

DATE: July 9, 2017
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 11: Consideration of resolution approving a grant extension to NorthEast Trees for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Planning Project (RMC13002).

PROGRAM AREA: Urban Lands/ Rivers and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Planning

JURISDICTION: Territory wide- Gateway Cities

PROJECT MANAGER: Joseph Gonzalez

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC authorize a second amendment to the grant with North East Trees for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Planning Project (RMC 13002) for an extension of this grant to June 30, 2019.

PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION: The proposed Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan will provide preliminary planning concepts and connection opportunities to the rivers, green streets, open space, parks greenways and overall water and air quality improvements within the 27 cities that are included within the Gateway Cities of Southeast Los Angeles County. The RMC Board previously approved matching funds for this project in the amount of \$250,000, contingent upon successful receipt of a grant request by the WCA and NE Trees in the amount of \$500,000 from the Strategic Growth Council. The first amendment to the grant extended the grant period to August 31, 2018. This action is a second amendment to RMC board resolution approved in September 2013 (Resolution 2013-13) and extended by resolution in June 2017 (Resolution 2017-11).

BACKGROUND: With Proposition 84 grant funding from the Strategic Growth Council under the Urban Greening Planning Grant Program (http://sgc.ca.gov/urban_greening_grants.html) the WCA, in partnership with the North East Trees submitted a grant proposal to develop the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan 2013. In June 2014, the WCA obtained the grant for this plan in the amount of \$500,000. As part of that grant application, the RMC committed to providing matching funds in the amount of \$250,000 to NorthEast Trees. The Gateway Cities COG had also committed to providing an additional amount of \$250,000 through in-kind and cash contributions from its member cities.

This Plan will ultimately result in projects to help the State meet its environmental goals and the creation of healthy communities by identifying opportunities for access connections to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers and tributaries, green streets, and multi-benefit projects within the Gateway Cities.

The Plan deliverables completed to date include: Stakeholder Development and Community Outreach Planning (Task 1), the Creation of a Resource and Site Inventory (Task 2), and the Community and Neighborhood Needs Assessment (Task3). The planning team is currently

developing the draft report including visuals, written content, and thematic maps that will be presented to technical advisory committee for comment before being incorporated into the final Plan. NorthEast Trees continues to coordinate deliverables with WCA to ensure conformance with Plan and website format.

See Exhibit A: Extension Request and Exhibit B: updated Tasklist and Timeline. This amendment does not impact the previously approved budget of \$250,000.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan will be funded through a grant from Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The total project cost for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan is anticipated to cost \$1,000,000. This amount includes the \$500,000 grant from the Strategic Growth Council, \$250,000 combination of in-kind and cash matching funds from the Gateway Cities COG, and this \$250,000 grant to NE Trees.

Funding for this project will be allocated from the following Proposition 84 allocations.

75050. The sum of nine hundred twenty eight million dollars (\$928,000,000) shall be available for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources in accordance with the following schedule:... (g) The sum of seventy two million dollars (\$72,000,000) shall be available for projects within the watersheds of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers according to the following schedule: (1) \$36,000,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600).....

75060. The sum of five hundred forty million dollars (\$540,000,000) shall be available for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state, in accordance with the following schedule:.... (3) To the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.....\$15,000,000.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: This is an amendment to Resolution 2013-13 adopted by the RMC Board on September 23, 2013, and amendment to Resolution 2017-11 adopted on June 26, 2017.



North East Trees
Bringing Nature Back

June 25, 2018

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

Re: Extension of Agreement RMC13002

Dear Mr. Stanley,

In consultation with the Watershed Conservation Authority, North East Trees respectfully requests an extension to the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Planning Project to August 31, 2019.

The project is proceeding well! However, in working with the Gateway Cities it has been decided that a web based application is the preferred method for deploying the study's results as opposed to a more traditional booklet. This decision has caused a delay in the project but we believe will result in a significantly better product. We are attaching an updated budget and schedule to this letter. We anticipate that the project will be completed at the end of June 2019 – and have added an additional two month for grant closeout purposes.

Thank you and your staff for their consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

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

Mark Kenyon
Executive Director

cc: Marybeth Vergara, Project Analyst
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Analyst II

570 W. Ave. 26, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90065 Phone: (323)441-8634 Fax: (323)441-8618

North East Trees is a 501c-3 non-profit: "Bringing Nature Back to Resource Challenged Communities"

Exhibit B - Timeline

25-Jun-18

WORK PLAN SUMMARY

Task #	Plan Element/Deliverable/ Benchmark	Original Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
	Project Management	Through Completion	September 2018
	Grant Administration		
	PM Task Coordination/Field Recon		
	Reimbursibles (Mileage, Printing, Other)		
Task 1	Stakeholder Development and Community Outreach Planning		
1.1	Establish Greening Advisory Committee	Through Completion	Through Completion
1.2	Establish Framework for Public Participation	September 2015	September 2015
1.3	Establish Framework for Data Collection	September 2016	September 2016
1.4	Establish Framework for Data Storage and Management	September 2016	September 2016
Task 2	Creation of a Resource and Site Inventory		
2.1	Create an inventory of resources	September 2016	March 2016
2.2	Develop Opportunities & Constraints Matrix	Through March 2017	June 2017
2.3	Create GIS maps integrating resource data & needs	November 2016	September 2017
2.4	Data Management and Storage	December 2016	December 2017
Task 3	Community and Neighborhood Needs Assessment		
3.1	Gather Community Needs Inventory	September 2016	June 2017
3.2	Collect & Report Community Input on Needs (Workshops 1-4)	Through March 2017	August 2017
3.3	Collect & Report Community Input on Needs (Public Outreach)	Through March 2017	December 2017
3.4	Create GIS maps integrating regional/local data	November 2016	March 2018
Task 4	Creation of a Green Option Palette		
4.1	Conduct Feasibility & Outcome Assessments	June 2017	Fall 2018
4.2	Draft Design Concepts	June 2017	Fall 2018
4.3	Public Outreach	August 2017	Fall 2018
Task 5	Develop Plan Portal		
5.1	Contract web host/plan organization	June 2017	Fall 2018
5.2	Draft plan content – including page layouts, text, and content additions/revisions	June 2017	Fall 2018
5.3	Web Portal Soft Launch	August 2017	Fall 2018
5.4	Public Review	March 2018	June 2019
5.6	Complete Plan	Jun 2018	June 2019
Task 6	Contingency for Tasks 1 through 5		
	Total:		

July 9, 2018 – Item 11

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-13

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS
AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT
EXTENDING THE GRANT PERIOD TO NORTH EAST TREES FOR THE GATEWAY
CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN GREENING PLAN (RMC 13002)

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 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 Applicant has submitted a project which is consistent with the purposes of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code and the Bond Act; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report dated July 9, 2018.
4. AUTHORIZES a grant amendment to North East Trees for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan extending the grant period to June 30, 2019. (RMC 13002).

~ End of Resolution ~

Resolution 2018-13

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on July 9, 2018

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST:

David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General