase SOW** (18 weeks) (\$541,200)
  - 1.1 Geotechnical Engineering (\$70,000)
  - 1.2 Environmental Engineering (\$96,000)
  - 1.3 Civil Engineering (\$280,000)
  - 1.4 Traffic Engineering (\$29,600)
  - 1.5 Community Engagement Support (\$20,000)
  - 1.6 LA County Flood Control District Coordination (\$45,600)
2. **CEQA Phase SOW** (12 months) (\$774,000)
  - 2.1 Public Outreach (\$117,320)
  - 2.2 Kick-off Meeting and Project Description (\$9,840)
  - 2.3 Technical Studies (\$288,040)
  - 2.4 Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (\$65,760)
  - 2.5 Draft EIR (\$171,120)
  - 2.6 Final EIR/MMRP/Findings (\$88,800)
  - 2.7 RMC Board Meetings/EIR Public Hearings (\$21,920)
  - 2.8 *Reimbursable Expenses (printing, fees, travel, etc.)* (\$11,200)
3. **Cost Estimate Support SOW** (4 weeks) (\$25,000)
4. **Contingency** (\$50,120)
5. **Quality Management**

**TOTAL: \$1,390,320**

1. **Schematic Design Phase SOW** (18 weeks) (*\$541,200*)  
 1.1 Geotechnical Engineering (*\$70,000*)

A significant constraint on the development of foundation recommendations for the Project is seismic related liquefaction as described in Geosyntec's December 2019 Soils Engineering Report. As reported in the 2019 report, the resulting displacement effects from liquefaction at the Site include significant settlement and lateral spreading. The main challenges are settlement and lateral spread associated with sands and silty sands that are 8 ft to 60 ft below the ground surface and a high seismic demand at the site. The planned structures themselves are dynamically complex as they are now envisioned to be elevated on a podium level raised with compacted fill.

A conceptual ground improvement plan outlining an approach for liquefaction mitigation was developed during Concept Design phase based on early indications of likely building loads and performance expectations. Moving forward in SD, the ground improvement and foundation scheme needs to be developed collaboratively with the Architectural Team's structural engineer (MKA) to work to balance ground improvement and foundation system costs and expectations of building performance. SD level geotechnical recommendations will be developed for deep foundations, shallow foundations, retaining walls and other geotechnical elements of the selected option.

Activities planned include:

- Geotechnical Input and Support During Schematic Design (as described above)
- Ground motion hazard analysis will be conducted in general accordance with ASCE 7 Section 21
- Preparations for, meeting with, and summary notes following meetings the City of South Gate or County of LA technical staff and/or consultant
- Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed
- No formal deliverables. Will document meeting summaries and design decisions in technical memoranda when applicable

1.2 Environmental Engineering (*\$96,000*)

Geosyntec performed a desktop level screening of the selected site during the Site Selection and Feasibility phase and identified potential environmental hazards on the Site. During the Site Selection and Feasibility phase, direct push borings and environmental sampling of the top 15 feet of the subsurface was performed to evaluate the potential contamination on the Site. The analytical testing results from these samples indicated that there are elevated concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons, metals (predominantly lead) in soils and some methane and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in the soil vapors. There is no information in the site history indicating use of the Site for industrial or manufacturing purposes. The contaminants are most likely associated with fill materials brought to the Site to construct the LA River levees and the embankment for Imperial Highway.

During the Concept Design phase Geosyntec carried out a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) using the information collected during the pre-concept phase site

investigation. The HHRA was prepared to evaluate whether the levels of chemicals detected at the Site pose a potential risk to human health based on the planned future uses of the Site. The HHRA indicated that although vapor intrusion was not an issue, there were a few locations with elevated lead and arsenic that should be addressed by excavation and removal.

Because of the site history there is a potential that there is some contamination on other areas of the site that have not been investigated. Therefore, a soil management plan (SMP) will be developed during SD to guide the handling and offsite disposal (or reuse) or soil excavated at the Site for foundations, utility trenches, cistern, amphitheater, and other features.

The results of the Site investigation and HHRA need to be reviewed and approved by the designated regulatory agency (i.e. City of South Gate). Geosyntec proposes to carry out three additional days of direct push sampling and lab testing to delineate the excavation limits of elevated arsenic and lead identified in the HHRA and to accommodate additional sampling that will likely be requested by City of South Gate

Activities planned during SD include:

- Development of a Soil Management Plan
- Three days of direct push sampling and analytical testing of recovered samples
- Meeting with the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant
- Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed
- Update to the HHRA as necessary to accommodate City of South Gate comments, significant changes to the planned alternative, and additional site data collected during SD
- No formal deliverables. Will document meeting summaries and design decisions in technical memoranda as applicable

### 1.3 Civil Engineering (\$280,000)

During the Concept Design phase, the civil engineering services included conceptual design and evaluation of wet utilities, grading, drainage, and site fire access and protection. The civil design aspects will be advanced during the SD phase. In the SD phase, grading and drainage design scope is significantly expanded to reflect Concept massing and includes coordination with the Architectural Design Team on drainage of the “plaza” area as well as grading and drainage of the adjacent off-site surface parking. Grading will be advanced in support of the Architectural Design Team and will be designed in 3D. All other civil design (e.g., utilities and structures) and details will be designed in 2D.

Activities planned include:

- Preliminary meetings with City of South Gate to discuss off-site street and drainage improvements, LACFCD storm drain relocation, and point-of-connections and capacities for wet utilities
- Coordination with LA County Sanitation District regarding trunk line sewer connections

- Additional due diligence, including field investigations and utility locating (if necessary) for off-site street and drainage improvements and LACFCD storm drain relocation
- Demand and capacity analyses of wet utilities based on the current selected option and associated programming)
- Schematic layout, elevations, and sizing of wet utilities
- Schematic layout of civil site plan in coordination with GP and OLIN
- Schematic layout of grading and drainage for plaza, fire access road, secondary site access, surface parking lots, and adjacent LADWP and SCE right-of-way
- Evaluation of site fire access and fire flows/hydrants
- Schematic layout of off-site street and drainage improvements including relocation of Imperial Hwy storm drain, addition of secondary access from Borwick Ave, and required off-site improvements at Imperial Highway and Borwick Ave for access (assumes that traffic engineering is provided by Geosyntec sub)
- Design Basis Summary Memo Update for Civil Design

#### 1.4 Traffic Engineering (\$29,600)

During the SD phase, off-site improvement requirements along Imperial Highway and along Borwick Avenue will be incorporated into the schematic layout of the project. The technical details will be developed by Urban Crossroads in collaboration with the Architectural Design Team and incorporating requirements from relevant agencies (CALTRANS, City of South Gate). Urban Crossroads is a certified Small Business that provides a full range of traffic services that include traffic impact analysis, traffic engineering, travel demand modeling, simulations and many other traffic related services. During SD Phase, Urban Crossroads will also provide design input in the areas of Site access, on-site circulation, assessment of the Site design for emergency vehicle access and auto/truck circulation, and providing input to the parking layout design as necessary.

Activities planned include:

- Discuss the required design parameters with the project team. In addition to ongoing electronic (e-mail and telephone) communication, up to three virtual meetings are anticipated.
- Prepare schematic design exhibits showing on-site roadway signing and striping layouts for all on-site roadways and potential off-site parking areas. Schematic design exhibits will include Borwick Avenue extending east to Garfield Avenue, as well at the intersections of Borwick Avenue at Garfield Avenue and the Project access at Imperial Highway.
- Prepare exhibits demonstrating the adequacy of on-site circulation for emergency vehicles, autos, and truck loading areas presenting the minimum width driveway and associated vehicle turning movements for all areas for which schematic design exhibits will be prepared.

#### 1.5 Community Engagement Support (\$20,000)

Geosyntec will support the RMC community engagement efforts led by the Architectural Design team during the SD phase. Although in-person meetings are currently curtailed because of public health concerns, this may change as the project progresses into the CEQA phase. Geosyntec will also participate in digital or in-person stakeholder meetings as needed, and provide input and review of engagement materials such as website content, direct mailers, web publications and other various materials.

#### 1.6 LA County Flood Control District Coordination (\$45,600)

During Concept Design Phase, the Geosyntec team engaged the USACE LA District 408 permitting and Real Estate leads in order to better understand their permitting and real estate concerns and approval process. Based on conversations with USACE 408 team and Real Estate Personnel, it is expected that any modifications to the property will require USACE approval and a 408 review. Before USACE 408 and Real Estate will review proposed designs, LACFCD must first approve any proposed designs to ensure the project does not negatively impact the LA River flood control project.

During the SD Phase, the Geosyntec team will continue to meet and coordinate with the LACFCD to identify design constraints and requirements in order to maintain safety of the flood control project. LA County has requested that USACE real estate discussions be coordinated through LA County during this phase.

Activities planned include:

- The Geosyntec team will facilitate and participate in up to five (5) meetings and two (2) potential site visits, document the meetings, and review all agendas and presentation materials.
- It is anticipated that part of these coordination meetings will involve scoping the CEQA documentation for relocation of their Maintenance Yard activities.
- No preparation of 408 permit supporting materials or coordination with LACFCD for 408 submission as a part of this proposal. Based on available information at the time this proposal was prepared we anticipate that the NEPA process will not be triggered.

## 2. CEQA Documentation and Technical Studies Phase (\$774,000)

The Environmental Planning activity (i.e. CEQA) will be led by Geosyntec's subconsultant, Ruth Villalobos & Associates (RVA). RVA is a Woman-Owned and Disadvantaged Small Business and provides a full range of planning and environmental services for many types of projects. RVA is recognized in the industry for professional planning and environmental consulting services with emphasis on land development, stormwater management, watershed management, and the natural resources.

At the time of this proposal, the CEQA documentation is assumed to only cover the SELA Cultural Center project, and not any LACFCD Maintenance Yard relocation. Through conversations and coordination with RMC and LA County Public Works, the final CEQA scope and documentation will be agreed upon at a later time. Based on RVA's previous experience with projects of similar size and scope to the Cultural Center, the CEQA document is assumed to be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to the community and river sensitivities around the Site, the Project aspects, and the number of

known organized, special-interest groups in the area. While the final CEQA scope and documentation is negotiated between RMC and LA County Public Works, the Geosyntec team can begin working on developing initial documentation and technical studies.

Geosyntec will provide management and oversight of communications and coordination between RVA, RMC, LACFCD and between RVA and RMC's other consultants. Additionally, Geosyntec will provide environmental, geotechnical, and civil engineering input and support to RVA during EIR development. Geosyntec's and RVA's tasks are summarized below and a more detailed description of activities and assumptions is provided as attachment D.

### 2.1 Public Outreach (\$117,320)

RVA will review the RMC's existing mailing distribution list and add to the list as appropriate for CEQA purposes. Includes providing mailing notices to the RMC Outreach Coordinator for dissemination to their mailing list for CEQA notifications of Scoping and Hearing meetings. Includes a purchased mailing list for proximity to the project site compliant with CEQA guidelines. Assumes 800 contacts on the mailing list, plus the purchased proximity mailing list. Includes Draft and Final versions for initial submittal, incorporating one round of RVA comments. RVA will perform project management to include administrative, coordination and meetings to successfully execute and complete the project.

RVA will prepare key messages, FAQs, and "about the project" language that will be incorporated into public informational materials and notices by RMC. RVA will conduct coordination/status conference calls. Assumes three (3) two (2) -hour calls for each the scoping meeting and the Draft EIR meeting. RVA will prepare a brief status (email) update every month of activities completed and planned.

#### Scoping Meeting

RVA will develop a postcard and email notification to announce upcoming scoping meeting; including Spanish translation. RVA will coordinate social media channels and prepare posts for social media in English and Spanish. Assume two (2) posts to communicate prior to upcoming scoping meeting. Prepare graphic material, presentation displays and a PowerPoint presentation. Prepare outside venue direction signs, facilitate sign-in activities, organize seating arrangements, locate/identify meeting venue, and other logistic efforts. Facilitate and conduct a public scoping meeting. Provide Spanish translators. Prepare a draft/final summary report for the scoping meeting to document outreach/engagement activities conducted during the meeting.

#### Draft EIR Public Meeting

RVA will develop a postcard and email notification to announce upcoming Draft EIR meeting; including Spanish translation. Prepare graphic material, presentation displays and a PowerPoint presentation. Prepare outside venue direction signs, facilitate sign-in activities, organize seating arrangements, locate/identify meeting venue, and other logistic efforts if in person meetings are advisable or web-based virtual meetings if not in person. Facilitate and conduct a public Draft EIR meeting. Provide Spanish translators.

Prepare a draft/final summary report for the Draft EIR meeting to document outreach/engagement activities conducted during the meeting.

## 2.2 Kick-off Meeting and Project Description (\$9,840)

RVA will attend and participate in a kick-off meeting with RMC and the consulting team. Items to be discussed at the kick-off meeting include the project description, project schedule, environmental document processing, the permitting process, and any other items that may be critical to the overall schedule.

RVA will draft a description of the proposed project, including all proposed improvements, the construction footprint, construction equipment and timing. The draft project description will be provided to the RMC and the team for review and comment. Once finalized and approved by RMC the project description will be used for the preparation of the technical studies and the CEQA Initial Study checklist.

## 2.3 Technical Studies (\$288,040)

This task includes an assessment of applicable and appropriate rules and regulations, and preparation of technical studies that are anticipated to be required to support the CEQA documentation. RVA will lead the preparation of the regulatory framework, assess the baseline conditions, and perform technical studies for the following CEQA technical study topics and Geosyntec will support CEQA (see Exhibit D for specific details):

- Traffic Impact
- Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Air Quality Impact
- Greenhouse Gas
- Energy
- Noise

Geosyntec will prepare the following technical summaries which will largely be based on information developed during geotechnical, environmental, and civil studies already carried out for the project:

- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Grading and Drainage
- Mineral Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

## 2.4 Initial Study, Notice of Preparation (\$65,760)

RVA will prepare additional Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework utilizing the RMC's CEQA Checklist Form. The checklist will identify the CEQA topics and thresholds. RVA will address RMC's comments on the Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework and will provide the RMC with the final Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework. RVA will address both the Baseline and Regulatory Framework for the following environmental topics:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural & Paleontological Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Mineral Resources
- Land Use/Planning
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

*RMC is seeking to support an anti-displacement or gentrification study for the SELA region to be incorporated into the analysis for impacts to Population and Housing separately.*

## 2.5 Preparation of Administrative and Public Review Draft EIR (\$171,120)

The Administrative (Admin) Draft EIR will be prepared by RVA in accordance with the 2020 State CEQA Guidelines and RMC's and LA County's standards and policies. The standards/criteria of significance will be developed based on CEQA Guidelines and tailored or refined as relevant to RMC and LA County requirements (e.g. General Plan policies, programs or guidelines, and adopted ordinances). The impact analysis will specify the standards of significant thresholds for each topic.

RVA will prepare and provide the Admin Draft EIR to RMC for review and comment. RVA will address RMC's comments. Revisions to address RMC's comments will be completed using the tracked changes features to streamline backcheck. Once the RMC conducts their final review of the Admin Draft EIR, RVA will address any final comments and finalize the Draft EIR for public circulation and review.

Circulation of Draft EIR: RVA will consult with RMC to establish the public review period, public notification and agency filing requirements for the Draft EIR. RVA will prepare a Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Completion (NOC) to meet CEQA and RMC's requirements. RVA will address RMC comments on the NOA and NOC and will provide RMC with the final versions. RVA will prepare and distribute the Notice of Availability, on behalf of and in coordination with RMC (i.e., posting on RMC's website, mailing notices to distribution list, posting with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse) and will deliver 1 hardcopy each for up to 2 local libraries. RVA will coordinate one time noticing in the local newspaper if required by the RMC (i.e., Newspaper TBD).

Comments/Responses: Upon conclusion of the public review period, RVA will prepare written responses to comment letters or emails submitted to the RMC. RVA has budgeted responses for up to 50 significant comments and any additional significant comments will require a scope modification. RVA will prepare thorough, reasoned, and appropriate responses to relevant environmental issues. Upon completion of these Responses to Comments they will be submitted to RMC for review. Responses to comments may require minor editorial revisions, however it is not anticipated that major revisions or new analysis would be required. It is not anticipated that excessive comment

letters will be received. It is not anticipated that responses will require additional modeling or analysis. It is not anticipated that extensive comment letters would be received by the wildlife agencies, as the conceptual mitigation package would have been developed and preliminarily discussed with USFWS, CDFW, and RWQCB before it is included in the Draft EIR and circulated for the general public and public agency review. RVA with assistance from Geosyntec will respond to technical questions or comments from the public related to the CEQA document and analysis. RVA will prepare a draft Notice of Determination (NOD) for RMC review. Upon RMC approval of the project and certification of the Draft EIR, RVA will post the NOD with State Clearinghouse and the Los Angeles County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 2 business days.

#### 2.6 Preparation of Final EIR/MMRP/Findings & Statement of Overriding Considerations (\$88,800)

RVA will develop the final EIR which will consist of the Final EIR Introduction, "Comments and Responses" section, Draft EIR Errata (or Revised Draft EIR), and any new or revised Appendices. The RVA team will respond to written comments received on the Draft EIR during the 45-day public review period. RVA will prepare an Errata section for inclusion with the Responses to Comments document, identifying all proposed changes to the Draft EIR, based on public comments or staff-initiated technical corrections. RVA will distribute the Comments and Responses packet to Responsible Agencies, as required by CEQA.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 21081.6, RVA will prepare a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) that incorporates all mitigation measures from the EIR. RVA will prepare a Statement of Facts and Findings to be defined through working with RMC. RVA will also assist RMC staff in preparing a draft Statement of Overriding Considerations, if necessary, for use by RMC staff in the Resolution

#### 2.7 RMC Board Meeting/Public Hearings (\$21,920)

RVA will attend public hearings held for the proposed Project. These hearings are anticipated to include up to five (5) RMC Board meetings/public hearings on the EIR. The RVA Project Manager will be prepared to answer technical questions related to the EIR and relevant comments on the EIR raised during the public hearing meetings. Preparation of written responses to late comment letters received, typically just before public hearings is not included in this scope but if needed, can be provided on a time and materials basis.

#### 2.8 Reimbursable Expenses (\$11,200)

### 3. **Cost Estimate Support SOW** (18 weeks) (\$25,000)

Beyond the early stages of project development, cost estimating services are typically provided directly by the Owner (in this case RMC) with the cost estimator functioning as an advocate for the Owner and part of the Owner's management and project controls team. The intention is that during the SD phase RMC will directly provide the cost estimating services with an updated cost estimate developed at the end of SD phase. Geosyntec will coordinate closely with the Gehry Partners team and provide cost input

and review of the cost estimate with regards to civil site design elements, ground improvement and foundation program, and environmental remediation. In addition, Geosyntec will provide support to RMC for RMC's selection and engagement of cost estimating and potentially pre-construction CM services.

#### 4. Contingency

While it is not anticipated that major revisions will be necessary, if significant challenges and issues arise during the Schematic Design or CEQA process, Geosyntec will bring them to RMC's attention to review and discuss the estimated necessary level of effort required to resolve. If the level of effort is estimated to be above and beyond the reserved contingency, Geosyntec will request a contract amendment from the RMC.

#### 5. Quality Management

Geosyntec work product is prepared following a rigorous quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) process defined in a Corporate Quality Management Plan. The goal of their Quality Management Program (QMP) is to promote quality in their services and work products thereby enhancing the performance, reliability, and safety of our solutions and recommendations and the satisfaction of our clients. The QMP includes using an internal quality management system (QMS) to document and track all peer and senior reviews. The Table of Contents of Geosyntec's corporate Quality Management Plan is included as Exhibit F.

**BACKGROUND:** Projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

One of the projects identified in the LLARRP was a Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo (See Exhibit A). RMC, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles (Public Works) and other local and regional entities, was identified as the appropriate state agency to lead the development of the SELA Community Cultural Arts Center.

In order to efficiently carry out the planning, development, and construction for projects related to the LLARRP and the Cultural Center, RMC released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant services in December 2018 to provide professional services as required for project planning and development on an as needed basis. The RFQ was released on December 5, 2018 with a submittal deadline of January 7, 2019. The RFQ's primary purpose was to establish a pool of individual consultants and firms who have been pre-screened for their relevant level of expertise in urban river community projects, outreach, incubator and urban river improvement programs and projects. Subsequently, those on the list are highly qualified and readily available to provide professional consulting services for various projects within the Lower Los Angeles River region to support the Lower LA Revitalization Plan (AB 530).

Submittals were evaluated based upon a set of nine criteria for those firms who have complied with the minimum qualification requirements and to one or more of the following desirable qualifications and expertise, including: knowledge of the Lower Los Angeles River and its Revitalization Plan, Incubator Oversight and Contract Management, and Post-Incubation, and

Availability, Schedule, and Project Management. Sixteen proposals were received and were each evaluated by three RMC staff members for desirable qualification and expertise.

Geosyntec consulting was identified as a top-tier candidate through RMC's RFQ process. As the lead consultant on the Los Angeles River Master Plan update, which is being led by Los Angeles County Public Works, Geosyntec not only demonstrates the technical expertise site planning, engineering, and permitting for the Cultural Center but the Geosyntec Team is best suited to coordinate planning efforts with regional entities between this project and other studies in the LA River.

Since there are a number of significant issues that can impact the feasibility of the project, Geosyntec proposed a single integrated team to facilitate site selection, iterative solutions, and development of a site development strategy that effectively and cost-efficiently meets site requirements and stakeholder expectations starting from the site selection and feasibility stage.

The scope of the Site Selection and Feasibility phase included a technical evaluation of three potential sites along the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo in the cities of South Gate, Cudahy, and Bell Gardens. It was through this analysis that a preferred site was selected: the LA County Public Works' Flood Control District's Imperial Maintenance Yard (see Exhibit B). The objective was to collect information related to RMC/Project goals, site options, team responsibilities, and community and other influences to evaluate if the project is generally viable within the understanding of the cost and technical constraints and if the project is viable to establish the next steps in the project development process.

Included in the Feasibility phase were initial geotechnical, civil, and environmental engineering investigations of the selected site, including pre-concept technical studies. The Geosyntec team provided drafts of all reports which were reviewed by RMC and provided to LA County Public Works for review and comment. The Feasibility studies were completed December 31, 2019.

The Concept Design Phase began on January 6, 2020. In the Concept Design phase, the basic Project conditions and scope as well as program areas and site are confirmed and various approaches to the Project massing and siting are developed. During the Concept Design phase there has been public outreach with appropriate project stakeholder groups and local community members to further engage and understand project objectives and constraints. Due to the public health situation with COVID-19 the public outreach has taken place largely using digital approaches.

The preliminary building program that forms the basis of the Project is as follows:

- Building Programming (approximately 80,000 sq. ft.), includes:
  - Community/Cultural facilities
  - Music Program facilities
  - Visual Arts Program facilities
- Site Programming (approximately 108,000 sq. ft.)

*Note that the preliminary building program is based on certain assumptions for Project and will need to be further defined.*

The Concept Design Phase Scope of Work included the following:

1. Concept Design
2. Preliminary USACE 408 Pre-Coordination
3. Quality Management

On December 16, 2019, the RMC Board authorized RMC staff to negotiate and award a contract Geosyntec Consulting to provide Concept Design and Permitting Pre-Coordination services for the Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles (Resolution 2019-46). The Service Order and Standard Agreement were executed on January 15, 2020, and ratified February 3, 2020 (2020-03).

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** The Budget Professional Services Agreement and Service Order with Geosyntec Consulting to provide Engineering and Permitting Consulting Services for the Schematic Design and CEQA Phases services for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20502) is for a cost not to exceed \$1,390,320. The Schematic Design and CEQA phase will have an 18-month performance period, starting August 28, 2020 and ending February 28, 2021.

Funding for the Professional Services Agreement and Service Order will be allocated for Los Angeles River Community Restoration from the Budget Act of 2018 allocation:

Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840)

For local assistance, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency: Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects, in the amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), of this amount, allocation to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000).

**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 projection. 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.
  - (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 executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

# LLARRP SIGNATURE PROJECTS



Source: www.lla.org/la-rrp

# LLARRP RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE SIGNATURE PROJECT

## LEGEND

### CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

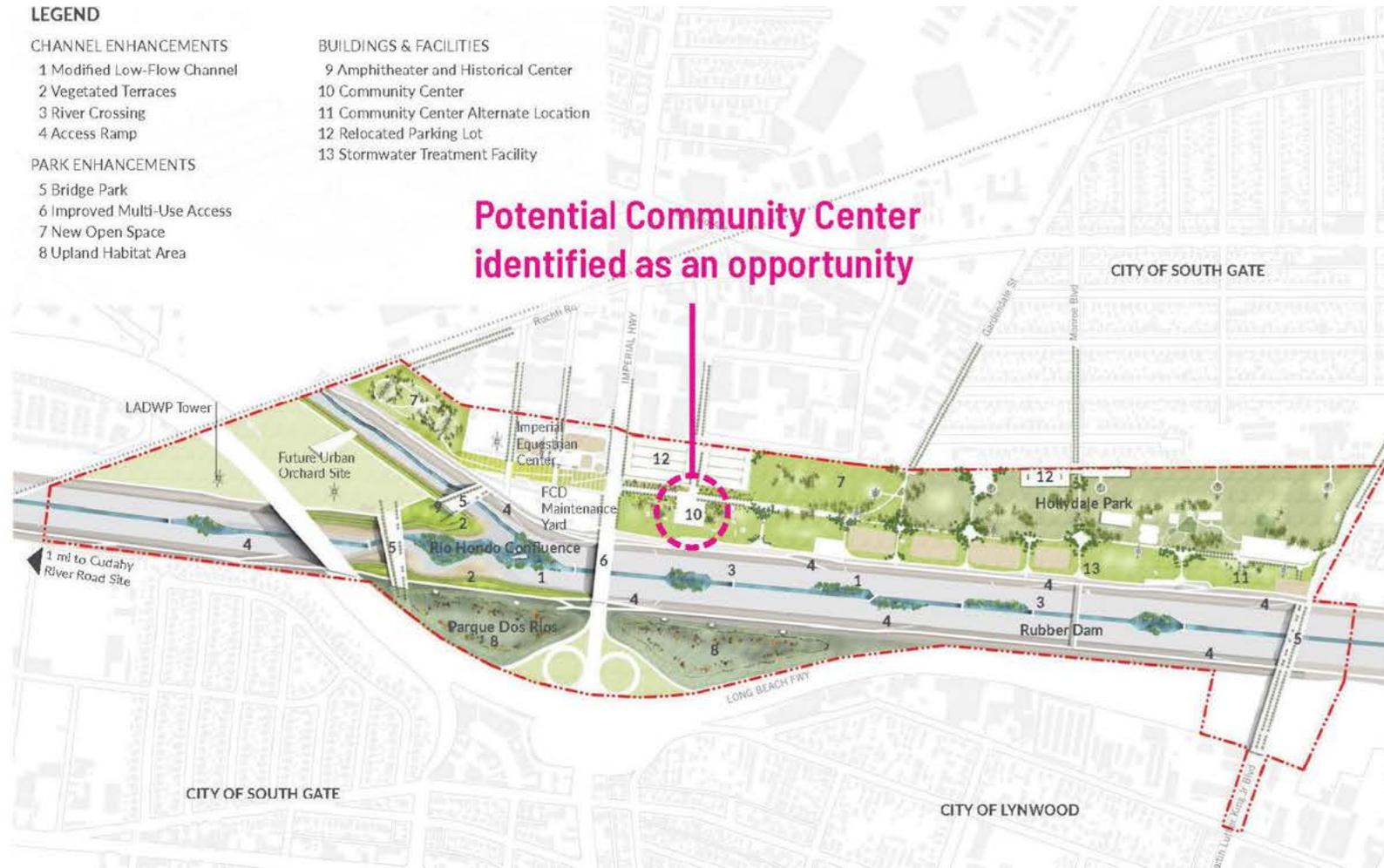
- 1 Modified Low-Flow Channel
- 2 Vegetated Terraces
- 3 River Crossing
- 4 Access Ramp

### PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- 5 Bridge Park
- 6 Improved Multi-Use Access
- 7 New Open Space
- 8 Upland Habitat Area

### BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

- 9 Amphitheater and Historical Center
- 10 Community Center
- 11 Community Center Alternate Location
- 12 Relocated Parking Lot
- 13 Stormwater Treatment Facility



SELA CULTURAL CENTER

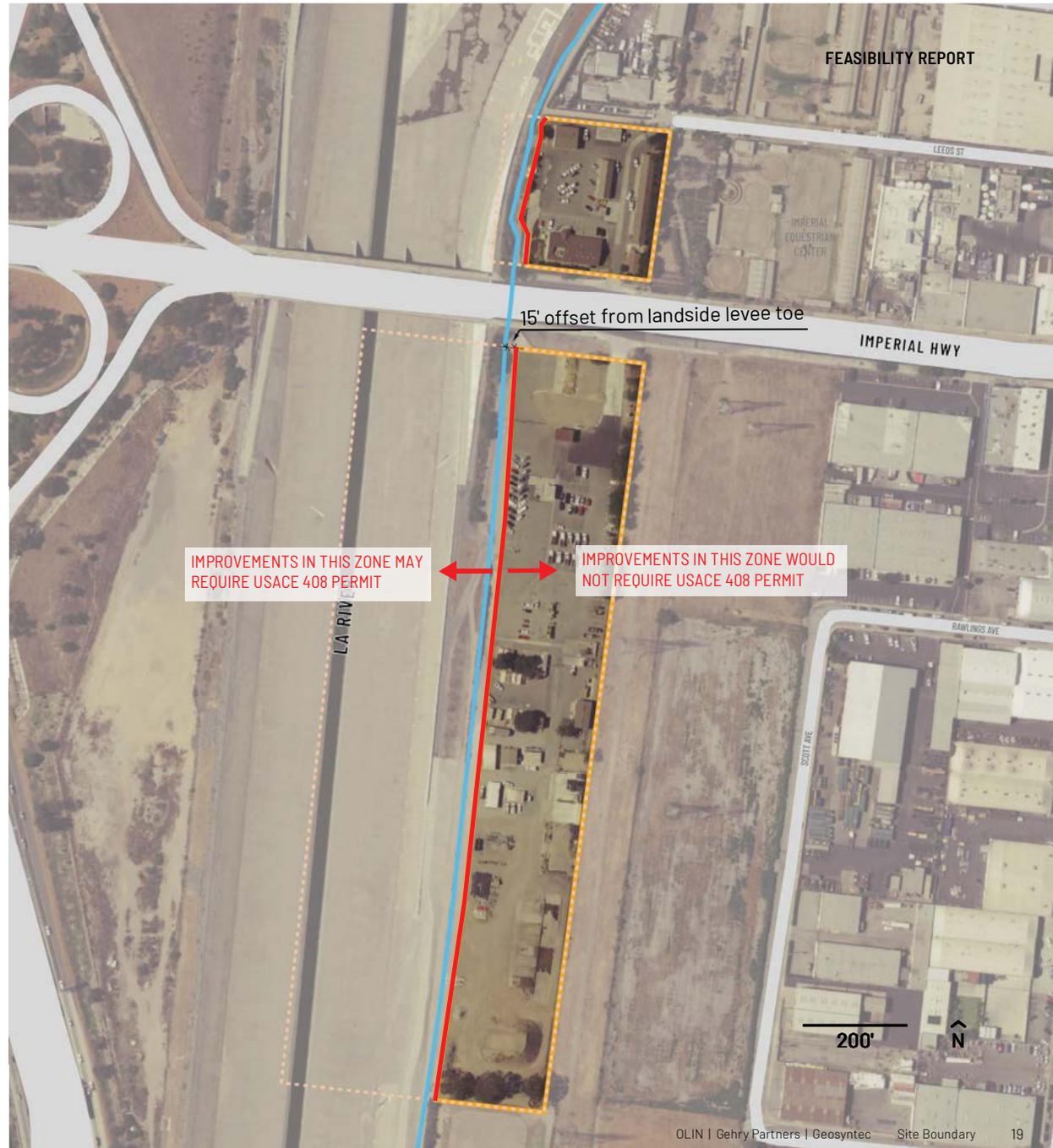
# SITE BOUNDARY

(Site south of Imperial Hwy only)

## LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- - - Parcel Boundary
- Levee Landside Toe

Source: OLIN; Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal, Assessor Parcels - 2016 Tax Roll, 2016 NAIP Aerial 2017



SELA CULTURAL CENTER

# AERIAL VIEW



SELA CULTURAL CENTER SITE

IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

FUTURE WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH (WSAB) LINE

I-710

RIO HONDO

LA RIVER



engineers | scientists | innovators

August 28, 2020

**Mr. Mark Stanley**  
**Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**  
**100 N. Old San Gabriel Road**  
**Azusa, CA 91702**  
**mstanley@rmc.ca.gov**

**Subject: SELA Cultural Center**  
**Engineering and Permitting Consulting Services**  
**Schematic Design and CEQA Phase**

Dear Mr. Stanley,

In support of the Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and your efforts to develop a Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center, Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) has assembled an elite team of expert consultants with direct experience in site planning, engineering, and permitting especially as those pertain to projects along the Los Angeles River.

As we enter the Schematic Design and CEQA phases our team will be working closely with the Architectural Design Team led by Gehry Partners. Our scope of work for Schematic Design and CEQA described in the attached proposal has been developed in collaboration with the Architectural Design Team to help ensure that the relevant issues are addressed in alignment with the project direction at the time of this proposal.

The scope of services in our attached proposal includes civil, traffic, geotechnical and environmental engineering along with consultation on environmental permitting and cost estimating support and is based upon the current concept design dated August 3, 2020. Our proposal also includes environmental planning and clearance activities (i.e. CEQA). Note that the proposed CEQA tasks cover the development of the SELA Cultural Center only and do not cover peripheral activities such as relocating the LA County Flood Control District's maintenance yard.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal and look forward to providing RMC with continued services for the development of the SELA Cultural Center. Should you have any questions please feel free to call Mark Hanna at (310) 245-4708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hanna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Hanna, Ph.D., P.E. LEED AP  
Senior Principal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Bruce, P.E., G.E.  
Senior Principal

CC: Joseph Gonzalez, RMC  
Salian Garcia, RMC

## PROPOSAL FOR SELA CULTURAL CENTER - RMC

| Activity                | Duration                  | Deliverables  |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Schematic Design        | 18 Weeks                  | <p><u>Geotechnical Engineering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geotechnical Input and Support During Schematic Design</li> <li>• Geotechnical recommendations for deep foundations, shallow foundations, retaining walls and other geotechnical elements</li> <li>• Ground motion hazard analysis will be conducted in general accordance with ASCE 7 Section 21</li> <li>• Coordination with the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant</li> <li>• Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed</li> <li>• Will document design decisions in meeting summaries and technical memoranda as applicable</li> </ul> <p><u>Environmental Engineering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 days of direct push borings, sampling, and lab testing</li> <li>• Soil Management Plan</li> <li>• Coordination with the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant</li> <li>• Update the HHRA as necessary</li> <li>• Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed</li> <li>• Will document design decisions in meeting summaries and technical memoranda as applicable</li> </ul> <p><u>Civil Engineering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant</li> <li>• Schematic layout, elevations, and sizing of wet utilities</li> <li>• Schematic layout of civil site plan</li> <li>• Schematic layout of grading and drainage</li> <li>• Evaluation of site fire access and fire flows/hydrants</li> <li>• Schematic layout of off-site street and drainage improvements</li> <li>• Design Basis Summary Memo Update for Civil Design_</li> </ul> <p><u>Traffic Engineering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schematic design exhibits showing on-site roadway signing and striping layouts for all on-site roadways and parking areas, including Borwick Avenue extending east to Garfield Avenue, as well at the intersections of Borwick Avenue at Garfield Avenue and the Project access at Imperial Highway.</li> <li>• Exhibits demonstrating the adequacy of on-site circulation_</li> </ul> <p><u>Outreach Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in digital or in-person stakeholder meetings as needed</li> <li>• Support Architectural Team in development and review of engagement materials_</li> </ul> <p><u>LACFCD Coordination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to five meetings and two site visits</li> <li>• Will document meetings and conversations in meeting summaries as applicable</li> </ul> |
| CEQA                    | 12 Months                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [see RVA proposal in Attachment C]</li> <li>• In addition to deliverables outlined in RVA's proposal in Attachment C, Geosyntec will perform the following Technical Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geology and Soils</li> <li>○ Hazards and Hazardous Materials</li> <li>○ Hydrology/Water Quality</li> <li>○ Grading and Drainage</li> <li>○ Mineral Resources</li> <li>○ Utilities and Service Systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| Cost Estimating Support | 4 Weeks (end of SD Phase) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with value engineering process and provide cost input based on design progress updates</li> <li>• Provide cost advice during the design period to evaluate alternative designs, materials and methods of construction.</li> </ul>   |

## PROPOSAL FOR SELA CULTURAL CENTER - RMC

**7 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND CONTRACT**

We propose to carry out the tasks outlined in this scope of work on a lump sum basis for a total of **\$1,390,320**. Budgets for Geosyntec project management and coordination, meetings, project scheduling, senior review and QA/QC of deliverables is included in the activities described above. Geosyntec proposes to provide these services under a new Service Order in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Professional Services Agreement between Geosyntec and the RMC dated April 22, 2019. Geosyntec shall invoice the RMC on a lump sum percent complete basis. The fees are broken down by activity below.

| Activity                                 | Geosyntec        | *Urban Crossroads | *RVA             | Total              |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1. SCHEMATIC DESIGN</b>               |                  |                   |                  |                    |
| Geotechnical Engineering                 | \$70,000         |                   |                  | \$70,000           |
| Environmental Engineering                | **\$96,000       |                   |                  | **\$96,000         |
| Civil Engineering                        | \$280,000        |                   |                  | \$280,000          |
| Traffic Engineering                      | \$10,000         | \$19,600          |                  | \$29,600           |
| Community Engagement Support             | \$20,000         |                   |                  | \$20,000           |
| LACFCD Coordination                      | \$12,000         |                   | \$33,600         | \$45,600           |
| <b>Schematic Subtotal</b>                | <b>\$488,000</b> | <b>\$19,600</b>   | <b>\$33,600</b>  | <b>\$541,200</b>   |
| <b>2. CEQA</b>                           |                  |                   |                  |                    |
| Public Outreach                          | \$21,000         |                   | \$96,320         | \$117,320          |
| Kick-Off Meeting and Project Description | \$2,000          |                   | \$7,840          | \$9,840            |
| Technical Studies                        | \$129,000        |                   | \$159,040        | \$288,040          |
| Initial Study/Notice of Preparation      | \$12,000         |                   | \$53,760         | \$65,760           |
| Draft EIR                                | \$30,000         |                   | \$141,120        | \$171,120          |
| Final EIR/MMRP/Findings                  | \$16,000         |                   | \$72,800         | \$88,800           |
| RMC Board Meetings/EIR Public Hearings   | \$4,000          |                   | \$17,920         | \$21,920           |
| Reimbursable Expenses                    |                  |                   | \$11,200         | \$11,200           |
| <b>CEQA Subtotal</b>                     | <b>\$214,000</b> |                   | <b>\$560,000</b> | <b>\$774,000</b>   |
| <b>3. COST ESTIMATING SUPPORT</b>        | <b>\$25,000</b>  |                   |                  | <b>\$25,000</b>    |
| <b>4. CONTINGENCY</b>                    | <b>\$50,120</b>  |                   |                  | <b>\$50,120</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$777,120</b> | <b>\$19,600</b>   | <b>\$593,600</b> | <b>\$1,390,320</b> |

\*Subconsultant fees include a 12% mark-up to cover insurance, processing, and administration.

\*\*\$20,000 in Geosyntec labor and \$30,000 for environmental direct push sampling and testing by a drilling sub will be pulled from Concept Phase as an Amendment and has been added to Schematic Phase.

## PROPOSAL FOR SELA CULTURAL CENTER - RMC

5. Project Schedule and Deliverables
6. Professional Fees and Contract
7. Attachments

## 1 SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE SCOPE OF WORK

Geosyntec will continue to support the RMC and the Architectural Design Team during this phase.

### 1.1 Geotechnical Engineering

A significant constraint on the development of foundation recommendations for the Project is seismic related liquefaction as described in Geosyntec's December 2019 Soils Engineering Report. As reported in the 2019 report, the resulting displacement effects from liquefaction at the Site include significant settlement and lateral spreading. The main challenges are settlement and lateral spread associated with sands and silty sands that are 8 ft to 60 ft below the ground surface and a high seismic demand at the site. The planned structures themselves are dynamically complex as they are now envisioned to be elevated on a podium level raised with compacted fill.

A conceptual ground improvement plan outlining an approach to liquefaction mitigation was developed during the Concept Design phase based on early indications of likely building loads and performance expectations. The plan was based upon minimum seismic hazard levels in CBC 2019; however, a site-specific ground motion hazard analysis is required by code because the site contains significant potential for ground shaking and liquefaction. This ground motion hazard analysis will be conducted in general accordance with ASCE 7 Section 21 during the early SD phase of work. Moving forward in SD the ground improvement and foundation scheme needs to be developed collaboratively with the Architectural Design Team's structural engineer (MKA) to work to balance ground improvement and foundation system costs and expectations of building performance. The behavior and effects of elements such as mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) and conventional concrete retaining walls planned as part of the podium also need to be considered. However, we have not included the cost of carrying out a detailed soil-structure interaction study or modeling. If this is required to develop a cost-optimized foundation solution for the Site we would develop a separate proposal. SD level geotechnical recommendations will be developed for deep foundations, shallow foundations, retaining walls and other geotechnical elements of the selected option.

At this stage we anticipate working closely with MKA and the designated regulatory authority (City of South Gate) to develop a balanced solution supported by conventional analytical approaches. We plan to engage in discussions with the City of South Gate technical staff to explore opportunities to revisit some of the key geologic parameters and underlying geologic assumptions driving the extent of the ground improvement program.

It is our understanding that the City of South Gate plans to engage a third-party consultant to advise the City on geotechnical issues at this site. Typically, the City will charge the project owner (in this case RMC) the cost of the consultant; we have not included this cost in our budgets.

The geotechnical engineering activities will be to continue to support the Architectural Design Team with foundation and civil issues. Activities planned include:

- Geotechnical Input and Support During Schematic Design as described above
- Ground motion hazard analysis will be conducted in general accordance with ASCE 7 Section 21
- Preparations for, meeting with, and summary notes following meetings the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant
- Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed
- No formal deliverables. Will document meeting summaries and design decisions in technical memoranda when applicable

## 1.2 Environmental Engineering

Geosyntec performed a desktop level screening of the selected site during the Site Selection and Feasibility phase and identified potential environmental hazards on the Site. During the Site Selection and Feasibility phase, direct push borings and environmental sampling of the top 15 feet of the subsurface was performed to evaluate the potential contamination on the Site. The analytical testing results from these samples indicated that there are elevated concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons, metals (predominantly lead) in soils and some methane and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in the soil vapors. There is no information in the site history indicating use of the Site for industrial or manufacturing purposes. The contaminants are most likely associated with fill materials brought to the Site to construct the LA River levees and the embankment for Imperial Highway.

During the Concept Design phase Geosyntec carried out a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) using the information collected during the pre-concept phase site investigation and following current California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) guidance. The HHRA was prepared to evaluate whether the levels of chemicals detected at the Site pose a potential risk to human health based on the planned future uses of the Site. The HHRA indicated that although vapor intrusion was not an issue, there were a few locations with elevated lead and arsenic that should be addressed by excavation and removal.

Because of the site history there is a potential that there is some contamination on other areas of the site that have not been investigated. Therefore, a soil management plan (SMP) will be developed during SD to guide the handling and offsite disposal (or reuse) or soil excavated at the Site for foundations, utility trenches, cistern, amphitheater, and other features.

The results of the Site investigation and HHRA need to be reviewed and approved by the designated regulatory agency (i.e. City of South Gate). The City will likely request additional sampling and analytical testing or that other scenarios be incorporated into the HHRA. Geosyntec previously proposed to carry out three additional days of direct push sampling and lab testing during the Concept Design phase. This work was not carried out during Concept and we plan to carry this forward into SD to delineate the excavation limits of elevated arsenic and lead identified in the HHRA and to accommodate additional sampling that will likely be requested by City of South Gate.

It is our understanding that the City of South Gate plans to engage a third-party consultant to advise the City on environmental issues at this site. Typically, the City will charge the project owner (in this case RMC) the cost of the consultant; we have not included this cost in our budgets.

Activities planned during SD include:

- Development of a Soil Management Plan
- Three days of direct push sampling and analytical testing of recovered samples
- Meeting with the City of South Gate technical staff and/or consultant
- Attend meetings and collaborate with design team as needed
- Update to the HHRA as necessary to accommodate City of South Gate comments, significant changes to the planned alternative, and additional site data collected during SD
- No formal deliverables. Will document meeting summaries and design decisions in technical memoranda as applicable

## 1.3 Civil Engineering

During the Concept Design phase, the civil engineering services included conceptual design and evaluation of wet utilities, grading, drainage, and site fire access and protection. The civil design aspects will be advanced during the SD phase. In the SD phase, grading and drainage design scope is significantly expanded to reflect Option A as shown in Attachment A and includes coordination with the Architectural Design Team on drainage of the "plaza" area as well as grading and drainage of the adjacent off-site surface parking. Grading design will be

advanced in support of the Architectural Design Team and will be designed in 3D. All other civil design (e.g., utilities and structures) and details will be designed in 2D. Activities planned include:

- Preliminary meetings with City of South Gate to discuss off-site street and drainage improvements, LACFCD storm drain relocation, and point-of-connections and capacities for wet utilities
- Coordination with LA County Sanitation District regarding trunk line sewer connections
- Additional due diligence, including field investigations and utility locating (if necessary) for off-site street and drainage improvements and LACFCD storm drain relocation
- Demand and capacity analyses of wet utilities based on the current selected option and associated programming)
- Schematic layout, elevations, and sizing of wet utilities
- Schematic layout of civil site plan in coordination with GP and OLIN
- Schematic layout of grading and drainage for plaza, fire access road, secondary site access, surface parking lots, and adjacent LADWP and SCE right-of-way
- Evaluation of site fire access and fire flows/hydrants
- Schematic layout of off-site street and drainage improvements including relocation of Imperial Hwy storm drain, addition of secondary access from Borwick Ave, and required off-site improvements at Imperial Highway and Borwick Ave for access (assumes that traffic engineering is provided by Geosyntec sub)
- Design Basis Summary Memo Update for Civil Design

No hydraulic modeling of the adjacent overflow weir is assumed to be needed and design of retaining walls, handrails, decorative hardscapes, signage, dry utilities (e.g., electrical, site lighting, gas, etc.), irrigation system (except for irrigation main line, meter, and backflow preventer), and other structural or decorative features are excluded from SD phase civil activities.

## 1.4 Traffic Engineering

During the SD phase, off-site improvement requirements along Imperial Highway and along Borwick Avenue will be incorporated into the schematic layout of the project. The technical details will be developed by Urban Crossroads in collaboration with the Architectural Design Team and incorporating requirements from relevant agencies (CALTRANS, City of South Gate). Urban Crossroads is a certified Small Business that provides a full range of traffic services that include traffic impact analysis, traffic engineering, travel demand modeling, simulations and many other traffic related services. During SD Phase, Urban Crossroads will provide design input in the areas of Site access, on-site circulation, assessment of the Site design for emergency vehicle access and auto/truck circulation, and providing input to the parking layout design as necessary. Urban Crossroads scope of services are summarized below with additional detail in Attachment B:

- Discuss the required design parameters with the project team. In addition to ongoing electronic (e-mail and telephone) communication, up to three virtual meetings are anticipated.
- Prepare schematic design exhibits showing on-site roadway signing and striping layouts for all on-site roadways and parking areas (including those within the adjacent utility easement area). Schematic design exhibits will include Borwick Avenue extending east to Garfield Avenue, as well at the intersections of Borwick Avenue at Garfield Avenue and the Project access at Imperial Highway.
- Prepare exhibits demonstrating the adequacy of on-site circulation for emergency vehicles, autos, and truck loading areas presenting the minimum width driveway and associated vehicle turning movements for all areas for which schematic design exhibits will be prepared.

## 1.5 Community Engagement Support

Geosyntec will support the RMC community engagement efforts led by the Architectural Design team during the SD phase. Although in-person meetings are currently curtailed because of public health concerns, this may change as the project progresses into the CEQA phase. Geosyntec will also participate in digital or in-person

## PROPOSAL FOR SELA CULTURAL CENTER - RMC

stakeholder meetings as needed, and provide input and review of engagement materials such as website content, direct mailers, web publications and other various materials.

## 1.6 LA County Flood Control District Coordination

During Concept Design Phase, the Geosyntec team engaged the USACE LA District 408 permitting and Real Estate leads in order to better understand their permitting and real estate concerns and approval process. Our environmental planning and permitting specialist subconsultant, Ruth Villalobos & Associates, had several meetings and conversations with the USACE 408 team and Real Estate personnel and learned that the project Site, the current LACFCD Imperial Maintenance Yard, was likely acquired as part of the federal flood control improvement project. Therefore, it is expected that any modifications to the property will require USACE approval and a 408 review. Before USACE 408 and Real Estate will review proposed designs, LACFCD must first approve any proposed designs to ensure the project does not negatively impact the LA River flood control project.

During the SD Phase, the Geosyntec team will continue to meet and coordinate with the LACFCD to identify design constraints and requirements in order to maintain safety of the flood control project. LA County has requested that USACE real estate discussions be coordinated through LA County during this phase.

Based on our discussions with USACE, the submission would be made by LA County. It is our understanding that the supporting materials for a 408 review would be prepared by the Geosyntec team on behalf of LA County in a future Phase of work. We have not included preparation of 408 permit supporting materials or coordination with LACFCD for 408 submission as a part of this proposal. Based on available information at the time this proposal was prepared we anticipate that the NEPA process will not be triggered and NEPA permitting support is not included in this proposal. The Geosyntec team will facilitate and participate in up to five (5) meetings and two (2) potential site visits, document the meetings, and review all agendas and presentation materials. It is anticipated that part of these coordination meetings will involve scoping the CEQA documentation for relocation of their Maintenance Yard activities.

## 2 INITIAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION AND TECHNICAL STUDIES PHASE

The Environmental Planning activity (i.e. CEQA) will be led by Geosyntec's subconsultant, Ruth Villalobos & Associates (RVA). RVA is a Woman-Owned and Disadvantaged Small Business and provides a full range of planning and environmental services for many types of projects. RVA is recognized in the industry for professional planning and environmental consulting services with emphasis on land development, stormwater management, watershed management, and the natural resources.

At the time of this proposal, the CEQA documentation is assumed to only cover the SELA Cultural Center project, and not any LACFCD Maintenance Yard relocation. Through conversations and coordination with RMC and LA County Public Works, the final CEQA scope and documentation will be agreed upon at a later time. Based on RVA's previous experience with projects of similar size and scope to the Cultural Center, the CEQA document is assumed to be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to the community and river sensitivities around the Site, the Project aspects, and the number of known organized, special-interest groups in the area. While the final CEQA scope and documentation is negotiated between RMC and LA County Public Works, the Geosyntec team can begin working on developing initial documentation and technical studies.

Geosyntec will provide management and oversight of communications and coordination between RVA, RMC, LACFCD and between RVA and RMC's other consultants. Additionally, Geosyntec will provide environmental, geotechnical, and civil engineering input and support to RVA during EIR development. RVA's tasks are summarized below and a more detailed description of activities and assumptions is provided in Attachment C. RVA's previously submitted proposal which included full CEQA documentation for the Cultural Center only is provided in Attachment D for reference.

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## 2.1 Kick-off Meeting and Project Description

RVA will attend and participate in a kick-off meeting with RMC and the consulting team. Items to be discussed at the kick-off meeting include the project description, project schedule, environmental document processing, the permitting process, and any other items that may be critical to the overall schedule.

RVA will draft a description of the proposed project, including all proposed improvements, the construction footprint, construction equipment and timing. The draft project description will be provided to the RMC and the team for review and comment. Once finalized and approved by RMC the project description will be used for the preparation of the technical studies and the CEQA Initial Study checklist.

## 2.2 CEQA Mailing

RVA will review the mailing distribution list prepared by Mercury to ensure the required CEQA agencies, responsible parties, and radius properties are included. RVA will coordinate with GP and Mercury concerning RVA's tribal engagement for CEQA and AB- 52 consultations are complimentary to the broader outreach conducted by Mercury.

## 2.3 Regulatory Framework CEQA Topics

This preliminary phase is an assessment of applicable and appropriate rules and regulations (AARAR). A listing of the regulatory requirements and what needs to be done to comply with each. RVA will prepare the regulatory framework for the following CEQA technical study topics:

- Traffic
- Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas
- Energy
- Noise

Baseline conditions will not be evaluated for these categories due to the lack of a detailed project description upon which to base the analysis. However, baseline conditions will be evaluated in the next phase of design with a detailed project description, anticipated uses, sizes of buildings and other features, construction duration and phasing, construction equipment to be utilized, estimated visitation, and long-term operations.

## 2.4 Other CEQA Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework

RVA will prepare additional Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework utilizing the RMC's CEQA Checklist Form. The checklist will identify the CEQA topics and thresholds. RVA will address RMC's comments on the Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework and will provide the RMC with the final Baseline Conditions and Regulatory Framework. RVA will address both the Baseline and Regulatory Framework for the following environmental topics:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural & Paleontological Resources
- Land Use/Planning
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation

## PROPOSAL FOR SELA CULTURAL CENTER - RMC

- Tribal Cultural Resources

Geosyntec will prepare the following technical summaries which will largely be based on information developed during geotechnical, environmental, and civil studies already carried out for the project:

- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Mineral Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

### 3 COST ESTIMATING SUPPORT

Beyond the early stages of project development, cost estimating services are typically provided directly by the Owner (in this case RMC) with the cost estimator functioning as an advocate for the Owner and part of the Owner's management and project controls team. The intention is that during the SD phase RMC will directly provide the cost estimating services with an updated cost estimate developed at the end of SD phase. Geosyntec will coordinate closely with the Gehry Partners team and provide cost input and review of the cost estimate with regards to civil site design elements, ground improvement and foundation program, and environmental remediation. In addition, Geosyntec will provide support to RMC for RMC's selection and engagement of cost estimating and potentially pre-construction CM services.

### 4 QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Geosyntec work product (except as described above for Cost Estimating Services) is prepared following a rigorous quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) process defined in a Corporate Quality Management Plan. The goal of our Quality Management Program is to promote quality in our services and work products thereby enhancing the performance, reliability, and safety of our solutions and recommendations and the satisfaction of our clients. The QMP includes using an internal quality management system (QMS) to document and track all peer and senior reviews. The Table of Contents of Geosyntec's corporate Quality Management Plan is included in Attachment F.

A key element of the QA/QC program is having project managers be responsible for developing an appropriate quality management plan (QMP) that outlines the required QA/QC actions needed to promote successful delivery of high-quality project deliverables that comply with client requirements. Individual technical leads are responsible for scheduling peer reviews (i.e., review of calculations, analysis, adherence to design guidelines, etc.) and senior reviews (i.e., review of deliverable quality) at necessary milestones, and prior to submitting any deliverables to the project manager for final review and documentation. Each review is documented in the QMS system for tracking purposes.

### 5 PROJECT SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

It is anticipated that the overall duration of the scope of work outlined above will take 6 months, although the Schematic Design itself should be complete in approximately 18 weeks allowing RMC to seamlessly move into the Detailed Design Phase. Geosyntec is committed to delivering a high-quality design and planning documents to the RMC. Though we do not expect impacts to the schedule, there can be unforeseen delays outside the Geosyntec Team's control. The RMC shall pay the fees for the project based on progress of completed activities (percent complete) and deliverables outlined in previous sections and the table on the following page, and will be billed in approximately monthly installments to track with deliverables.

August 27, 2020

## **Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center (SELA) CEQA Proposal**

Ruth Villalobos & Associates (RVA) is pleased to provide this proposal for the preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and technical studies for consideration and certification by San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) as the CEQA Lead Agency. It is anticipated that the CEQA documentation for this project will be an Initial Study (IS) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as there may be potential impacts that cannot be reduced to less than significant levels and will require a Statement of Overriding Considerations by RMC (impacts to the freeway, air quality, gentrification of the surrounding areas, etc.).

The proposed project site is located directly south of the Rio Hondo Confluence of the Los Angeles (LA) River. The 6-acre site is located south of Imperial Highway just east of Interstate 710 freeway and the LA River, within the LA County unincorporated area. The project site is directly north of the regional Hollydale Park and is currently used as a LA County Flood Control Imperial Yard. The proposed project is a Community Cultural Center to include community facilities, performance facilities, a museum facility, with buildings of two-to-four stories in height. The proposed project would include associated parking, landscaping and utility service connections.

Completion of the CEQA document is dependent on a detailed project description consisting of the features, phasing, construction period, and operations, maintenance and management. The project would be analyzed and compared to the existing conditions, regulatory framework and thresholds for determination of significance for each resource category required in the 2020 CEQA Guidelines.

### **Proposal Assumptions**

1. The CEQA activities would address the SELA Cultural Center only and do not include any aspects of LA County's Imperial Yard relocation. Should the Imperial Yard be added at a later date, the schedule and budget would be increased to accommodate the required changes.
2. A robust Project Description is critical to the performance of the technical studies and development of the Sections for the Initial Study and EIR. The Project Description must include, but is not limited to, the boundary limits of the Project; types and approximate sizes of buildings and associated facilities and land uses with expected depth of excavation for foundations or other purposes, and heights of structures; construction schedule, including phasing and durations; types and

numbers of pieces of construction equipment for each phase; operations and maintenance requirements with duties and frequencies, number and types of equipment to be used; number of workers on the site for each phase of the construction, operations and maintenance; the real estate interest to be acquired for use of the land.

3. Technical Studies and any permit processing effort will commence with completion of a project description that has been reviewed and approved by the RMC. If the project description for the project changes after preparation of technical studies or the CEQA documents have started, additional effort and associated budget would be required.
4. Geosyntec will provide engineering support, analysis, and technical studies including, but not limited to engineering design, drawings, renderings, building architectural style and color palette, viewsheds from five points, geotechnical analysis with geology, soils, mineral resources, hazards and hazardous materials, grading, hydrology, water quality, drainage, utilities, on the existing site and anticipated in the proposed Project. and assistance with preparation of any required comprehensive project design descriptions and drawings.
5. Geosyntec will provide detailed construction phasing, grading/excavation/paving quantities, and a construction equipment list will be provided to RVA.
6. Any required mitigation plan is anticipated to consist of purchase of off-site mitigation and/or in-lieu fee credits approved by the resource agencies. No on-site mitigation is anticipated to be proposed, and therefore, a Habitat Management Monitoring Plan (HMMP) or Long-term Management Plan (LTMP) are not anticipated to be required and are not included in this scope of services. However, if during the entitlement process for this project RMC determines mitigation would not be accomplished through the purchase of approved credits, additional effort and associated budget would be required.
7. The RMC will pay directly for notices, filing fees, mailings, fees in exceedance of the reproduction and mailing fee in Reimbursables.
8. The RMC will pay directly for any compensatory mitigation required by the regulatory agencies.
9. The proposed project would not result in the permanent loss of more than ½ acre of USACE jurisdiction, it is anticipated that the proposed project can be authorized via a Nationwide Permit (NWP). If the project requires an Individual Permit (IP) from USACE additional effort is required and a proposal will be provided.
10. This proposal is based on the level of effort anticipated to be needed based on experience on recent projects and with the current Federal and State laws, policies, and requirements in place at the time of this proposal. If new laws or policies are enacted subsequent to the preparation of this proposal, additional effort and associated budget may be required.

11. A Health Risk Assessment (HRA) from the I-710 freeway is not anticipated to be required and is not included in this scope. The proposed project is a Community Cultural Center and is a non-industrial use with no truck traffic. However, if one is required a proposal for that analysis could be provided and require an additional scope and fee.
12. RMC will provide a displacement or gentrification study to be incorporated into the analysis for impacts to population and housing.
13. The CEQA activities will not include regulatory permits (Section 401,404,1602) that may result in the need for a NEPA activities.
14. Access to the project area will be made available to conduct all necessary CEQA activities.
15. The CEQA activities (public meetings) will follow Los Angeles County COVID-19 guidelines for public gathering.
16. The CEQA schedule estimates 12 months for completion.

### **Task 1 – LA County Public Works (LACPW), RMC and USACE Coordination Meetings**

RVA will coordinate, facilitate and participate in up to five (5) meetings, two (2) potential site investigations, document the meetings, and review all agendas and presentation material necessary for CEQA discussions with the LACPW, RMC, and USACE. RVA will identify key individuals, coordinate meeting purpose and objectives for each meeting.

### **Task 2 – Public Outreach**

#### **Project Awareness**

- RVA will review the RMC's existing mailing distribution list and add to the list as appropriate for CEQA purposes. Includes providing mailing notices to the RMC Outreach Coordinator for dissemination to their mailing list for CEQA notifications of Scoping and Hearing meetings. Includes a purchased mailing list for proximity to the project site compliant with CEQA guidelines. Assumes 800 contacts on the mailing list, plus the purchased proximity mailing list. Includes Draft and Final versions for initial submittal, incorporating one round of RVA comments. RVA will perform project management to include administrative, coordination and meetings to successfully execute and complete the project.
- RVA will prepare key messages, FAQs, and "about the project" language that will be incorporated into public informational materials and notices by RMC.
- RVA will conduct coordination/status conference calls. Assumes three (3) two (2) -hour calls for each the scoping meeting and the Draft EIR meeting.
- RVA will prepare a brief status (email) update every month of activities completed and planned.

### **Scoping Meeting**

- RVA will develop a postcard and email notification to announce upcoming scoping meeting; including Spanish translation.
- RVA will coordinate social media channels and prepare posts for social media in English and Spanish. Assume two (2) posts to communicate prior to upcoming scoping meeting.
- Prepare graphic material, presentation displays and a Powerpoint presentation.
- Prepare outside venue direction signs, facilitate sign-in activities, organize seating arrangements, locate/identify meeting venue, and other meeting logistic efforts.
- Facilitate and conduct a public scoping meeting. Provide Spanish translators.
- Prepare a draft/final summary report for the scoping meeting to document outreach/engagement activities conducted during the meeting.

### **Draft EIR Public Meeting**

- RVA will develop a postcard and email notification to announce upcoming Draft EIR meeting; including Spanish translation.
- Prepare graphic material, presentation displays and a Powerpoint presentation.
- Prepare outside venue direction signs, facilitate sign-in activities, organize seating arrangements, locate/identify meeting venue, and other logistic efforts if in person meetings are advisable or web-based virtual meetings if not in person.
- Facilitate and conduct a public Draft EIR meeting. Provide Spanish translators.
- Prepare a draft/final summary report for the Draft EIR meeting to document outreach/engagement activities conducted during the meeting.

### **Task 3 – Kick-off Meeting and Project Description**

RVA will attend and participate in a kick-off meeting with RMC and the consulting team. Items to be discussed at the kickoff meeting include the project description, project schedule, environmental document processing, the permitting process, and any other items that may be critical to the overall schedule. RVA will prepare Draft and Final meeting minutes.

RVA with supporting information provided by Geosyntec will draft a description of the proposed project, including all proposed improvements, the construction footprint, construction equipment and timing. The draft project description will be provided to the RMC and the team for review and comment. Once finalized and approved by RMC the project description will be used for the preparation of the technical studies (Task 2) and the CEQA Initial Study checklist (Task 3).

## Task 4 – Technical Studies

### Traffic Impact Analysis

The Traffic Impact Analysis will include the following:

#### *Traffic Study Scoping Agreement Process*

- A formal traffic study scoping document will be submitted to City of South Gate staff for review and approval prior to commencement of the traffic analysis.
- Calculate project-related vehicle trips based on the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (2017) trip generation rates.
- Determine project trip distribution patterns for passenger cars. Passenger car distribution patterns will be based on existing and planned land uses in the area along with the planned circulation system.
- Based on the project-related trip generation and trip distribution patterns; establish the required study area intersections to be evaluated in the traffic impact analysis based on the City of South Gate traffic study guidelines, or as directed by RMC.
- Identify known cumulative development projects and ambient growth patterns.
- Prepare a draft of the traffic study scoping assumptions and submit it to the City of South Gate for review and approval.
- Interface with City staff to finalize the traffic study scoping agreement.

#### *Existing Traffic Data and Existing Roadway Conditions Inventory*

- Conduct weekday morning (7am-9am) and weekday evening (4pm-6pm) peak hour turning movement counts for up to 12 existing study area intersections. Counts need to be conducted when local schools are in session.
- Conduct 24-hour roadway segment counts at up to 4 roadway segments within the study area.
- Field inventory of intersection traffic control measures, approach lanes at intersections, and through travel lanes along segments.

#### *Opening Year Traffic Projections*

- Estimate trip generation and trip distribution for other (cumulative) development. It is estimated that up to twenty-five (25) individual cumulative development projects would be included in this traffic analysis. As such, this scope assumes that this number of cumulative projects will need to be modeled as part of the future year cumulative traffic forecasting process.
- Calculate cumulative near-term future daily traffic (ADT) flows on study area roadway segments.

#### *Horizon Year 2040 Traffic Projections*

- Prepare future long-range traffic forecasts for Without Project conditions based on the growth rates provided in the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan (CMP).
- Calculate Horizon Year (2040) future peak hour turning movement volumes for up to 12 study area intersections and project driveways for both Without Project and With Project traffic conditions.
- Calculate Horizon Year (2040) future daily traffic flows on study area roadway segments.

#### *Intersection Operations and Roadway Segment Analysis*

- Assess intersection capacity and level of service (LOS), for up to 12 study area intersections for each of the following traffic conditions based on either the Intersection Capacity Utilization (ICU) and/or Highway Capacity Methodology (HCM):
  - Existing
  - Existing Plus Project
  - Opening Year Cumulative Without Project
  - Opening Year Cumulative With Project
  - Horizon Year Without Project
  - Horizon Year With Project
- Perform traffic signal warrant analysis, for unsignalized study area intersections, for each of the traffic scenarios described above.
- Recommend improvements necessary to maintain acceptable intersection performance at the study area intersections for each of the future traffic scenarios.
- Evaluate existing transportation impact fee programs in the City of South Gate.

#### *Site Access Evaluation and Truck Maneuver Assessment*

- Conduct a queuing analysis at Project access points. The analysis will identify the necessary lengths of turn pockets with storage and appropriate turn pocket transitions which adheres to the General Plan roadway classifications for the site adjacent roadways.

#### *Freeway Mainline and Ramp Merge/Diverge Analysis*

- Conduct freeway segment analysis for the following mainline freeway segment based on the currently accepted Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Basic Freeway Segment Analysis methodology for each of the future traffic scenarios described above.
  - I-710 Freeway Northbound and Southbound, on either side of Imperial Highway

- Perform Merge/Diverge analysis for the following ramps for each of the future traffic scenarios described above:
  - I-710 Freeway Northbound, on and off-ramps at Imperial Highway
  - I-710 Freeway Southbound, off and on-ramps at Imperial Highway
- Conduct a ramp queuing analysis at the I-710 Freeway/Imperial Highway off-ramps listed above to identify the storage necessary to accommodate queuing during peak hour traffic flows.

#### *Traffic Impact Analysis Report*

- Prepare a draft traffic report that incorporates the findings and all supporting calculations from tasks above.
- Revise the traffic study based on comments provided by RMC for up to one (1) review cycle.
- Revise the traffic study, based on comments provided by the City of South Gate and County of Los Angeles for up to one (1) review cycle.

#### **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis**

The VMT analysis will utilize the County of Los Angeles' newly adopted VMT Guidelines stating that projects should use the SCAG model to calculate project generated VMT to formally adopt VMT thresholds of significance for the purposes of determining transportation impacts under CEQA. If the City or County adopts a VMT methodology different from the assumptions in this scope a revised scope and cost estimate will be provided.

The Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis will include the following:

- Evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destination, land uses in the vicinity, etc. to make a qualitative assessment of the Project's VMT impacts.
- Run the data generated and based on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) or Caltrans to provide necessary VMT data..
- Determine if any of the screening criteria included in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (December 2018) is applicable.
- Calculate the project VMT for automobiles and trucks. Trip generation will be based on ITE Trip Generation Manual, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (2017) and the average trip lengths will be based on defaults provided in CalEEMod based on SCAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- Calculate the baseline average automobile VMT per service population (VMT/SP) for the region based on SCAG RTP or other available sources.

- Compare the project automobile VMT/SP for the region and determine if there is a potential significant impact based on the thresholds recommended in the 2018 OPR Technical Advisory.
- Summarize the result of the VMT analysis in a technical memo report, includes one (1) round of responses to City comments.

### **Air Quality Impact Analysis**

The Air Quality Analysis will include the following:

- Evaluate the existing conditions of the project study area; this will include gathering background air quality data, local wind patterns in the study area and identifying applicable rules, plans and thresholds of significance.
- Identify construction-related air quality impacts from associated construction activities at the project site which may include demolition, import/export of fill dirt, mass grading, building construction, paving, concrete pouring, etc.
- Evaluate operational emissions for the proposed project, based on trip generation projections provided as part of the traffic study. Peak hour trips will be used along with estimates of the types of trips generated and average travel speeds to estimate daily emissions generated by the project. In addition, emissions from other operational sources such as heaters, air conditioners, water heaters, consumer products, cargo handling equipment, and lawn care equipment will also be considered.
- A screening-level CO Hotspot analysis of future conditions at key intersections located in the project study area will be prepared. It is anticipated that a qualitative discussion on CO Hotspot potential and rationale as to why more detailed modeling of CO Hotspot analysis is not required.
- Perform a screening-level Construction and Operational Localized Significance Threshold (LST) analysis as recommended by the SCAQMD. It is anticipated that the SCAQMD's look-up tables will be utilized.
- Evaluate potential odor impacts resulting from the proposed project; a qualitative assessment of odors is anticipated. Identify applicable mitigation measures and regulatory requirements that the project must comply with to minimize odors.
- Qualitatively discuss cumulative impacts within the context of planned and foreseeable projects for short-term construction and long-term operational activity. A "list" approach per CEQA will be utilized when discussing cumulative impacts using the list of cumulative projects identified in the traffic report. Since the basin is in non-attainment the determination of significance will likely be based on whether or not the Project results in a substantial incremental increase.

- Identify and recommend mitigation measures that are feasible to implement and that will reduce any potential impacts to the maximum extent possible. Prepare an air quality report that incorporates the findings and all supporting calculations.
- Assess project emissions against federal Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule de minimis levels to determine whether the action would conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan.
- This scope includes one (1) round of responses to comments.

### **Greenhouse Gas Analysis**

The GHG analysis will include the following:

- Evaluate applicable federal and state regulatory requirements (i.e., AB32, SCAQMD, CARB thresholds). Qualitatively discuss the effects of GHG emissions on regional air quality.
- Evaluate applicable GHG emissions associated with heavy-duty construction equipment combustion that will likely occur during the various phases of construction. Data available from the project team and technical air analysis will be utilized in characterizing GHG-generating activities.
- Evaluate increase in applicable GHG emissions associated with the project's long-term mobile source activity. Data from the Air Quality Analysis and the Traffic Impact Analysis will be used.
- The emissions evaluation for short-term construction, long-term mobile source, and long-term stationary source activity will consider project design, and mitigation measures that have the potential to reduce GHG emissions.
- Evaluate project significance based on the City's adopted CAP. If the requisite number of points cannot be met other thresholds may be applied, including, but not limited to a numeric threshold of 10,000 metric tons or consistency with AB 32.
- This scope includes one (1) round of responses to comments.

### **Energy Analysis**

The Energy Analysis will include the following:

- Identify applicable local, state and federal energy regulations and programs applicable to the proposed project.
- Quantify direct and indirect electricity energy consumption from the proposed project.
- Identify transportation fuels supply, demand, consumption, and infrastructure.
- Identify Energy Efficiency features of the proposed project, including but not limited to the use of renewable energy requirements for the proposed project, and reduced energy demand through the reduction of potable water usage.

- Determine the project's impacts based on the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix F and provide mitigation measures, if necessary, to reduce impacts to the maximum extent possible.
- This scope includes one (1) round of responses to comments.

### **Noise Analysis**

The Noise Analysis will include the following:

#### *Existing Conditions*

- Identify and review applicable federal, state and local noise criteria. This include the City of South Gate Noise Element and Municipal Code to determine appropriate noise standards and significance criteria.
- Identify noise-sensitive uses in the project study area as well as the source and location of potential noise generators. This information will be used to select the noise monitoring locations.
- Collect long-term 24-hour ambient noise level measurements in the project study area at up to six (6) locations to quantify the existing noise environment. All noise level measurement equipment will satisfy American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard specifications for sound level meters. The noise level measurements will be collected consistent with the criteria outlined in the Municipal Code.

#### *Off-Site Traffic Analysis*

- Identify the off-site average daily traffic volumes and related noise levels for existing, opening year and long-range conditions from the project Traffic Impact Analysis Report.
- Calculate the existing, opening year and future 70, 65, and 60 dBA CNEL noise level contour boundaries for the baseline (existing) conditions, opening year and future conditions on up to twenty (20) study area roadway segments.
- Calculate the future project contributions by comparing the "with" and "without" project noise contours on the study area roadways for the proposed project. Determine if the project will create a significance noise impact on any analyzed roadway segments.

#### *Operational Analysis*

- Collect reference noise level measurement to represent the expected stationary source impacts associated with the proposed project land uses including, roof-top air conditioning units, parking lot vehicle movements, idling trucks, delivery truck activities, backup alarms, refrigerated containers or reefers, as well as loading and unloading of dry goods.

- Evaluate the potential stationary source noise impacts associated with the operation of the proposed project and recommend mitigation measures to reduce the potential noise impacts to any nearby noise-sensitive uses.
- Assess the operational noise impacts expected at the nearby noise-sensitive uses. The analysis will include a map showing the relationship between the noise source and each surrounding noise-sensitive receptor taking into account the distance and existing noise barriers.
- Identify potential noise abatement measures to ensure that the noise levels satisfy the applicable City of South Gate criteria at the sensitive receiver locations.

### *Construction Analysis*

- Based on input from the project team and the Air Quality study, identify the mix, quantity, and duration of planned construction activities.
- Assess potential noise impacts associated with temporary construction activities at the project site using reference noise level measurements of similar activities.
- Provide a detailed noise impact and vibration analysis associated with temporary construction activities at the project site and estimate the impacts expected at nearby noise-sensitive receiver location taking into account the distance and existing noise barriers.
- Recommend the appropriate mitigation and abatement measures to ensure that the noise and vibration impacts satisfy the City of South Gate criteria and established CEQA thresholds of significance.
- This scope includes one (1) round of responses to comments.

### **Task 5 – Initial Study, Notice of Preparation**

RVA will prepare an Initial Study utilizing the RMC's or LACPW 2020 California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Checklist Form. The Initial Study will identify the CEQA topics and thresholds that are less than significant and those that are potentially significant and will be addressed in an EIR to be prepared for the project. RVA will prepare a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR to meet CEQA and the RMC's requirements. RVA will address RMC's comments on the draft Initial Study and NOP and will provide the RMC with the final Initial Study and NOP. RVA will prepare and distribute the Notice of Preparation, on behalf of and in coordination with RMC (i.e. posting on the RMC's website, mailing notices to distribution list, posting with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse).

RVA will review all comment letters received on the NOP following the 30-day review period to ensure that all relevant concerns are addressed in the Draft EIR. A public scoping meeting will be scheduled and held during the 30-day NOP comment period. RVA will take notes of the oral comments received during the scoping meeting and will summarize those, as well as any comment letters and/or emails received, for incorporation into the Draft EIR.

Based on information from the Draft IS, RVA anticipates that the following environmental issues may be determined to have a less than significant impact, and therefore, be excluded from further analysis in the Draft EIR:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology/ Water Quality
- Mineral Resources
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

### **Task 6 – Preparation of Administrative and Public Review Draft EIR**

The Administrative (Admin) Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with the 2020 State CEQA Guidelines and RMC's and LA County standards and policies. The standards/criteria of significance will be developed based on CEQA Guidelines and tailored or refined as relevant to RMC and LA County requirements (e.g., General Plan policies, programs or guidelines, and adopted ordinances). The impact analysis will specify the standards of significant thresholds for each topic. The Admin Draft will include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Purpose
- Project Description
  - Summary
  - Project Location (Regional and Local Vicinity)
  - Existing Site Conditions
  - Discretionary Actions and Land Use Entitlements
  - Intended Use of the EIR
- Environmental Setting, Impacts & Mitigation Measures
  - Air Quality
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
  - Land Use and Planning
  - Noise
  - Population and Housing

- Transportation/Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Growth Inducement
- Cumulative Impacts
- Additional CEQA Sections (includes Alternatives)
- Graphic Exhibits
- Appendices

RVA will prepare and provide the Admin Draft EIR to RMC for review and comment. RVA will address RMC's comments. Revisions to address RMC's comments will be completed using the tracked changes features to streamline backcheck. Once the RMC conducts their final review of the Admin Draft EIR, RVA will address any final comments and finalize the Draft EIR for public circulation and review.

### **Circulation of the Draft EIR**

RVA will consult with RMC to establish the public review period, public notification and agency filing requirements for the Draft EIR. RVA will prepare a Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Completion (NOC) to meet CEQA and RMC's requirements. RVA will address RMC comments on the NOA and NOC and will provide RMC with the final versions. RVA will prepare and distribute the Notice of Availability, on behalf of and in coordination with RMC (i.e., posting on RMC's website, mailing notices to distribution list, posting with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse) and will deliver 1 hardcopy each for up to 2 local libraries. RVA will coordinate one time noticing in the local newspaper if required by the RMC (i.e., Newspaper TBD).

### **Comments/Responses**

Upon conclusion of the public review period, RVA will prepare written responses to comment letters or emails submitted to the RMC. RVA has budgeted responses for up to 50 significant comments and any additional significant comments will require a scope modification. RVA will prepare thorough, reasoned, and appropriate responses to relevant environmental issues. Upon completion of these Responses to Comments they will be submitted to RMC for review. Responses to comments may require minor editorial revisions, however it is not anticipated that major revisions or new analysis would be required. It is not anticipated that excessive comment letters will be received. It is not anticipated that responses will require additional modeling or analysis. It is not anticipated that extensive comment letters would be received by the wildlife agencies, as the conceptual mitigation package would have been developed and preliminarily discussed with USFWS, CDFW, and RWQCB before it is included in the Draft EIR and circulated for the general public and public agency review. RVA with assistance from Geosyntec will respond to technical questions or comments from the public related to the CEQA document and analysis. RVA will prepare a draft Notice of Determination (NOD) for RMC review. Upon RMC approval of the project and certification of the Draft EIR, RVA will post

the NOD with State Clearinghouse and the Los Angeles County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 2 business days.

## **Task 7 – Preparation of Final EIR/ MMRP/ Findings & Statement of Overriding Considerations**

### **Final EIR**

The Final EIR will consist of the Final EIR Introduction, "Comments and Responses" section including bracketed comment letters, Draft EIR Errata (or Revised Draft EIR), and any new or revised Appendices.

### **Response to Comments**

The RVA team will respond to written comments received on the Draft EIR during the 45-day public review period. Although not required, the CEQA Guidelines recommend responding, if possible, to comments received after the close of the public review period. Since the number and nature of the comments cannot be identified at this time, once all comments are received, RVA will meet with RMC to discuss and determine the approach that will be utilized in the responses and if the budgeted amount is adequate to cover the level of effort needed to respond to all of the comments received. The budgeted Responses to Comments estimate assumes up to 50 comments that require a response (irrespective of the number of letters received). If less comments are received, less will be charged for this task; if more comments are received or comments are received that require additional modeling or analysis, then more budget for this task would be needed. Following review of the Draft Responses to Comments, RVA will respond to one consolidated set of comments from RMC and finalize this section for inclusion in the Final EIR. RVA will distribute the Comments and Responses packet to Responsible Agencies, as required by CEQA.

### **Errata**

RVA will prepare an Errata section for inclusion with the Responses to Comments document, identifying all proposed changes to the Draft EIR, based on public comments or staff-initiated technical corrections. If RMC prefers, an underline/~~strikethrough~~ version of the Draft EIR will be provided in lieu of the Errata.

RVA will address the RMC's comments on the Final EIR. Revisions to address City and applicant comments will be completed using the tracked changes features to streamline RMC's backcheck. Once RMC conducts their final review of the Final EIR, RVA will address any final comments and finalize the Final EIR. RVA will distribute the Comments and Responses packet to Responsible Agencies, as required by CEQA and to meet City requirements.

RVA will prepare a Notice of Determination (NOD) to meet CEQA and RMC's requirements. RVA will address comments on the NOD and will provide RMC with the final versions. RVA will file the NOD with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse and provide proof of it. It is anticipated that the RMC will pay directly for the CEQA filing fee.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 21081.6, RVA will prepare a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) that incorporates all mitigation measures from the EIR. RVA will prepare a Draft MMRP that will be submitted to RMC for review and comment. RVA will address RMC comments on the Draft MMRP and finalize for certification by the RMC.

**Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations**

RVA will prepare a Statement of Facts and Findings to be defined through working with RMC. RVA will also assist RMC staff in preparing a draft Statement of Overriding Considerations, if necessary, for use by RMC staff in the Resolution.

**Task 8 – RMC Board Meeting/Public Hearings**

RVA will attend up to five (5) public hearings held for the proposed Project. These hearings are anticipated to include one or more RMC Board meetings on the EIR. The RVA Project Manager will be prepared to answer technical questions related to the EIR and relevant comments on the EIR raised during the public hearing meetings. Preparation of written responses to late comment letters received, typically just before public hearings is not included in this scope but if needed, can be provided on a time and materials basis.

RVA appreciates the opportunity to provide environmental support services for the SELA project. If you have any questions or need any clarifications, please feel free to contact me at (909)685-5942.

Sincerely,



Ruth Villalobos  
President

# CORPORATE QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Prepared by*



Revision 05

20 September 2019



## **GEOSYNTEC CORPORATE QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Revision: 05**

**Date of Revision: 20 September 2019**

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### REVISION LOG

| <u>Revision No.</u> | <u>Date of Revision</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 01                  | August 2008             |
| 02                  | August 2013             |
| 03                  | 12 September, 2018      |
| 04                  | 27 September, 2018      |
| 05                  | 20 September 2019       |

September 21, 2020 – Item 12

RESOLUTION 2020-33

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND PERMITTING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN AND CEQA PHASES WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTING FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (SELA) CULTURAL CENTER (RMC 20502)

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 State of California has authorized an expenditure of local assistance funds enacted in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for local assistance for the Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects; and,

WHEREAS, The RMC may enter into any 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; and

WHEREAS, the RMC issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish a list of individual consultants and firms to provide professional consulting and/or contracting services to support the Los Angeles River Community Restoration & Revitalization Projects, including Green Incubator and Cultural Center; 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 this action is consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and Lower Los Angeles Revitalization Plan and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the Los Angeles River.
- 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 September 21, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020-33

- 5 AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer to award a Professional Services Agreement and Service Order with Geosyntec Consulting to provide Engineering, Planning, and Permitting Consulting Services for the Schematic Design and CEQA Phases services for the SELA Cultural Arts Center (RMC 20502) is for a cost not to exceed \$1,390,320. The Schematic Design and CEQA phase will have an 18-month performance period, starting August 28, 2020 and ending February 28, 2021.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

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

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

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General

**DATE:** July 20, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Sally Gee, Project Development Analyst II

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 13: Announcement of RMC's Proposition 68 Regionwide Call-for-Projects

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Exhibit A – RMC Proposition 68 Final Guidelines (updated)

Exhibit B – Grant Application Form, Appendix D in Guidelines (updated form)

RMC is opening a call for projects for RMC's region-wide Proposition 68 funding (Round 2). The Call-for-projects will extend September 21, 2020 – December 16, 2020. The start of application reviews is anticipated for late winter with the first recommendation made in spring 2021. RMC will host Grant Program Workshops in October to provide information to potential grantees about funding opportunities through RMC.

*Note*, RMC Proposition 68 regionwide guidelines have been updated. See summary below:

- Digital Application submission with electronic signature is now acceptable due to pandemic crisis
- Appendix D: Application Form has been updated to a digital, editable PDF Form
- Clarify that eligible costs for development projects is limited to 10% on preliminary/pre-construction costs, reduced from 20% that was originally stated <sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND:** With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) in June 2018. Prop 68 requires each state agency that receives funding for competitive grant rounds to develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines; conduct three public meetings to consider comments before finalizing the guidelines; and have Secretary of Natural Resources Agency verify that the guidelines are consistent with applicable statutes for the purposes of Prop 68. RMC updated and approved guidelines consistent with the Prop 68 bond language at the January 2019 Board Meeting (Reso 2019-06).

RMC published the RMC Prop 68 Regional and LLAR grant draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines on our website in October 2018. RMC held four meetings in November 2018 in the San Gabriel Valley, the Gateway Cities, Santa Clarita area, and Orange County. RMC Staff set up an email address to allow potential grantees and public at large to submit comments and questions, which is still the Prop 68 Grant Program's email. The Small Grants guidelines have been adapted from the RMC Proposition 68 Regional and Lower LA River (LLAR) Final Guidelines; differences were highlighted in the project description.

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<sup>1</sup> For complicated and extensive projects, this maximum may be increased to 20 percent on an exceptional basis. RMC will make this determination on a case by case basis.

Additionally, Prop. 68 funding allows for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. During previous grant guideline outreach, multiple themes emerged that highlighted both opportunities and challenges for applicants as they contemplated applying for bond funding, including: lack of staff capacity, readiness concerns, understanding the grant priorities, and the need for funding for planning and design phases. The Conservancy provides technical assistance through its staff and now can also through grants through the Small Grants Program to help develop and implement multi-benefit projects.

Upon opening a call for projects for RMC's Proposition 68, Round 2 grant program, RMC Staff will issue the official Call for Projects which will go from September 21, 2020 – December 16, 2020. Any grant applications submitted will be reviewed and scored according to the Project Evaluation Criteria. The guidelines can be found on the RMC website under Grants ([rmc.ca.gov](http://rmc.ca.gov)).

A critical element of the funding plan for RMC projects is to leverage within the highest degree possible with other funding sources such as LA County Measure A, LA County Measure W, Urban Greening Program, River Parkway Program, Wildlife Conservation Board, Urban Streams, Urban State Parks, Fish & Wildlife Program, Active Transportation Program (Metro), IRWM, and other grant programs available.

Funding for this call-for-projects will be allocated from Proposition 68: from the \$30 million in direct allocation to the Conservancy (Chapter 8). It is anticipated that all funds will be encumbered by Spring 2023.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. (Proposition 68) is codified Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's Proposition Grant Program Guidelines specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled "State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding," allocates one hundred and eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

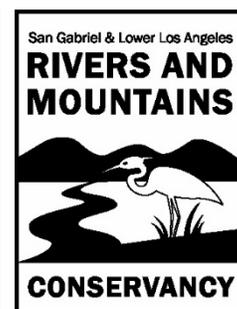
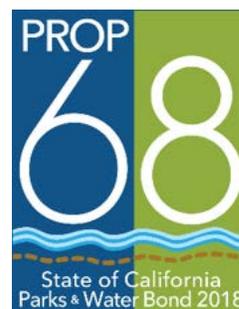
State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

**PROPOSITION 68 REGIONWIDE  
GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**



**2020/21**

April 12, 2019  
Rev 1 – June 3, 2019  
Rev 2 – September 14, 2020



## Inquiries and Contact Information

All inquiries, correspondence, and grant applications should be addressed to:

**RMC Prop 68 Regionwide Grant Program**

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

100 N Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.

Azusa, CA 91702

(626) 815-1019 Telephone

[Prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@rmc.ca.gov)

For further information please log on to our website at <http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/guidelines.html>

*Rev 2 update (9/14/2020):*

- *RMC is opened a call for projects for RMC's region-wide Proposition 68 funding in Fall 2020 (Round 2). The Call-for-projects will extend September 21, 2020 – December 16, 2020*
- *Digital Application submission with electronic signature is now accepted due to pandemic crisis (instead of hard copies)*
- *Clarify that eligible costs for development projects is limited to 10% on preliminary/pre-construction costs, reduced from 20% that was originally stated (unless can demonstrate need)*
- *Appendix D: Application Form has been updated to a digital, editable PDF Form (on [website](#)).*

**Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**

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**Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**

## SECTION 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The mission of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is to preserve open space and habitat in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within our jurisdictions. This work supports the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Additionally, the RMC has adopted an Environmental Justice Policy with three key environmental justice principles: (1) community driven empowerment/organizing campaigns, 2) identification of incompatible land uses, and 3) recognize opportunities to create green infrastructure such as community open space and alternative transportation modes including bicycling and walking (RMC Resolution 2014-19).

RMC is one of ten conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency established in 1999 (Chapters 788 and 789, Statutes of 1999). RMC's jurisdiction includes eastern Los Angeles County and western Orange County, comprised of the San Gabriel River Watershed and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed and its tributaries, Upper Santa Clara River and its tributaries, northern slope of the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Puente Hills and the San Jose Hills ([Division 22.8](#) of the [Public Resources Code California 32600-32621](#)), please see Exhibit I, RMC Region Map.

### 1.2 Grant Funding Source—Proposition 68

*Preamble.* California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. (Proposition 68) is codified Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's ("Conservancy") Proposition Grant Program Guidelines ("Guidelines") specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Section 80001. (b) It is the intent of the people of California that all of the following shall occur in the implementation of this division:

- (1) The investment of public funds pursuant to this division will result in public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs and priorities for public funding.
- (2) In the appropriation and expenditure of funding authorized by this division, priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit.
- (3) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will include signage informing the public that the project received funds from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

(4) To the extent practicable, when developing program guidelines for urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects, administering entities are encouraged to give favorable consideration to projects that provide urban recreation and protect or restore natural resources. Additionally, the entities may pool funding for these projects.

(5) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

(6) To the extent practicable, priority for funding pursuant to this division will be given to local parks projects that have obtained all required permits and entitlements and a commitment of matching funds, if required.

(7) To the extent practicable, administering entities should measure or require measurement of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestrations associated with projects that receive moneys pursuant to this division.

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled “State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding,” allocates one hundred and eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000 )to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

1.1. To the extent practicable, as identified in the “Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters,” dated January 12, 2017, the public agencies that receive funds pursuant to this division will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.

Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.

Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.

Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

To the extent practicable, priority for grant funding under this division will be given to a project that advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.

## SECTION 2 Eligibility and Priorities

### 2.1 Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines

RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the RMC will utilize to solicit applications, evaluate proposals and award grants, pursuant to Proposition 68 and RMC guiding principles.

All projects funded by the RMC with Proposition 68 grant funds must be consistent with the RMC's enabling legislation *Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea* (Common Ground), *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* which was adopted by the RMC in 2001 (available at [http://www.rmc.ca.gov/plans/common\\_ground.html](http://www.rmc.ca.gov/plans/common_ground.html)) for the distribution of grant funds.

### 2.2 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for projects located within the boundaries of the RMC are:

- Cities
- Counties
- Districts
- Local Agencies
- Joint Powers Agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Nonprofit organizations (existing under Section 501(c) 3 of the IRS Code). Status does not need to be approved at the time of application but must be approved at the time of award.

Individuals and corporations are not eligible for this grant program; however, RMC encourages multiple partners or joint projects. As long as the lead agency is one of the above listed eligible applicants, applications will be accepted from joint projects with non-eligible agencies.

### 2.3 RMC Objectives

The RMC Board will adopt the Proposition 68 Guidelines which set forth the evaluation criteria for its competitive grant programs and may be updated accordingly if necessary (See Appendix B for the Project Evaluation Criteria). The project evaluation criteria are set by the RMC objectives which are articulated in *Common Ground* and the *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*. The types of projects proposed to be supported by this grant program are also consistent with Proposition 68. The RMC's *Common Ground* objectives and the types of projects supported by this grant program are as follow:

- Projects must promote the RMC's statutory programs and purposes as stated in [Division 22.8](#) of the [Public Resources Code 32600-32621](#)
- Projects must be consistent with the purposes of the funding source (Proposition 68)
- Projects must promote and implement the State's Water Plans and Policies, such as the California Water Action Plan ([2016 update](#)).

- 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
- Improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles
- Improve habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity through creation, enhancement, preservation, and restoration
- Connect open space with a network of trails, accessible as appropriate to the site
- Promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement and long-term maintenance (long-term means for a period not less than 20 years)
- Encourage sustainable growth that balances environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Maintain and improve flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration
- Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space
- Optimize water resources by improving the quality of surface and ground water and enhance ground water recharge, to reduce dependence on imported water
- Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries
- Encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects
- Involve the public through education and outreach programs
- Projects will utilize the best available science to inform decisions regarding, state and local water resource. In addition, special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.

The RMC Board has established policies (see Appendix A) and project evaluation criteria (see Appendix B) derived from the above objectives. The major elements of the project evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. Access Value
2. Urban Land Value
3. Water Resource and Quality Value
4. Habitat Value
5. Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities
6. Matching Funds
7. Readiness
8. Stakeholder/Partners Resource Value
9. Stewardship and Management Plan Value

## 2.4 Geographic Program Areas

To facilitate the comparison and aggregation of similar projects and assure that funds are available for a wide range of projects, these grant funds will be applied to three program areas that can be described in geographic terms:

1. Urban Land
2. River/Tributary Parkways
3. Mountains, Hills, and Foothills

Project applicants will be asked to identify which program area their project falls into. Projects cannot qualify for inclusion in more than one program area, as described below:

- **Urban Lands**—All land within the developed, urban core of the RMC Region that is NOT within the area identified for River/Tributary Parkways, or within the Mountains, Hills, and Foothills.

- **River/Tributary Parkways**—Land falling within one-quarter mile on either side of the centerline of a river or tributary within the RMC Region, but NOT within the Mountains, Hills and Foothills or Urban Land areas.
- **Mountains, Hills, and Foothills**—Land lying within the area of a named system of mountains, hills and foothills. More specifically, land lying within the geographic area of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Jose, San Rafael, Montebello, Puente, Chino, Coyote, or Signal Hills, the San Gabriel foothills, and within the Region of the RMC but NOT within the Urban Lands or River/Tributary Parkways.

To determine the specific area in which your project might fall, please refer to the RMC website: <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/about/Region.html>.

## 2.5 Eligible Project Categories

The guidelines identify general project categories and program areas that may be eligible for funding. All eligible projects must meet the eligibility requirements in order to be considered for funding.

- **Implementation Projects**— At least **75%** of the funds available may be allocated to support implementation projects. The RMC will seek to prioritize multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities.
- **Planning Projects**— Up to **10%** of the funds available may be allocated to support planning-related applications.
- **Disadvantaged Community Investment and Co-Benefits**— *The Conservancy will allocate at least 20% of the funds available for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities, pursuant to section 8008(a)(1) of Proposition 68. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide information regarding this qualification.*
- **Community Access Projects**— “Community Access” means engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities. Up to **5%** of the funds available pursuant to each chapter of this division shall be allocated for community access projects, including for: transportation, physical activity programming, resource interpretation, multilingual translation, natural science, workforce development and career pathways, education, parks, climate, etc.

Preference will be given to community access projects that:

- a) Connect people with natural landscapes and/or urban greenspaces, with an emphasis on disadvantaged communities,
- b) Promote an appreciation for the environment and natural resources,
- c) Outline the threats facing the environment and natural resources,
- d) Include an action component to mitigate threats, make cities more livable, and/or protect California’s natural resources for future generations,
- e) Are multi-year programs,
- f) Serve underserved community members, including youth,
- g) Promote cultural competency,
- h) Involve partnership and collaborations that strengthen capacity and reach, and help achieve the common goal of reaching more program beneficiaries and maximizing the benefits associated with state funds,
- i) Are administered by a community-based organization with a proven track record in providing access program services;

***At this time, RMC has not included Community Access Project evaluation criteria pending legislative review. RMC will announce when we have approved Community Access Project criteria and call for projects.***

*Technical Assistance*— Pursuant to Section 8008(b)(1) of Proposition 68, up to **10%** of the funds available may be allocated for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. The RMC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) supports local communities with direct application assistance with the goal of facilitating access to the Conservancy’s funding programs. TAP creates a more equitable playing field by helping under-resourced applicants access Conservancy funds. TAP could include Direct Assistance in preparing applications or part of Integrated Conservancy Programs. TAP will be available annually and will include outreach and programs to provide application assistance to eligible applicants. RMC will make announcements for workshops and other support programs as part of TAP.

Please contact RMC for TAP-related requests: [Prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@rmc.ca.gov)

## **2.6 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and RMC’s Environmental Justice Policy**

The RMC Proposition 68 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities, and projects be consistent with the RMC adopted environmental justice policy (adopted November 24, 2014), although it may be amended as necessary.

It is the policy of the RMC that the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income shall be fully considered during the planning, decision-making, development and implementation of all RMC programs, policies, and activities. The intent of this policy is to ensure that the public within the RMC catchment area including minority and low-income populations are not discriminated against, treated unfairly, or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental and land-use decisions, and children and their families have access to safe open space and healthy neighborhoods.

The RMC adopted the following key principles:

1. Make environmental justice considerations a standard in the way we do business. We will keep an environmental justice perspective in our programs, activities, and training, as we set priorities, identify program gaps, and assess the benefits and adverse impacts our programs have on communities in our catchment area.
2. Work with local elected officials, staff of cities, and community groups, to address concerns about lack of access to safe open space, especially in low-income and minority communities.
3. Review and evaluate RMC programs and activities to ensure that the environmental justice perspective through its programs does not contain any substantive gaps.
4. Develop and incorporate an environmental justice program element into our employee-training curriculum.
5. Annually provide a staff briefing to the Board at a public meeting regarding ongoing and planned activities. Issue a written annual status report identifying action items accomplished and a proposed work plan outlining the action items for the next year. The work plan shall include quantitative goals for working in disadvantaged communities and populations adversely impacted by industrial and transportation proximities.

6. Strengthen our public outreach, education, and organizing efforts in all communities, especially low-income communities and where we see a need for the implementation.
7. Identify partners within land-use and transportation agencies that are responsible for the environmental benefits or adverse impacts in our neighborhoods and address potential mitigation activities.
8. Work with cities, County of Los Angeles, and community groups in identifying relevant populations living in close proximity to industrial and transportation locations that may benefit from RMC programs and activities.
9. Taking a proactive role in working with cities in adopting and/or updating their General Plans to implement environmental justice policies.
10. Work in conjunction with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies to ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations and create action-oriented mitigation plans.
11. Fostering broad access to existing and proposed data sets and technology to better identify, analyze, and respond to environmental justice issues (database bank).

RMC commits to integrating environmental justice principles into its programs and plans and will continue to improve our outreach efforts in all communities of our catchment area, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully in the development and implementation of our programs. As an oversight agency we will work closely with local cities and County of Los Angeles, and other stakeholders to jointly develop environmental justice awareness so that it is in line with our funding grant programs for project design and development. Our commitment is to take consideration of neighborhoods where people encounter environmental pressures given their close proximity to industrial and transportation zones, as well as incompatible land uses. The RMC's goal is to ensure that the populations in our area, especially children and families, are empowered to play a role in creating a healthful environment.

## **2.7 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and RMC's Tribal Consultation Policy**

The RMC Proposition 68 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities. On September 19, 2011, Governor G. Brown, Jr. issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of administration that every state agency and Department subject to executive control to implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes. On July 24, 2017, the RMC Governing Board approved a Tribal Consultation Policy consistent with the approved policy adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. Details can be found on the RMC website here: [http://rmc.ca.gov/Tribal\\_Policy\\_Resources%20Agency.pdf](http://rmc.ca.gov/Tribal_Policy_Resources%20Agency.pdf)

Additionally, Assembly Bill No. 52 (AB52) specifies that projects with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. With regards to CEQA, the bill requires a lead agency to begin consultation with a California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project, if the tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency of proposed projects in that geographic area and the tribe requests consultation, prior to determining whether

a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report is required for a project.

## **2.8 Definitions**

For definitions of the terms used in this application, please refer to Appendix C.

## SECTION 3 : Application Process

The Application process for RMC's Prop 68 Regionwide program is described below:

### 3.1 Region-Wide Application

RMC is opened a call for projects for RMC's region-wide Proposition 68 funding in Fall 2020 (Round 2). The Call-for-projects will extend September 21, 2020 – December 16, 2020. The start of application reviews is anticipated for late winter with the first recommendations in Spring 2021.

Complete applications that have passed the initial selection will be reviewed and scored. All grant applications will be scored in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria. Grant applications that receive an average score of 80 percent or better will be considered the most competitive for a funding recommendation. RMC staff will determine if funding is available and if the project is ready for recommendation to the RMC Board. If projects do not meet these minimum administrative thresholds for grant award, they will be assigned a Tier and placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. During this time, 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. This extended consideration process will ensure that the most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

### 3.2 Region-Wide Application: Subsequent Grant Rounds

It is anticipated that subsequent grant rounds will follow a process similar to that described above, subject to availability of funding. Applicants will be asked to re-submit Tier 2 application, with an opportunity to identify new information since the last submission, to facilitate review of applications, which are anticipated to be based on the currently-identified project evaluation criteria. Applicants that are unsuccessful in this round are encouraged to identify areas of potential project need and to review the results of this grant process (such as the small grants program), which will be included in materials presented to the RMC board and posted to the RMC website when available.

## SECTION 4 : Important Considerations

### 4.1 Eligible Uses

The following uses are **eligible for reimbursement from RMC** grant funds:

- Grant funds may be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources.
- Land acquisition costs may include appraisals, land, improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow.
- Land must be acquired from willing sellers.
- Facilities development projects must demonstrate a strong relationship and value to natural resource stewardship or environmental education.
- Rehabilitation and restoration projects must be biologically and technically feasible.
- Planning and pre-project costs can be included, though shall not exceed 10 percent of total Grant Funds. (For complicated and extensive projects, this maximum may be increased to 20 percent on an exceptional basis. Please contact RMC with questions.) These costs may include consultant fees, plan documentation, specifications, CEQA/NEPA planning, and direct project management costs.
- Indirect and Overhead expenses are allowed, though shall not exceed 10 percent of total Grant Funds. Projects that have lower overhead will be deemed more competitive.

### 4.2 Ineligible Uses

The following uses are **not** eligible for reimbursement from RMC grant funds:

- Operations and Maintenance related costs.
- Projects that are located on school properties and not open to the general public or designed solely for school students, unless part of a multi-use project which allows for access from the general public.
- Playground equipment and/or infrastructure such as swing sets and skate parks.
- Facilities that do not have an environmental education focus or theme, such as basketball courts, hockey courts, etc. Multi-use projects may include these elements, but this program will not fund planning or development of such facilities.
- Projects that cause erosion or contribute to flooding.
- Projects on land or improved property acquired by condemnation from an unwilling seller.
- BMP (Best Management Practices) directed projects that lack an improved habitat, low impact public recreation access, or environmental education components.
- Projects traditionally provided by the private, non-government sector or by concessionaires, such as gift shops, equipment rentals, concession stands, etc., unless it can be shown that no private entrepreneur is willing to provide services, and there is demonstrated need for the Project.
- Projects that exclusively fulfill other mitigation requirements.

### 4.3 Additional Considerations

- Each project must include information that addresses RMC Project Evaluation Criteria.

- Applicants shall submit an individual application for each eligible project within their jurisdiction.
- The Grantee must complete the project and submit all documentation within three years of grant award.
- Grants shall be paid on a reimbursement basis.
- All funded projects must comply with the adopted RMC policies attached as Appendix A.
- The Grantee shall provide for public access and low-impact recreation, unless it is specifically prohibited or not ecologically or biologically feasible.
- Projects should have an education element and habitat component.
- Projects that have multiple benefits will be considered more competitive.
- Projects which have a clearly articulated monitoring and assessment plan will be considered more competitive.
- All real property shall be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current State laws governing Relocation and Acquisition of real property by public agencies. Appraisals will be subject to prior approval of fair market value by the State Department of General Services.
- All projects must comply with CEQA and/or NEPA as appropriate. These costs may be funded under this program as part of planning dollars. Status will be carefully evaluated and projects that have completed CEQA/NEPA and/or are advanced in the environmental process prior to the application will be considered more competitive.
- If RMC funds will be used for the CEQA/NEPA process and the Grantee has made a full-faith effort to complete CEQA/NEPA, but is unable to complete CEQA/NEPA or otherwise proceed with the Project due to issues related to the CEQA/NEPA process, costs incurred by the Grantee that are directly related to the CEQA/NEPA process can be applied up to the limit of 20 percent of the total original grant.
- Grantee shall comply with all applicable laws and applications.
- All information contained in the grant applications is confidential until the grant awards are announced. After that time, all applications will become public information.
- Grantees must sign an agreement with RMC before funds can be disbursed.
- Grantee shall post signs acknowledging the source of funds pursuant to guidelines established for this grant Program (Reference Appendix E).
- RMC will determine when reports will be required by the grantee, including progress, financial, and monitoring and assessment reports. Under usual circumstances, reports shall not be required more frequently than on a quarterly basis.
- Projects need to meet the criteria set forth in *Common Ground* and *Phase II Final Report*, as well as any planning criteria approved by agencies within the project jurisdiction, such as master plans or watershed management plans.
- Grantee must meet the minimum land tenure requirements set forth by the RMC.
- Projects with one or more partners will be deemed more competitive
- Although matching funds or services are not required, priority shall be given to projects that include a commitment for a matching contribution. Matching funds may include prior project planning, operations and maintenance, volunteer support, and ongoing monitoring and assessment. Contributions may be in the form of money, property, or services and must be verifiable.

## SECTION 5 : Application Procedures

Submit completed application package and all supporting documentation, to the extent feasible. Incomplete applications will not be disqualified, but applicants should take every effort to make their complete application as complete as possible by the deadline. Complete applications are more likely to be considered as Tier 1 projects.

### 5.1 Application and Notification Deadlines

The RMC regionwide application deadline is **December 15, 2020**. Lower LA River Prop 1 and 68 Grant Programs and Small Grants Program have on-going call for projects

### 5.2 What to Submit

A complete application package will consist of **one (1) complete digital copy** of the required materials emailed to [prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:prop68@rmc.ca.gov). An esignature must be included on the Application Form via an online document signing application (i.e. DocuSign). Applicants shall provide the electronic format in PDF and provide using an online cloud storage link (i.e. Dropbox or Google Drive). A wet-signed, hard copy of the Application Form will be required before a project is recommended for award. Please provide a digital copy on a CD or flash drive before award recommendation as well. Photos, images, maps, etc. should be included in the PDF. *The submittal requirements have been updated to consider difficulties related to COVID-19 Pandemic, please contact the RMC if submittal any of the application requirements are still an issue.*

The following materials are required for a complete application (some submittal requirements may not be applicable to all submittals):

1. Application Form (Refer to Appendix D)
2. Supporting Documents
3. Photo(s) of the Site (Optional)

Information required for the Application is proposed to include:

1. **Grant Application Form** (Refer to Appendix D)
2. **Project Description** includes: (Sections 2a-2g should not exceed 7 pages, single-spaced, 11-point font minimum).
  - a. Complete Project Description: for acquisition projects include APN, acreage and purpose for acquisition; for planning and implementation include specific tasks and deliverables.
  - b. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project: a summary of the needs for the project and how the project meets the RMC's policies and project evaluation criteria, and exceeds Proposition 68, Chapter 6 objectives of the water bond legislation (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.3).

- c. Description of audience and geographic area served: provide a summary of the communities, cities, and populations that will be served once the project is completed.
  - d. Description of Goals and Objectives: the goals and objectives should clearly define measurable and outcome-oriented goals and objectives for the project, performance measures to track progress toward objectives, and a reporting system to present the analysis of performance measures against the deliverables and tasks.
  - e. Community Outreach: how will the community be involved in the project design and implementation, include how the project is consistent with the RMC Environmental Justice Policy and RMC Tribal Consultation Policy (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.4 and 2.5, include specific plans for community outreach, education, community involvement).
  - f. Monitoring and Assessment Plan: the monitoring and assessment plan should include the tracking of the progress of the measurable goals and objectives of the project during as well as after the project is completed. Outline of a monitoring and assessment plan should include measurable and quantifiable targets for a planning and implementation project. And, for acquisition projects include the long-term management and maintenance plan. The RMC is interested in measuring the progress of each of its activities in achieving results or outcomes. Hence, the focus of each project evaluation must be on outcomes, defined as the project results or impact on users and society. Output and other measures are important, but the focus should be on results.
  - g. Organizational capacity: include a brief history of your organization and the ability to fully complete and maintain the project long-term.
3. **California Conservation Corps**: Applicants applying for funds to complete restoration and ecosystem protection projects are strongly encouraged to consult with representatives of the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the entity representing the certified CCC, to determine the feasibility of the CCC in completing the proposed project (Public Resource Code 80016). CCC and CALCC have developed the consultation process for inclusion in Proposition 68 funding, please complete Exhibit H, and find the complete application form at: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Documents/Prop%2068%20Corps%20Consultation.pdf>

Note, the Corps already has determined that it is not feasible to use their services on projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Grant Application Form, Appendix D (#12).

- 4. **Certified Youth Employment Plan**: please include the organization's capacity to develop, manage and implement a training program for young adults in the environmental discipline that leads to permanent employment in the green industry (maximum one page).
- 5. **Tasklist and Timeline**: The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment. An example of a tasklist can be found on the RMC website at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.
- 6. **Budget**: The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential

funding agency, and contact). See the RMC website for an example of a project budget at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>. Applicants should endeavor to submit a budget in the format presented in the example on the RMC website.

7. Resolution: The applicant's governing body certifies that their governing board gives the authorized signatory the authority to apply, receive and manage the project.
8. Environmental Compliance: Identify the status of the environmental assessment. This information may include a notice of exemption filed with the county clerk, an initial study, or a brief description of how the applicant will comply with CEQA/NEPA once the grants are awarded.
9. Permits, Easements, or Certifications: Identify status of all permits related to the proposed project for implementation of the project and/or brief description of how applicant will obtain all permits (plan/schedule).
10. Operation and Maintenance: The applicant must demonstrate, specifically for development projects an outline of how the project will address future operations and maintenance needs (no more than one page).
11. Agreements: The applicant must include proof of ownership and compliance with Land Tenure Requirements or the applicant must demonstrate movement to secure land tenure through a willing seller letter, memorandum of agreement, or other binding agreements in place
12. Non-profit: If applicable, provide proof of non-profit status (Copy of IRS Determination Letter)
13. Design/Construction Documents and/or Project Site Photographs: Digital format is preferred, on CD, and each photograph should be saved as a separate file (no more than six (6) photographs, not larger than 8 ½" by 11").
14. Project location map: the applicant must submit a map of the project location.
15. Letters of Support: The applicant is required a minimum of three support letters to fulfill this requirement, but additional support letters may be included.

### **5.3 Project Completeness and Selection Criteria**

RMC staff will review grant applications for completeness and incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Following is the initial selection criteria which all grant applications must adhere to:

- The applicant is an eligible entity
- The applicant has submitted a complete grant application, as previously stated in Section 3.4, Items 1-15
- The project meets the RMC's required grant selection criteria per the RMC Proposition 68 Guidelines
- The project meets the RMC's Common Ground and the Proposition 68, Chapter 7 objectives
- The project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the General Obligation Bond Law

Applications that do not pass the initial selection criteria will not proceed to the scoring process. The RMC has the discretion to either return the application or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the screening process.

## **5.4 Scoring**

Complete applications that have passed the initial selection will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise. Reviewers may include local, state and federal agency staff and others with relevant expertise, including consultants and academics. All reviewers other than the RMC staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. The total score of the three reviewers will be averaged and then weighted against other grant proposals. All reviewers will score each grant application in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria—grant applications that receive an average score of 80 percent or better will be considered the most competitive for a funding recommendation. Recommendation for funding is dependent on numerous factors such as funding availability and project readiness and not solely dependent on a high evaluation criteria score. Staff will determine if funding is available and if the project is ready for recommendation to the RMC Board.

If projects do not meet the minimum administrative thresholds for grant award, they will be assigned a Tier and placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. During this time, project proponents are provided the opportunity to receive higher scores based on additional information provided through staff interviews, clarifications, and/or updates that demonstrate project's alignment with RMC goals and objectives, and granting of funds is consistent with RMC programs. This extended consideration process will ensure that the most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

## SECTION 6: General Requirements

### 6.1 Typical Grant Process

The following table outlines the typical grant process for successful applicants.

| Responsible Entity                | Task  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| RMC                               | Announces draft guidelines and holds public meetings for submittal of comments.   |
| RMC                               | Approval of Grant Guidelines at the RMC Board Meeting.  |
| RMC                               | Announces Grant Funding Cycle and release of application and guidelines.  |
| Applicant                         | Submits grant application and supporting documents to the RMC .   |
| RMC and Grant Selection Committee | Staff determines if grant application is complete and submits to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring which occurs quarterly.                         |
| RMC                               | Staff notify project applicants of their status, either complete or incomplete.   |
| Grant Selection Committee         | If complete, the Grant Selection Committee evaluates grant applications, may perform site visits on semi-finalists, and recommends projects for funding to the RMC Board. |
| RMC Board                         | Board approves or denies funding recommendations  |
| RMC                               | If approved by Board, Staff sends a Grant Agreement to the Grantee.   |
| Grantee                           | Returns the signed Agreement to RMC.  |
| RMC                               | State/Staff sends a fully executed Grant Agreement to the Grantee.  |
| Grantee                           | Completes environmental documentation and permitting as needed.   |
| Grantee                           | Commences work on the Project.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits required reports (i.e. Quarterly), plans, and documents, as required, to RMC.   |
| Grantee                           | Grantee posts signs during construction per attached Sign Guidelines.   |
| Responsible Entity                | Task  |
| Grantee                           | Requests progress payments.   |
| Grantee                           | Upon completion of the Project, posts signs acknowledging source of funds.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits Project completion packet upon completion of the Project.   |
| RMC                               | Staff checks final documentation for completeness and accuracy and makes final inspection of Project.   |
| RMC                               | Staff processes the final payment.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits documents for audit, if requested.  |

### 6.2 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

All participants are subject to federal and State conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Accordingly, before submitting an application, applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding potential conflict of interest concerns that they may have and requirements for disclosure. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code Section 1090, and Public Contract Code Sections 10410 and 10411 for State conflict of interest requirements.

Applicants should note that by submitting an application, they waive their rights to the confidentiality of that application. RMC staff will review each application. Once the application is signed and submitted to RMC any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law will be waived.

### 6.3 Project Withdrawal

If a Grantee wishes to withdraw a Project, Grantee shall notify RMC in writing. In the event an approved project cannot be completed, and if grant funds were advanced, those funds, plus any accrued interest, must be returned to the State. If the CEQA/NEPA work is done after the grant has been awarded, and the determination is an impediment to completing the project, RMC will reimburse the applicant for costs expended up to 20 percent of the total grant as outlined above.

### 6.4 Eligible Costs

All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation.

| <i>Costs</i>   | <i>Explanation</i>  | <i>Examples</i>  |
|--|---|--|
| Preliminary Costs<br>(not to exceed<br>10% of grant total) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs incurred after a Contract with RMC has been fully executed, including planning, plan documentation, designs, appraisals and negotiations, permit costs, consultant costs, and other costs necessary to execute eligible projects, occurring pre-construction</li> <li>■ Expenditure subject to maximum of 10% of total grant. For complicated and extensive projects, this maximum may be increased to 20 percent on an exceptional basis. Please contact RMC with questions (a total of 20% of the grant agreement is limited for both Indirect/Overhead and Preliminary Costs).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CEQA/NEPA compliance</li> <li>■ Construction plans</li> <li>■ Conceptual Designs</li> <li>■ Pre-schematic work</li> <li>■ Technical consulting</li> <li>■ Preparation of Bidding docs</li> <li>■ Permits/Appraisals</li> <li>■ Acquisition documents, etc.</li> </ul> |
| Personnel or<br>Employee<br>Services                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must be computed according to the Grantee's prevailing wage or salary scales</li> <li>■ Must be computed on actual time spent on Project</li> <li>■ Must not exceed the Grantee's established rates for similar positions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Wages and benefits</li> <li>■ Work performed by another section/department in agency</li> </ul>   |
| Consultant<br>Services                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs paid to consultants necessary for the Project</li> <li>■ Consultants must be paid in compliance with the Grantee's customary method and rate</li> <li>■ No consultant fee shall be paid to the Grantee's own employees without prior approval</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs paid to consultants necessary for the Project</li> </ul>  |
| Construction   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All necessary construction activities</li> <li>■ Construction management</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site preparation, grading</li> <li>■ Facility development</li> <li>■ Inspection and construction management</li> </ul>  |

| <i>Costs</i>                          | <i>Explanation</i>   | <i>Examples</i>  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Construction Equipment                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Grantee may only charge the cost of the actual use of the equipment during the time it is being used for Project purposes</li> <li>■ The Grantee may use the California Department of Transportation’s equipment rental rates as a guide</li> <li>■ The Grantee shall prorate the value of the purchased equipment toward the Project based on hours of usage</li> <li>■ The equipment use charges must be made in accordance with the Grantee’s normal accounting practices</li> <li>■ The Grantee must describe the work performed, the hours used, and related use to Project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rental equipment</li> <li>■ Leased equipment</li> <li>■ Purchased equipment</li> </ul>  |
| Fixed Equipment                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Equipment permanently fixed to Project facility</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fixed resting areas/benches</li> </ul>  |
| Construction Tools/Supplies/Materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ May be purchased for specific Project, or may be drawn from central stock if claimed costs are no higher than those the Grantee would pay</li> <li>■ Costs may be capitalized according to the Grantee’s standard policy</li> <li>■ The Grantee may only claim those costs reasonably attributable to the Project</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Materials such as concrete, wood, etc.</li> <li>■ Supplies such as fasteners, nails, or other hardware and non-fixed equipment</li> </ul> |
| Relocation Costs                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs resulting in displacement of a person/business</li> <li>■ The Grantee shall comply with State Relocation Act requirements.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ See Chapter 16, Section 7260, <a href="#">Government Code</a>.</li> </ul>   |
| Acquisition Costs                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Appropriate costs of acquiring real property</li> <li>■ DGS approved appraisal costs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Purchase price/Appraisals</li> <li>■ Title/Escrow fees</li> <li>■ Surveying/Improvements</li> </ul>                                       |
| Indirect/Overhead                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs shall not exceed 10% of grant total and of each submitted reimbursement payment</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Administrative overhead</li> </ul>  |
| Restoration/Rehabilitation Costs      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All required materials for restoration/rehabilitation work</li> <li>■ Includes removal and disposal of exotic/invasive species</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Planting/Soil improvements</li> <li>■ Irrigation systems (temporary or permanent, as applicable)</li> </ul>                               |
| Environmentally Aimed BMP Measures    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Components to storm water management projects that include habitat supporting measures</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Filtration systems</li> <li>■ Erosion control materials</li> </ul>  |
| Education Infrastructure              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All fixed materials that serve interpretive or educational purposes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Signs/Interpretive aids/Kiosks</li> </ul>   |
| Miscellaneous                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Other Project-related costs</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Communications expenses</li> <li>■ Construction insurance</li> <li>■ Signs/Interpretive aids</li> <li>■ Transportation costs</li> </ul>   |

### 6.5 Ineligible Costs

The following is a non-exclusive list of ineligible project costs:

| <i>Costs</i>                     | <i>Explanation</i>  | <i>Examples</i>   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Operations and Maintenance Costs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs necessary for the short or long term operation and maintenance of property or facilities once the property has been acquired or the facility or area has been restored, rehabilitated, or developed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Personnel or employee services</li> <li>■ Equipment, supplies</li> </ul> |

| <b>Costs</b>                           | <b>Explanation</b>  | <b>Examples</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| Non-fixed Equipment                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Equipment that is not permanently fixed to the project facility or used for construction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Computer equipment (hardware and software)</li> <li>■ Portable equipment</li> </ul>                               |
| Playground Equipment or Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Active recreation equipment costs are ineligible</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Swingsets, skateparks, pools, ball field apparatus, basketball courts</li> </ul>                                  |
| Mitigation Costs                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs associated with exclusively fulfilling mitigation requirements for this or other projects</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Land acquisition, development, restoration or rehabilitation for mitigation for this or other projects</li> </ul> |
| Ceremonial or Publicity Expenses       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Funds may not be used for ceremonies, parties, or other publicity expenses (except for required signage)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Food and beverages</li> <li>■ Facility rental</li> </ul>  |
| Ineligible Travel                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Travel costs not directly associated with the project</li> <li>■ Travel claimed when no work time was claimed for the same period</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Travel expenses</li> </ul>  |
| Lobbying/ Fundraising                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs associated with grant application preparation, for this grant or for others associated with this or any other project</li> <li>■ Costs associated with lobbying legislature or other bodies for funds for this or any other project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Staff time</li> <li>■ Lobbyist fees</li> <li>■ Travel expenses</li> </ul>   |
| Contract Cost Overruns                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unapproved contract costs overruns exceeding the allowable amount as per contract budget specifications</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unapproved costs</li> </ul>   |

Questions associated with eligible or ineligible costs should be directed to the Grant Program Administrative Contact **prior to** submittal of application or budget. The RMC highly recommends grantees to review and follow the most recent publication of [OMB Circular A-87 Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Government](#) for identifying direct and indirect costs eligible for grant reimbursement.

## 6.6 Changes to Project Scope

A Grantee wishing to change the scope of an approved project shall submit the proposed change in writing to RMC for approval. Any change must be consistent with the authorizing legislation and *Common Ground* and *Phase II Final Report*.

## 6.7 Time Extensions

The Grantee is expected to complete the project according to the time identified in their project timeline. However each contract will have a project performance period of three years to allow for unexpected events. An extension of the three-year performance period is unlikely. In no case shall a grant be extended past the last date for expenditure of bond funds.

## 6.8 Payments of Grant Funds

- Disbursements of grant funds will be made incrementally, as separate components of the Project are satisfactorily completed.
- Payments shall be on the basis of costs incurred, less ten percent (10%) to be withheld from all invoiced amounts.
- Requests for reimbursement are preferred on a quarterly basis. Requests must include documentation that demonstrates that costs have been incurred and an itemized description of all

work done for which reimbursement is requested. Payment requests should clearly identify the specific elements of the work plan to which they pertain, such as an updated budget and tasklist.

- Any requests for indirect costs must include the methodology and justification for the indirect costs. Payment requests may be reduced or denied if these costs are not sufficiently supported. Indirect costs should already be listed as a task/line item in the grant's approved budget.
- Grantees should allow four to six weeks to receive payment after submitting a complete payment request package.
- Any request that is submitted without supporting documents will not be approved for payment.

## 6.9 Advance Payment Requests

- ***As a general rule, advance payments for Project costs are not allowed.*** RMC, at its sole discretion, may honor advance payment requests, if warranted by a documented compelling and immediate need.
- If an advance payment is requested, the Grantee will complete a Payment Request Form accompanied by a written request for advance payment and an itemized schedule of all cost estimates for services, equipment and supplies (plus supporting documentation) to support the immediate need of the requested advanced amount.
- If any advance payments are received from the RMC, they must be deposited into a sole and separate account from other grantee funds. Any interest earned on advances shall be spent on eligible Project costs subject to prior approval by RMC. Unless spent on approved costs, the grant Agreement shall be reduced by the amount of the interest earned.
- Advanced funds must be fully expended within thirty (30) days of the date on the warrant. A Payment Request Form (with "Advance Reconciliation" selected) must be completed and submitted to the RMC within sixty (60) days from the date on the warrant. If the advanced funds were not fully expended within the allotted thirty (30) days, grantees must return the balance of the advanced funds plus any accrued interest with the Payment Request Form.

With the exception of Acquisition Projects, though grantees may submit several requests for advanced funds throughout the life of the grant, the maximum total aggregated amount of advanced funds cannot exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total grant amount.

- For Acquisition Projects, advances are made after the property is in escrow. Immediately upon receipt, such advances shall be placed into escrow.

## 6.10 Final Payment Request

The funds withheld from Project payments are referred to as the Final Payment Request. The Project Completion procedures ***are specified in the Grant Agreement.***

## 6.11 Site Visits

The Grantee shall permit and arrange periodic site visits including a final inspection by RMC to determine if the work performed is in accordance with the approved Project Scope.

## 6.12 Loss of Funding

The following actions may result in a loss of part or all of the funding allocation to the Grantee:

A Grantee fails to return a signed agreement with the RMC within 60 days of receipt of the grant agreement.

A Grantee withdraws from the Program.

A Grantee fails to complete all funded Projects and/or fails to submit all documentation no later than three years from grant award unless otherwise approved for extension by the RMC.

## 6.13 Land Acquisition Instructions

**Estimated fair market value of land and improvements**—Under the terms of the grant Program, RMC and the State Department of General Services must approve the appraised fair market value of the Acquisition. State participation in projects is limited to value approved by DGS.

**Willing Seller**—Provide evidence that landowner(s) are willing participant in any proposed real property transactions. RMC does not have authority of eminent domain and grant funds can not be used for that application.

**Relocation Costs**—Attach additional pages as needed. Provide a parcel-by-parcel analysis of the extent of the relocation assistance required by the State Relocation Act requirements, (Chapter 16, Section 7260, Government Code). Include at a minimum:

- The number of persons/businesses displaced
- The types of displaced entities (families, small retail businesses, large wholesale or manufacturing enterprises, farms, churches, hospitals, etc.)
- The Tenure (month-to-month rent, long-term lease, or fee title) of the displaced entities
- Any special problems inherent in relocating the displaced entities (lack of adequate replacement housing, large inventory of merchandise to be moved, or unique quality of the enterprise difficult to duplicate at any other location)

**Contingency**—Cannot be used to increase the fair market value appraisal.

### Attach:

- Annotated Assessor's Plat showing proposed Acquisition and approximate location of Project improvements that will affect the Project; if a creek or other drainage way crosses the property, sketch its approximate location
- Written description of parcel from the recorded deed on file in Assessor's office
- Copies of any easements, mineral rights, or other conditions that may affect the proposed parcel on file in Assessor's Office
- USGS 1:24,000 scale Quad map with the parcel clearly marked on it

## 6.14 Land Tenure Requirements

Applicants must certify to RMC that they have adequate control of, and Tenure to, properties to be improved under this program. Adequate controls include, but are not limited to ownership, lease, easement, joint-powers agreement, or other long-term interest in the property, or have a satisfactory Agreement with the legal owner/administering agency. RMC recognizes that specific activities may change over time; however, the property must remain available for compatible public use.

The Grantee and/or landowner shall:

1. Maintain and operate the property funded under this program for a period of:
  - At least 20 years for grants up to \$1 Million
  - At least 25 years for grants over \$1 Million
  - For urban stream restoration projects, alternate maintenance and operation periods may be negotiated, as appropriate for individual projects

2. Use the property only for the purpose for which the Grant was made and to make no other use or sale or other disposition of the property. With the approval of RMC, the Grantee or the Grantee's successor may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property in accordance with this section. A lease or other short-term agreement cannot be revocable at will by the lessor.
3. The Grantee shall not use or allow the use of any portion of the real property for mitigation (i.e. to compensate for adverse changes to the environment elsewhere).

## **6.15 Accounting Requirements**

Grantees shall maintain an accounting system that does all of the following:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards
- Follows generally accepted accounting principles.
- Provides good audit trails, especially the source documents (purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, time cards, cancelled warrants, warrant numbers, etc.)
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual Project can be readily determined
- Grantees are recommended to have a record retention policy that includes the record retention of bond funded projects and their respective expenditures. These types of expenditures should be retained for the life of the bond (generally 25-30 years).

## **6.16 Audit**

Projects are subject to audit by the State for three years following the most recent payment including the final payment of grant funds. The purpose of the audit is to verify that project expenditures were made in accordance of the respective bond act(s), RMC grant guidelines, and that expenditures were properly documented.

If your project is selected for audit, you will be contacted at least 30 days in advance. The audit will include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the Grantee, as they related to the project for which RMC funds were granted. The Grantee shall have the Project records, including the source documents and cancelled warrants, readily available to the State. The Grantee must also provide an employee having knowledge of the Project and the accounting procedure or system to assist the State's auditor. The Grantee shall provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like requested by the State.

All Project records must be retained for at least five years following an audit or final disputed audit findings.

# SECTION 7 : Appendices

The appendices listed below are included in this report on the following pages:

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| Appendix A: | RMC General Policies .....                 | 25-30 |
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## Appendix A: RMC General Policies

### A. Guiding Principles

The overall policy guidelines for the RMC are found in two primary references: the statute which created the RMC, Public Resources Code Section 32600, and *Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea*, the watershed and open space plan for the *Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds* which was adopted by the RMC and further identifies the policies of the agency. Both documents can be found at: <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/plans/intro.html>.

Further, the RMC requires that all proposed projects, as applicable, follow the guidelines and principles identified in the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Los Angeles River Master Plan, San Gabriel River Master Plan, the Watershed Plans for the Rio Hondo, Coyote Creek, Compton Creek, and Upper San Gabriel River (if available). Consistency with these policies is an essential element of the grant agreement required for execution by all successful project applicants.

Further, RMC is committed to promoting projects which meet multiple objectives such as, providing water quality protection through storm water best management practices on urban land which creates new open space with passive recreation elements and educational/interpretive elements. The RMC further promotes project partnerships which increase stakeholder involvement and commitment, and projects that bundle multiple funding sources which increase project resources.

Data-based Geographic Information System (GIS) decision support tools are available to help applicants evaluate projects to ensure that they meet RMC funding criteria, prioritizations, and policy objectives and will be used by RMC staff to evaluate and validate information submitted on some projects. Pertinent data on regional analysis can be found on an [interactive map](#) on the RMC website. The Trust for Public Land's Climate Smart Cities' Los Angeles mapping portal provides a robust decision support tool that provides reports down to the parcel level (requires users to create a login in order to use)—[https://web.tplgis.org/csc\\_losangeles/](https://web.tplgis.org/csc_losangeles/). Additional tools include State Parks' [Community FactFinder](#) and Department of Water Resources' (DWR) [DAC Mapping Tool](#).

### B. RMC's Three Program Areas

**Urban Land:** Land within the developed, urban core of the RMC Region that does not fall directly within the other two categories of River/Tributary Parkways and Mountains, Hills and Foothills. **It is the primary intent of this program to create new accessible urban passive open space and recreational opportunities.**

**River/Tributary Parkways:** Land falling within one-quarter mile on either side of the centerline of a river or tributary within the RMC Region, but not within a Mountains, Hills, and Foothills or Urban Land area. **The primary intent of this program is to provide for a revitalized accessible river parkway along the main stems of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and their tributaries, increase riparian corridors, and provide enhanced recreational opportunities.**

**Mountains, Hills, and Foothills:** Land lying within the area of a named system of mountains, hills, and foothills. More specifically, land lying within the geographic area of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Jose, San Rafael, Montebello (Repetto), Puente, Chino, Coyote, or Signal Hills, the San Gabriel foothills, and within the Region of the RMC and NOT within the Urban Lands or River/Tributary

Parkways area. **The primary intent of this program is watershed, habitat, and wildlife corridor protection, trails and public access as appropriate to the site.**

## C. Project Criteria

RMC requires that all proposed projects, as applicable, meet the following criteria. Criteria which are applicable to the project must be described adequately in the Project Development Plan.

### 1. ACCESS VALUE

The RMC considers access to parks, open space, trails, bikeway, natural areas and low impact recreation for all persons within a ¼ or 10 minute walk from their homes to be a primary objective in our programs. Further, access to all members of our communities must be consistent with the physical and/or cultural needs within all our communities.

**Projects will be designed with accessible park staging areas and trails** meeting the minimum guidelines established by the U.S. Access Board. The Access Board is the Federal agency responsible for creating guidelines and standards for accessible environments (<http://www.access-board.gov/news/outdoor-nprm.htm>). The minimum requirements found in the Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report are based on the following principles:

- A) Protect resource and environment
- B) Preserve experience
- C) Provide for equality of opportunity
- D) Maximize accessibility
- E) Be reasonable
- F) Address safety
- G) Be clear, simple, and understandable
- H) Provide guidance
- I) Be enforceable and measurable
- J) Be consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as much as possible
- K) Be based on independent use by persons with disabilities.

The RMC is committed to providing **bike, hiking and equestrian** trails, improving access to trails and adding trails within its Region.

1. All trails will be designed for multiple uses as appropriate to the site and community.
2. When planning a trail, the guiding principles in "Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind" available on the RMC website ([www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)) must be utilized in the trail design.
3. A useful resource for trail design and management is "*Trails for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Planning, Design and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails*" (Flink et al: 2001). This resource has useful information on sustainable design and construction as well as wildlife concerns in design and management of trails.

### 2. URBAN LAND VALUE

"Green" infrastructure, particularly in urban areas, provides much needed opportunities for recreation and community areas for residents to enjoy nature. RMC is committed to working with public and private partners to create new parks, open space, and trails in areas with the greatest need. Many urban areas lack adequate parkland to meet the needs of community residents, especially youth and low-income residents. RMC is working with our partners to facilitate increased opportunities for parks

through a variety of strategies that include joint-use agreements, land acquisition, development of existing public land, and restoration of negatively impacted sites.

The RMC is committed to improving the quality of life for the communities in which we work. Low impact recreational opportunities in parks, open space, and trails enhance the overall health and well-being – critical to personal quality of life. Recreational opportunities facilitate social interactions, as well as improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of **physical and mental** wellness. RMC projects will create areas that allow for communities to engage in low impact physical activity.

### 3. WATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY VALUE

The RMC encourages projects which provide for water conservation, groundwater recharge, improve stormwater quality, drinking water quality, and flood management using natural and non-structural systems.

1. Site grading, bio swales, and/or porous materials will be used to retain storm water on site to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Program adopted by the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.
2. Porous materials and/or recycled paving materials will be used instead of impervious paving materials for projects requiring pavement (i.e., parking lots, trails, etc.) unless prohibited by local building codes.
3. Storm water best management practices (BMPs) must be utilized on the project site. In areas where grading, vegetation clearing, or planting is planned, BMPs must be utilized to control excessive erosion while vegetation becomes established.
4. Any irrigation installed on the project site must be a water efficient irrigation system. In projects where turf is planned, both a rain sensor and a soil moisture meter are required to ensure water efficient irrigation practices. A rain sensor will halt irrigation on days it is raining, eliminating excessive water runoff. A soil moisture meter will automatically shut off irrigation when the root zone of the turf becomes saturated, preventing excessive irrigation runoff. Projects should try to utilize recycled water.
5. All projects funded by the RMC must be consistent with applicable water supply, water quality and flood control policies and conform to the requirements of [Public Resources Code Section 32621](#).
6. Projects that include open water should include design elements and maintenance schedules that inhibit mosquito breeding and reduce the need for vector control.

### 4. HABITAT (Creation, Enhancement, Preservation, and Restoration) VALUE

RMC's habitat goals are to create, enhance, preserve, protect, and restore important terrestrial, avian, and aquatic habitats in the watersheds and to preserve or establish habitat linkages and/or corridors.

1. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the creation of new natural habitat (that did not formerly exist on site) is within the scope of the project.
2. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the enhancement of existing natural habitat is within the scope of the project.
3. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the preservation of existing natural habitat is within the scope of the project.
4. The potential for a project to result in habitat alterations or other similar disturbances must be considered and addressed. If the project negatively impacts existing habitat as part of the enhancement or restoration, a strategy to mitigate adverse impacts and for quantifying the success of the mitigation must be identified. All necessary permits must be obtained for projects that include major habitat modifications.

5. A minimum of 75% of the landscaping will be comprised of locally native plant species included in the RMC adopted plant palette. To maintain and support the integrity of local genetic biodiversity, plants shall be propagated from appropriate local sources consistent with Objective C-1 of the Los Angeles River Master Plan Landscape Guidelines, or the San Gabriel River Watershed Plant List, as it becomes available. Projects located in natural areas are required to use native plant species appropriate to that region. Referenced guidelines and plant lists adopted by RMC are located at: <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/grants/resources.html>.
6. Plant materials shall exclude the use of invasive exotic plant species, as listed in the document “*California Invasive Plants Inventory*” published by the California Invasive Plant Council. For more information refer to the planning palette section of: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>. Furthermore, any invasive exotic plant species that currently exist on the project site must be removed as part of the landscaping plan (phased removal is acceptable).
7. Facilities shall have infrastructure that facilitates and promotes the use of environmentally sound transportation to and from the site (bike racks, etc.). Parking facilities should be designed to limit environmental impacts.

RMC is committed to addressing global climate change and sustainable practices through the creation of new parks, open space, and trails, promotion of water conservation and recycling, use of sustainable materials, enhancing multi-use transit opportunities, and developing partnerships to reduce the carbon footprint of communities.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

People who live in disadvantaged communities face health disparities due to poor air quality, exposure to harmful pollution, and lack of public amenities and services. The RMC is committed to immediate investment in such areas to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. In addition to the required investment in defined disadvantaged communities, applicants are encouraged to submit projects that are identified as high or very high need in the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment or are located in or adjacent to a disadvantaged community as defined by [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool](#).

Applicants are also encouraged to describe non-climate related co-benefits, such as job creation, youth employment and job training, recreation, public health benefits, or programs that engage local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation, particularly as it relates to long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

## 6. MATCHING FUNDS

The RMC does not require matching funds; however, it is important to recognize the efforts of local communities to secure other funding, therefore special consideration will be given to projects which identify substantive matching funds for otherwise competitive project proposals. Projects that have low overhead costs will also be more competitive.

## 7. READINESS

To the extent practicable, priority for funding pursuant to this division will be given to local parks projects that have obtained all required permits, entitlements, and environmental analysis, if required.

## 8. STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS RESOURCE VALUE

The RMC is committed to projects that are well designed and appropriately used by the community once completed. The stakeholder process is a critical element to all successful projects. Each project will identify and include a plan to involve stakeholders/partners in their project. Stakeholders/Partners on a project are those that can give strategic and expert information to ensure the project is successful. These groups may include, but are not limited to; the surrounding community, agencies with jurisdiction over the project, non-profit organizations in the community, and other staff/departments of the project applicant's organization. Community meetings should be presented in a language that is reflective of the community and further, these meeting should be held at times when the target audience is likely to attend.

The RMC encourages partnerships with State or local youth employment programs (e.g., California Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps of Long Beach and/or similar youth employment programs).

1. Each project will include stakeholder communication and participation in the development, design, and construction of a project, where appropriate.
2. The project will include active stakeholder participation during all phases. Some examples of stakeholder participation are:
  - A) Focus groups: a specific small group of the community with expertise, knowledge or that will be affected by the project.
  - B) Community meetings: a series of meetings where a large portion of the community surrounding or influenced by the project, as well as agencies, non-profits, school personnel, etc., are invited to be informed and updated then asked to give input to the project.
  - C) Technical groups/committees: a series of meetings where government agencies, experts, academics (appropriate to the project) are asked to give expert advice on a project.

The RMC is committed to protecting sites that include archaeological, cultural or historical resources. If a project will result in adverse impacts to any such resources, the project scope will include appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

Educational and Interpretive elements allow the project to communicate its place in the watershed, and potentially provide the community with tools to understand the watershed and appropriate behaviors within the watershed.

1. Any educational/interpretive and/or informational elements and signage must be included in all development projects and must be consistent with applicable plans, i.e., the Los Angeles River Master Plan and San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, the Signage Guidelines.
2. All signage will be accessible to most users.
3. All signage will be culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community of users.
4. The educational/interpretive message will include natural history, cultural history, and watershed stewardship.
5. The planning and design for the project will include active stakeholder participation.

There will be measurable goals with regard to public education in any educational element

## **9. STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PLAN VALUE**

Stewardship is a critical component of a successful project and due to the often-difficult budgetary constraints faced by project applicants it is mandatory that each RMC funded project have a long term sustainable management plan in place.

1. Each project will have active stakeholder participation in the long-term management of the facility/site.
2. A post-restoration habitat maintenance plan must accompany habitat restoration plans.
3. Committed involvement by qualified community groups in future habitat stewardship is highly encouraged.
4. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.

## Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria

Staff will deem a grant application complete when it has passed the initial selection process. Staff will recommend the grant application to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring by utilizing the evaluation criteria set forth below. Applications achieving an average score of 80 percent or higher will be more likely to qualify for recommendation of grant funds to the RMC Board. RMC has established two evaluation criterions, one for implementation projects and one for planning projects.

### Project Implementation Evaluation Criteria

| Criteria  | Rivers & Tributaries | Urban Land | Mountains & Foothills |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1.0 Access Value</b>   |                      |            |                       |
| 1.1. Project is identified in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, City Urban Greening plan, regional Green or Open Space plan, or active transportation plan.<br>--OR--   | 5                    | 5          | 5                     |
| 1.2. Project includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.   |                      |            |                       |
| 1.3. Project includes directional signage program that enhances public access.  | 1                    | 1          | 1                     |
| 1.4. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.   | 1                    | 2          | 1                     |
| 1.5. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane.   | 2                    | 2          | 1                     |
| 1.6. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.   | 2                    | 2          | 2                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b>            | <b>12</b>  | <b>10</b>             |
| <b>2.0 Urban Land Value</b>   |                      |            |                       |
| 2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change:<br>1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility<br>2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency,<br>3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy,<br>4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and<br>5) Carbon sequestration | 5                    | 5          | 5                     |
| 2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.   | 1                    | 3          | 0                     |
| 2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.   | 3                    | 3          | 1                     |
| 2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).  | 1                    | 2          | 1                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10</b>            | <b>13</b>  | <b>7</b>              |

**3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure**

|  |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.  | 3         | 3         | 4         |
| 3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff  | 3         | 3         | 4         |
| 3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure. | 2         | 1         | 3         |
| 3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.  | 2         | 1         | 1         |
| 3.5. Project utilizes recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).   | 1         | 1         | 0         |
| 3.6. Project is part of or consistent with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.                           | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>13</b> |

**4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values**

|  |           |          |           |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 4.1. Project results in new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. – <b>OR</b> –   |           |          |           |
| 4.2. Project preserves threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. – <b>OR</b> –  | 3         | 3        | 6         |
| 4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity.  |           |          |           |
| 4.4. Project maintains a more than a 75% native plant palette or substantial in-stream or native riparian habitat.   | 2         | 2        | 2         |
| 4.5. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkway Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements. | 2         | 1        | 3         |
| 4.6. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.                                  | 3         | 2        | 5         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>16</b> |

### 5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

|  |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 5.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards-<br><a href="https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30">https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30</a><br>Up to 10 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science.<br>5 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ;<br>7 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ;<br>10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher | 10        | 10        | 10        |
| 5.2. *Project creates a sense of community through educational outreach, community activities, and programs.   | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 5.3. Project concept and designs are a result of direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located, and occurred no earlier than January 2016.  | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| 5.4. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see <a href="http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities">http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities</a> .   | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| 5.5. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see <a href="https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/">https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/</a>  | 5         | 5         | 5         |
| 5.6. Project design and/or location provides relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.   | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| 5.7. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).   | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>25</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>23</b> |

### 6.0 Matching Funds

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 6.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – <b>OR</b> – | 7        | 7        | 7        |
| 6.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – <b>OR</b> –  | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| 6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding   | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| 6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs  | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> |

**7.0 Readiness**

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 7.1. Project has completed CEQA/NEPA requirements or are advanced in the environmental analysis and review process.   | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| 7.2. Project has received permit approvals (Fed, State, Local).<br>--OR--<br>For Acquisitions, completed Due Diligence, such as Title Report, Willing Seller Letter, and Appraisal. | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> |

**8.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value**

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization. | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).   | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.3. Projects will use the California Conservation Corps for project implementation (whole or partial) or look to hire youth through certified Youth Employment Program in coordination with the State/County or qualified non-governmental organization (NGO).   | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.4. Educational/Interpretive and/or informational elements are included.   | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 8.5. *Signage or educational/interpretive message includes the natural history, cultural history, and watershed stewardship, and/or that promote physical activity and "healthy living" practices such as mileage markers, walking trails and other physical activities (not included in criteria).   | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> |

**9.0 Stewardship and Management Plan Value**

|  |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 9.1. Project will be managed in such a manner as to provide maximum long term habitat protection and has an established long-term maintenance plan (at least 20-25 years) as evidenced by an adopted guidelines or agreement, such as with a non-profit. | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| 9.2. Project includes a landscape maintenance manual containing details regarding logistics of weed management, trail maintenance, trash management, unauthorized uses, and a habitat establishment monitoring program.                                  | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| 9.3. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5+ years of experience or recent successes).  | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> |

| Rivers & Tributaries | Urban Land | Mountains & Foothills |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|

|                     |            |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|

**Project Planning Evaluation Criteria:**

**Criteria**

| Rivers & Tributaries | Urban Land | Mountains & Foothills |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|

**1.0 Access Value**

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1.1. Project is identified in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, City Urban Greening plan, regional Green or Open Space plan, or active transportation plan.<br>--OR--                           | 6         | 6         | 6         |
| 1.2. Project includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.                           |           |           |           |
| 1.3. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.   | 1         | 2         | 1         |
| 1.4. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane. | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| 1.5. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.   | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>10</b> |

**2.0 Urban Land Value**

|   |           |           |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change:<br>1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility<br>2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency,<br>3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy,<br>4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and<br>5) Carbon sequestration | 5         | 5         | 5        |
| 2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.   | 1         | 3         | 0        |
| 2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.   | 3         | 3         | 1        |
| 2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).  | 1         | 2         | 1        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>7</b> |

**3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure**

|  |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.  | 3         | 3         | 5         |
| 3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff  | 3         | 2         | 3         |
| 3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure. | 2         | 2         | 3         |
| 3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.  | 2         | 1         | 1         |
| 3.5. Project will utilize recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).   | 1         | 1         | 0         |
| 3.6. Project is part of or consistent with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.                           | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>13</b> |

**4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values**

|  |           |          |           |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 4.1. Project results in new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. – <b>OR</b> –   |           |          |           |
| 4.2. Project preserves threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. – <b>OR</b> –  | 5         | 3        | 8         |
| 4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity.  |           |          |           |
| 4.5. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkway Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements. | 2         | 1        | 3         |
| 4.6. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.                                  | 5         | 5        | 8         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>12</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>19</b> |

**5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities**

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 6.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards-<br><a href="https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30">https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30</a><br>Up to 15 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science.<br>5 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ;<br>10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ;<br>15 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher | 15        | 15        | 15        |
| 5.3. Project concept and designs are a result of direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located, and occurred no earlier than January 2016.   | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 5.4. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see <a href="http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities">http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities</a> .  | 2         | 2         | 1         |
| 5.5. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see <a href="https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/">https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/</a>   | 7         | 7         | 5         |
| 5.6. Project design and/or location provides relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.  | 2         | 3         | 1         |
| 5.7. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).  | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>32</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>28</b> |

**6.0 Matching Funds**

|  |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 6.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – OR – | 7        | 7        | 7        |
| 6.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – OR –  | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| 6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding  | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| 6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs   | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> |

**7.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value**

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 7.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization. | 5        | 5        | 6        |
| 7.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).   | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>8</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>9</b> |

**8.0 Capacity**

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 8.1. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5+ years of experience or recent successes). | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> |

|                     |            |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|

*\*Criterion that are marked with an asterisk are not eligible for funding, however these elements will contribute to an applicant's overall score. Applicants must demonstrate that supplemental funding is available for non-eligible costs.*

## Appendix C: Definitions

**"Acquisition"** means to obtain from a willing seller fee interest or any other interest, including easements and development rights, in real property.

**"Allocation"** means a distribution of funds or an expenditure limit established for a Grantee for one or more projects.

**"Applicant"** means the local, state, or federal agency, nonprofit organization, or Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe, requesting funding from a program administered by RMC.

**"Application"** means the individual Application Form and its required attachments and supporting documentation for grants pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or program.

**"Appraisal"** means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

**"Appropriation"** means a budget authorization from a specific fund to a specific agency/or program to make expenditures or incur obligations for a specific purpose and/or period of time.

**"California Indian Tribe"** means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, consortia, or other organized group or community.

**"CEQA"** means the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.; Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq. (For more information, please see <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>) Applicants must assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake.

**"Competitive"** means the allocation of moneys for one or more projects for the acquisition, development, or interpretation of recreational lands and facilities, and historical or archeological resources on a project-by-project basis, based upon stated criteria, through the competitive process.

**"Common Ground"** refers to the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan prepared by RMC and approved by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and by the Central Basin Water Association and the San Gabriel Valley Water Association.

**"Connectivity"** means continuity in open space enabling linkages between open space, and wildlife habitat areas and typically including trails and passive or active recreation nodes.

**"Contract"** means the agreement between the RMC, grantee, property owner, and/or mortgage lender, specifying the payment of funds for the performance of a project scope within the project performance period by the grantee.

**"Contractor"** means the prime person or firm that has been selected by the grantee to perform the project work.

**"Development"** means improvements to real property by construction of new facilities or rehabilitation, restoration, renovation or additions to existing sites, property, or facilities.

**“Disadvantaged community”** (DAC) has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 79505.5, is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income or a community with an annual per capita income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual per capita income (term may be amended). A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

**"District"** means an agency of the state, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries, such as a regional park district, regional open space district, water district, conservation district, or flood control district.

**"Ecological Value"** means the project will support the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

**"Ecosystem"** means a balanced natural system of living organisms and their environment.

**"Enhancement"** means to modify current conditions and may be used to describe a project that would result in a natural resource, habitat, cultural or historic site, recreational area, or existing facility achieving a desired level of improvements while considering the protection of the natural environment. It is distinguishable from "restoration" in that it does not imply merely a return to historic natural conditions but may include the provision of recreation or other aspects that were not original features.

**"Environmental Education"** means programs and related facilities and processes that increase knowledge and awareness about the environment and help develop skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that impact the environment.

**"Environmental Justice"** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people –regardless of race, ethnicity, and income or education level – in environmental decision-making. Environmental justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

**"Exotic species"** means any non-indigenous plant or animal species.

**"Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe"** means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for special programs and services provided by the Secretary of the Interior.

**"Grantee"** means an Applicant who has a contract for grant funds.

**"Green Building"** means a building which is designed, constructed, and operated consistent with the rating system for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system developed by the US Green Building Council.

**"Habitat linkage"** means connections between otherwise isolated areas of habitat that may (1) provide for daily and seasonal movements of animals; (2) facilitate dispersal, gene flow, and rescue effects (for animals or plants); (3) allow for range shifts of species; and (4) maintain flows of ecological processes (e.g., fire, wind, sediments, water).

**"Habitat creation"** means the formation or increase of at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors.

**"Habitat preservation"** means keeping threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned urban development.

**"Habitat restoration"** means to return the site's hydrology, topography and natural vegetative communities to historic predisturbance conditions so that the site provides food and shelter for wildlife, and performs natural processes including reducing the volume and velocity of runoff, and increasing the water infiltration rates.

**"Historical Resource"** includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, site area, place, artifact, or collection of artifacts that is historically or archaeologically significant in the cultural annals of California.

**"Indirect Costs"** means expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically with a grant, contract, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to the project; functions such as personnel, accounting, and salaries of supervisors and managers; and overhead such as rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

**"In-Kind"** means applicant's land, materials and/or services provided as matching funds for a project in lieu of monetary type funding.

**"Instream flows"** means a specific streamflow, measured in cubic feet per second, at a particular location for a defined time, and typically follows seasonal variations.

**"Integrated regional water management plan"** (IRWMP) has the meaning set forth in Part 2.2 (commencing with Section 10530) of Division 6, as that part may be amended.

**"Interpretation"** means an intelligent and meaningful presentation and explanation of the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

**"Jurisdiction"** means the legal boundary of the grant Applicant, i.e. the city, county, or district.

**"Large or multi sub watershed project"** means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in more than one watershed plan; 2) address more than one habitat issue identified by the Green Visions planning tools; 3) provide substantive water quality benefits to more than one designated impaired water body; or 4) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is regionally accessible.

**"Local Conservation Corps"** means the local division of the California Conservation Corps, a state administered organization for youth volunteers to protect and enhance California's environment and communities and provide assistance in emergencies.

**"Local Agencies"** means a city, county, or district entity formed for purposes pursuant to a joint powers agreement between two or more local entities that are eligible for Grant Programs administered by RMC.

**"Low Impact Recreation"** means any development, rehabilitation, or enhancement of resource-based facilities and the associated visitor activities that result in minimized impacts on natural areas and natural systems. Low impact activities are generally human powered and may include walking, picnicking, hiking, cycling, non-motorized boating or equestrian use, bird watching, fishing, star-gazing

or photography; and organized events such as interpretive tours, nature walks or educational programs.

**"Management Plan"** means a plan that identifies responsibility for future management of a given area to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resource values, and where appropriate, provides for multiple objectives, and identifies funds for that management.

**"Match"** means funds or equivalent in-kind contributions in addition to RMC Grant Funds. Increased consideration will be given to projects that provide matching funds or equivalent in-kind contributions.

**"Medium sub watershed project"** means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in an applicable watershed plan or by the Green Visions planning tools; 2) provide substantive water quality benefits to a designated impaired water body; or 3) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is generally accessible to multiple local communities.

**"Monitoring and Assessment"** means an assessment process to evaluate the success of the proposed action or improvement, and monitoring progress towards meeting project goals. The standards for monitoring each project approved for funding will be developed in concert with RMC.

**"Multi-jurisdictional"** projects that provide shared solutions for multiple communities, for example a community that lacks safe, affordable drinking water and is served by a small community water system, state small water system, or a private well when improved can service more than one community. Projects that create, preserve, restore open space that will benefit a regional Region. As another example, a watershed management plan update that serves an entire watershed.

**"Multiple Benefit"** means projects that involve more than one public benefit objective including habitat enhancement or protection, water quality improvement, historic resource protection or improvement, public access development, environmental education or any combination of such objectives.

**"Natural habitat"** means relatively undisturbed lands and vegetation communities that provide food and shelter for wildlife and also perform natural functions such as, reducing the volume and velocity of storm runoff, and enabling water infiltration.

**"NEPA"** means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Public Law 91-190, Title 42 United States Code Sections 4321-433347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, Section 4 (b), September 13, 1982). NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake, fund or approve.

**"Nonprofit Organization"** means any private, nonprofit organization, existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation or enhancement of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic or open-space values, the protection of the natural environment, or the preservation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife or their habitat.

**"Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work"** means the notice completed by the grantee and filed with the county recorder in the county where the property is located, upon completion and acceptance of any and all construction work related to a project.

**"Open Space"** means any area that can potentially serve as wildlife habitat, facilitate natural processes, or allow for public access for passive forms of recreation.

**"Plans"** means the detailed drawings or exact reproductions that show location, character, layout, dimensions, and details of the work to be constructed under the contract for a historical resource Project.

**"Planning"** means specific preparations necessary to execute eligible projects. Planning includes conceptual designs, pre-schematic work, such as initial architectural or engineering plans prepared during the preliminary project phase; schematic documents; technical consulting; construction design; CEQA/NEPA documentation; preparation of construction bidding documents; permits or appraisals. Planning costs are distinct from hard project costs of actual construction or land acquisition.

**"Project"** means the acquisition, development, (rehabilitation and restoration), or interpretation activities to be accomplished with grant funds.

**"Project Development Plan"** means the plan required by the RMC prior to grant award which describes how the project meets the RMC policies and criteria.

**"Project Manager"** means an employee of RMC, who acts as a liaison with Grantees and administers grants.

**"Project Management Plan"** means the overall plan used to describe how the completed project would be operated and maintained on a long term basis. This document could include habitat, landscape, park, and other facility/resource long term management plans.

**"Project Performance Period"** means the period of time that the grant funds are available, and the time in which the project must be completed, billed, and paid.

**"Project Scope"** means the description or activity of work to be accomplished on the project.

**"Property"** means the land, including all structures attached to such land, upon which the project is located.

**"Property Owner"** means the person or entity that holds the fee simple interest of the Property.

**"Public access"** refers to public access generally with full right of way from a public thoroughfare or public transportation. It could also mean the provision for visitor support facilities, including public parking, trails, bikeways, restrooms, picnic areas and campgrounds and other recreational facilities.

**"Restoration"** means the process of reproducing, re-establishing, or rehabilitating a natural area or a cultural or historical site or feature that has otherwise deteriorated so that it emulates the site's historic condition before degradation.

**"Riparian"** means locations and associated vegetative communities related to or on the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes or other fresh water bodies.

**"Scenic Value"** means any historic, open space or other natural resource features with significant visual aesthetic values.

**"Severely disadvantaged community"** has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 116760.20 of the Health and Safety Code, as a community with a median household income of less

than 60 percent of the statewide average. A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

**“Significant” 1:** having meaning; *especially* : <a *significant* glance>  
**2 a:** having or likely to have influence or effect : <a *significant* piece of legislation>; *also:* of a noticeably or measurably large amount <a *significant* number of layoffs> <producing *significant* profits> **b:** probably caused by something other than mere chance <statistically *significant* correlation between vitamin deficiency and disease>

**“Small or neighborhood project”** means a project intended to address site-specific, or neighborhood-scale, water quality or habitat issues, or that is intended to provide open space or passive recreational amenities intended for local community.

**“Small community water system”** means a community water system that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.

**“Specifications”** means all written directions, provisions, and requirements governing the methods and procedures to be followed in connection with bidding and awarding of contract and performance and execution of the work, the quantities and qualities of materials to be used, the method of measurement of the quantities of work, and the nature of the contractual relationships that will exist during the course of the work.

**“Stewardship”** means the development, implementation, and long-term management of important resources and typically involving the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of natural systems and/or outstanding features, and historical and cultural resources.

**“Sustainable/Sustainability”** means the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Also, the goal of life, liberty, and social well-being within the means of nature.

**“Target Areas”** means one of the three priority areas within the RMC Region, which may include:

Urban Land: Census tracts within project service areas that meet the disadvantaged community criteria of more than 30% youth and less than 80% of the state’s average annual income.

Mountains, Hills, Foothills: Property acquisition that is necessary to maintain critical wildlife corridors and/or have at least 10 target species on site.

River/Tributary Corridors: Projects which include riparian habitat/wetland restoration and extend or enhance recreational trail corridors.

**“Threatened or Endangered Species”** means species listed as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act passed in 1973.

**“Threatened Natural Habitats”** include any areas that contain natural habitat that will be destroyed or degraded by a proposed urban development plan which, at the least, has already been submitted to the governing jurisdiction or planning commission.

**“Tier”** means the category into which projects submitted for grant consideration will be placed, either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

**“Tier 1 projects”** are those projects ready for immediate implementation and meet the following criteria:

1. Acquisition/development projects that add NEW acreage for open space or develop NEW areas for recreational uses, and habitat creation/restoration projects that create NEW habitat opportunities, consistent with the planning targets in the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
2. For acquisition projects, compelling evidence of a willing seller (e.g., via a letter of intent or option)
3. For development or restoration projects, compelling evidence that land tenure and all necessary permits are secured
4. Verifiable evidence that the project has sufficient funding resources such that the RMC grant will complete the funding package and allow immediate project implementation

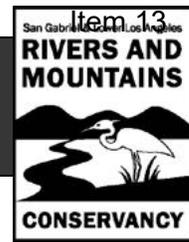
**“Tier 2 projects”** are all projects that do not meet the Tier 1 criteria.

**“Trailhead and Trailside Facilities”** include, but are not limited to parking, utilities, restrooms, benches, bridges, draining structures, fencing, and interpretive and informational signs, exhibit and brochure shelters and related facilities.

**“Urban Greening”** per the adopted guidelines by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Master plans.

**“Watershed”** means a region or area bound peripherally by a divide or ridge, all of which drains to a particular watercourse or body of water. Most urban sites are now mini-watersheds, with the property line constituting the "ridge" and the storm drain system located in the street constituting the "watercourse" to which it discharges.

**“Willing seller”** means that all landowners are willing participants in any proposed real property transactions.



# RMC GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

1. **Grant Program:**

- Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River \***      **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**  
 **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River \***      **Small Grants Program** (between \$50,000-\$300,000) \*\*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*     *\*\*w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ :

|                          |  |                       |  |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b> |  |                       |  |
| <b>Title</b>             |  |                       |  |
| <b>Name of Agency</b>    |  |                       |  |
| <b>Address</b>           |  |                       |  |
| <b>Telephone No.</b>     |  | <b>Tele-Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>             |  |                       |  |

3. **Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(*max. 50 characters*):

4. **Project Description** (150 words or less):

5. **Program Type:**

- Urban Lands                                      Rivers/Tributary Parkways                                      Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. **Project Type** (check all that apply):

- Planning                                      Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only)                                      Riparian Habitat Restoration  
 Acquisition                                      Low Impact Recreation Wetland                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP  
 Open Space                                      Habitat Restoration Upland                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation  
 Development                                      Habitat Restoration                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage

7. **Project Location:**

|              |                 |                       |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Address:     |                 | City:                 |
| County:      | District:       | County Sup. District: |
| Senate Dist: | Assembly Dist.: | Congressional Dist.:  |
| Lat/Long:    | Parcel No(s):   |                       |

8. **Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?**      No (skip to question 10)  
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Will this project result in new or improved park/open space?  No (skip to question 9)  Yes (fill in following information)
- No. of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  Trail Miles: \_\_\_\_\_  Urban Forestry, No. of trees: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?  
 (includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))

Yes, Project serves an SDAC  No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. Does your project involve an acquisition?  No (skip to question 12)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Status:</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Option                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller Letter |  |
| <b>Appraisal:</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Current Title Report:</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Environmental Assessment:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |

12. Does your project involve development/implementation?  No (skip to question 13)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

**Land Tenure:**

Do you have site control?  No  Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

**Land Use:**

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances?  Yes  No (Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit).  
 Comments:

**Permits:**

Do you have permits?  No  Yes, answer questions below

| Agency                                    | Yes                      | No                       | N/A                      | Date | Comments |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| California Fish and Wildlife              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| State Water Control Resources Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Army Corp of Engineers                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Fish and Wildlife                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Los Angeles County Flood Control District | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| City/County Construction Permits          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Coastal Commission                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Other:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |

**Design:**

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

- General project concept with no professional design work
- Professionally drafted concept design
- Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
- 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- Approved construction drawings with all permits



## Appendix E: Signage Guidelines

### ■ Authority

All Projects funded by RMC under Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, and Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1), and Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 84) must include a posted sign acknowledging the source of the funds.

### ■ Purpose

Installation of signs at all Project sites is intended to acknowledge the public's support of the appropriate Bond measure(s) and promote the benefits provided by Bond fund assistance.

### ■ Types of Signs

#### 1. Signs posted during construction (required for specific situations)

For Projects funded with Bond Act funds in excess of \$750,000 and/or those Project in areas of high visibility (such as near a major thoroughfare) a sign is required during construction.

Recommended minimum size of sign: 4 feet x 8 feet

#### 2. Signs Posted Upon Completion (required for all Projects)

All Grantees are required to post a sign at the Project site. The sign must be available for the final inspection of the Project. All signs must include the universal logo (see information on the logo below).

There is no minimum or maximum size for the sign (other than the minimum size for the logo) as long as the sign contains the required wording (see below).

### ■ Language for Sign

All signs will contain the minimum language below:

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>[Project Name]</b></p> <p>Another Project to Improve California<br/>Funded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy<br/>LOGO<br/><b><i>California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection,<br/>and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Or other Bond as<br/>appropriate)</i></b></p> <p><b>Wade Crowfoot</b>, Secretary for Resources<br/><b>Gavin Newsom</b>, Governor</p> |
|---|

The name of the local agency or other governing body may also be added. The sign may also include the names (and/or logos) of other partners, organizations, individuals and elected representatives as deemed appropriate by those involved in the Project.

## ■ Universal Logo

All signs will contain the RMC logo. The logo will be on a template, available on line at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov>. Your Project manager can also provide the logo on disk.

- The logo must be mounted in an area to maximize visibility and durability.
- The logo must be a minimum of 2'x2'. Exceptions are permitted in the case of trails, historical sites and other areas where these dimensions may not be appropriate.

## ■ Sign Construction

All materials used shall be durable and resistant to the elements and graffiti. The California Department of Parks and Recreation and California Department of Transportation standards can be used as a guide for gauge of metal, quality of paints used, mounting specifications, etc.

## ■ Sign Duration

The goal is to have Project signs in place for a lengthy period of time, preferably a minimum of two years for all Projects and four years for Projects over \$750,000.

## ■ Sign Cost

The cost of the sign(s) is an eligible Project cost. More permanent signage is also encouraged; e.g., bronze memorials mounted in stone at trailheads, on refurbished historical monuments and buildings, etc.

## ■ Appropriateness of Signs

For Projects where the required sign may be out of place (such as some cultural and historic monuments and buildings or where affected by local sign ordinances), the Project Manager in consultation with the Applicant may authorize a sign that is appropriate to the Project in question. Alternate signage must be clearly recognizable as a RMC Bond Project. Archaeological sites are excluded from the sign requirement.

## ■ Signs on State Highways

Signs placed within the state highway right-of-way may require a Caltrans encroachment permit. Contact your local Caltrans District Office early in the planning phases for more information.

## ■ Further Questions

The Grantee should consult with the Project Manager to resolve any sign issues.

## Appendix F: Sample Resolution

*Applicants need not use this specific language as long as the resolution matches the intent and purpose of this sample.*

Date: November XX, 201X

### RESOLUTION 201X-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF XXX APPROVING  
THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA  
DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND  
OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68), FOR THE  
XXXX PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

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), which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California for the Project;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of XXX hereby;

Approves the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program for the XXX Park Wetland Restoration Project under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68); and

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

Certifies that the Project is consistent with the goals of Proposition 68 developing urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

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

Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines; and

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

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of XXX at this meeting of November XX, 201X by the following vote.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

### Appendix G: Permit Form

Please complete the following form regarding any permits, easements, or certifications that may be required by your project (attach additional pages as necessary).

| <i>Type of Permit</i> | <i>Granting Agency</i> | <i>Status of Permit</i> | <i>Date approval expected/given</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 2.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 3.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 4.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 5.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 6.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 7.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 8.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 9.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 10.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 11.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 12.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 13.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 14.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 15.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 16.                   |                        |                         |                                     |

## Appendix H: CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CERTIFIED COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CORPS CONSULTATION

### California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Proposition 68 – Parks, Environment and Water Bond Guidelines

#### Corps Consultation Process

This process has been developed to ensure compliance with Division 45 of the Public Resource Code, Chapter 1, Section 80016 that specifies the involvement of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the certified community conservation corps (as represented by the California Association of Local Conservation Corps-CALCC).

Public Resource Code Section 80016 states “To the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant under this division.”

Applicants seeking funds for Proposition 68 project should consult with representative of CCC or CALCC (hereafter collectively referred to as Corps) to determine the feasibility of the Corps’ participation. **Both CCC and CALCC must be consulted prior to application submission.**

The Corps have developed the following consultation process:

- Step 1: Prior to submittal of an application or project plan to the Funder, Applicant prepares the following information for submission to both the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CALCC (who represents the certified community conservation corps):
- Project Title
  - Project Description (identifying key project activities and deliverables)
  - Project Map (showing project location)
  - Project Implementation estimated start and end dates
- Step 2: Applicant submits the forgoing information via email concurrently to the CCC and CALCC representatives:
- California Conservation Corps representative:  
Name: Andrea Gabriel  
Email: [Prop68@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@ccc.ca.gov)  
Phone: (916) 341-3272
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps representative:  
Name: Hannah Tillman  
Email: [inquiry@prop68CommunityCorps.org](mailto:inquiry@prop68CommunityCorps.org)  
Phone: 916-426-9170x4
- Step 3: Within five (5) business days of receiving the project information, the CCC and CALCC representatives will review the submitted information, contact the applicant if necessary, and respond to the applicant with a Corps Consultation Review Document (template attached) informing them:
- (1) It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project; or

- (2) It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and identifying the aspects of the project that can be accomplished with Corps services.

Note: While the Corps will take up to 5 days to review projects, applicants are encouraged to contact the CCC/CALCC representatives to discuss feasibility **early in the project development process**.

The Corps cannot guarantee a compliant review process for applicants who submit project information fewer than 5 business days before a deadline.

- Step 4: Applicant submits application to Funder that includes Corps Consultation Review Document. If the Corps determine their participation is feasible, the applicant must describe the project components involving Corps in the application and provide an estimated budget for that component.
- Step 5: Funder reviews applications. Applications that do not include documentation demonstrating that the Corps have been consulted will be deemed “noncompliant” and will not be considered for funding.

**NOTES:**

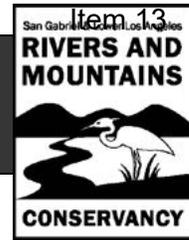
1. The Corps already have determined that it is not feasible to use their services on restoration and ecosystem protection projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from the consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Consultation Review Document.
2. An applicant that has been awarded funds to undertake a project where it has been determined that Corps services can be used must thereafter work with either the CCC or CALCC to develop a scope of work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps. Unless otherwise excused, failure to utilize a Corps on such a project will result in Funding Entities assessing a scoring penalty on the applicant’s future applications for Chapter 6 Funds.
3. **Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 80001(b)(5)**  
Public Resources Code Section 80001(b)(5) requires to the extent practicable, that projects provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities. Partnering with Corps will provide workforce education, training and job opportunities for the young adult members of Conservation Corps.

Corps Consultation Review Document is available [here](http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/intro.html) and on the RMC website:  
<http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/intro.html>

# Appendix I: RMC Region Map

An interactive map of the RMC Region is available at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov).





# RMC GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

**1. Grant Program:**

- Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River \***    
  **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**  
 **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River \***    
  **Small Grants Program** (between \$50,000-\$300,000) \*\*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*    
 \*\*w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program

**2. Applicant Information:**

|                          |  |                       |  |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b> |  |                       |  |
| <b>Title</b>             |  |                       |  |
| <b>Name of Agency</b>    |  |                       |  |
| <b>Address</b>           |  |                       |  |
| <b>Telephone No.</b>     |  | <b>Tele-Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>             |  |                       |  |

**3. Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(*max. 50 characters*):

**4. Project Description** (150 words or less):

**5. Program Type:**

- Urban Lands                                    
  Rivers/Tributary Parkways                                    
  Mountains, Hills and Foothills

**6. Project Type** (check all that apply):

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat Restoration               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Recreation Wetland       | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space  | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration Upland          | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage |

**7. Project Location:**

|                     |                        |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>     |                        | <b>City:</b>                 |
| <b>County:</b>      | <b>District:</b>       | <b>County Sup. District:</b> |
| <b>Senate Dist:</b> | <b>Assembly Dist.:</b> | <b>Congressional Dist.:</b>  |
| <b>Lat/Long:</b>    | <b>Parcel No(s):</b>   |                              |

**8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?**    
 No (skip to question 10)  
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Will this project result in new or improved park/open space?  No (skip to question 9)  Yes (fill in following information)
- No. of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  Trail Miles: \_\_\_\_\_  Urban Forestry, No. of trees: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?  
 (includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))

Yes, Project serves an SDAC  No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. Does your project involve an acquisition?  No (skip to question 12)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Status:</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Option                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller Letter |  |
| <b>Appraisal:</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Current Title Report:</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Environmental Assessment:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |

12. Does your project involve development/implementation?  No (skip to question 13)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

**Land Tenure:**

Do you have site control?  No  Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

**Land Use:**

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances?  Yes  No (Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit).  
 Comments:

**Permits:**

Do you have permits?  No  Yes, answer questions below

| Agency                                    | Yes                      | No                       | N/A                      | Date | Comments |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| California Fish and Wildlife              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| State Water Control Resources Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Army Corp of Engineers                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Fish and Wildlife                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Los Angeles County Flood Control District | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| City/County Construction Permits          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Coastal Commission                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Other:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |

**Design:**

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

- General project concept with no professional design work
- Professionally drafted concept design
- Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
- 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- Approved construction drawings with all permits



**DATE:** July 20, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Suely Saro, Project Development Specialist

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 14: Consideration of resolution approving RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Program Final Guidelines

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC adopt a resolution approving RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Guidelines for a Small Grants Program.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A – RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Final Program Guidelines  
 Exhibit B – RMC Updated Grant Application Form (updated 9/14/20)  
 Exhibit C – RMC Very Small Grants Application Form (posted 9/14/20)  
 Exhibit D – Very Small Grants Evaluation Scoring Sheet

The RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Final Program Guidelines (“Small Grants Program”) explain the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds underline with the Conservancy’s mission through use of its programs. The Small Grants Program includes grants for projects between \$50,000-\$300,000, and Very Small Grants (VSG) for less than \$50,000.

RMC received two allocations within both Proposition 1 and 68, one for the entire RMC territory and one for the Lower LA River (LLAR). The Small Grants program is funded through both allocations for Proposition 68 and only the LLAR allocation for Proposition 1, capped at 15% of each allocation. The Guidelines further identify the additional requirements and evaluation criteria applicable to Proposition 1 and 68 funded grants.

These guidelines have been adapted from the RMC Proposition 68 Regional and Lower LA River (LLAR) Final Guidelines, which were developed in consideration of public comment from four (4) public meetings in November 2018 and approved by the Board in January 2019 (Reso 2019-06). Additionally, the RMC Proposition 1 LLAR Guidelines are based on RMC Proposition 1 Regional Guidelines, which were developed with public comment from workshops in 2015 and approved by the Board in September 2015 (Reso 2015-19). Any differences needed for Proposition 1 Lower LA grant considerations in the Small Grants Program Guidelines are highlighted, including in the evaluation criteria. The Final Program Guidelines are included as Exhibit A.

Key differences between the Small Grants Program and RMC Proposition 68 Regional and LLAR Final Guidelines are summarize below:

- Program places an emphasis on smaller quick start projects with grant awards below \$300,000
  - RMC application form has been updated to include Small Grants, see Exhibit B
- Provides Proposition 68 grant funds for technical assistance to help develop and implement projects that achieve Conservancy’s goals
  - RMC application form has been updated to include Technical Assistance grants, see Exhibit B

- Availability of very small grants (less than \$50,000) for gap, emergency, and high-need project implementation, planning, and technical assistance that are consistent with funding requirements and mission of RMC, via a more succinct application
  - *This is an increase of \$40,000 from what was included in the draft guidelines for Very Small Grant (VSG). This is because, in explaining the VSG program,*
  - See Exhibit C and D for VSG Program Application Form and Evaluation Scoring Sheet.
- Grant applications in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria that receive an average score of 70 percent for Small Grants and 75 percent for VSG or better (as opposed to 80 percent or better) will be considered the most competitive
- Program will be an on-going or open call-for-projects, where applications are evaluated quarterly or biannually

The Small Grants Program is being prompted by the expressed need from many communities, NGOs, municipalities, and agencies to support more environmental and economic revitalization efforts that are being delayed and worsened by the pandemic crisis. RMC is seeking to make RMC grants and technical assistance more accessible and useable, especially by and for high-need and very high-need communities.

While most of the Small Grants Program funding is to support implementation projects, funding is available for project planning and technical assistance depending on allocation—see table below.

| Funding Source                         | RMC Region-wide                                   | Lower LA River                                    |
|--|---|---|
| Proposition 1 (“Water Bond”)           |   | Implementation and Planning                       |
| Proposition 68 (“Park and Water Bond”) | Implementation, Planning and Technical Assistance | Implementation, Planning and Technical Assistance |

In addition, the amount awarded will also depend on the quality of submittals, leverage of matching funds, and multi-beneficial, watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities. It is anticipated that the funds will be encumbered or spent by Spring 2023.

RMC released the Small Grants Program’s Draft Guidelines on July 20, 2020 after the RMC Board approved the RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Draft Program which explained the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds underline with the Conservancy’s mission through use of its programs (Resolution 2020-30), and provided the public the opportunity to provide feedback. RMC will host Grant Program Workshops in October to provide information to potential grantees about funding opportunities through RMC.

Approval of this motion opens an on-going call-for-projects for the Small Grants Program. Small and Very Small Grants will be reviewed and considered regularly.

**BACKGROUND:** With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) in June 2018. Prop 68 requires each state agency that receives funding for competitive grant rounds to develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines; conduct public meetings to consider

comments before finalizing the guidelines; and have Secretary of Natural Resources Agency verify that the guidelines are consistent with applicable statutes for the purposes of Prop 68. RMC updated and approved guidelines consistent with Prop 68 bond language at the January 2019 Board Meeting (Reso 2019-06).

RMC published the RMC Prop 68 Regional and LLAR grant draft solicitation and evaluation guidelines on its website in October 2018. RMC held four meetings in November 2018 in the San Gabriel Valley, the Gateway Cities, Santa Clarita area, and Orange County. RMC Staff set up an email address to allow potential grantees and public at large to submit comments and questions, which is still the Prop 68 Grant Program's email. The Small Grants guidelines have been adapted from the RMC Proposition 68 Regional and Lower LA River (LLAR) Final Guidelines; differences were highlighted in the project description.

Additionally, Prop. 68 funding allows for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. During previous grant guideline outreach, multiple themes emerged that highlighted both opportunities and challenges for applicants as they contemplated applying for bond funding, including: lack of staff capacity, readiness concerns, understanding the grant priorities, and the need for funding for planning and design phases. The Conservancy provides technical assistance through its staff and now as proposed, can also through the Small Grants Program to help develop and implement multi-benefit projects.

The voters of California approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") in November 2014 codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code which authorized \$7.545 billion dollars in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Purposes of Proposition 1 include implementing the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure.

The RMC Proposition 1 LLAR Guidelines are based on RMC Proposition 1 Regional Guidelines, which were developed with public comment from workshops in July 2015 and approved by the Board in September 2015 (Reso 2015-19). Public meeting were held in Newhall, West Covina, Fullerton, and Downey, with over 100 participants attending the workshops collectively. During this outreach, multiple themes emerged that highlighted both opportunities and challenges for prospective applicants, including: lack of staff capacity, readiness concerns, understanding Prop 1 priorities, and needing more funding for planning and design phases.

**Funding:** The Small Grants Program implemented by the Conservancy using:

Proposition 68: from the \$37.5 million for the Lower Los Angeles River (Chapter 7) and \$30 million in direct allocation to the Conservancy (Chapter 8). The Small Grants Program will be limited to 15% of each allocation. It is anticipated that the funds will be encumbered by Spring 2023.

Proposition 1: from the \$50 million for the Lower Los Angeles River in direct allocation to the Conservancy [§79735(a)]. The Small Grants Program will be limited to 15% of the allocation. It is anticipated that the funds will be encumbered by Spring 2023 (with some funding able to be encumbered later in Spring 2024).

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. (Proposition 68) is codified Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's Proposition Grant Program Guidelines specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Chapter 7 of Proposition 68, entitled "California River Recreation, Creek and Waterway Improvement Program," allocates one hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$162,000,000) for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Thirty-seven million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) of the funds available in Chapter 7 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code and Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000).

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled "State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding," allocates one hundred and eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Proposition 1 - the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 - is a \$7.545 billion general obligation bond measure approved by California voters on Nov. 4, 2014 ballot. The measure will provide funding for needed investments as part of a statewide, comprehensive water plan for California. In part, the Act was passed to help the state address the drought and the impacts of climate change on water supplies and ecosystems.

Chapter 6 of Proposition 1, "Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds," Section 79730 states that " The sum of one billion four hundred ninety-five million dollars (\$1,495,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the fund, in accordance with this chapter, for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities.."

(Proposition 1, Chapter 2, Section 79701 (e)). Chapter 6 of Proposition 1, pursuant to Section 79735(a), Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, up to \$100 million may be allocated to the RMC or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or a combination of both, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048.

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.

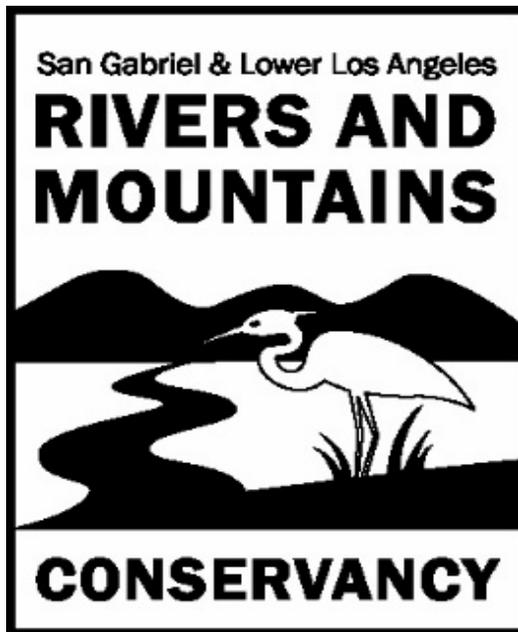
Section 32614.5:

- (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.
  - (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 executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
**SMALL GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**2020**



## Inquiries and Contact Information

All inquiries, correspondence, and grant applications should be addressed to:

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[prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:prop68@rmc.ca.gov)

For further information please log on to our website at:

[www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

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# SECTION 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The mission of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is to preserve open space and habitat in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within our jurisdictions. This work supports the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Additionally, the RMC has adopted an Environmental Justice Policy with three key environmental justice principles: (1) community driven empowerment/organizing campaigns, 2) identification of incompatible land uses, and 3) recognize opportunities to create green infrastructure such as community open space and alternative transportation modes including bicycling and walking (RMC Resolution 2014-19).

RMC is one of ten conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency established in 1999 (Chapters 788 and 789, Statutes of 1999). RMC's jurisdiction includes eastern Los Angeles County and western Orange County, comprised of the San Gabriel River Watershed and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed and its tributaries, Upper Santa Clara River and its tributaries, northern slope of the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Puente Hills and the San Jose Hills ([Division 22.8](#) of the [Public Resources Code California 32600-32621](#)), please see Exhibit I, RMC Region Map.

## 1.2 Grant Funding Source

### Proposition 68 – Regionwide and Lower

The Small Grants Program will be implemented by the Conservancy using the \$37.5 million for the Lower Los Angeles River (Chapter 7) and \$30 million in direct allocation to the Conservancy (Chapter 8) from Proposition 68. The Small Grants Program will be limited to 15% of each allocation. All funds must be encumbered by Spring 2023.

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. (Proposition 68) is codified Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's ("Conservancy") Proposition Grant Program Guidelines ("Guidelines") specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Section 80001. (b) It is the intent of the people of California that all of the following shall occur in the implementation of this division:

(1) The investment of public funds pursuant to this division will result in public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs and priorities for public funding.

(2) In the appropriation and expenditure of funding authorized by this division, priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit.

(3) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will include signage informing the public that the project received funds from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

(4) To the extent practicable, when developing program guidelines for urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects, administering entities are encouraged to give favorable consideration to projects that provide urban recreation and protect or restore natural resources. Additionally, the entities may pool funding for these projects.

(5) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

(6) To the extent practicable, priority for funding pursuant to this division will be given to local parks projects that have obtained all required permits and entitlements and a commitment of matching funds, if required.

(7) To the extent practicable, administering entities should measure or require measurement of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestrations associated with projects that receive moneys pursuant to this division.

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled “State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding,” allocates one hundred and eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000 )to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

1.1. To the extent practicable, as identified in the “Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters,” dated January 12, 2017, the public agencies that receive funds pursuant to this division will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.

Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.

Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.

Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

To the extent practicable, priority for grant funding under this division will be given to a project that advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.

## Proposition 1 – Lower LA River only

Proposition 1: from the \$50 million for the Lower Los Angeles River in direct allocation to the Conservancy [§79735(a)]. The Small Grants Program will be limited to 15% of the allocation. Funds must be encumbered by Spring 2023, with some funding extending through Spring 2024.

The voters of California approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”) in November 2014 codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code which authorized \$7.545 billion dollars in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Purposes of Proposition 1 include *implement[ing] the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure (Proposition 1, Chapter 2, Section 79701 (e))*. Chapter 6 of Proposition 1, entitled “Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds,” pursuant to Section 79735(a), up to \$100 million may be allocated to the RMC or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or a combination of both, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048.

Proposition 1 funds will be awarded for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources consistent with the RMC statutes, the Proposition 1 goals identified in the *California Water Action Plan* and statewide plans and priorities.

## SECTION 2 Eligibility and Priorities

### 2.1 RMC Small Grant Program Guidelines

RMC Small Grant, Proposition 1 and 68 Grant Program Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the RMC will utilize to solicit applications, evaluate proposals and award grants, pursuant to RMC guiding principles. The implementation of the Small Grant Program places an emphasis on smaller quick start projects with grant awards between \$50,000 and \$300,000. Applications for very small grants (VSG) under \$50,000 will be reviewed regularly (Refer to Appendix D2), and will focus on high and very-high need areas.

All projects funded by the RMC with Propositions 1 and 68 grant funds must be consistent with the RMC's enabling legislation *Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea* (Common Ground), and any updates, *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* which was adopted by the RMC in 2001 (available at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>) for the distribution of grant funds.

The RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Program Guidelines ("Small Grants Program") explain the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds under the Conservancy's programs. RMC received two allocations within both Proposition 1 and 68, one for the entire RMC territory and one for the Lower LA River (LLAR). The Small Grants program is funded through both allocations for Proposition 68 and only the LLAR allocation for Proposition 1, and the Program will be limited to 15% of each allocation. The Guidelines further identify the additional requirements and evaluation criteria applicable to Proposition 1 and 68 funded grants.

These guidelines have been adapted from the RMC Proposition 68 Regional and Lower LA River (LLAR) Final Guidelines, which were developed in consideration of public comment from four (4) public meetings in November 2018 and approved by the Board in January 2019 (Reso 2019-06). Additionally, the RMC Proposition 1 LLAR Guidelines are based on RMC Proposition 1 Regional Guidelines, which were developed with public comment from workshops in 2015 and approved by the Board in September 2015 (Reso 2015-19). Any differences needed for Proposition 1 Lower LA grant considerations in the Small Grants Program Guidelines are highlighted, including in the evaluation criteria.

Key differences between the Small Grants Program and RMC Proposition 68 Regional and LLAR Final Guidelines are summarize below:

- Program places an emphasis on smaller quick start projects with grant awards between \$50,000 and \$300,000
- Provides Proposition 68 grant funds for technical assistance to help develop and implement projects that achieve Conservancy's goals
- Availability of very small grants (less than \$50,000) for gap, emergency, and high-need project implementation, planning, and technical assistance that are consistent with funding requirements and mission of RMC, via a more succinct application (Refer to Appendix D2)
- Grant applications in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria that receive an average score of 70 percent or better (as opposed to 80 percent or better) will be considered the most competitive
- Program would be an on-going or open call-for-projects, where applications are evaluated quarterly

The Small Grants Program is being prompted by the expressed need from many communities, NGOs, municipalities, and agencies to support more environmental and economic revitalization efforts that are being delayed and worsened by the pandemic crisis. RMC is seeking to make RMC grants and technical assistance more accessible and useable, especially by and for high-need and very high-need communities.

While most of the Small Grants Program funding is to support implementation projects, funding is available for project planning and technical assistance depending on allocation—see table below.

| Funding Source                         | RMC Region-wide Allocation                        | Lower LA River Allocation                         |
|--|---|---|
| Proposition 1 (“Water Bond”)           |   | Implementation and Planning                       |
| Proposition 68 (“Park and Water Bond”) | Implementation, Planning and Technical Assistance | Implementation, Planning and Technical Assistance |

In addition, the amount awarded will also depend on the quality of submittals, leverage of matching funds, and multi-beneficial, watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

## 2.2 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for projects located within the boundaries of the RMC are:

- Cities
- Counties
- Districts
- Local Agencies
- Joint Powers Agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Public Utilities
- Federally recognized tribes, and state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s California Tribal Consultation List
- Nonprofit organizations (existing under Section 501(c) 3 of the IRS Code). Status does not need to be approved at the time of application but must be approved at the time of award.

Individuals and corporations are not eligible for this grant program; however, RMC encourages multiple partners or joint projects. As long as the lead agency is one of the above listed eligible applicants, applications will be accepted from joint projects with non-eligible agencies.

## 2.3 RMC Objectives

The RMC Board will adopt the Small Grant Program Guidelines which set forth the evaluation criteria for its competitive grant programs and may be updated accordingly if necessary (See Appendix B for the Project Evaluation Criteria). The project evaluation criteria are set by the RMC objectives which are articulated in *Common Ground* and the *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*. The types of projects proposed to be supported by this grant program are also consistent with Propositions 1

and 68. The RMC's *Common Ground* objectives and the types of projects supported by this grant program are as follow:

- Projects must promote the RMC's statutory programs and purposes as stated in [Division 22.8](#) of the [Public Resources Code 32600-32621](#)
- Projects must be consistent with the purposes of the funding source (Propositions 1 and 68)
- Projects must promote and implement the State's Water Plans and Policies, such as the California Water Action Plan ([2016 update](#)).
- 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
- Improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles
- Improve habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity through creation, enhancement, preservation, and restoration
- Connect open space with a network of trails, accessible as appropriate to the site
- Promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement and long-term maintenance (long-term means for a period not less than 20 years)
- Encourage sustainable growth that balances environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Maintain and improve flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration
- Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space
- Optimize water resources by improving the quality of surface and ground water and enhance ground water recharge, to reduce dependence on imported water
- Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries
- Encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects
- Involve the public through education and outreach programs
- Projects will utilize the best available science to inform decisions regarding, state and local water resource. In addition, special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.

The RMC Board has established policies (see Appendix A) and project evaluation criteria (see Appendix B) derived from the above objectives. The major elements of the project evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. Access Value
2. Urban Land Value
3. Water Resource and Quality Value
4. Habitat Value
5. Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities
6. Matching Funds
7. Readiness
8. Stakeholder/Partners Resource Value
9. Stewardship and Management Plan Value

## 2.4 Geographic Program Areas

To facilitate the comparison and aggregation of similar projects and assure that funds are available for a wide range of projects, these grant funds will be applied to three program areas that can be described in geographic terms:

1. Urban Land
2. River/Tributary Parkways
3. Mountains, Hills, and Foothills

Project applicants will be asked to identify which program area their project falls into. Projects cannot qualify for inclusion in more than one program area, as described below:

- **Urban Lands**—All land within the developed, urban core of the RMC Region that is NOT within the area identified for River/Tributary Parkways, or within the Mountains, Hills, and Foothills.
- **River/Tributary Parkways**—Land falling within one-quarter mile on either side of the centerline of a river or tributary within the RMC Region, but NOT within the Mountains, Hills and Foothills or Urban Land areas.
  - Lower LA River Prop 1 focuses on the main stem of the LA River, starting at the north end in Vernon and ending in Long Beach, on projects identified in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP, 2018) or others within 1-mile of the LA River—more information on the LLARRP can be found at <https://lowerlariver.org/>. Projects in close proximity to the corridor may be considered. Lower LA River Prop 1 projects are all in the River/Tributary Geographic Program Area.
  - Lower LA River Prop 68 also focuses on implementing projects from the LLARRP and others within 1-mile of the Lower LA River. Lower LA River Prop 68 Projects can be in either the Urban Land or River/Tributary Geographic Program Areas.
- **Mountains, Hills, and Foothills**—Land lying within the area of a named system of mountains, hills and foothills. More specifically, land lying within the geographic area of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Jose, San Rafael, Montebello, Puente, Chino, Coyote, or Signal Hills, the San Gabriel foothills, and within the Region of the RMC but NOT within the Urban Lands or River/Tributary Parkways.

## 2.5 Eligible Project Categories

The guidelines identify general project categories and program areas that may be eligible for funding. All eligible projects must meet the eligibility requirements in order to be considered for funding.

- **Implementation Projects**— At least **75%** of the funds available may be allocated to support implementation projects. The RMC will seek to prioritize multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities.
- **Planning Projects**— Up to **10%** of the funds available may be allocated to support planning-related applications.
- **Disadvantaged Community Investment and Co-Benefits**— *The Conservancy will allocate at least 20% of the funds available for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide information regarding this qualification.*
- **Technical Assistance Projects (Prop 68 only)**— Pursuant to Section 8008(b)(1) of Proposition 68, up to **10%** of the funds available may be allocated for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. The RMC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) supports

local communities, and especially high-need or very high-need areas, with direct proactive and flexible assistance grants with the goal of facilitating access to the Conservancy’s funding programs throughout the grant continuum— such as support with being able to apply for funding (feasibility, design, application process), administering grant funds, and completing and maintaining projects.

The goal of the technical assistance program is to help build capacity in high-need communities to more easily seek Prop 68 and matching funding to develop and implement open space projects in their communities. Another area of Technical Assistance is supporting project development through regional planning efforts to develop, share and coordinate data, development of toolkits and portals, urban greening guides, and maintenance guides and reporting support, etc, that support the development, implementation, and maintenance of multi-benefit, open space projects.

As shown in Figure 1 below, different TAP elements can be available at appropriate stages throughout the grant continuum.

**Figure 1: TAP along the Grant Project Continuum**

|  |                                | Grant Project Continuum  |                                 |  |                              |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|  |                                | Project Development  | Grant Application and Award     | Grant Administration                   | Project Completion (and O&M) |
| <b>Technical Assistance Program - Elements</b> | 1. Web Design and Development  | RMC website – development of resource library  |                                 |  |                              |
|  |                                | Online GMS - streamline grant application, administration, and close-out processes   |                                 |  |                              |
|  |                                | Geospatial Web Development - integrated web portal   |                                 |  |                              |
|  | 2. Resource Toolkit            | Meeting facilitation handbook, community engagement best practices, technical assistance directories, tracking of matching funding, stock photos |                                 |  |                              |
|  |                                | Design and Planning handbook; UG toolkits  | Grant Writing handbook          | Grant Administration Guides            | Maintenance guides           |
|  | 3. Technical Advisors          | Technical support, strategic planning, and evaluation of projects  |                                 |  |                              |
|  | 4. Training and Education      | Intro to RMC grant process   | Grant Writing Support           | Grant Administration                   | Long-term O&M                |
|  |                                | Park and Open Space planning 101   | Community Outreach & Engagement | Project Management, including finances |                              |
|  | 5. Ongoing RMC Prop 68 Support | One-on-One Assistance  |                                 |  |                              |
|  |                                | Outreach about Prop 68 and TAP   | TAP Case Managers               | Project Administration                 | Grant Close-out Guidance     |
|  |                                | TAP Needs survey   | Workshops                       |  | TAP Evaluation               |

|  |                          |                                   |                       |                            |   |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
|  | 6. Professional Services | Technical support, Project Design | Grant Writing Support | Construction Admin Support | Maintenance Guides, Maintenance reporting |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|

For more information, please see RMC's Prop 68 Technical Assistance Program on the RMC website at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.

Please contact RMC for TAP-related requests: [Prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@rmc.ca.gov)

## 2.6 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and RMC's Environmental Justice Policy

The RMC Propositions 1 and 68 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities, and projects be consistent with the RMC adopted environmental justice policy (adopted November 24, 2014), although it may be amended as necessary.

It is the policy of the RMC that the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income shall be fully considered during the planning, decision-making, development and implementation of all RMC programs, policies, and activities. The intent of this policy is to ensure that the public within the RMC catchment area including minority and low-income populations are not discriminated against, treated unfairly, or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental and land-use decisions, and children and their families have access to safe open space and healthy neighborhoods.

The RMC adopted the following key principles:

1. Make environmental justice considerations a standard in the way we do business. We will keep an environmental justice perspective in our programs, activities, and training, as we set priorities, identify program gaps, and assess the benefits and adverse impacts our programs have on communities in our catchment area.
2. Work with local elected officials, staff of cities, and community groups, to address concerns about lack of access to safe open space, especially in low-income and minority communities.
3. Review and evaluate RMC programs and activities to ensure that the environmental justice perspective through its programs does not contain any substantive gaps.
4. Develop and incorporate an environmental justice program element into our employee-training curriculum.
5. Annually provide a staff briefing to the Board at a public meeting regarding ongoing and planned activities. Issue a written annual status report identifying action items accomplished and a proposed work plan outlining the action items for the next year. The work plan shall include quantitative goals for working in disadvantaged communities and populations adversely impacted by industrial and transportation proximities.
6. Strengthen our public outreach, education, and organizing efforts in all communities, especially low-income communities and where we see a need for the implementation.

7. Identify partners within land-use and transportation agencies that are responsible for the environmental benefits or adverse impacts in our neighborhoods and address potential mitigation activities.

8. Work with cities, County of Los Angeles, and community groups in identifying relevant populations living in close proximity to industrial and transportation locations that may benefit from RMC programs and activities.

9. Taking a proactive role in working with cities in adopting and/or updating their General Plans to implement environmental justice policies.

10. Work in conjunction with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies to ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations and create action-oriented mitigation plans.

11. Fostering broad access to existing and proposed data sets and technology to better identify, analyze, and respond to environmental justice issues (database bank).

RMC commits to integrating environmental justice principles into its programs and plans and will continue to improve our outreach efforts in all communities of our catchment area, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully in the development and implementation of our programs. As an oversight agency we will work closely with local cities and County of Los Angeles, and other stakeholders to jointly develop environmental justice awareness so that it is in line with our funding grant programs for project design and development. Our commitment is to take consideration of neighborhoods where people encounter environmental pressures given their close proximity to industrial and transportation zones, as well as incompatible land uses. The RMC's goal is to ensure that the populations in our area, especially children and families, are empowered to play a role in creating a healthful environment.

## **2.7 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and RMC's Tribal Consultation Policy**

The RMC Propositions 1 and 68 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities. On September 19, 2011, Governor G. Brown, Jr. issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of administration that every state agency and Department subject to executive control to implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes. On July 24, 2017, the RMC Governing Board approved a Tribal Consultation Policy consistent with the approved policy adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. Details can be found on the RMC website here: [http://rmc.ca.gov/Tribal\\_Policy\\_Resources%20Agency.pdf](http://rmc.ca.gov/Tribal_Policy_Resources%20Agency.pdf)

Additionally, Assembly Bill No. 52 (AB52) specifies that projects with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. With regards to CEQA, the bill requires a lead agency to begin consultation with a California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project, if the tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency of proposed projects in that geographic area and the tribe requests consultation, prior to determining whether a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report is required for a project.

## **2.8 Definitions**

For definitions of the terms used in this application, please refer to Appendix C

## SECTION 3 : Application Process

### 3.1 Application process for RMC's Small Grants Program

This is an open call for projects for grant applications starting July 20, 2020. The implementation of the Small Grant Program places an emphasis on smaller quick start projects with grant awards between \$50,000 and \$300,000.

Complete applications will be reviewed and scored. All grant applications will be scored in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria. Grant applications that receive an average score of 70 percent or better will be considered the most competitive for funding recommendation. RMC staff will determine if funding is available and if the project is ready for recommendation to the RMC Board.

Application reviews will be performed quarterly or biannually, and Applicants will need to submit applications by the end of the quarter to be included in the next review round. Potential grantees should expect to be notified by RMC staff at least one month before a Board meeting where their project is being considered for award recommendation.

If projects do not meet the minimum administrative thresholds for grant award, they will be assigned a Tier and placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. During this time, 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. This extended consideration process will ensure that the most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

Applications for Very Small Grants under \$50,000 will be scored by a professional with relevant expertise and will be focused on high and very-high need areas. Grant applications that receive an average score of 75 percent or better based on Very Small Grant scoring criteria will be most competitive for a funding recommendation (Refer to Appendix D2). Very Small Grant applications will be reviewed regularly.

*Guidelines and Criteria are subject to change at any time. The regular RMC Board meeting schedule, which is adopted at the beginning of each calendar year, convenes on the fourth Monday of January, March, May, June, July, September, and November. Schedule is subject to change.*

*More information about RMC Board Meetings is available on the RMC website.*

## SECTION 4 : Important Considerations

### 4.1 Eligible Uses

The following uses are **eligible for reimbursement from RMC** grant funds:

- Grant funds may be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources.
- Land acquisition costs may include appraisals, land, improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow.
- Land must be acquired from willing sellers.
- Facilities development projects must demonstrate a strong relationship and value to natural resource stewardship or environmental education.
- Rehabilitation and restoration projects must be biologically and technically feasible.
- Planning and pre-construction costs can be included, though shall not exceed 10 percent of total Grant Funds. (For complicated and extensive projects, this maximum may be increased to 20 percent on an exceptional basis. Please contact RMC with questions.) These costs may include consultant fees, plan documentation, specifications, CEQA/NEPA planning, and direct project management costs.
- Indirect and Overhead expenses are allowed, though shall not exceed 10 percent of total Grant Funds. Projects that have lower overhead will be deemed more competitive.

### 4.2 Ineligible Uses

The following uses are **not** eligible for reimbursement from RMC grant funds:

- Operations and Maintenance related costs.
- Projects that are located on school properties and not open to the general public or designed solely for school students, unless part of a multi-use project which allows for access from the general public.
- Playground equipment and/or infrastructure such as swing sets and skate parks.
- Facilities that do not have an environmental education focus or theme, such as basketball courts, hockey courts, etc. Multi-use projects may include these elements, but this program will not fund planning or development of such facilities.
- Projects that cause erosion or contribute to flooding.
- Projects on land or improved property acquired by condemnation from an unwilling seller.
- BMP (Best Management Practices) directed projects that lack an improved habitat, low impact public recreation access, or environmental education components.
- Projects traditionally provided by the private, non-government sector or by concessionaires, such as gift shops, equipment rentals, concessions, etc., unless it can be shown that no private entrepreneur is willing to provide services, and there is demonstrated need in Project.
- Projects that exclusively fulfill other mitigation requirements.

### 4.3 Additional Consideration

- Each project must include information that addresses RMC Project Evaluation Criteria.

- Applicants shall submit an individual application for each eligible project within their jurisdiction.
- The Grantee must complete the project and submit all documentation within three years of grant award.
- Grants shall be paid on a reimbursement basis.
- All funded projects must comply with the adopted RMC policies attached as Appendix A.
- The Grantee shall provide for public access and low-impact recreation, unless it is specifically prohibited or not ecologically or biologically feasible.
- Projects should have an education element and habitat component.
- Projects that have multiple benefits will be considered more competitive.
- Projects which have a clearly articulated monitoring and assessment plan will be considered more competitive.
- All real property shall be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current State laws governing Relocation and Acquisition of real property by public agencies. Appraisals will be subject to prior approval of fair market value by the State Department of General Services.
- All projects must comply with CEQA and/or NEPA as appropriate. These costs may be funded under this program as part of planning dollars. Status will be carefully evaluated and projects that have completed CEQA/NEPA and/or are advanced in the environmental process prior to the application will be considered more competitive.
- If RMC funds will be used for the CEQA/NEPA process and the Grantee has made a full-faith effort to complete CEQA/NEPA, but is unable to complete CEQA/NEPA or otherwise proceed with the Project due to issues related to the CEQA/NEPA process, costs incurred by the Grantee that are directly related to the CEQA/NEPA process can be applied up to the limit of 20 percent of the total original grant.
- Grantee shall comply with all applicable laws and applications.
- All information contained in the grant applications is confidential until the grant awards are announced. After that time, all applications will become public information.
- Grantees must sign an agreement with RMC before funds can be disbursed.
- Grantee shall post signs acknowledging the source of funds pursuant to guidelines established for this grant Program (Reference Appendix E).
- RMC will determine when reports will be required by the grantee, including progress, financial, and monitoring and assessment reports. Under usual circumstances, reports shall not be required more frequently than on a quarterly basis.
- Projects need to meet the criteria set forth in *Common Ground* and *Phase II Final Report*, as well as any planning criteria approved by agencies within the project jurisdiction, such as master plans or watershed management plans.
- Grantee must meet the minimum land tenure requirements set forth by the RMC.
- Projects with one or more partners will be deemed more competitive
- Although matching funds or services are not required, priority shall be given to projects that include a commitment for a matching contribution. Matching funds may include prior project planning, operations and maintenance, volunteer support, and ongoing monitoring and assessment. Contributions may be in the form of money, property, or services and must be verifiable.

## SECTION 5 : Application Procedures

Submit completed application package and all supporting documentation, to the extent feasible. Incomplete applications will not be disqualified, but applicants should take every effort to make their complete application as complete as possible. Complete applications are more likely to be considered as competitive, Tier 1 projects.

### 5.1 What to Submit

A complete application package will consist of **one (1) complete digital copy** of the required materials emailed to [prop68@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:prop68@rmc.ca.gov). An esignature must be included on the Application Form via an online document signing application (i.e. DocuSign). Applicants shall provide the electronic format in PDF and provide using an online cloud storage link (i.e. Dropbox or Google Drive). A wet-signed, hard copy of the Application Form will be required before a project is recommended for award. Please provide a digital copy on a CD or flash drive before award recommendation as well. Photos, images, maps, etc. should be included in the PDF. *The submittal requirements have been updated to consider difficulties related to COVID-19 Pandemic, please contact the RMC if submittal any of the application requirements are still an issue.*

The following materials are required for a complete application (some submittal requirements may not be applicable to all submittals):

1. Application Form (Refer to Appendix D)
2. Project Description and Supporting Documents
3. Photo(s) of the Site (Optional)

**\*For Very Small Grants (under \$50,000): Complete Very Small Grant Application Form and submit with any supporting documents (Refer to Appendix D2)**

Information required for the Application is proposed to include:

1. **Grant Application Form** (Refer to Appendix D)
2. **Project Description** includes: (Sections 2a-2g should not exceed 7 pages, single-space, 11-point font minimum).
  - a. Complete Project Description: for acquisition projects include APN, acreage and purpose for acquisition; for planning and implementation include specific tasks and deliverables.
  - b. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project: a summary of the needs for the project and how the project meets the RMC's policies and project evaluation criteria, and exceeds Proposition 68, Chapter 6 objectives of the water bond legislation (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.3).
  - c. Description of audience and geographic area served: provide a summary of the communities, cities, and populations that will be served once the project is completed.

- d. Description of Goals and Objectives: the goals and objectives should clearly define measurable and outcome-oriented goals and objectives for the project, performance measures to track progress toward objectives, and a reporting system to present the analysis of performance measures against the deliverables and tasks.
  - e. Community Outreach: how will the community be involved in the project design and implementation, include how the project is consistent with the RMC Environmental Justice Policy and RMC Tribal Consultation Policy (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.4 and 2.5, include specific plans for community outreach, education, community involvement).
  - f. Monitoring and Assessment Plan: the monitoring and assessment plan should include the tracking of the progress of the measurable goals and objectives of the project during as well as after the project is completed. Outline of a monitoring and assessment plan should include measurable and quantifiable targets for a planning and implementation project. And, for acquisition projects include the long-term management and maintenance plan. The RMC is interested in measuring the progress of each of its activities in achieving results or outcomes. Hence, the focus of each project evaluation must be on outcomes, defined as the project results or impact on users and society. Output and other measures are important, but the focus should be on results.
  - g. Organizational capacity: include a brief history of your organization and the ability to fully complete and maintain the project long-term.
3. **California Conservation Corps**: Applicants applying for funds to complete restoration and ecosystem protection projects are strongly encouraged to consult with representatives of the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the entity representing the certified CCC, to determine the feasibility of the CCC in completing the proposed project (Public Resource Code 80016). CCC and CALCC have developed the consultation process for inclusion in Proposition 1 and 68 funding, please complete Exhibit H, and find the complete application form at:
- a. Prop 68: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Documents/Prop%2068%20Corps%20Consultation.pdf>
  - b. Prop 1: <https://ccc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Prop-1-Corps-Consultation-Form-Rev.-Dec.-2019-03.2020.pdf>

Note, the Corps already has determined that it is not feasible to use their services on projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Grant Application Form, Appendix D (#12).

4. **Certified Youth Employment Plan (as an alternative to CCC program) (suggested but not required)**: please include the organization's capacity to develop, manage and implement a training program for young adults in the environmental discipline that leads to permanent employment in the green industry (maximum one page).

5. **Tasklist and Timeline:** The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment. An example of a tasklist can be found on the RMC website at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.
6. **Budget:** The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact). See the RMC website for an example of a project budget at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>. Applicants should endeavor to submit a budget in the format presented in the example on the RMC website.
7. **Resolution:** The applicant's governing body certifies that their governing board gives the authorized signatory the authority to apply, receive and manage the project.
8. **Environmental Compliance:** Identify the status of the environmental assessment. This information may include a notice of exemption filed with the county clerk, an initial study, or a brief description of how the applicant will comply with CEQA/NEPA once the grants are awarded.
9. **Permits, Easements, or Certifications:** Identify status of all permits related to the proposed project for implementation of the project and/or brief description of how applicant will obtain all permits (plan/schedule).
10. **Operation and Maintenance:** The applicant must demonstrate, specifically for development projects an outline of how the project will address future operations and maintenance needs (no more than one page).
11. **Agreements:** The applicant must include proof of ownership and compliance with Land Tenure Requirements or the applicant must demonstrate movement to secure land tenure through a willing seller letter, memorandum of agreement, or other binding agreements in place
12. **Non-profit:** If applicable, provide proof of non-profit status (Copy of IRS Determination Letter)
13. **Design/Construction Documents and/or Project Site Photographs:** Digital format is preferred, on CD, and each photograph should be saved as a separate file (no more than six (6) photographs, not larger than 8 ½" by 11").
14. **Project location map:** the applicant must submit a map of the project location.
15. **Letters of Support:** The applicant is required a minimum of three support letters to fulfill this requirement, but additional support letters may be included.

## 5.2 Project Completeness and Selection Criteria

RMC staff will review grant applications for completeness, and incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant with the potential for technical support for resubmittal. Following is the initial selection criteria which all grant applications must adhere to:

- The applicant is an eligible entity
- The applicant has submitted a complete grant application, as previously stated in Section 3.4, Items 1-15

- The project meets the RMC's required grant selection criteria per the RMC Small Grant Program Guidelines
- The project meets the RMC's Common Ground and the Proposition 68, Chapter 7 as well as Proposition 1 objectives
- The project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the General Obligation Bond Law

Applications that do not pass the initial selection criteria will not proceed to the scoring process. The RMC has the discretion to either return the application or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the screening process.

### **5.3 Scoring**

Complete applications that have passed the initial selection will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise. Reviewers may include local, state and federal agency staff and others with relevant expertise, including consultants, non-profits staff, and academics. All reviewers other than the RMC staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. The total score of the three reviewers will be averaged and then weighted against other grant proposals. All reviewers will score each grant application in accordance with the Project Evaluation Criteria—grant applications that receive an average score of 70 percent or better will be considered the most competitive for a funding recommendation. Recommendation for funding is dependent on numerous factors such as funding availability and project readiness and not solely dependent on a high evaluation criteria score. Staff will determine if funding is available and if the project is ready for recommendation to the RMC Board.

If projects do not meet the minimum administrative thresholds for grant award, they will be assigned a Tier and placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. During this time, project proponents are provided the opportunity to receive higher scores based on additional information provided through staff interviews, clarifications, and/or updates that demonstrate project's alignment with RMC goals and objectives, and granting of funds is consistent with RMC programs. This extended consideration process will ensure that the most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

Applications for Very Small Grants under \$50,000 will be scored by a professional with relevant expertise and will be focused on high and very-high need areas. Grant applications that receive an average score of 75 percent or better based on Very Small Grant scoring criteria will be most competitive for a funding recommendation (Refer to Appendix D2). Very Small Grant applications will be reviewed regularly.

## SECTION 6: General Requirements

### 6.1 Typical Grant Process

The following table outlines the typical grant process for successful applicants.

| Responsible Entity                | Task  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| RMC                               | Announces draft guidelines and holds public meetings for submittal of comments.   |
| RMC                               | Approval of Grant Guidelines at the RMC Board Meeting.  |
| RMC                               | Announces Grant Funding Cycle and release of application and guidelines.  |
| Applicant                         | Submits grant application and supporting documents to the RMC .   |
| RMC and Grant Selection Committee | Staff determines if grant application is complete and submits to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring which occurs quarterly.                         |
| RMC                               | Staff notify project applicants of their status, either complete or incomplete.   |
| Grant Selection Committee         | If complete, the Grant Selection Committee evaluates grant applications, may perform site visits on semi-finalists, and recommends projects for funding to the RMC Board. |
| RMC Board                         | Board approves or denies funding recommendations  |
| RMC                               | If approved by Board, Staff sends a Grant Agreement to the Grantee.   |
| Grantee                           | Returns the signed Agreement to RMC.  |
| RMC                               | State/Staff sends a fully executed Grant Agreement to the Grantee.  |
| Grantee                           | Completes environmental documentation and permitting as needed.   |
| Grantee                           | Commences work on the Project.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits required reports (i.e. Quarterly), plans, and documents, as required, to RMC.   |
| Grantee                           | Grantee posts signs during construction per attached Sign Guidelines.   |
| Responsible Entity                | Task  |
| Grantee                           | Requests progress payments.   |
| Grantee                           | Upon completion of the Project, posts signs acknowledging source of funds.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits Project completion packet upon completion of the Project.   |
| RMC                               | Staff checks final documentation for completeness and accuracy and makes final inspection of Project.   |
| RMC                               | Staff processes the final payment.  |
| Grantee                           | Submits documents for audit, if requested.  |

### 6.2 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

All participants are subject to federal and State conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Accordingly, before submitting an application, applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding

potential conflict of interest concerns that they may have and requirements for disclosure. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code Section 1090, and Public Contract Code Sections 10410 and 10411 for State conflict of interest requirements.

Applicants should note that by submitting an application, they waive their rights to the confidentiality of that application. RMC staff will review each application. Once the application is signed and submitted to RMC any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law will be waived.

### 6.3 Project Withdrawal

If a Grantee wishes to withdraw a Project, Grantee shall notify RMC in writing. In the event an approved project cannot be completed, and if grant funds were advanced, those funds, plus any accrued interest, must be returned to the State. If the CEQA/NEPA work is done after the grant has been awarded, and the determination is an impediment to completing the project, RMC will reimburse the applicant for costs expended up to 20 percent of the total grant as outlined above.

### 6.4 Eligible Costs

All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation.

| <i>Costs</i>   | <i>Explanation</i>   | <i>Examples</i>  |
|--|--|--|
| Preliminary Costs<br>(not to exceed<br>10% of grant total) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs incurred after a Contract with RMC has been fully executed, including planning, plan documentation, designs, appraisals and negotiations, permit costs, consultant costs, and other costs necessary to execute eligible projects, occurring pre-construction</li> <li>■ Expenditure subject to maximum of 10% of total grant. For complicated and extensive projects, this maximum may be increased to 20 percent on an exceptional basis. Please contact RMC with questions (a total of 20% of the grant agreement is limited for both Indirect /Overhead and Preliminary Costs).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CEQA/NEPA compliance</li> <li>■ Construction plans</li> <li>■ Conceptual Designs</li> <li>■ Pre-schematic work</li> <li>■ Technical consulting</li> <li>■ Preparation of Bidding docs</li> <li>■ Permits/Appraisals</li> <li>■ Acquisition documents, etc.</li> </ul> |
| Personnel or<br>Employee<br>Services                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Must be computed according to the Grantee's prevailing wage or salary scales</li> <li>■ Must be computed on actual time spent on Project</li> <li>■ Must not exceed the Grantee's established rates for similar positions</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Wages and benefits</li> <li>■ Work performed by another section/department in agency</li> </ul>   |
| Consultant<br>Services                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs paid to consultants necessary for the Project</li> <li>■ Consultants must be paid in compliance with the Grantee's customary method and rate</li> <li>■ No consultant fee shall be paid to the Grantee's own employees without prior approval</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs paid to consultants necessary for the Project</li> </ul>  |

| <b>Costs</b>                          | <b>Explanation</b>   | <b>Examples</b>  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Construction                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All necessary construction activities</li> <li>■ Construction management</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Site preparation, grading</li> <li>■ Facility development</li> <li>■ Inspection and construction management</li> </ul>                    |
| Construction Equipment                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Grantee may only charge the cost of the actual use of the equipment during the time it is being used for Project purposes</li> <li>■ The Grantee may use the California Department of Transportation's equipment rental rates as a guide</li> <li>■ The Grantee shall prorate the value of the purchased equipment toward the Project based on hours of usage</li> <li>■ The equipment use charges must be made in accordance with the Grantee's normal accounting practices</li> <li>■ The Grantee must describe the work performed, the hours used, and related use to Project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rental equipment</li> <li>■ Leased equipment</li> <li>■ Purchased equipment</li> </ul>  |
| Fixed Equipment                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Equipment permanently fixed to Project facility</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fixed resting areas/benches</li> </ul>  |
| Construction Tools/Supplies/Materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ May be purchased for specific Project, or may be drawn from central stock if claimed costs are no higher than those the Grantee would pay</li> <li>■ Costs may be capitalized according to the Grantee's standard policy</li> <li>■ The Grantee may only claim those costs reasonably attributable to the Project</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Materials such as concrete, wood, etc.</li> <li>■ Supplies such as fasteners, nails, or other hardware and non-fixed equipment</li> </ul> |
| Relocation Costs                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs resulting in displacement of a person/business</li> <li>■ The Grantee shall comply with State Relocation Act requirements.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ See Chapter 16, Section 7260, <a href="#">Government Code</a>.</li> </ul>   |
| Acquisition Costs                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Appropriate costs of acquiring real property</li> <li>■ DGS approved appraisal costs</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Purchase price/Appraisals</li> <li>■ Title/Escrow fees</li> <li>■ Surveying/Improvements</li> </ul>                                       |
| Indirect/Overhead                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs shall not exceed 10% of grant total and of each submitted reimbursement payment</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Administrative overhead</li> </ul>  |
| Restoration/Rehabilitation Costs      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All required materials for restoration/rehabilitation work</li> <li>■ Includes removal and disposal of exotic/invasive species</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Planting/Soil improvements</li> <li>■ Irrigation systems (temporary or permanent, as applicable)</li> </ul>                               |
| Environmentally Aimed BMP Measures    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Components to storm water management projects that include habitat supporting measures</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Filtration systems</li> <li>■ Erosion control materials</li> </ul>  |
| Education Infrastructure              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All fixed materials that serve interpretive or educational purposes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Signs/Interpretive aids/Kiosks</li> </ul>   |

| <i>Costs</i>  | <i>Explanation</i>  | <i>Examples</i>  |
|---------------|---|--|
| Miscellaneous | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Other Project-related costs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Communications expenses</li> <li>■ Construction insurance</li> <li>■ Signs/Interpretive aids</li> <li>■ Transportation costs</li> </ul> |

## 6.5 Ineligible Costs

The following is a non-exclusive list of ineligible project costs:

| <i>Costs</i>                           | <i>Explanation</i>  | <i>Examples</i>  |
|--|---|--|
| Operations and Maintenance Costs       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs necessary for the short or long term operation and maintenance of property or facilities once the property has been acquired or the facility or area has been restored, rehabilitated, or developed</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Personnel or employee services</li> <li>■ Equipment, supplies</li> </ul>  |
| Non-fixed Equipment                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Equipment that is not permanently fixed to the project facility or used for construction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Computer equipment (hardware and software)</li> <li>■ Portable equipment</li> </ul>                               |
| Playground Equipment or Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Active recreation equipment costs are ineligible</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Swingsets, skateparks, pools, ball field apparatus, basketball courts</li> </ul>                                  |
| Mitigation Costs                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs associated with exclusively fulfilling mitigation requirements for this or other projects</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Land acquisition, development, restoration or rehabilitation for mitigation for this or other projects</li> </ul> |
| Ceremonial or Publicity Expenses       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Funds may not be used for ceremonies, parties, or other publicity expenses (except for required signage)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Food and beverages</li> <li>■ Facility rental</li> </ul>  |
| Ineligible Travel                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Travel costs not directly associated with the project</li> <li>■ Travel claimed when no work time was claimed for the same period</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Travel expenses</li> </ul>  |
| Lobbying/Fundraising                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Costs associated with grant application preparation, for this grant or for others associated with this or any other project</li> <li>■ Costs associated with lobbying legislature or other bodies for funds for this or any other project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Staff time</li> <li>■ Lobbyist fees</li> <li>■ Travel expenses</li> </ul>   |
| Contract Cost Overruns                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unapproved contract costs overruns exceeding the allowable amount as per contract budget specifications</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unapproved costs</li> </ul>   |

Questions associated with eligible or ineligible costs should be directed to the Grant Program Administrative Contact **prior to** submittal of application or budget. The RMC highly recommends grantees to review and follow the most recent publication of [OMB Circular A-87 Cost Principles for](#)

*State, Local and Indian Tribal Government* for identifying direct and indirect costs eligible for grant reimbursement.

## 6.6 Changes to Project Scope

A Grantee wishing to change the scope of an approved project shall submit the proposed change in writing to RMC for approval. Any change must be consistent with the authorizing legislation and *Common Ground and Phase II Final Report*.

## 6.7 Time Extensions

The Grantee is expected to complete the project according to the time identified in their project timeline. However each contract will have a project performance period of two years to allow for unexpected events. An extension beyond the two-year performance period, or beyond Spring 2023, is unlikely. In no case shall a grant be extended past the last date for expenditure of bond funds.

## 6.8 Payments of Grant Funds

- Disbursements of grant funds will be made incrementally, as separate components of the Project are satisfactorily completed.
- Payments shall be on the basis of costs incurred, less ten percent (10%) to be withheld from all invoiced amounts.
- Requests for reimbursement are preferred on a quarterly basis. Requests must include documentation that demonstrates that costs have been incurred and an itemized description of all work done for which reimbursement is requested. Payment requests should clearly identify the specific elements of the work plan to which they pertain, such as an updated budget and tasklist.
- Any requests for indirect costs must include the methodology and justification for the indirect costs. Payment requests may be reduced or denied if these costs are not sufficiently supported. Indirect costs should already be listed as a task/line item in the grant's approved budget.
- Grantees should allow four to six weeks to receive payment after submitting a complete payment request package.
- Any request that is submitted without supporting documents will not be approved for payment.

## 6.9 Advance Payment Requests

- ***As a general rule, advance payments for Project costs are not allowed.*** RMC, at its sole discretion, may honor advance payment requests, if warranted by a documented compelling and immediate need.
- If an advance payment is requested, the Grantee will complete a Payment Request Form accompanied by a written request for advance payment and an itemized schedule of all cost estimates for services, equipment and supplies (plus supporting documentation) to support the immediate need of the requested advanced amount.
- If any advance payments are received from the RMC, they must be deposited into a sole and separate account from other grantee funds. Any interest earned on advances shall be spent on eligible Project costs subject to prior approval by RMC. Unless spent on approved costs, the grant Agreement shall be reduced by the amount of the interest earned.

- Advanced funds must be fully expended within thirty (30) days of the date on the warrant. A Payment Request Form (with “Advance Reconciliation” selected) must be completed and submitted to the RMC within sixty (60) days from the date on the warrant. If the advanced funds were not fully expended within the allotted thirty (30) days, grantees must return the balance of the advanced funds plus any accrued interest with the Payment Request Form.

With the exception of Acquisition Projects, though grantees may submit several requests for advanced funds throughout the life of the grant, the maximum total aggregated amount of advanced funds cannot exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total grant amount.

- For Acquisition Projects, advances are made after the property is in escrow. Immediately upon receipt, such advances shall be placed into escrow.

## 6.10 Final Payment Request

The funds withheld from Project payments are referred to as the Final Payment Request. The Project Completion procedures **are specified in the Grant Agreement.**

## 6.11 Site Visits

The Grantee shall permit and arrange periodic site visits including a final inspection by RMC to determine if the work performed is in accordance with the approved Project Scope.

## 6.12 Loss of Funding

The following actions may result in a loss of part or all of the funding allocation to the Grantee:

A Grantee fails to return a signed agreement with the RMC within 60 days of receipt of the grant agreement.

A Grantee withdraws from the Program.

A Grantee fails to complete all funded Projects and/or fails to submit all documentation no later than three years from grant award unless otherwise approved for extension by the RMC.

## 6.13 Land Acquisition Instructions

**Estimated fair market value of land and improvements**—Under the terms of the grant Program, RMC and the State Department of General Services must approve the appraised fair market value of the Acquisition. State participation in projects is limited to value approved by DGS.

**Willing Seller**—Provide evidence that landowner(s) are willing participant in any proposed real property transactions. RMC does not have authority of eminent domain and grant funds can not be used for that application.

**Relocation Costs**—Attach additional pages as needed. Provide a parcel-by-parcel analysis of the extent of the relocation assistance required by the State Relocation Act requirements, (Chapter 16, Section 7260, Government Code). Include at a minimum:

- The number of persons/businesses displaced
- The types of displaced entities (families, small retail businesses, large wholesale or manufacturing enterprises, farms, churches, hospitals, etc.)
- The Tenure (month-to-month rent, long-term lease, or fee title) of the displaced entities

- Any special problems inherent in relocating the displaced entities (lack of adequate replacement housing, large inventory of merchandise to be moved, or unique quality of the enterprise difficult to duplicate at any other location)

**Contingency**—Cannot be used to increase the fair market value appraisal.

**Attach:**

- Annotated Assessor's Plat showing proposed Acquisition and approximate location of Project improvements that will affect the Project; if a creek or other drainage way crosses the property, sketch its approximate location
- Written description of parcel from the recorded deed on file in Assessor's office
- Copies of any easements, mineral rights, or other conditions that may affect the proposed parcel on file in Assessor's Office
- USGS 1:24,000 scale Quad map with the parcel clearly marked on it

## 6.14 Land Tenure Requirements

Applicants must certify to RMC that they have adequate control of, and Tenure to, properties to be improved under this program. Adequate controls include, but are not limited to ownership, lease, easement, joint-powers agreement, or other long-term interest in the property, or have a satisfactory Agreement with the legal owner/administering agency. RMC recognizes that specific activities may change over time; however, the property must remain available for compatible public use.

The Grantee and/or landowner shall:

1. Maintain and operate the property funded under this program for a period of:
  - At least 20 years for grants up to \$1 Million
  - At least 25 years for grants over \$1 Million
  - For urban stream restoration projects, alternate maintenance and operation periods may be negotiated, as appropriate for individual projects
2. Use the property only for the purpose for which the Grant was made and to make no other use or sale or other disposition of the property. With the approval of RMC, the Grantee or the Grantee's successor may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property in accordance with this section. A lease or other short-term agreement cannot be revocable at will by the lessor.
3. The Grantee shall not use or allow the use of any portion of the real property for mitigation (i.e. to compensate for adverse changes to the environment elsewhere).

## 6.15 Accounting Requirements

Grantees shall maintain an accounting system that does all of the following:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards
- Follows generally accepted accounting principles.
- Provides good audit trails, especially the source documents (purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, time cards, cancelled warrants, warrant numbers, etc.)
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual Project can be readily determined

- Grantees are recommended to have a record retention policy that includes the record retention of bond funded projects and their respective expenditures. These types of expenditures should be retained for the life of the bond (generally 25-30 years).

## **6.16 Audit**

Projects are subject to audit by the State for three years following the most recent payment including the final payment of grant funds. The purpose of the audit is to verify that project expenditures were made in accordance of the respective bond act(s), RMC grant guidelines, and that expenditures were properly documented.

If your project is selected for audit, you will be contacted at least 30 days in advance. The audit will include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the Grantee, as they related to the project for which RMC funds were granted. The Grantee shall have the Project records, including the source documents and cancelled warrants, readily available to the State. The Grantee must also provide an employee having knowledge of the Project and the accounting procedure or system to assist the State's auditor. The Grantee shall provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like requested by the State.

All Project records must be retained for at least five years following an audit or final disputed audit findings.

## SECTION 7 : Appendices

The appendices listed below are included in this report on the following pages:

|              |   |       |
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| Appendix A:  | RMC General Policies .....                  | 28-33 |
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## Appendix A: RMC General Policies

### A. Guiding Principles

The overall policy guidelines for the RMC are found in two primary references: the statute which created the RMC, Public Resources Code Section 32600, and *Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea*, the watershed and open space plan for the *Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds* which was adopted by the RMC and further identifies the policies of the agency. Both documents can be found at: <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.

Further, the RMC requires that all proposed projects, as applicable, follow the guidelines and principles identified in the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Los Angeles River Master Plan, San Gabriel River Master Plan, the Watershed Plans for the Rio Hondo, Coyote Creek, Compton Creek, and Upper San Gabriel River (if available). Consistency with these policies is an essential element of the grant agreement required for execution by all successful project applicants.

Further, RMC is committed to promoting projects which meet multiple objectives such as, providing water quality protection through storm water best management practices on urban land which creates new open space with passive recreation elements and educational/interpretive elements. The RMC further promotes project partnerships which increase stakeholder involvement and commitment, and projects that bundle multiple funding sources which increase project resources.

Data-based Geographic Information System (GIS) decision support tools are available to help applicants evaluate projects to ensure that they meet RMC funding criteria, prioritizations, and policy objectives and will be used by RMC staff to evaluate and validate information submitted on some projects. Pertinent data on regional analysis can be found on an [interactive map](#) on the RMC website. The Trust for Public Land's Climate Smart Cities' Los Angeles mapping portal provides a robust decision support tool that provides reports down to the parcel level (requires users to create a login in order to use)—[https://web.tplgis.org/csc\\_losangeles/](https://web.tplgis.org/csc_losangeles/). Additional tools include State Parks' [Community FactFinder](#) and Department of Water Resources' (DWR) [DAC Mapping Tool](#).

### B. RMC's Three Program Areas

**Urban Land:** Land within the developed, urban core of the RMC Region that does not fall directly within the other two categories of River/Tributary Parkways and Mountains, Hills and Foothills. **It is the primary intent of this program to create new accessible urban passive open space and recreational opportunities.**

**River/Tributary Parkways:** Land falling within one-quarter mile on either side of the centerline of a river or tributary within the RMC Region, but not within a Mountains, Hills, and Foothills or Urban Land area. **The primary intent of this program is to provide for a revitalized accessible river parkway along the main stems of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and their tributaries, increase riparian corridors, and provide enhanced recreational opportunities.**

**Mountains, Hills, and Foothills:** Land lying within the area of a named system of mountains, hills, and foothills. More specifically, land lying within the geographic area of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Jose, San Rafael, Montebello (Repetto), Puente, Chino, Coyote, or Signal Hills, the San Gabriel foothills, and within the Region of the RMC and NOT within the Urban Lands or

River/Tributary Parkways area. **The primary intent of this program is watershed, habitat, and wildlife corridor protection, trails and public access as appropriate to the site.**

## C. Project Criteria

RMC requires that all proposed projects, as applicable, meet the following criteria. Criteria which are applicable to the project must be described adequately in the Project Development Plan.

### 1. ACCESS VALUE

The RMC considers access to parks, open space, trails, bikeway, natural areas and low impact recreation for all persons within a ¼ or 10 minute walk from their homes to be a primary objective in our programs. Further, access to all members of our communities must be consistent with the physical and/or cultural needs within all our communities.

**Projects will be designed with accessible park staging areas and trails** meeting the minimum guidelines established by the U.S. Access Board. The Access Board is the Federal agency responsible for creating guidelines and standards for accessible environments (<http://www.access-board.gov/news/outdoor-nprm.htm>). The minimum requirements found in the Outdoor Developed Areas Final Report are based on the following principles:

- A) Protect resource and environment
- B) Preserve experience
- C) Provide for equality of opportunity
- D) Maximize accessibility
- E) Be reasonable
- F) Address safety
- G) Be clear, simple, and understandable
- H) Provide guidance
- I) Be enforceable and measurable
- J) Be consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as much as possible
- K) Be based on independent use by persons with disabilities.

The RMC is committed to providing **bike, hiking and equestrian** trails, improving access to trails and adding trails within its Region.

1. All trails will be designed for multiple uses as appropriate to the site and community.
2. When planning a trail, the guiding principles in “Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind” available on the RMC website ([www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)) must be utilized in the trail design.
3. A useful resource for trail design and management is “*Trails for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Planning, Design and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails*” (Flink et al: 2001). This resource has useful information on sustainable design and construction as well as wildlife concerns in design and management of trails.

### 2. URBAN LAND VALUE

“Green” infrastructure, particularly in urban areas, provides much needed opportunities for recreation and community areas for residents to enjoy nature. RMC is committed to working with public and private partners to create new parks, open space, and trails in areas with the greatest need. Many urban areas lack adequate parkland to meet the needs of community residents, especially youth and low-income residents. RMC is working with our partners to facilitate increased opportunities for parks

through a variety of strategies that include joint-use agreements, land acquisition, development of existing public land, and restoration of negatively impacted sites.

The RMC is committed to improving the quality of life for the communities in which we work. Low impact recreational opportunities in parks, open space, and trails enhance the overall health and well-being – critical to personal quality of life. Recreational opportunities facilitate social interactions, as well as improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of **physical and mental** wellness. RMC projects will create areas that allow for communities to engage in low impact physical activity.

### **3. WATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY VALUE**

The RMC encourages projects which provide for water conservation, groundwater recharge, improve stormwater quality, drinking water quality, and flood management using natural and non-structural systems.

1. Site grading, bio swales, and/or porous materials will be used to retain storm water on site to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Program adopted by the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.
2. Porous materials and/or recycled paving materials will be used instead of impervious paving materials for projects requiring pavement (i.e., parking lots, trails, etc.) unless prohibited by local building codes.
3. Storm water best management practices (BMPs) must be utilized on the project site. In areas where grading, vegetation clearing, or planting is planned, BMPs must be utilized to control excessive erosion while vegetation becomes established.
4. Any irrigation installed on the project site must be a water efficient irrigation system. In projects where turf is planned, both a rain sensor and a soil moisture meter are required to ensure water efficient irrigation practices. A rain sensor will halt irrigation on days it is raining, eliminating excessive water runoff. A soil moisture meter will automatically shut off irrigation when the root zone of the turf becomes saturated, preventing excessive irrigation runoff. Projects should try to utilize recycled water.
5. All projects funded by the RMC must be consistent with applicable water supply, water quality and flood control policies and conform to the requirements of [Public Resources Code Section 32621](#).
6. Projects that include open water should include design elements and maintenance schedules that inhibit mosquito breeding and reduce the need for vector control.

### **4. HABITAT (Creation, Enhancement, Preservation, and Restoration) VALUE**

RMC's habitat goals are to create, enhance, preserve, protect, and restore important terrestrial, avian, and aquatic habitats in the watersheds and to preserve or establish habitat linkages and/or corridors.

1. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the creation of new natural habitat (that did not formerly exist on site) is within the scope of the project.
2. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the enhancement of existing natural habitat is within the scope of the project.
3. The benefits for native habitat diversity, species biodiversity, and target species richness must be addressed if the preservation of existing natural habitat is within the scope of the project.

4. The potential for a project to result in habitat alterations or other similar disturbances must be considered and addressed. If the project negatively impacts existing habitat as part of the enhancement or restoration, a strategy to mitigate adverse impacts and for quantifying the success of the mitigation must be identified. All necessary permits must be obtained for projects that include major habitat modifications.
5. A minimum of 75% of the landscaping will be comprised of locally native plant species included in the RMC adopted plant palette. To maintain and support the integrity of local genetic biodiversity, plants shall be propagated from appropriate local sources consistent with Objective C-1 of the Los Angeles River Master Plan Landscape Guidelines, or the San Gabriel River Watershed Plant List, as it becomes available. Projects located in natural areas are required to use native plant species appropriate to that region. Referenced guidelines and plant lists adopted by RMC are located at: <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.
6. Plant materials shall exclude the use of invasive exotic plant species, as listed in the document "*California Invasive Plants Inventory*" published by the California Invasive Plant Council. For more information refer to the planning palette section of: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>. Furthermore, any invasive exotic plant species that currently exist on the project site must be removed as part of the landscaping plan (phased removal is acceptable).
7. Facilities shall have infrastructure that facilitates and promotes the use of environmentally sound transportation to and from the site (bike racks, etc.). Parking facilities should be designed to limit environmental impacts.

RMC is committed to addressing global climate change and sustainable practices through the creation of new parks, open space, and trails, promotion of water conservation and recycling, use of sustainable materials, enhancing multi-use transit opportunities, and developing partnerships to reduce the carbon footprint of communities.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

People who live in disadvantaged communities face health disparities due to poor air quality, exposure to harmful pollution, and lack of public amenities and services. The RMC is committed to immediate investment in such areas to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. In addition to the required investment in defined disadvantaged communities, applicants are encouraged to submit projects that are identified as high or very high need in the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment or are located in or adjacent to a disadvantaged community as defined by [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool](#).

Applicants are also encouraged to describe non-climate related co-benefits, such as job creation, youth employment and job training, recreation, public health benefits, or programs that engage local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation, particularly as it relates to long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

## 6. MATCHING FUNDS

The RMC does not require matching funds; however, it is important to recognize the efforts of local communities to secure other funding, therefore special consideration will be given to projects which identify substantive matching funds for otherwise competitive project proposals. Projects that have low overhead costs will also be more competitive.

## 7. READINESS

To the extent practicable, priority for funding pursuant to this division will be given to local parks projects that have obtained all required permits, entitlements, and environmental analysis, if required.

## 8. STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS RESOURCE VALUE

The RMC is committed to projects that are well designed and appropriately used by the community once completed. The stakeholder process is a critical element to all successful projects. Each project will identify and include a plan to involve stakeholders/partners in their project. Stakeholders/Partners on a project are those that can give strategic and expert information to ensure the project is successful. These groups may include, but are not limited to; the surrounding community, agencies with jurisdiction over the project, non-profit organizations in the community, and other staff/departments of the project applicant's organization. Community meetings should be presented in a language that is reflective of the community and further, these meeting should be held at times when the target audience is likely to attend.

The RMC encourages partnerships with State or local youth employment programs (e.g., California Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Conservation Corps of Long Beach and/or similar youth employment programs).

1. Each project will include stakeholder communication and participation in the development, design, and construction of a project, where appropriate.
2. The project will include active stakeholder participation during all phases. Some examples of stakeholder participation are:
  - A) Focus groups: a specific small group of the community with expertise, knowledge or that will be affected by the project.
  - B) Community meetings: a series of meetings where a large portion of the community surrounding or influenced by the project, as well as agencies, non-profits, school personnel, etc., are invited to be informed and updated then asked to give input to the project.
  - C) Technical groups/committees: a series of meetings where government agencies, experts, academics (appropriate to the project) are asked to give expert advice on a project.

The RMC is committed to protecting sites that include archaeological, cultural or historical resources. If a project will result in adverse impacts to any such resources, the project scope will include appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

Educational and Interpretive elements allow the project to communicate its place in the watershed, and potentially provide the community with tools to understand the watershed and appropriate behaviors within the watershed.

1. Any educational/interpretive and/or informational elements and signage must be included in all development projects and must be consistent with applicable plans, i.e., the Los Angeles River Master Plan and San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, the Signage Guidelines.
2. All signage will be accessible to most users.
3. All signage will be culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community of users.
4. The educational/interpretive message will include natural history, cultural history, and watershed stewardship.
5. The planning and design for the project will include active stakeholder participation.

There will be measurable goals with regard to public education in any educational element

## **9. STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PLAN VALUE**

Stewardship is a critical component of a successful project and due to the often-difficult budgetary constraints faced by project applicants it is mandatory that each RMC funded project have a long term sustainable management plan in place.

1. Each project will have active stakeholder participation in the long-term management of the facility/site.
2. A post-restoration habitat maintenance plan must accompany habitat restoration plans.
3. Committed involvement by qualified community groups in future habitat stewardship is highly encouraged.
4. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.

## Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria

Staff will deem a grant application complete when it has passed the initial selection process. Staff will submit completed grant applications to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring by utilizing the evaluation criteria set forth below. Applications achieving an average score of 70 percent or higher will be more likely to qualify for recommendation of grant funds to the RMC Board. RMC has established two evaluation criterions, one for implementation projects and one for planning, technical assistance, and acquisition projects.

### RMC - SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

#### Project Implementation Evaluation Criteria

| Criteria  | Rivers & Tributaries | Urban Land | Mountains & Foothills | Lower LA River Prop 1 |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1.0 Access Value</b>   |                      |            |                       |                       |
| 1.1. Project is identified in an Open Space, Park, or Watershed-Improvement Plan, such as: urban greening plan, river revitalization plan, watershed management plan, active transportation plan, etc.<br><b>--OR--</b>   | 5                    | 5          | 5                     | 5                     |
| 1.2. Project includes improvements to a non-motorized trail system or improves connections to an existing trail, community facility, recreation area, or school.  |                      |            |                       | 1                     |
| 1.3. Project includes directional signage program that enhances public access.  | 1                    | 1          | 1                     | 1                     |
| 1.4. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.   | 1                    | 2          | 1                     | 1                     |
| 1.5. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane.   | 2                    | 2          | 1                     | 2                     |
| 1.6. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.   | 2                    | 2          | 2                     | 2                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b>            | <b>12</b>  | <b>10</b>             | <b>12</b>             |
| <b>2.0 Urban Land Value</b>   |                      |            |                       |                       |
| 2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change:<br>1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility<br>2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency,<br>3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy,<br>4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and<br>5) Carbon sequestration | 5                    | 5          | 5                     | 5                     |
| 2.2. Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.  | 1                    | 3          | 0                     | 1                     |

|  |           |           |          |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.      | 3         | 3         | 1        | 3         |
| 2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours). | 1         | 2         | 1        | 1         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>10</b> |

### 3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure

|  |           |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.  | 3         | 3         | 4         | 4         |
| 3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff  | 3         | 3         | 4         | 3         |
| 3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure. | 2         | 1         | 3         | 2         |
| 3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.  | 2         | 1         | 1         | 2         |
| 3.5. Project utilizes recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).   | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         |
| 3.6. Project is part of or consistent with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.                           | 2         | 2         | 1         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>15</b> |

### 4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 4.1. Project results in new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. – <b>OR</b> –   |   |   |   |   |
| 4.2. Project preserves threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. – <b>OR</b> –  | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| 4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity.  |   |   |   |   |
| 4.4. Project maintains a more than a 75% native plant palette or substantial in-stream or native riparian habitat.   | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 4.5. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkway Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements. | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

|   |           |          |           |          |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 4.6. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass. | 3         | 2        | 5         | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>9</b> |

### 5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

|  |           |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 5.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards-<br><a href="https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30">https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30</a><br>Up to 10 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science.<br>5 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ;<br>7 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ;<br>10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher | 10        | 10        | 10        | 10        |
| 5.2. *Project creates a sense of community through educational outreach, community activities, and programs.   | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 5.3. Project concept and designs are a result of direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located, and occurred no earlier than January 2016.  | 2         | 2         | 2         | 2         |
| 5.4. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see <a href="http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities">http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities</a> .   | 2         | 2         | 1         | 2         |
| 5.5. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see <a href="https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/">https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/</a>  | 5         | 5         | 5         | 3         |
| 5.6. Project design and/or location provides relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.   | 2         | 2         | 1         | 2         |
| 5.7. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).   | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>25</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>23</b> |

### 6.0 Matching Funds

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 6.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – OR – | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
|--|---|---|---|---|

|   |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 6.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – OR – | 5        | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| 6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding   | 3        | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| 6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs  | 2        | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> |

### 7.0 Readiness

|   |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 7.1. Project has completed CEQA/NEPA requirements or are advanced in the environmental analysis and review process.   | 2        | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| 7.2. Project has received permit approvals (Fed, State, Local).<br>--OR--<br>For Acquisitions, completed Due Diligence, such as Title Report, Willing Seller Letter, and Appraisal. | 3        | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> |

### 8.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value

|   |           |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization. | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).   | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.3. Projects will use the California Conservation Corps for project implementation (whole or partial) or look to hire youth through certified Youth Employment Program in coordination with the State/County or qualified non-governmental organization (NGO).   | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 8.4. Educational/Interpretive and/or informational elements are included.   | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| 8.5. *Signage or educational/interpretive message includes the natural history, cultural history, and watershed stewardship, and/or that promote physical activity and "healthy living" practices such as mileage markers, walking trails and other physical activities (not included in criteria).   | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> |

### 9.0 Stewardship and Management Plan Value

|  |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 9.1. Project will be managed in such a manner as to provide maximum long term habitat protection and has an established long-term maintenance plan (at least 20-25 years) as evidenced by an adopted guidelines or agreement, such as with a non-profit. | 3          | 3          | 3          | 3          |
| 9.2. Project includes a landscape maintenance manual containing details regarding logistics of weed management, trail maintenance, trash management, unauthorized uses, and a habitat establishment monitoring program.                                  | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          |
| 9.3. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5+ years of experience or recent successes).  | 2          | 2          | 2          | 2          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>6</b>   | <b>6</b>   | <b>6</b>   | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>  |            |            |            | <b>100</b> |
|  | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

## RMC - SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

### Project Planning/Technical Assistance/Acq. Evaluation Criteria

| Criteria  | Rivers & Tributaries | Urban Land | Mountains & Foothills | Lower LA River Prop 1 |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1.0 Access Value</b>   |                      |            |                       |                       |
| 1.1. Project is identified in an Open Space, Park, or Watershed-improvement Plan, such as: urban greening plan, river revitalization plan, watershed management plan. active transportation plan, etc.<br><b>--OR--</b> | 6                    | 6          | 6                     | 5                     |
| 1.2. Project includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.   |                      |            |                       | 2                     |
| 1.3. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.   | 1                    | 2          | 1                     | 1                     |
| 1.4. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane.                   | 2                    | 2          | 1                     | 2                     |
| 1.5. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.   | 2                    | 2          | 2                     | 2                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>11</b>            | <b>12</b>  | <b>10</b>             | <b>12</b>             |

#### 2.0 Urban Land Value

|   |           |           |          |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change:<br>1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility<br>2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency,<br>3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy,<br>4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and<br>5) Carbon sequestration | 5         | 5         | 5        | 5        |
| 2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.   | 1         | 3         | 0        | 1        |
| 2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.   | 3         | 3         | 1        | 2        |
| 2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).  | 1         | 2         | 1        | 1        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>9</b> |

### 3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure

|  |           |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.  | 3         | 3         | 5         | 4         |
| 3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff  | 3         | 2         | 3         | 3         |
| 3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure. | 2         | 2         | 3         | 2         |
| 3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.  | 2         | 1         | 1         | 2         |
| 3.5. Project will utilize recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).   | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         |
| 3.6. Project is part of or consistent with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.                           | 2         | 2         | 1         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>15</b> |

### 4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 4.1. Project results in new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. – <b>OR</b> –<br>4.2. Project preserves threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. – <b>OR</b> –<br>4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity. | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
|--|---|---|---|---|

|   |           |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 4.4. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkways Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements.   | 2         | 1         | 3         | 2         |
| 4.5. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.   | 5         | 5         | 8         | 4         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>12</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>10</b> |
| <b>5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities</b>  |           |           |           |           |
| 5.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards-<br><a href="https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30">https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30</a><br>Up to 15 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science.<br>5 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ;<br>10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ;<br>15 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher | 15        | 15        | 15        | 15        |
| 5.2. Project concept and designs are a result of direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located, and occurred no earlier than January 2016.   | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| 5.3. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see<br><a href="http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities">http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities</a> .   | 2         | 2         | 1         | 2         |
| 5.4. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see<br><a href="https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/">https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/</a>  | 7         | 7         | 5         | 7         |
| 5.5. Project design and/or location provides relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.  | 2         | 3         | 1         | 2         |
| 5.6. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).  | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>32</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>32</b> |

**6.0 Matching Funds**

|   |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 6.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – <b>OR</b> – | 7        | 7        | 7        | 7        |
| 6.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). – <b>OR</b> –  | 5        | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| 6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding   | 3        | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| 6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs  | 2        | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>9</b> |

**7.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value**

|   |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 7.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization. | 5        | 5        | 6        | 5        |
| 7.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).   | 3        | 3        | 3        | 3        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>8</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>8</b> |

**8.0 Capacity**

|   |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 8.1. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5+ years of experience or recent successes). | 5          | 5          | 5          | 5          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

*\*Criterion that are marked with an asterisk are not eligible for funding, however these elements will contribute to an applicant's overall score. Applicants must demonstrate that supplemental funding is available for non-eligible costs.*

## Appendix C: Definitions

**"Acquisition"** means to obtain from a willing seller fee interest or any other interest, including easements and development rights, in real property.

**"Allocation"** means a distribution of funds or an expenditure limit established for a Grantee for one or more projects.

**"Applicant"** means the local, state, or federal agency, nonprofit organization, or Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe, requesting funding from a program administered by RMC.

**"Application"** means the individual Application Form and its required attachments and supporting documentation for grants pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or program.

**"Appraisal"** means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

**"Appropriation"** means a budget authorization from a specific fund to a specific agency/or program to make expenditures or incur obligations for a specific purpose and/or period of time.

**"California Indian Tribe"** means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, consortia, or other organized group or community.

**"CEQA"** means the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.; Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq. (For more information, please see <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>) Applicants must assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake.

**"Competitive"** means the allocation of moneys for one or more projects for the acquisition, development, or interpretation of recreational lands and facilities, and historical or archeological resources on a project-by-project basis, based upon stated criteria, through the competitive process.

**"Common Ground"** refers to the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan prepared by RMC and approved by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and by the Central Basin Water Association and the San Gabriel Valley Water Association.

**"Connectivity"** means continuity in open space enabling linkages between open space, and wildlife habitat areas and typically including trails and passive or active recreation nodes.

**"Contract"** means the agreement between the RMC, grantee, property owner, and/or mortgage lender, specifying the payment of funds for the performance of a project scope within the project performance period by the grantee.

**"Contractor"** means the prime person or firm that has been selected by the grantee to perform the project work.

**"Development"** means improvements to real property by construction of new facilities or rehabilitation, restoration, renovation or additions to existing sites, property, or facilities.

**“Disadvantaged community”** (DAC) has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 79505.5, is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income or a community with an annual per capita income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual per capita income (term may be amended). A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

**"District"** means an agency of the state, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries, such as a regional park district, regional open space district, water district, conservation district, or flood control district.

**"Ecological Value"** means the project will support the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

**"Ecosystem"** means a balanced natural system of living organisms and their environment.

**"Enhancement"** means to modify current conditions and may be used to describe a project that would result in a natural resource, habitat, cultural or historic site, recreational area, or existing facility achieving a desired level of improvements while considering the protection of the natural environment. It is distinguishable from "restoration" in that it does not imply merely a return to historic natural conditions but may include the provision of recreation or other aspects that were not original features.

**"Environmental Education"** means programs and related facilities and processes that increase knowledge and awareness about the environment and help develop skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that impact the environment.

**"Environmental Justice"** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people –regardless of race, ethnicity, and income or education level – in environmental decision-making. Environmental justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

**"Exotic species"** means any non-indigenous plant or animal species.

**"Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe"** means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for special programs and services provided by the Secretary of the Interior.

**"Grantee"** means an Applicant who has a contract for grant funds.

**“Green Building”** means a building which is designed, constructed, and operated consistent with the rating system for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system developed by the US Green Building Council.

**"Habitat linkage"** means connections between otherwise isolated areas of habitat that may (1) provide for daily and seasonal movements of animals; (2) facilitate dispersal, gene flow, and rescue effects (for animals or plants); (3) allow for range shifts of species; and (4) maintain flows of ecological processes (e.g., fire, wind, sediments, water).

**“Habitat creation”** means the formation or increase of at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors.

**"Habitat preservation"** means keeping threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned urban development.

**"Habitat restoration"** means to return the site's hydrology, topography and natural vegetative communities to historic predisturbance conditions so that the site provides food and shelter for wildlife, and performs natural processes including reducing the volume and velocity of runoff, and increasing the water infiltration rates.

**"Historical Resource"** includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, site area, place, artifact, or collection of artifacts that is historically or archaeologically significant in the cultural annals of California.

**"Indirect Costs"** means expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically with a grant, contract, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to the project; functions such as personnel, accounting, and salaries of supervisors and managers; and overhead such as rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

**"In-Kind"** means applicant's land, materials and/or services provided as matching funds for a project in lieu of monetary type funding.

**"Instream flows"** means a specific streamflow, measured in cubic feet per second, at a particular location for a defined time, and typically follows seasonal variations.

**"Integrated regional water management plan"** (IRWMP) has the meaning set forth in Part 2.2 (commencing with Section 10530) of Division 6, as that part may be amended.

**"Interpretation"** means an intelligent and meaningful presentation and explanation of the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

**"Jurisdiction"** means the legal boundary of the grant Applicant, i.e. the city, county, or district.

**"Large or multi sub watershed project"** means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in more than one watershed plan; 2) address more than one habitat issue identified by the Green Visions planning tools; 3) provide substantive water quality benefits to more than one designated impaired water body; or 4) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is regionally accessible.

**"Local Conservation Corps"** means the local division of the California Conservation Corps, a state administered organization for youth volunteers to protect and enhance California's environment and communities and provide assistance in emergencies.

**"Local Agencies"** means a city, county, or district entity formed for purposes pursuant to a joint powers agreement between two or more local entities that are eligible for Grant Programs administered by RMC.

**"Low Impact Recreation"** means any development, rehabilitation, or enhancement of resource-based facilities and the associated visitor activities that result in minimized impacts on natural areas and natural systems. Low impact activities are generally human powered and may include walking, picnicking, hiking, cycling, non-motorized boating or equestrian use, bird watching, fishing, star-gazing or photography; and organized events such as interpretive tours, nature walks or educational programs.

**"Management Plan"** means a plan that identifies responsibility for future management of a given area to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resource values, and where appropriate, provides for multiple objectives, and identifies funds for that management.

**"Match"** means funds or equivalent in-kind contributions in addition to RMC Grant Funds. Increased consideration will be given to projects that provide matching funds or equivalent in-kind contributions.

**"Medium sub watershed project"** means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in an applicable watershed plan or by the Green Visions planning tools; 2) provide substantive water quality benefits to a designated impaired water body; or 3) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is generally accessible to multiple local communities.

**"Monitoring and Assessment"** means an assessment process to evaluate the success of the proposed action or improvement, and monitoring progress towards meeting project goals. The standards for monitoring each project approved for funding will be developed in concert with RMC.

**"Multi-jurisdictional"** projects that provide shared solutions for multiple communities, for example a community that lacks safe, affordable drinking water and is served by a small community water system, state small water system, or a private well when improved can service more than one community. Projects that create, preserve, restore open space that will benefit a regional Region. As another example, a watershed management plan update that serves an entire watershed.

**"Multiple Benefit"** means projects that involve more than one public benefit objective including habitat enhancement or protection, water quality improvement, historic resource protection or improvement, public access development, environmental education or any combination of such objectives.

**"Natural habitat"** means relatively undisturbed lands and vegetation communities that provide food and shelter for wildlife and also perform natural functions such as, reducing the volume and velocity of storm runoff, and enabling water infiltration.

**"NEPA"** means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Public Law 91-190, Title 42 United States Code Sections 4321-433347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, Section 4 (b), September 13, 1982). NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake, fund or approve.

**"Nonprofit Organization"** means any private, nonprofit organization, existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation or enhancement of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic or open-space values, the protection of the natural environment, or the preservation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife or their habitat.

**"Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work"** means the notice completed by the grantee and filed with the county recorder in the county where the property is located, upon completion and acceptance of any and all construction work related to a project.

**"Open Space"** means any area that can potentially serve as wildlife habitat, facilitate natural processes, or allow for public access for passive forms of recreation.

**"Plans"** means the detailed drawings or exact reproductions that show location, character, layout, dimensions, and details of the work to be constructed under the contract for a historical resource Project.

**"Planning"** means specific preparations necessary to execute eligible projects. Planning includes conceptual designs, pre-schematic work, such as initial architectural or engineering plans prepared during the preliminary project phase; schematic documents; technical consulting; construction design; CEQA/NEPA documentation; preparation of construction bidding documents; permits or appraisals. Planning costs are distinct from hard project costs of actual construction or land acquisition.

**"Project"** means the acquisition, development, (rehabilitation and restoration), or interpretation activities to be accomplished with grant funds.

**"Project Development Plan"** means the plan required by the RMC prior to grant award which describes how the project meets the RMC policies and criteria.

**"Project Manager"** means an employee of RMC, who acts as a liaison with Grantees and administers grants.

**"Project Management Plan"** means the overall plan used to describe how the completed project would be operated and maintained on a long term basis. This document could include habitat, landscape, park, and other facility/resource long term management plans.

**"Project Performance Period"** means the period of time that the grant funds are available, and the time in which the project must be completed, billed, and paid.

**"Project Scope"** means the description or activity of work to be accomplished on the project.

**"Property"** means the land, including all structures attached to such land, upon which the project is located.

**"Property Owner"** means the person or entity that holds the fee simple interest of the Property.

**"Public access"** refers to public access generally with full right of way from a public thoroughfare or public transportation. It could also mean the provision for visitor support facilities, including public parking, trails, bikeways, restrooms, picnic areas and campgrounds and other recreational facilities.

**"Restoration"** means the process of reproducing, re-establishing, or rehabilitating a natural area or a cultural or historical site or feature that has otherwise deteriorated so that it emulates the site's historic condition before degradation.

**"Riparian"** means locations and associated vegetative communities related to or on the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes or other fresh water bodies.

**"Scenic Value"** means any historic, open space or other natural resource features with significant visual aesthetic values.

**"Severely disadvantaged community"** has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 116760.20 of the Health and Safety Code, as a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the statewide average. A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

**“Significant”** **1:** having meaning; *especially* : <a *significant* glance>  
**2 a:** having or likely to have influence or effect : <a *significant* piece of legislation>; *also:* of a noticeably or measurably large amount <a *significant* number of layoffs> <producing *significant* profits> **b:** probably caused by something other than mere chance <statistically *significant* correlation between vitamin deficiency and disease>

**“Small or neighborhood project”** means a project intended to address site-specific, or neighborhood-scale, water quality or habitat issues, or that is intended to provide open space or passive recreational amenities intended for local community.

**“Small community water system”** means a community water system that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.

**“Specifications”** means all written directions, provisions, and requirements governing the methods and procedures to be followed in connection with bidding and awarding of contract and performance and execution of the work, the quantities and qualities of materials to be used, the method of measurement of the quantities of work, and the nature of the contractual relationships that will exist during the course of the work.

**“Stewardship”** means the development, implementation, and long-term management of important resources and typically involving the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of natural systems and/or outstanding features, and historical and cultural resources.

**“Sustainable/Sustainability”** means the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Also, the goal of life, liberty, and social well-being within the means of nature.

**“Target Areas”** means one of the three priority areas within the RMC Region, which may include:

Urban Land: Census tracts within project service areas that meet the disadvantaged community criteria of more than 30% youth and less than 80% of the state’s average annual income.

Mountains, Hills, Foothills: Property acquisition that is necessary to maintain critical wildlife corridors and/or have at least 10 target species on site.

River/Tributary Corridors: Projects which include riparian habitat/wetland restoration and extend or enhance recreational trail corridors.

**“Threatened or Endangered Species”** means species listed as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act passed in 1973.

**“Threatened Natural Habitats”** include any areas that contain natural habitat that will be destroyed or degraded by a proposed urban development plan which, at the least, has already been submitted to the governing jurisdiction or planning commission.

**“Tier”** means the category into which projects submitted for grant consideration will be placed, either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

**“Tier 1 projects”** are those projects ready for immediate implementation and meet the following criteria:

1. Acquisition/development projects that add NEW acreage for open space or develop NEW areas for recreational uses, and habitat creation/restoration projects that create NEW habitat opportunities, consistent with the planning targets in the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

2. For acquisition projects, compelling evidence of a willing seller (e.g., via a letter of intent or option)
3. For development or restoration projects, compelling evidence that land tenure and all necessary permits are secured
4. Verifiable evidence that the project has sufficient funding resources such that the RMC grant will complete the funding package and allow immediate project implementation

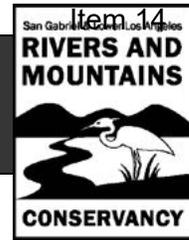
**“Tier 2 projects”** are all projects that do not meet the Tier 1 criteria.

**“Trailhead and Trailside Facilities”** include, but are not limited to parking, utilities, restrooms, benches, bridges, draining structures, fencing, and interpretive and informational signs, exhibit and brochure shelters and related facilities.

**“Urban Greening”** per the adopted guidelines by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Master plans.

**“Watershed”** means a region or area bound peripherally by a divide or ridge, all of which drains to a particular watercourse or body of water. Most urban sites are now mini-watersheds, with the property line constituting the "ridge" and the storm drain system located in the street constituting the "watercourse" to which it discharges.

**“Willing seller”** means that all landowners are willing participants in any proposed real property transactions.



# RMC GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

1. **Grant Program:**

- Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River \***      **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**  
 **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River \***      **Small Grants Program** (between \$50,000-\$300,000) \*\*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*     *\*\*w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program*

2. **Applicant Information:**

|                          |  |                       |  |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b> |  |                       |  |
| <b>Title</b>             |  |                       |  |
| <b>Name of Agency</b>    |  |                       |  |
| <b>Address</b>           |  |                       |  |
| <b>Telephone No.</b>     |  | <b>Tele-Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>             |  |                       |  |

3. **Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(*max. 50 characters*):

4. **Project Description** (150 words or less):

5. **Program Type:**

- Urban Lands                                      Rivers/Tributary Parkways                                      Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. **Project Type** (check all that apply):

- Planning                                      Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only)                                      Riparian Habitat Restoration  
 Acquisition                                      Low Impact Recreation Wetland                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP  
 Open Space                                      Habitat Restoration Upland                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation  
 Development                                      Habitat Restoration                                      Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage

7. **Project Location:**

|                     |                        |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>     |                        | <b>City:</b>                 |
| <b>County:</b>      | <b>District:</b>       | <b>County Sup. District:</b> |
| <b>Senate Dist:</b> | <b>Assembly Dist.:</b> | <b>Congressional Dist.:</b>  |
| <b>Lat/Long:</b>    | <b>Parcel No(s):</b>   |                              |

8. **Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?**      No (skip to question 10)  
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Will this project result in new or improved park/open space?  No (skip to question 9)  Yes (fill in following information)
- No. of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  Trail Miles: \_\_\_\_\_  Urban Forestry, No. of trees: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?  
 (includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))

Yes, Project serves an SDAC  No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. Does your project involve an acquisition?  No (skip to question 12)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Status:</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Option                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller Letter |  |
| <b>Appraisal:</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Current Title Report:</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Environmental Assessment:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |

12. Does your project involve development/implementation?  No (skip to question 13)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

**Land Tenure:**

Do you have site control?  No  Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

**Land Use:**

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances?  Yes  No (Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit).  
 Comments:

**Permits:**

Do you have permits?  No  Yes, answer questions below

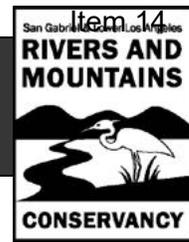
| Agency                                    | Yes                      | No                       | N/A                      | Date | Comments |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| California Fish and Wildlife              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| State Water Control Resources Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Army Corp of Engineers                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Fish and Wildlife                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Los Angeles County Flood Control District | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| City/County Construction Permits          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Coastal Commission                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Other:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |

**Design:**

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

- General project concept with no professional design work
- Professionally drafted concept design
- Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
- 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- Approved construction drawings with all permits





# RMC VERY SMALL GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

1. RMC Very Small Grant Program (under \$50,000). Which funding source?

- Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Lower LA River \*      Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Regionwide  
 Prop 1 (Water Bond, 2014) Lower LA River \*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

2. Applicant Information:

|                   |  |                |  |
|-------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Name of Applicant |  |                |  |
| Title             |  |                |  |
| Name of Agency    |  |                |  |
| Address           |  |                |  |
| Telephone No.     |  | Tele-Extension |  |
| Email             |  |                |  |

3. Project Name (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(max. 50 characters):

4. Project Description (150 words or less):

5. Program Type:

- Urban Lands                                       Rivers/Tributary Parkways                                       Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. Project Type (check all that apply):

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance (P68 only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat Restoration               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space  | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Recreation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Habitat Restoration     | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Habitat Restoration      | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage |

7. Project Location:

|              |                 |                       |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Address:     |                 | City:                 |
| County:      | City District:  | County Sup. District: |
| Senate Dist: | Assembly Dist.: | Congressional Dist.:  |
| Lat/Long:    | Parcel No(s):   |                       |

8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?      No (skip to question 10)  
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_      Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_



**How does the Project address key RMC Objectives?** (Note: minimum 70% total score threshold)

| Key RMC Objectives  | Proposed Project<br><i>*Please provide longer responses on a separate page</i> |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1.0 Access (20%).</b> How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ) (30%).</b> How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. Examples are areas located in or adjacent to DACs as defined by the CallEnviroScreen 3.0 tool (at least 70% pollution/socio-economic burden of State).</p> |  |
| <p><b>3.0 Outreach (10%).</b> How will project involve the community through outreach and education?</p>  |  |
| <p><b>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit (30%).</b> Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat?</p>  |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match (10%).</b><br/>Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.</p> |  |
|---|--|

**Complete Project Description** (can include description, Statement of Need, Goals and Objectives). Use another page if necessary.

**Also Provide:**

- **Exhibit A) Tasklist and Timeline:** The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment.
- **Exhibit B) Budget:** The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact).  
*See the RMC website for an example of a project budget and timeline at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.*
- **Exhibit C)**
- **Exhibit D)**
- **Exhibit E)**

## Appendix E: Signage Guidelines

### ■ Authority

All Projects funded by RMC under Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, and Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1), and Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 84) must include a posted sign acknowledging the source of the funds.

### ■ Purpose

Installation of signs at all Project sites is intended to acknowledge the public's support of the appropriate Bond measure(s) and promote the benefits provided by Bond fund assistance.

### ■ Types of Signs

#### 1. Signs posted during construction (required for specific situations)

For Projects funded with Bond Act funds in excess of \$750,000 and/or those Project in areas of high visibility (such as near a major thoroughfare) a sign is required during construction.

Recommended minimum size of sign: 4 feet x 8 feet

#### 2. Signs Posted Upon Completion (required for all Projects)

All Grantees are required to post a sign at the Project site. The sign must be available for the final inspection of the Project. All signs must include the universal logo (see information on the logo below).

There is no minimum or maximum size for the sign (other than the minimum size for the logo) as long as the sign contains the required wording (see below).

### ■ Language for Sign

All signs will contain the minimum language below:

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>[Project Name]</b></p> <p>Another Project to Improve California<br/>Funded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy<br/>LOGO<br/><b><i>California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection,<br/>and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Or other Bond as<br/>appropriate)</i></b></p> <p><b>Wade Crowfoot</b>, Secretary for Resources<br/><b>Gavin Newsom</b>, Governor</p> |
|---|

The name of the local agency or other governing body may also be added. The sign may also include the names (and/or logos) of other partners, organizations, individuals and elected representatives as deemed appropriate by those involved in the Project.

## ■ Universal Logo

All signs will contain the RMC logo. The logo will be on a template, available on line at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov>. Your Project manager can also provide the logo on disk.

- The logo must be mounted in an area to maximize visibility and durability.
- The logo must be a minimum of 2'x2'. Exceptions are permitted in the case of trails, historical sites and other areas where these dimensions may not be appropriate.

## ■ Sign Construction

All materials used shall be durable and resistant to the elements and graffiti. The California Department of Parks and Recreation and California Department of Transportation standards can be used as a guide for gauge of metal, quality of paints used, mounting specifications, etc.

## ■ Sign Duration

The goal is to have Project signs in place for a lengthy period of time, preferably a minimum of two years for all Projects and four years for Projects over \$750,000.

## ■ Sign Cost

The cost of the sign(s) is an eligible Project cost. More permanent signage is also encouraged; e.g., bronze memorials mounted in stone at trailheads, on refurbished historical monuments and buildings, etc.

## ■ Appropriateness of Signs

For Projects where the required sign may be out of place (such as some cultural and historic monuments and buildings or where affected by local sign ordinances), the Project Manager in consultation with the Applicant may authorize a sign that is appropriate to the Project in question. Alternate signage must be clearly recognizable as a RMC Bond Project. Archaeological sites are excluded from the sign requirement.

## ■ Signs on State Highways

Signs placed within the state highway right-of-way may require a Caltrans encroachment permit. Contact your local Caltrans District Office early in the planning phases for more information.

## ■ Further Questions

The Grantee should consult with the Project Manager to resolve any sign issues.

## Appendix F: Sample Resolution

*Applicants need not use this specific language as long as the resolution matches the intent and purpose of this sample.*

Date: November XX, 201X

### RESOLUTION 201X-XX

#### RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF XXX APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68), FOR THE XXXX PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

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), which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California for the Project;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of XXX hereby;

Approves the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program for the XXX Park Wetland Restoration Project under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68); and

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

Certifies that the Project is consistent with the goals of Proposition 68 developing urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

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

Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines; and

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

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of XXX at this meeting of November XX, 201X by the following vote.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

### Appendix G: Permit Form

Please complete the following form regarding any permits, easements, or certifications that may be required by your project (attach additional pages as necessary).

| <i>Type of Permit</i> | <i>Granting Agency</i> | <i>Status of Permit</i> | <i>Date approval expected/given</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 2.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 3.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 4.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 5.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 6.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 7.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 8.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 9.                    |                        |                         |                                     |
| 10.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 11.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 12.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 13.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 14.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 15.                   |                        |                         |                                     |
| 16.                   |                        |                         |                                     |

## Appendix H: CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CERTIFIED COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CORPS CONSULTATION

### California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Proposition 68 – Parks, Environment and Water Bond Guidelines

#### Corps Consultation Process

This process has been developed to ensure compliance with Division 45 of the Public Resource Code, Chapter 1, Section 80016 that specifies the involvement of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the certified community conservation corps (as represented by the California Association of Local Conservation Corps-CALCC).

Public Resource Code Section 80016 states “To the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant under this division.”

Applicants seeking funds for Proposition 68 project should consult with representative of CCC or CALCC (hereafter collectively referred to as Corps) to determine the feasibility of the Corps’ participation. **Both CCC and CALCC must be consulted prior to application submission.**

The Corps have developed the following consultation process:

- Step 1: Prior to submittal of an application or project plan to the Funder, Applicant prepares the following information for submission to both the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CALCC (who represents the certified community conservation corps):
- Project Title
  - Project Description (identifying key project activities and deliverables)
  - Project Map (showing project location)
  - Project Implementation estimated start and end dates
- Step 2: Applicant submits the forgoing information via email concurrently to the CCC and CALCC representatives:
- California Conservation Corps representative:  
Name: Andrea Gabriel  
Email: [Prop68@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@ccc.ca.gov)  
Phone: (916) 341-3272
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps representative:  
Name: Hannah Tillman  
Email: [inquiry@prop68CommunityCorps.org](mailto:inquiry@prop68CommunityCorps.org)  
Phone: 916-426-9170x4
- Step 3: Within five (5) business days of receiving the project information, the CCC and CALCC representatives will review the submitted information, contact the applicant if necessary, and respond to the applicant with a Corps Consultation Review Document (template attached) informing them:
- (1) It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project; or

- (2) It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and identifying the aspects of the project that can be accomplished with Corps services.

Note: While the Corps will take up to 5 days to review projects, applicants are encouraged to contact the CCC/CALCC representatives to discuss feasibility **early in the project development process**.

The Corps cannot guarantee a compliant review process for applicants who submit project information fewer than 5 business days before a deadline.

- Step 4: Applicant submits application to Funder that includes Corps Consultation Review Document. If the Corps determine their participation is feasible, the applicant must describe the project components involving Corps in the application and provide an estimated budget for that component.
- Step 5: Funder reviews applications. Applications that do not include documentation demonstrating that the Corps have been consulted will be deemed “noncompliant” and will not be considered for funding.

**NOTES:**

1. The Corps already have determined that it is not feasible to use their services on restoration and ecosystem protection projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from the consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Consultation Review Document.
2. An applicant that has been awarded funds to undertake a project where it has been determined that Corps services can be used must thereafter work with either the CCC or CALCC to develop a scope of work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps. Unless otherwise excused, failure to utilize a Corps on such a project will result in Funding Entities assessing a scoring penalty on the applicant’s future applications for Chapter 6 Funds.
3. **Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 80001(b)(5)**  
Public Resources Code Section 80001(b)(5) requires to the extent practicable, that projects provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities. Partnering with Corps will provide workforce education, training and job opportunities for the young adult members of Conservation Corps.

Corps Consultation Review Document is available [here](http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/intro.html) and on the RMC website:  
<http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/intro.html>

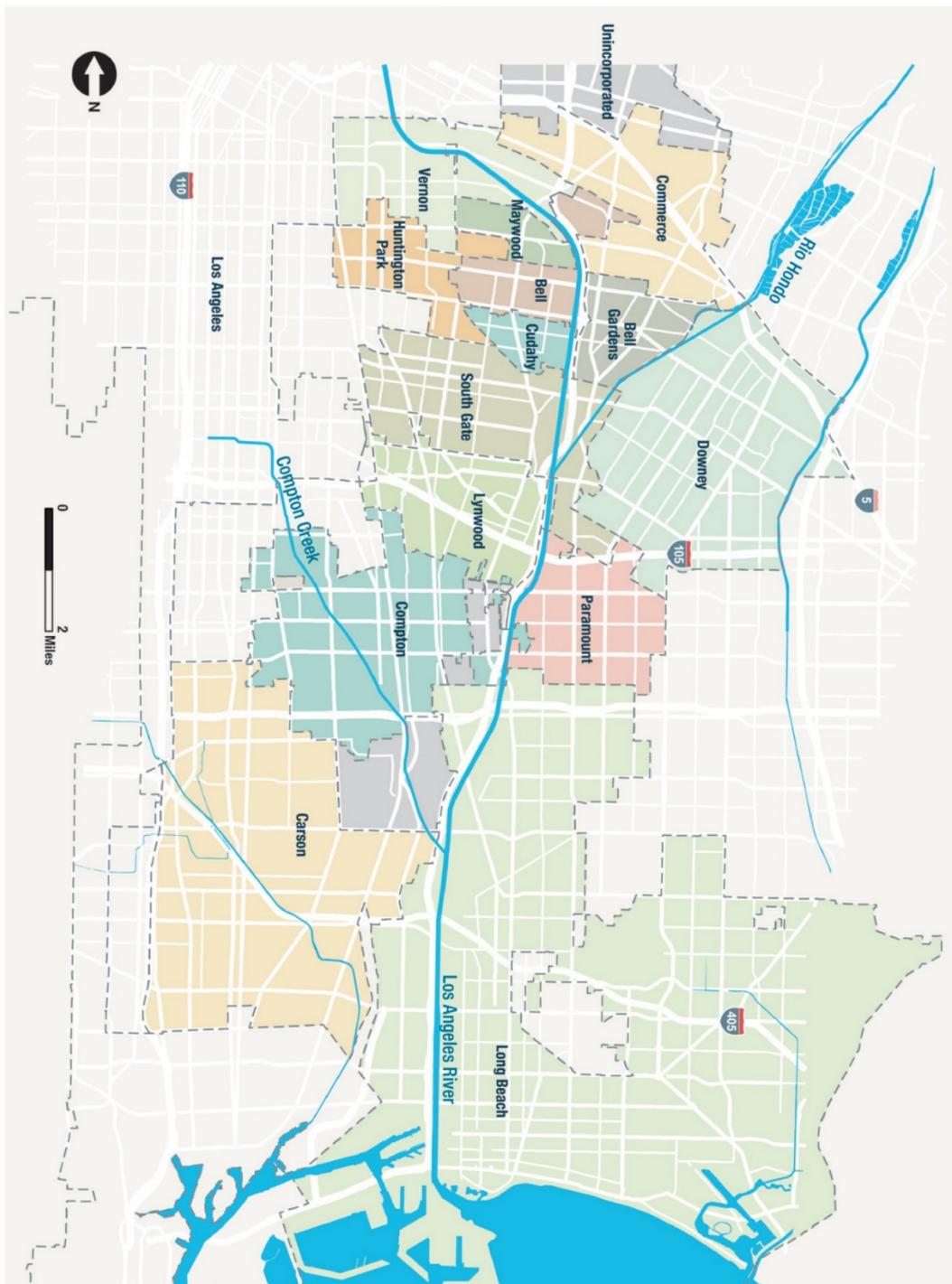
# Appendix I: RMC Region Map

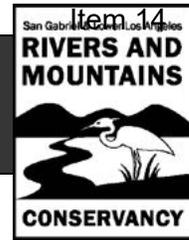
An interactive map of the RMC Region is available at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov).



### Appendix J: Lower LA River Map

An interactive map of the Lower LA River Revitalization Projects is available at [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov).





# RMC GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

**1. Grant Program:**

- Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River \***     
  **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**  
 **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River \***     
  **Small Grants Program** (between \$50,000-\$300,000) \*\*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*     
 *\*\*w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program*

**2. Applicant Information:**

|                          |  |                       |  |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b> |  |                       |  |
| <b>Title</b>             |  |                       |  |
| <b>Name of Agency</b>    |  |                       |  |
| <b>Address</b>           |  |                       |  |
| <b>Telephone No.</b>     |  | <b>Tele-Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>             |  |                       |  |

**3. Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(*max. 50 characters*):

**4. Project Description** (150 words or less):

**5. Program Type:**

- Urban Lands                             
  Rivers/Tributary Parkways                             
  Mountains, Hills and Foothills

**6. Project Type** (check all that apply):

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat Restoration               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Recreation Wetland       | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space  | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration Upland          | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage |

**7. Project Location:**

|                     |                        |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>     |                        | <b>City:</b>                 |
| <b>County:</b>      | <b>District:</b>       | <b>County Sup. District:</b> |
| <b>Senate Dist:</b> | <b>Assembly Dist.:</b> | <b>Congressional Dist.:</b>  |
| <b>Lat/Long:</b>    | <b>Parcel No(s):</b>   |                              |

**8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?**     
 No (skip to question 10)  
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_     
  Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_     
  Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_     
  Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_     
  Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Will this project result in new or improved park/open space?  No (skip to question 9)  Yes (fill in following information)
- No. of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  Trail Miles: \_\_\_\_\_  Urban Forestry, No. of trees: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?  
 (includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))
- Yes, Project serves an SDAC  No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. Does your project involve an acquisition?  No (skip to question 12)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Status:</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Option                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe): |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller Letter |  |
| <b>Appraisal:</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Current Title Report:</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |
| <b>Environmental Assessment:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes:                  | Company:                                   |
|                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No:                   | Date of completion, if known:              |

12. Does your project involve development/implementation?  No (skip to question 13)  Yes (fill in following information)

**Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application**

**Land Tenure:**

Do you have site control?  No  Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

**Land Use:**

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances?  Yes  No (Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit).  
 Comments:

**Permits:**

Do you have permits?  No  Yes, answer questions below

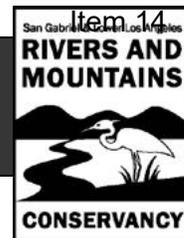
| Agency                                    | Yes                      | No                       | N/A                      | Date | Comments |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| California Fish and Wildlife              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| State Water Control Resources Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Army Corp of Engineers                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| US Fish and Wildlife                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Los Angeles County Flood Control District | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| City/County Construction Permits          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Coastal Commission                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |
| Other:                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |      |          |

**Design:**

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

- General project concept with no professional design work
- Professionally drafted concept design
- Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
- 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
- Approved construction drawings with all permits





# RMC VERY SMALL GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form

1. RMC Very Small Grant Program (under \$50,000). Which funding source?

- Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Lower LA River \*    
  Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Regionwide  
 Prop 1 (Water Bond, 2014) Lower LA River \*  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

2. Applicant Information:

|                   |  |                |  |
|-------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Name of Applicant |  |                |  |
| Title             |  |                |  |
| Name of Agency    |  |                |  |
| Address           |  |                |  |
| Telephone No.     |  | Tele-Extension |  |
| Email             |  |                |  |

3. Project Name (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(max. 50 characters):

4. Project Description (150 words or less):

5. Program Type:

- Urban Lands                                    
  Rivers/Tributary Parkways                                    
  Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. Project Type (check all that apply):

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning    | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance (P68 only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat Restoration               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space  | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Recreation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Habitat Restoration     | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Habitat Restoration      | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage |

7. Project Location:

|              |                 |                       |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Address:     |                 | City:                 |
| County:      | City District:  | County Sup. District: |
| Senate Dist: | Assembly Dist.: | Congressional Dist.:  |
| Lat/Long:    | Parcel No(s):   |                       |

8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?    
 No (skip to question 10)    
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_    
  Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_



**How does the Project address key RMC Objectives?** (Note: minimum 70% total score threshold)

| Key RMC Objectives  | Proposed Project<br><i>*Please provide longer responses on a separate page</i> |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1.0 Access (20%).</b> How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ) (30%).</b> How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. Examples are areas located in or adjacent to DACs as defined by the CallEnviroScreen 3.0 tool (at least 70% pollution/socio-economic burden of State).</p> |  |
| <p><b>3.0 Outreach (10%).</b> How will project involve the community through outreach and education?</p>  |  |
| <p><b>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit (30%).</b> Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat?</p>  |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match (10%).</b><br/>Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.</p> |  |
|---|--|

**Complete Project Description** (can include description, Statement of Need, Goals and Objectives). Use another page if necessary.

**Also Provide:**

- **Exhibit A) Tasklist and Timeline:** The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment.
- **Exhibit B) Budget:** The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact).  
*See the RMC website for an example of a project budget and timeline at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.*
- **Exhibit C)**
- **Exhibit D)**
- **Exhibit E)**

**RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Very Small Grant Program** **FY2020/23**

**Reviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Type:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Funding Source:** *(highlight one)* **Prop 1** **Prop 68**

**Grant Program:** *(highlight one)* **Lower LA River** **Territory-wide**

|   | Possible Score <sup>*,**</sup> | Reviewer Score | Reviewer Comments |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Key RMC Objectives</b>   |                                |                |                   |
| <b>1.0 Access.</b> How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?   | 2.0                            |                |                   |
| <b>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ).</b> How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas.   | 3.0                            |                |                   |
| <b>3.0 Outreach.</b> How will project involve the community through outreach and education?   | 1.0                            |                |                   |
| <b>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit.</b> Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat? | 3.0                            |                |                   |
| <b>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match.</b> Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.  | 1.0                            |                |                   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10.0</b>                    | <b>0</b>       |                   |

*\*Scoring is either full, partial (50%), or no score (0).*

*\*\*Scoring threshold for award is 70%*

**DAC Resources:**

The statewide Median Household Income (MHI) for 2016 is \$63,783; therefore, the calculated DAC and SDAC thresholds are \$51,026 and \$38,270, respectively. To determine project's MHI, please utilize Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping

Tool as a resource:

<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

**State Parks' Community Factfinder Toolkit**

<https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>

**Cal Enviroscreen 3.0**

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

September 21, 2020 – Item 14

RESOLUTION 2020-34

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING  
RMC PROPOSITION 68 and PROPOSITION 1 SMALL GRANTS  
PROGRAM FINAL GUIDELINES AND CALL FOR PROJECTS

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 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) is codified as Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code.; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all 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, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Public Resources Code allocates thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in accordance with the governing statutes and specified purposes; and

WHEREAS, Section 80100(1)(b) of the Public Resources Code allocates thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects to protect or enhance and urban creek; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 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, Section 79735 (a) of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 79508....

WHEREAS, Section 80010 of the Public Resources Code requires adoption of guidelines prior to disbursing grants; and

WHEREAS, Section 80010(b) of the Public Resources Code requires public meetings to consider public comments prior to adoption of guidelines; and

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 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.
- 3 FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68).
- 4 FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”).
- 5 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 6 ADOPTS the staff report dated September 21, 2020 for this item.
- 7 AUTHORIZES the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to finalize the Proposition 68 and Proposition 1 Small Grants Final Grant Program Guidelines and opens Call for Projects.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

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

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

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General

**DATE:** September 21, 2020

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Marybeth Vergara, Project Analyst II

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 15: Consideration of a resolution approving a Very Small Proposition 68 Grant to From Lot to Spot for the Community Engagement for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center and Lower LA River projects

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**PROGRAM AREA:** Rivers and Tributaries

**PROJECT TYPE:** Technical Assistance

**JURISDICTION:** City of South Gate

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Marybeth Vergara/Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC Board authorize approval of a Very Small Grant to From Lot to Spot (FLTS) to conduct Community Engagement for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center and Lower LA River projects, in the amount of \$50,000.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A: Lower LA River/Rio Hondo Confluence Project / Site Plan  
 Exhibit B: Budget,  
 Exhibit C: Tasklist & Timeline,  
 Exhibit D: FLTS' Very Small Grant Program – Grant Application  
 Exhibit E: FLTS' Grant Application Scored Review Sheet  
 Exhibit F: Disadvantaged Communities Report (source: DWR's DAC Mapping Tool)  
 Exhibit G: Project Connectivity Map

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).

On July 20, 2020, RMC Board approved the RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Draft Program Guidelines ("Small Grants Program") which explain the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds underline with the Conservancy's mission through use of its programs (Resolution 2020-31), and provided the public the opportunity to provide feedback. Final Guidelines are being recommended for approval concurrently at the September RMC Board Meeting (Resolution 2020-35).

RMC received two allocations within both Proposition 1 and 68, one for the entire RMC territory and one for the Lower LA River (LLAR). The Small Grants program is funded through both allocations for Proposition 68 and only the LLAR allocation for Proposition 1, capped at 15% of each allocation. The

Guidelines further identify the additional requirements and evaluation criteria applicable to Proposition 1 and 68 funded grants, and criteria and application for the Very Small Grant Program. Minimum evaluation scoring threshold for Small and Very Small Grants is set at 70% total score.

The Small Grants Program is being prompted by the expressed need from many communities, NGOs, municipalities, and agencies to support more environmental and economic revitalization efforts that are being delayed and worsened by the pandemic crisis. RMC is seeking to make RMC grants and technical assistance more accessible and useable, especially by and for high-need and very high-need communities.

After review by RMC staff, this grant received a score of 8.5 out of a total 10 points or 85% and recommends funding of this project.

|   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Project:</b>   | Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR |                              |
| <b>Applicant:</b>   | From Lot to Spot (FLTS)                            |                              |
| <b>Program area:</b>  | Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries            |                              |
| <b>Project Type:</b>  | Technical Assistance                               |                              |
| <b>Amount requested:</b>  | \$50,000   |                              |
| <b>Amount recommended funding:</b>                                    | \$50,000   |                              |
| <b>RIVER/TRIBUTARIES PLANNING PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY</b> |  |                              |
| <b>Factor</b>   | <b>Project Score</b>                               | <b>Total Possible Points</b> |
| 1. Access   | 2  | 2                            |
| 2. Environmental Justice  | 3  | 3                            |
| 3. Outreach   | 1  | 1                            |
| 4. Water/Habitat Benefit  | 3  | 1.5                          |
| 5. Stakeholders/Partners/Matching Funds                               | 1  | 1                            |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>8.5</b>                   |

The project is proposed by From Lot to Spot to develop a Covid-19 sensitive outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents—particularly focusing on monolingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers— for RHCAP projects and specifically the SELA Cultural Center, to ensure the SELA community is engaged on development of these projects.

Outreach activities will be documented and summarized into a report that can provide technical assistance to other local agencies and NGOs that are implementing LLARRP projects in Southeast LA Communities. Documentation will include list of key stakeholders and clear explanations of outreach activities and results.

Some ideas that have been successful in the past and ideas that have been developed/conceptualized as methods of engagement during times of coronavirus are:

- Social Media Townhalls,

- Online Surveys distribution,
- Project Briefings,
- Drive-In informational events,
- One-on-ones virtual meetings with community leaders and opinion influencers
- Exploring partnerships with other local agencies, non-profits, and/or community groups
  - Such entities as River in Action (RIA), Artist Guild, tribal groups, and others
- Round Table discussions,
- Social distance Tabling and Pop-up Events,
- Social distance Walk-and-Talk Site Tours, and
- Campaign-style outreach (such as lawn signs, use of QR codes, etc)

Goals of the project are to work towards building trust within the Southeast LA Community to be engaged on LLARRP projects and Rio Hondo Confluence Area Projects, specifically the SELA Cultural Center, and to ensure community feedback is heard and discussed as part of project development. Types of feedback will include the identification of community needs and interest related to Arts and Culture that contributes to the revitalization of the LA River. Outreach activities will be summarized into a technical assistance report that can be used as a resource by other local agencies and non-profits looking to engage and develop projects in the SELA region, especially during these unprecedented times.

Elements of the outreach tasks would seek to be done in collaboration with a number of environmental and community organizations. These groups may include River in Action (RIA), artist guild, tribal groups, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Latinas Art Foundation, Trust for Public Land, and various local homeowner associations in and near the city of South Gate. FLTS will consult with the City of South Gate, the Lower LA River Implementation Advisory Group (IAG), landowners and regulatory authorities, such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), in developing and coordinating outreach plans.

The estimated completion time for the outreach planning, implantation, and reporting process will take approximately 4.5 months, within the anticipated time period between September 2020-January 2021. This includes community engagement as well as engagement research and documentation for the final report, and administrative costs to close out of this grant.

In partnership with RMC, the City of South Gate and various community stakeholders, From Lot to Spot will conduct this outreach process which includes the following Scope of Work:

1. Project Management
2. Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy
  - a. Get updated on status of project with SELA Cultural Center Team, and discuss/coordinate outreach strategy and communications; familiarize with project status, team members, and timeline
  - b. Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy Development
3. Deployment of Community Outreach and Engagement Strategies
  - a. One-on-One and group meetings with outreach targets
  - b. Education strategies deployment
  - c. Deployment of community enhanced engagement strategies
4. Input and Support Strategies
  - a. FLTS will support the project teams in the dissemination and collection of digital surveys and other outreach tools, to ensure maximum SELA region exposure
  - b. Other input solicitation and project support building

5. Social Media Strategies
  - a. Collaborate with team on social media content development and deployment
6. LLAR Communities Engagement Report
  - a. Documentation of activities, summary and analysis of outreach strategies
  - b. Draft Report development; outline, draft text and images
  - c. Final LLAR Communities Engagement, Technical Assistance Report

If approved, the project will begin immediately and is anticipated to be completed by January 31, 2021.

**BACKGROUND:** Projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

One of the projects identified in the LLARRP was a Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo (See Exhibit A). RMC, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles (Public Works) and other local and regional entities, was identified as the appropriate state agency to lead the development of the SELA Community Cultural Arts Center. The project will sit on a 7.8-acre site along the east bank of the Los Angeles River on a current County Flood Control District Maintenance Yard. The Cultural Center is envisioned as a public facility that offers spaces for art display and performance as well as arts education and spaces for community gatherings. The overall goal of the project is to create a facility that promotes and encourages participation in the arts and culture of the local community and beyond. The variety of artistic and community programs will foster opportunities for users to develop creative ideas and offer arts education opportunities to youth and adults.

The LLARRP was successful in being a community- and stakeholder-driven process, and subsequent development of projects should continue to engage and build trust within neighboring communities in accordance with LLARRP. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all, which is partially the impetus of this project.

The preliminary building program that forms the basis of the SELA Cultural Center Project is as follows:

- Building Programming (approximately 80,000 sq. ft.), includes:
  - Community/Cultural facilities
  - Music Program facilities
  - Visual Arts Program facilities
- Site Programming (approximately 108,000 sq. ft.)

*Note that the preliminary building program is based on certain assumptions for Project and will need to be further defined.*

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time. FLTS does this by creating much needed, community-designed greenspaces and engaging community members in the development of their communities. In order for the projects we build to be real catalysts for revitalization in these communities, FLTS ensures there is a holistic approach to community participation.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** This action approves a technical assistance grant award to the non-profit organization, From Lot to Spot (FLTS), for a total amount of \$50,000 for the Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR. The performance period extends 4.5 months through January 31, 2021. Funding for this process will be allocated from the following statute of Proposition 68:

Proposition 68, Chapter 852 Statutes of 2017

Chapter 7 of Proposition 68, entitled "California River Recreation, Creek and Waterway Improvement Program," allocates one hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$162,000,000) for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Thirty-seven million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) of the funds available in Chapter 7 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code and Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000).

**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.
  - (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 executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

# LLARRP SIGNATURE PROJECTS



Source: www.lla.org/llarp/

# LLARRP RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE SIGNATURE PROJECT

## LEGEND

### CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

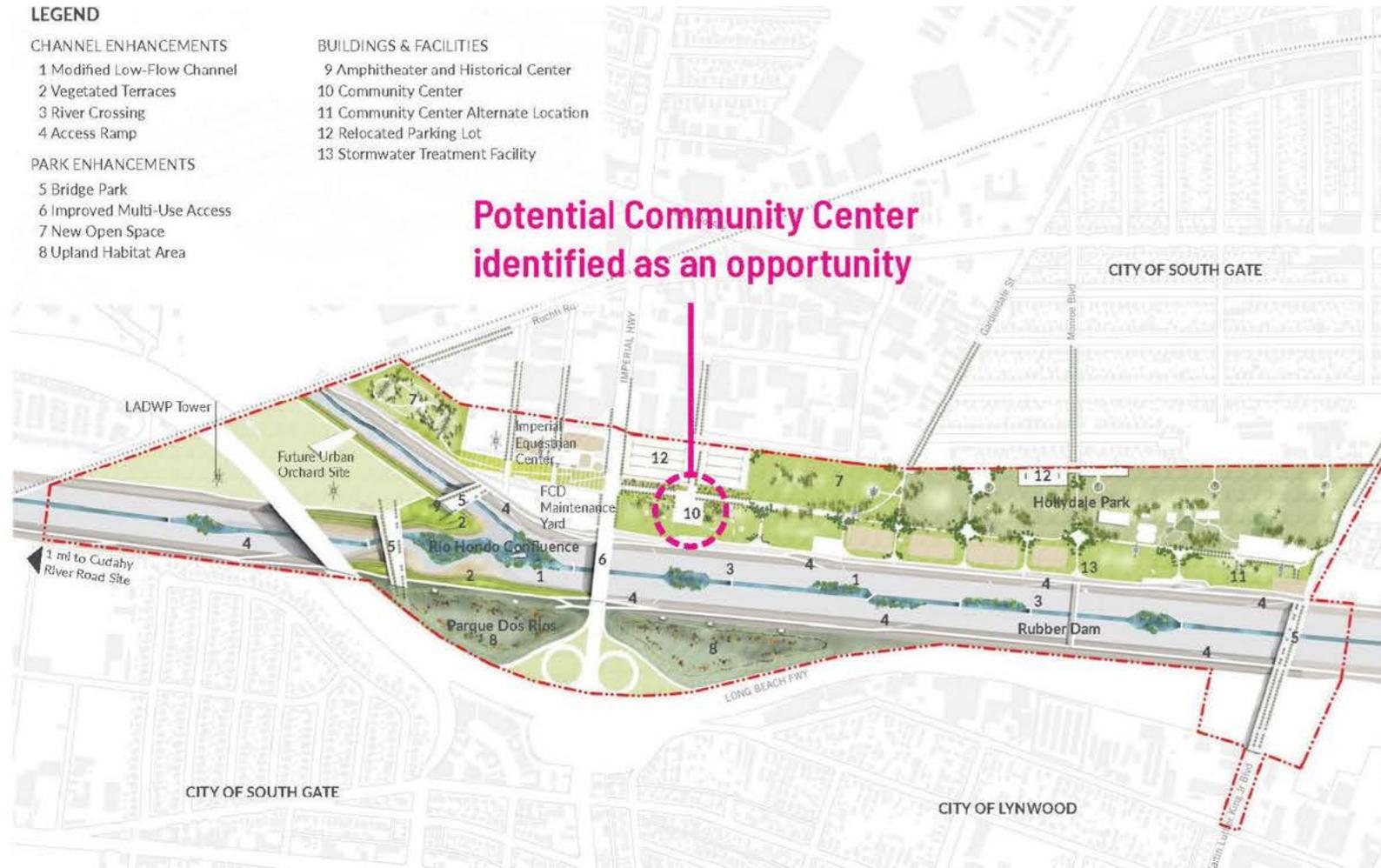
- 1 Modified Low-Flow Channel
- 2 Vegetated Terraces
- 3 River Crossing
- 4 Access Ramp

### PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- 5 Bridge Park
- 6 Improved Multi-Use Access
- 7 New Open Space
- 8 Upland Habitat Area

### BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

- 9 Amphitheater and Historical Center
- 10 Community Center
- 11 Community Center Alternate Location
- 12 Relocated Parking Lot
- 13 Stormwater Treatment Facility



Potential Community Center identified as an opportunity

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

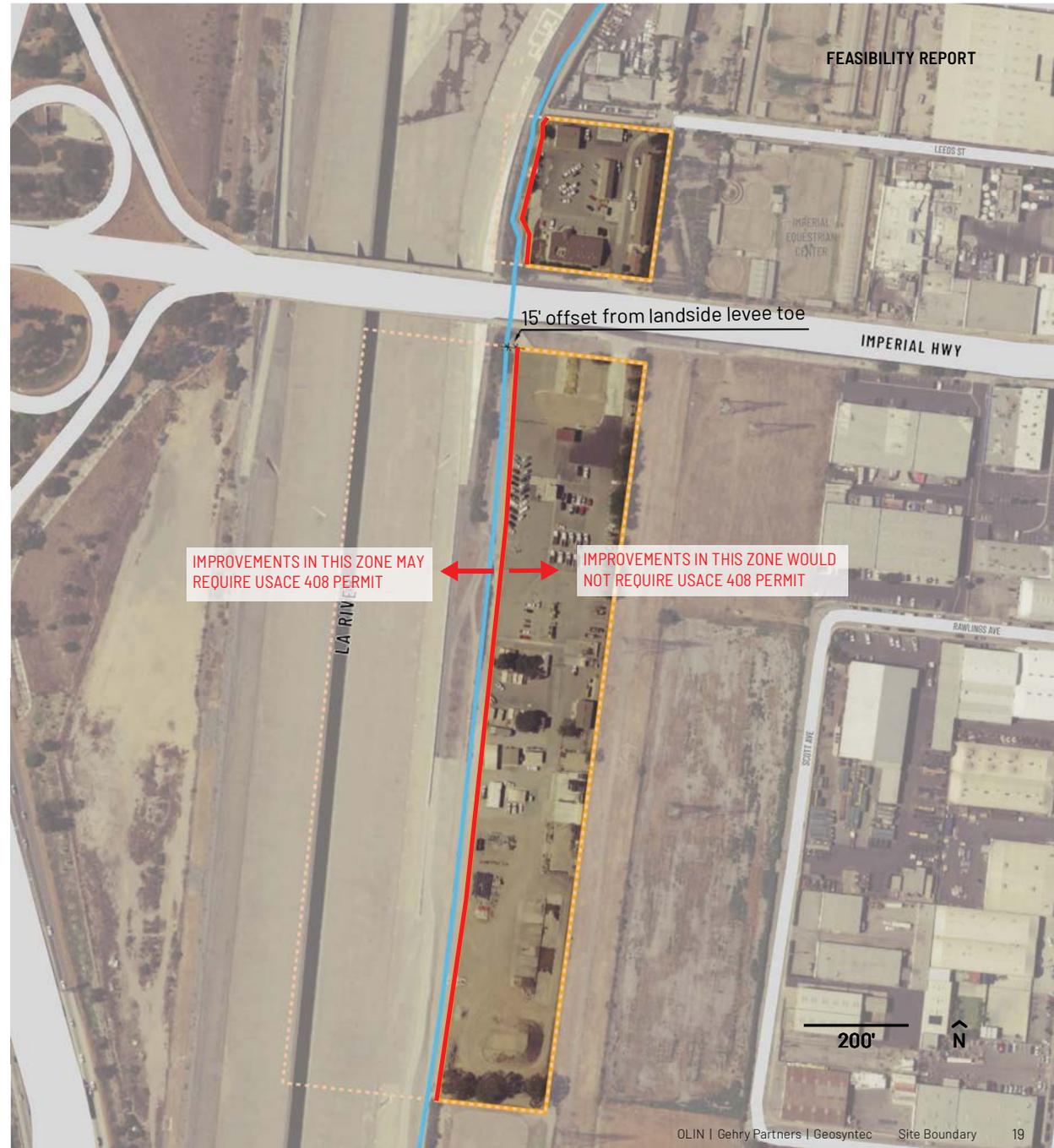
# SITE BOUNDARY

(Site south of Imperial Hwy only)

## LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- Levee Landside Toe

Source: OLIN; Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal, Assessor Parcels - 2016 Tax Roll, 2016 NAIP Aerial 2017



SELA CULTURAL CENTER

# AERIAL VIEW



FUTURE WEST SANTA ANA  
BRANCH (WSAB) LINE

SELA CULTURAL  
CENTER SITE

IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

RIO HONDO

I-710

LA RIVER

**Grantee:** From Lot to Spot

**Project Name:** Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

viviana@fromlottospot.org

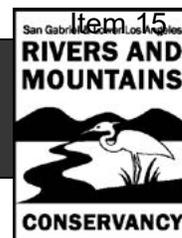
**RMC Total Budget Request:** \$50,000

| <b>Work Plan Task Number and Name</b>                               | <b>RMC Grant Request</b> | <b>Matching Funds #1 RMC BA2018</b> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Task #1 - Project Management  | \$ 5,000                 |                                     |
| Task #2 - Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy | \$ 2,145                 | \$ 208,860                          |
| Task #3 - Deployment of Community Outreach & Engagement Strategies  | \$ 10,560                |                                     |
| One-on-Ones and group meetings with outreach targets                |                          |                                     |
| Education Strategies Deployment                                     |                          |                                     |
| Task #4 - Input and Support Strategies                              | \$ 9,900                 |                                     |
| Input Solicitation and Project Support Building                     |                          |                                     |
| Task #5 - Social Media Strategies                                   | \$ 2,475                 |                                     |
| Collaborate on social media content development and deployment      |                          |                                     |
| Task #6 - LLAR Communities Engagement Report                        | \$ 12,000                |                                     |
| documentation of activities, summary and analysis of strategies     |                          |                                     |
| draft report  |                          |                                     |
| final report  |                          |                                     |
| Reimbursements  | \$ 3,375                 |                                     |
| graphic design/collateral materials                                 |                          |                                     |
| travel/mileage  |                          |                                     |
| canvassing  |                          |                                     |
| copying and printing and misc                                       |                          |                                     |
| social media  |                          |                                     |
| room rental   |                          |                                     |
| Subtotal  | \$ 45,455                | \$ 208,860                          |
| Indirect (10%)  | \$ 4,545                 |                                     |
| <b>TOTAL REQUEST =</b>  | \$ 50,000                | \$ 208,860                          |

| <b>Grantee:</b> From Lot to Spot   |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b> Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR                    |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>Contact and Address:</b> 2003 E 1st St, Los Angeles, CA 90033, viviana@fromlotospot.org |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>RMC Total Budget Request:</b> \$50,000  |             |             |             |             |             |
| RMC Tasklist and Timeline  |             |             |             |             |             |
| Performance Begin and End Date:<br>9/21/20 - 1/31/21                                       |             |             |             |             |             |
| Work Plan Task Number and Name   | SEP<br>2020 | OCT<br>2020 | NOV<br>2020 | DEC<br>2020 | JAN<br>2021 |
| Task #1 - Project Management   |             |             |             |             |             |
| Task #2 - Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy                        |             |             |             |             |             |
| Task #3 - Deployment of Community Outreach & Engagement Strategies                         |             |             |             |             |             |
| Task #4 - Input and Support Strategies   |             |             |             |             |             |
| Task #5 - Social Media Strategies  |             |             |             |             |             |
| Task #6 - LLAR Communities Engagement Report   |             |             |             |             |             |
| Grant Closeout   |             |             |             |             |             |

# RMC VERY SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

## Grant Application Form



### 1. RMC Very Small Grant Program (under \$50,000). Which funding source?

- Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River \***   
 **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**  
 **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River \***  
*\*within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

### 2. Applicant Information:

|                          |                                      |                       |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Applicant</b> | Viviana Franco                       |                       |  |
| <b>Title</b>             | Executive Director                   |                       |  |
| <b>Name of Agency</b>    | From Lot to Spot (FLTS)              |                       |  |
| <b>Address</b>           | 2003 E 1st St, Los Angeles, CA 90033 |                       |  |
| <b>Telephone No.</b>     | 323-680-6937                         | <b>Tele-Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>             | viviana@fromlottospot.org            |                       |  |

### 3. Project Name (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(max. 50 characters):

Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

### 4. Project Description (150 words or less):

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time through a holistic approach to community engagement. FLTS seeks to engage and build trust within the Southeast LA (SELA) community in support of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan's (LLARRP) proposed projects, specifically the SELA Cultural Center project, a multi-disciplinary arts facility currently in design phase in the City of South Gate. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all. FLTS will develop an outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents, particularly focusing on mono-lingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers, and then deploy engagement treatments. Outreach activities will be documented, summarized, and analyzed for effectiveness in an Outreach Report.

### 5. Program Type:

- Urban Lands                     
 Rivers/Tributary Parkways                     
 Mountains, Hills and Foothills

### 6. Project Type (check all that apply):

- Planning                     
 Open Space                     
 Riparian Habitat Restoration  
 Technical Assistance                     
 Low Impact Recreation                     
 Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP  
 Acquisition                     
 Wetland Habitat Restoration                     
 Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation  
 Development                     
 Upland Habitat Restoration                     
 Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage

### 7. Project Location:

|  |                        |                              |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>                                  |                        | <b>City:</b>                 |
| 5535 Imperial Hwy., South Gate, California 90280 |                        | South Gate                   |
| <b>County:</b>                                   | <b>City District:</b>  | <b>County Sup. District:</b> |
| Los Angeles                                      |                        | 2                            |
| <b>Senate Dist:</b>                              | <b>Assembly Dist.:</b> | <b>Congressional Dist.:</b>  |
| 33   | 63                     | 44                           |
| <b>Lat/Long:</b>                                 |                        | <b>Parcel No(s):</b>         |
| 33.9295, -118.1750                               |                        | 6234-012-900                 |

### 8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?    No (skip to question 10) Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Riparian Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Coastal Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Protection Acres: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: \_\_\_\_\_   
 Freshwater Wetlands Acres: \_\_\_\_\_



**How does the Project address key RMC Objectives?** *(Note: minimum 70% total score threshold)*

| Key RMC Objectives   | Proposed Project<br><i>*Please provide longer responses on a separate page</i>  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1.0 Access (20%).</b> How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?</p>   | <p>Outreach will support local community engagement for LLAR projects, including the SELA Cultural Center, a new, river-adjacent community facility with approximately 80,000 sq. ft. of building programming and 108,000 sq. ft. of site programming (2.5 acres). The site design concept prioritizes usable outdoor space for arts and music programming, performance, and cultural events, and will include public plazas, outdoor amphitheater, and bio-filtration gardens in a park-like setting.</p>                          |
| <p><b>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ) (30%).</b> How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. Examples are areas located in or adjacent to DACs as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool (at least 70% pollution/socio-economic burden of State).</p> | <p>The LLARRP's Rio Hondo Signature Projects, including the SELA Cultural Center, are regional projects that will effect SELA communities and beyond. This region is one of the nation's most park-poor urban centers with many underserved minority neighborhoods and State defined DACs and SDACs. The area around the project has only 1.53 acres per 1,000 residents, and has some of the highest pollution and socio-economic burdens in the State.</p>  |
| <p><b>3.0 Outreach (10%).</b> How will project involve the community through outreach and education?</p>   | <p>FLTS will focus on outlining a variety of inclusive strategies to educate and engage SELA Communities about the Cultural Center project's development process, proposed approach, and timeline. Also to help coordinate outreach among the various LLARRP Rio Hondo Signature Projects. FLTS will document and summarize outreach activities as a technical assistance doc to support other NGOs in SELA region.</p>   |
| <p><b>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit (30%).</b> Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat?</p>   | <p>The LA River/Rio Hondo Confluence area provides for the opportunity to establish plants along the LA River levee bank, such as at the Cultural Center Project. Additionally, biofiltration gardens and a subsurface cistern are part of the planned on-site stormwater management system to convey, clean, and store stormwater across the site and parking areas (for 300 vehicles) for the Project. Project will incorporate approximately 150 trees and a plant palette of native plants and resilient plant communities.</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match (10%).</b> Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.</p> | <p>Project partners include RMC, County of Los Angeles Flood Control District and City of South Gate. Outreach Plan will explore partnering with other local agencies, non-profits, and/or community groups.</p> |
|---|--|

**Complete Project Description** (can include description, Statement of Need, Goals and Objectives). Use another page if necessary.

The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Signature Project (RHCAP) was identified in the 2018 Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) and is located at a key opportunity area along the Lower Los Angeles River. Conceptual development is exploring options to connect communities to the RHCAP and create a key gathering place for Southeast Los Angeles. One of the projects in the RHCAP is the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center (SELA CC), a multi-disciplinary arts and culture facility that will be located in the City of South Gate in Southeast Los Angeles County, and is being led by RMC. The project will sit on a 7.8-acre site along the east bank of the Los Angeles River on a current County Flood Control District Maintenance Yard. The Cultural Center is envisioned as a public facility that offers spaces for art display and performance as well as arts education and spaces for community gatherings. The overall goal of the project is to create a facility that promotes and encourages participation in the arts and culture of the local community and beyond. The variety of artistic and community programs will foster opportunities for users to develop creative ideas and offer arts education opportunities to youth and adults.

The LLARRP was successful in being a community- and stakeholder-driven process, and subsequent development of projects should continue to engage and build trust within neighboring communities in accordance with LLARRP. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all. FLTS is proposing to develop a Covid-19 sensitive outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents—particularly focusing on monolingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers — for RHCAP projects and specifically the SELA Cultural Center, to ensure the SELA community is engaged on development of these projects. Outreach activities will be documented and summarized into a report that can provide technical assistance to other local agencies and NGOs that are implementing LLARRP projects in Southeast LA Communities. Documentation will include list of key stakeholders and clear explanations of outreach activities and results.

Some ideas that have been successful in the past and ideas that have been developed/conceptualized as methods of engagement during times of coronavirus are: Social Media Townhalls, Online Surveys distribution, Project Briefings, Drive-In informational events, Round Table discussions, Tabling and Pop-up Events, Walk-and-Talk Site Tours, and Campaign-style outreach (such as lawn signs, use of QR codes, etc).

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time. FLTS does this by creating much needed, community-designed greenspaces and engaging community members in the development of their communities. In order for the projects we build to be real catalysts for revitalization in these communities, FLTS ensures there is a holistic approach to community participation.

**Also Provide:**

- **Exhibit A) Tasklist and Timeline:** The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment.
- **Exhibit B) Budget:** The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact).  
*See the RMC website for an example of a project budget and timeline at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.*
- **Exhibit C)** Lower LA River Revitalization Plan - Rio Hondo Signature Project
- **Exhibit D)** SELA Cultural Center site boundary
- **Exhibit E)** Disadvantaged Communities Report (source: Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool)

**RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Very Small Grant Program** **FY2020/21**

Reviewer: Joseph Gonzalez

**Applicant:** From Lot to Spot

**Project Name:** Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

**Program Area:** Rivers and Tributaries

**Project Type:** Technical Assistance

**Funding Source:** (highlight one)

Prop 1

Prop 68

**Grant Program:** (highlight one)

Lower LA River

Territory-wide

|   | Possible Score *, ** | Reviewer Score | Reviewer Comments   |
|---|----------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Key RMC Objectives</b>   |                      |                |   |
| <b>1.0 Access.</b> How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?   | 2                    | 2              | Project focuses on providing community cultural and Arts resources and access, connecting to a regional greenway (LA River) and regional park (Hollydale Park). Project includes outdoor recreational amenities                                       |
| <b>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ).</b> How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas.   | 3                    | 3              | Project focuses on engaging SELA communities, which includes many SDACs, in project development process of regional projects  |
| <b>3.0 Outreach.</b> How will project involve the community through outreach and education?   | 1                    | 1              | Technical Assistance to provide Outreach support  |
| <b>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit.</b> Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat? | 3                    | 1.5            | Project focuses on providing community cultural and Arts resources and access, with some environmental benefits including water capture and habitat.  |
| <b>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match.</b> Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.  | 1                    | 1              | Project includes State (RMC and legislative offices), County (PW/FCD and Supervisors), local (city of south gate), and seeks to develop additional partners. Matching over 100% for additional outreach/project support (though matching RMC funding) |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>10</b>            | <b>8.5</b>     |   |

\*Scoring is either full, partial (50%), or no score (0).

\*\*Scoring threshold for award is 70%

**DAC Resources:**

The statewide Median Household Income (MHI) for 2016 is \$63,783; therefore, the calculated DAC and SDAC thresholds are \$51,026 and \$38,270, respectively. To determine project's MHI, please utilize Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping

Tool as a resource:

<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

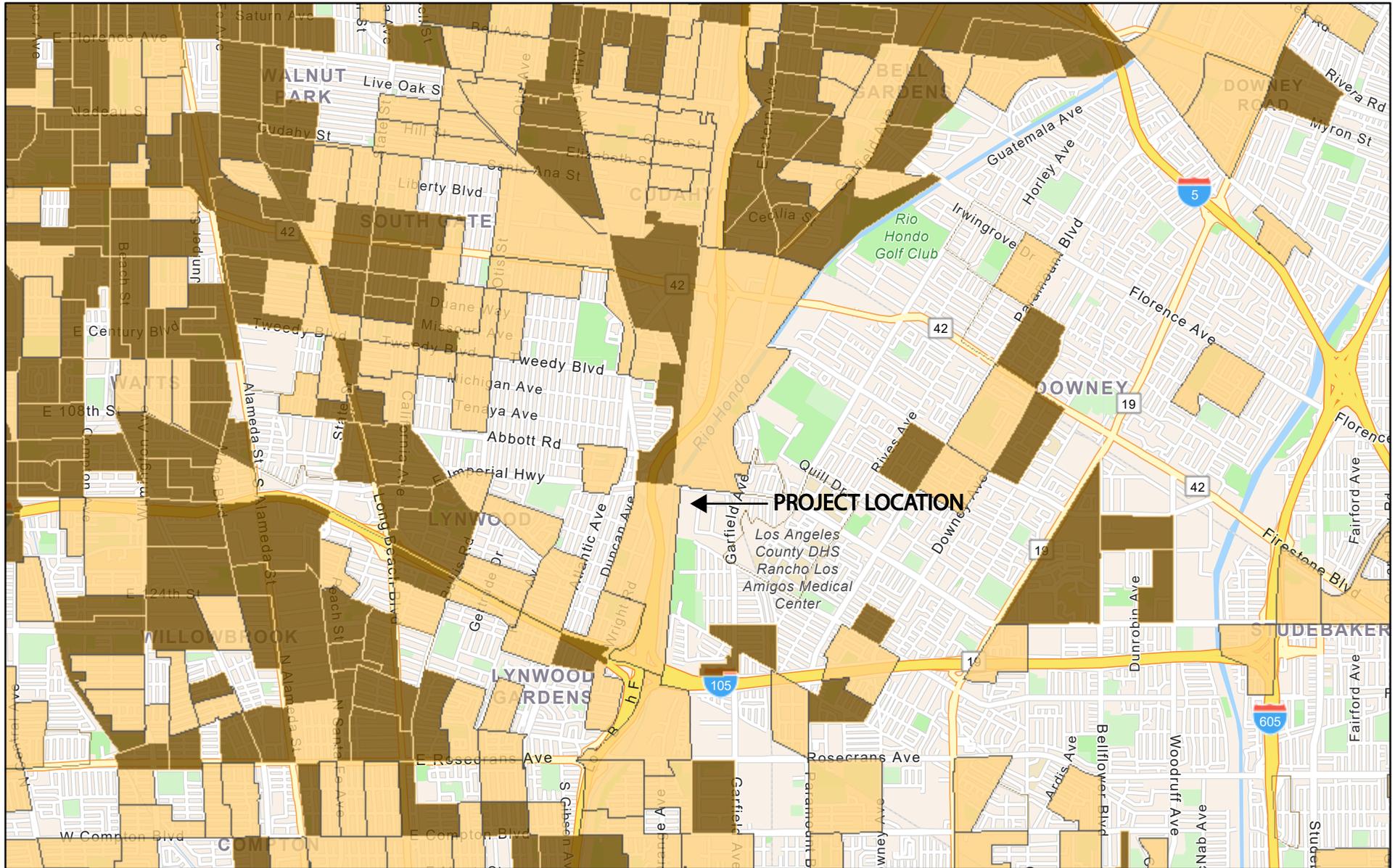
State Parks' Community Factfinder Toolkit

<https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>

Cal Enviroscreen 3.0

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

# Exhibit F\_SELA-CC\_DAC Map



8/30/2020, 10:19:55 PM

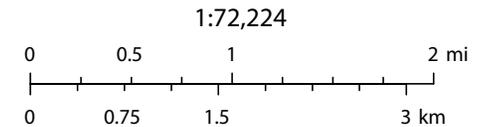
California Counties

Severely Disadvantaged Communities (MHI < \$38,270)

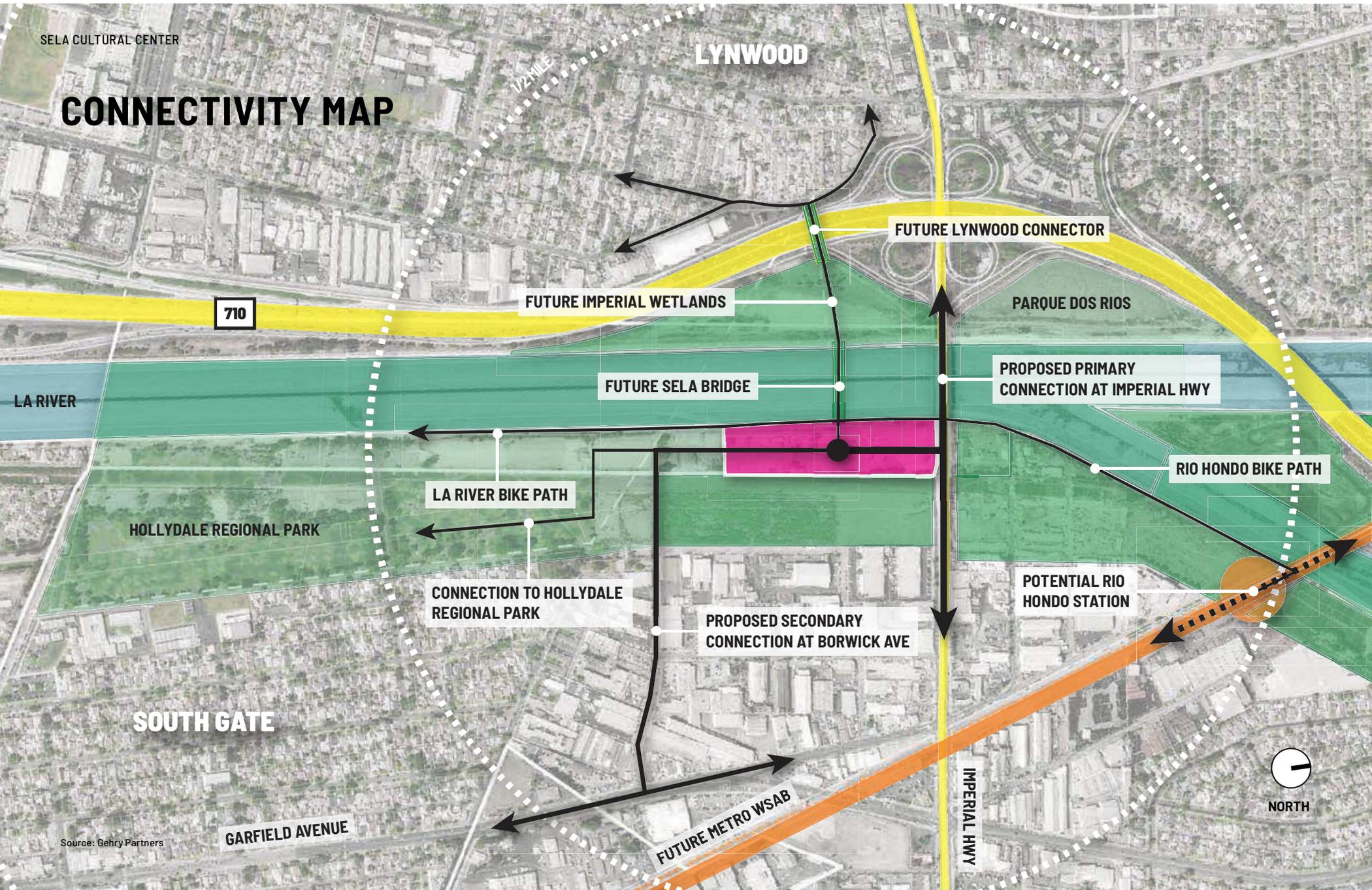
Disadvantaged Communities - Block Group 2016

Disadvantaged Communities (\$38,270 > MHI < \$51,026)

Data Not Available



U.S. Census Bureau. Contact: gis@water.ca.gov, U.S. Bureau of



Source: Gehry Partners

September 21, 2020 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2020-35

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A VERY SMALL PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO FROM LOT TO SPOT FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (SELA) CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AND LOWER LA RIVER PROJECTS

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 7, Section 80100(a)(1)(B) or Chapter 8, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Water Code; and

WHEREAS, The proposed provides technical assistance to disadvantaged communities pursuant to Proposition 68, Section 80008(b)(1)

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 September 21, 2020.
- 8 AUTHORIZES a technical assistance grant award to the non-profit organization, From Lot to Spot (FLTS), for a total amount of \$50,000 for the Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

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

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

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

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