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San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY



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PRESS RELEASE: RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES THE CALL FOR PROJECTS PHASE IS OPEN FOR UPCOMING PROPOSITION 1 FUNDING

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), as part of the Proposition 1 competitive grant roll-out, announces the Call for Projects phase with a submission deadline for funding applications set for December 16, 2015. The application guidelines are now available and posted at www.rmc.ca.gov

Through this Call for Projects, the RMC seeks to support projects that increase water supply and quality and enhance the health of our regional watersheds. Grant funding amounts will vary from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. Special consideration will be given to projects that are implementation ready. Limited funds will also be made available for project planning purposes. Mark Stanley, executive officer of the RMC, in announcing the funding that will be available during this first phase, stated that “the RMC looks to continue to provide funds for projects that will address the water-related needs throughout the RMC’s catchment area where the need is great and where we anticipate a highly competitive grant round.”

Earlier this year, over 100 members of the public participated in workshops, which were held in Newhall, West Covina, Fullerton, and Downey between July 23 and July 30, 2015. At the workshops, participants learned about the RMC, its previous funding programs, and reviewed the RMC’s Proposition 1 draft guidelines. Participants also engaged RMC staff in a question and answer session.

The RMC incorporated into the recently approved guidelines public comments that were gathered at these workshops and subsequent suggestions submitted via their website. The RMC board unanimously approved the final guidelines on September 28th, 2015. In supporting the action, RMC Board Chair Frank Colonna said the following: “We are proud and excited about bringing this resource opportunity to the communities within the RMC area, an area that I believe is at the forefront of water management policy and program implementation.”

The voters of California approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1” or “Water Bond”) 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. The purpose of Proposition 1 is to provide funding for projects that implement the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, 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 allocates \$30 million to the RMC for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem, watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities (79731(f)).

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The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is one of 10 conservancies across the state. Their territory spans portions of the Antelope Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, a majority of Los Angeles County and Northern Orange County. Additional information about the Conservancy can be found on the website: www.rmc.ca.gov