

DATE: November 27, 2017

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 8: Consideration of Resolution for final Proposition 1 Grant approval to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development (RMC 17020)

PROGRAM AREA: All

RECOMMENDATION: That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) approve a Proposition 1 Grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority in the amount of \$1 Million (RMC 17020).

BACKGROUND: On September 28, 2015 the RMC approved grant program guidelines which provided for project applications to be submitted for funding consideration.

At the July 25, 2016 RMC Board meeting, the Governing Board approved the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Proposition 1 Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grant Recommendations (Resolution 2016-13). At the September 26, 2016 RMC Board meeting, the Governing Board approved the RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grant Recommendations and preliminary authorized grant distributions of up to \$20,261,564 (Resolution 2016-23).

There are a total of twenty (20) projects being recommended for funding, seventeen (17) of these projects have been approved by the Board earlier this year. This project is one of the last three (3) to be approved. These include: 1. Slauson Wall Park Development, TPL 2. Duck Farm House Landscape and Water, WCA 3. River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development, WCA. The Phil and Nell Soto Park project was approved at the September 2017 Board meeting (RMC17018). The remaining two projects will be brought before the board for consideration at a future date. :

RMC Project Managers aimed at prioritizing projects that meet specific Project Eligibility criteria identified in the grant program guidelines as follows (Section 2.7, RMC Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, page 8):

- A. Grant funds may be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources
- B. Land acquisition costs may include appraisals, land improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow. Land must be acquired from willing sellers and at fair market value.
- C. Direct expenses include project-specific management costs such as CEQA/NEPA compliance, permitting, direct project administration and management.
- D. Projects that have lower overhead or no overhead costs will be deemed more competitive.
- E. The RMC may cap indirect and overhead costs at 10% of the total project cost.
- F. Proposition 1 funding has limited funding available for preparation of planning documents, such as watershed plan updates, CEQA compliance documents and others. Section 79735(d) allows for up to 10 percent of the fund allocation towards project planning.

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) requested a grant amount of \$1,590,000 million dollars for the River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development project. This proposal includes the creation of two functioning arroyos to re-establish degraded historical ephemeral streambeds.

After review by RMC Staff, a grant in the amount of \$1 million is recommended. The strength of this project is that this project is part of a larger plan contained within the River Wilderness Park, however, the WCA did not have a significant amount of matching funds secured for this project which would facilitate completion of the proposed project. Over the last 10 months the WCA has been successful in pursuing additional match, resulting in secured and pending awards of up to \$4.2 million. These funds would dramatically close the funding gap necessary to complete the larger Master Plan buildout of the project, including the Arroyos. If the WCA is successful in obtaining additional matching, the remaining fund request of \$590,000, the remaining gap funds, staff recommends the Board consider a full award to WCA for the completion of this project.

The RMC will be funding this grant project from the \$30 million allocation to the Conservancy in Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 as provided for competitive grants multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state (Section 79731(f)).

FISCAL INFORMATION: Today's action represents a total grant amount of \$1,000,000. Funding for this project will be allocated from Chapter Six (6) of Proposition 1, under statute 79731 (f): San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the sum of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).

The Board approved staff's recommendations on September 26, 2016 to fund a total grant amount of \$15,430,989 from section 79731 (f), representing slightly above half of the \$30 million made available in a direct allocation to the RMC. The remaining balance has been encumbered for future competitive grant funding cycles tentatively scheduled for early 2018.

Attachments include:

- Exhibit A: Proposition 1 Grant Summary, River Wilderness Park–Arroyos Development.
- Exhibit B: Task/Timeline
- Exhibit C: Budget/Funding Summary Exhibit

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.

RMC Resolution 2015-19 approved guidelines consistent with the Proposition 1 bond language; RMC Resolution 2016-05 approved review of forty-four grant applications submitted for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant Program; RMC Resolution 2016-13 approved the RMC Proposition 1 (2015) Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grant Recommendations; RMC Resolution 2016-23 approved the RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program (2015) Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grant Recommendations and authorized grant distributions of \$20,261,564.

Exhibit A

Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014**Proposition 1**

Project Title: River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development Project

Grantee: Watershed Conservation Authority

Total Grant Funds: \$1,000,000

Project Description:

River Wilderness Park: Arroyos Development is the creation of two functioning arroyos to re-establish degraded historical ephemeral streambeds. The drainages are located within two sub-watersheds on the River Wilderness Park (RWP) site and above the San Gabriel River. RWP is located within the steep-sided San Gabriel Canyon, at the gateway to the newly established San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Due to the topography and local weather of the canyon, runoff here can be extreme, but also life-giving to native flora and fauna. The flows from the San Gabriel watershed also supports a majority of the potable water needs of San Gabriel Valley residents, infiltrated through the mountains, river, and spreading basins. This proposed project will reshape and vegetate the arroyos and adjacent landscape to be both functional and to showcase the power of natural systems: to effectively manage, capture, and conserve water as a precious resource, to nourish our communities and habitat, and to celebrate this diverse wildland interface.

River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development will:

- Serve as a demonstration of natural systems to a large and diverse population
- Capture and manage stormwater runoff
- Accommodate sustainable site hydrology
- Reduce hillside erosion
- Conserve water
- Improve habitat
- Support a compelling destination amenity within the RWP to support extending the San Gabriel River Bike Trail the remaining 1,750+/- feet to the park that is proposed in the parks updated Master Plan

Arroyos Development addresses climate change through the following:

- Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility
- Safeguarding water and water efficiency
- Conservation of materials and resources
- Increasing awareness and stewardship of watershed and support of natural systems

Budget:

Category	Total Project Costs	RMC Prop 1 Full Request	RMC Prop 1	Match Secured	Match Pending
PM, Admin, Design & Indirect	850,647	195,505	130,505	238,000	417,142
Streambed Construction	1,503,961	563,200	286,876	106,500	834,261
Ecological Enhancements	838,584	738,134	528,780	100,450	
Trails & Amenities	1,375,635			790,100	585,535
Outdoor Ed/Interpretation	139,139				139,139
Roundabout	2,034,574				2,034,574
Contingency	347,316	93,162	53,840	61812	192,342
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	7,089,855	1,590,000	1,000,000	1,296,862	4,202,993

Timeline and Task list:

January 2017 – January 2020: Design, Planning, Outreach, Procurement, Project Management

July 2018 - Dec 2019: Site Preparation and Construction

November 2019 – December 2019: Planting

February 2020: Park Grand Opening

RMC Objectives and Proposition 1 Consistency:

Task	RMC Objectives/Proposition 1 Consistency:
Develop functioning arroyos to re-establish degraded historical ephemeral streambeds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West and East drainages are located above the San Gabriel River • Restore native landscape and hydrological function to hillside formations degraded by prior urbanized developments formations • Reduce flooding, erosion and debris flows through reestablished and functioning arroyos which in turn will support stormwater capture and slow peak flows • Reintroduce and establish native plant species 	RMC Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration; • Optimize water resources by improving the quality of surface and ground water and enhance ground water recharge, to reduce dependence on imported water. Prop 1 Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management; • Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health • Protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048 and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8 and Division 23 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is expected to serve an exceptionally wide range of the public, facilitated by the prime park location and other planned park improvements. • User arrivals via an extended San Gabriel River trail are expected to quadruple from 2015 counts of 284,694 to 1,141,971 annual visitors. • This project will afford accessible gathering and event spaces, and a unique interactive learning opportunity in a natural setting. • Improves habitat quality, quantity and connectivity by restoring currently impaired lands, and seek to enhance the viability of surrounding high-integrity native plant communities including the special status species, <i>Dudleya densiflora</i>. • Site is currently covered by disturbed ruderal vegetation, comprised primarily of exotic invasive species which pose a continued threat to the high integrity riparian, chaparral, and oak woodland communities that surround the site. • Improvements will provide more stable conditions for maintenance with permanent native vegetated areas. • Non-native vegetation will be removed and the project plant palette will include all native plant material. • Ecological enhancements will provide and support important avian, mesic, and riparian upland habitats, as well as the riparian wetland and woodlands below the site supported by the heavy perennial flow of the Upper San Gabriel River, and the surrounding chaparral and woodlands. • Site materials will include more than 50% recycled content. 	<p>RMC Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space. <p>Prop 1 Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
<p>The project is multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional, and involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Azusa, • LA County Board of Supervisors through the Office of the First District, • US Forest Service, • Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, • LA County Flood Control District, • LA County Metro, • San Gabriel Valley COG <p>Additionally, the WCA adopted River Wilderness Park Master Plan encompasses the El Encanto and Canyon Inn plans, which comprise components addressed and</p>	<p>RMC Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries; • Encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects.

<p>consistent with a number of local and regional planning documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rio San Gabriel Vision Plan and Design Guidelines (2003) • City of Azusa General Plan (2004) • Greater Los Angeles IRWMP (2006) • San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan (2006) • Emerald Necklace Master Plan (2017) • Los Angeles County 2035 General Plan (2015) 	
<p>In addition to actively working with youth corps members in property management and development of parks and open space, the WCA has an on-going and consistent history of commitment to supporting and utilizing youth employment via partnerships with State and local youth employment programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Conservation Corps, • Los Angeles Conservation Corps • San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps • Urban Conservation Corps • Long Beach Conservation Corps • U.S. Forest Service Watershed Rangers <p>WCA has coordinated a Jr. Ranger Program for youth education and environmental stewardship as well as working together with a variety of partners, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the United States Forest Service, • San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition, • City of Azusa, • San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Coalition (Bike SGV), and • Amigos de Los Rios. 	<p>RMC Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement and long-term maintenance; • Encourage sustainable growth that balances environmental, social, and economic benefits; • Involve the public through education and outreach programs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drainage area above the RWP supports three dams which store and provide the majority of potable water for the San Gabriel Valley delivered through controlled releases to spreading basins within and adjacent to the river to the south • The East and West arroyos supports local water sustainability by helping to treat, collect, and direct local water resources into the San Gabriel River 	<p>RMC Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must promote and implement the State's Water Plans and Policies; • 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.

EXHIBIT B- Timeline and Tasks

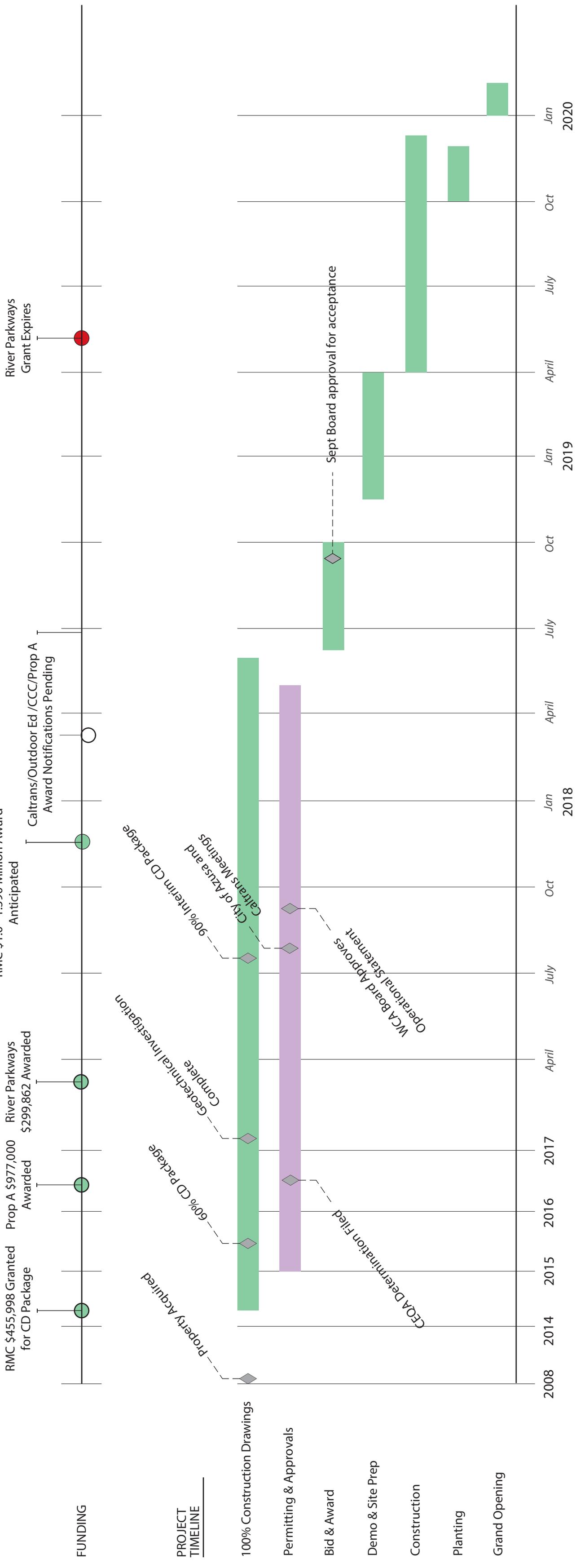


Exhibit C: Budget/Funding Summary

Grantee:	Watershed Conservation Authority
Project Name:	River Wilderness Park: Arroyos Development
Contact and Address:	100 N Old San Gabriel Canyon Road, Azusa, CA 91702

RMC Budget Supplement: Breakdown West Arroyo

Work Plan Tasks	Secured Funding		Conditional Funding	Unsecured/Pending Approval Funding				Total Project Cost
	RMC Prop1 Budget (West Arroyo)	Secured Prop A & River Parkway Match	RMC Prop 1 Gap (East Arroyo)	Outdoor Education Facility (Applied)	SHOPP/Caltrans Funding (Applied)	CCC ATP (Applied)	Other Unsecured (Potential County)	
RWP West Arroyo/Entry								
1 Project Management	\$65,252	\$148,000		\$51,850	\$30,700		\$220,000	\$515,802
2 Architecture/Engineering	\$65,252	\$90,000		\$31,110	\$33,482		\$50,000	\$269,844
3 Permits and CEQA (see below)		\$25,000					\$50,000	\$75,000
4 Demolition	\$72,024	\$26,500						\$98,524
5 Grading	\$118,192	\$55,000						\$173,192
6 Trails and Amenities, including Interpretator		\$672,500		\$5,000		\$56,661		\$734,161
7 Streambed Construction	\$96,660							\$96,660
8 Ecological Enhancements	\$528,780							\$528,780
Evaluation & Monitoring*								\$0
10 Contingency (10% of Construction)	\$53,840	\$40,000		\$2,000				\$95,840
								\$0
Subtotal	\$1,000,000	\$1,057,000	\$0	\$89,960	\$64,182	\$56,661	\$320,000	\$2,587,803
RWP East Arroyo								
1 Project Management			\$30,000					\$30,000
2 Architecture/Engineering			\$35,000					\$35,000
3 Permits and CEQA (see below)			\$90,000					\$90,000
4 Demolition			\$63,804					\$63,804
5 Grading			\$65,520					\$65,520
7 Streambed Construction			\$57,000	\$199,530		\$376,126	\$208,605	\$841,261
8 Ecological Enhancements			\$209,354					\$209,354
Evaluation & Monitoring*								\$0
9 Outdoor Education, Interpretation, Amenities				\$139,139				\$139,139
10 Contingency (10% of Construction)			\$39,322	\$34,567				\$73,889
								\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$590,000	\$373,236	\$0	\$376,126	\$208,605	\$1,547,967
Roundabout and Trail Extension								
4 Demolition					\$80,136			\$80,136
5 Grading					\$39,241			\$39,241
Construction					\$695,148			\$695,148
Landscaping					\$22,184			\$22,184
Irrigation					\$13,865			\$13,865
Overlook and Trail Extension		\$117,600				\$323,874		\$441,474
8 Ecological Enhancements		\$100,450						\$100,450
Utilities							\$1,184,000	\$1,184,000
Restroom							\$200,000	\$200,000
10 Contingency (10% of Construction)		\$21,812			\$85,000	\$70,775		\$177,587
								\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$239,862	\$0	\$0	\$935,574	\$394,649	\$1,384,000	\$2,954,085
TOTAL Budget =	\$1,000,000	\$1,296,862	\$590,000	\$463,196	\$999,756	\$827,436	\$1,912,605	\$7,089,855
		\$2,296,862	GAP Funding		\$2,290,388		\$1,912,605	

*Evaluation/final report and monitoring are incorporated into Project Management and ongoing project maintenance

November 27, 2017 – Item 8

RESOLUTION 2017-17

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A
GRANT TO PLANNING PROJECT (RMC 17020)

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 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”) 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, 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 1, Section 79731 (f) or Section 79735 (a) of the Water Code; and

WHEREAS, The Watershed Conservation Authority has submitted a grant request for the River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development Project and Staff is recommending a grant amount of \$1,000,000; 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 Proposition 1 RMC Grant Program is consistent with the Water Quality -11-

- 3 Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
- 4 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 1.
- 5 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan.
- 6 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;
- 7 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 8 ADOPTS the staff report dated November 27, 2017.
- 9 AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 1 funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the River Wilderness Park Arroyos Development Project (RMC 17020)

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on November 27, 2017.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General