

DATE: October 15, 2018

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15: Consideration of resolution approving a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan

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 grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Planning Project.

PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION: 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 (NET) in the amount of \$500,000 from the Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

The original RMC board resolution approved the \$250,000 grant to NET in September 2013 (Resolution 2013-13), and a grant amendment extending the performance period to August 31, 2018 in June 2017 (Resolution 2017-11). A second amendment extended the grant performance period to June 30, 2019 at the July 9th, 2018 RMC Board meeting (Resolution 2018-13). Northeast Trees submitted their latest reimbursement on July 3rd, 2018 for the performance period between January 2016 and June 2018 for \$59,740.66, which would leave \$135,768.51 on the grant (pending approval of NET full reimbursement request; RMC is awaiting additional documentation from NET before approving).

Currently, the project is developing and finalizing the plan's web portal—the selected format for the final document as opposed to a more traditional book form. This format was selected based on input from the community and agency outreach in order to make the Plan more accessible by the expected audience of community and agency stakeholders. NET is well-known for developing and implementing urban greening projects, which the Plan highlights and analysis, but not necessarily well-versed in developing website interfaces, programs, and online narratives. WCA has been the lead on the GGP and is the recipient of the project's matching funds (\$500,000) from SGC. Staff recommendation is to disencumber the remaining grant funds from NET and awarding to WCA to complete tasks.

This amendment does not impact the previously approved budget of \$250,000 or deliverables, as budget task items for both grants align (see Exhibit A: NET_GGP_budget/timeline, Exhibit B: WCA_GGP_budget/timeline). WCA recently submitted a grant amendment request to SGC to extend the project's performance period through December 31, 2019 and is pending approval. The RMC grant to WCA would extend through December 31, 2019 to support matching funds.

BACKGROUND: The Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan (GGP) 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. 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 in 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.

Project scope includes:

- Initiate stakeholder development and community outreach through the creation of the Gateway Cities Greening Advisory committee and creating frameworks for public participation, data collection, and data storage and management
- Conduct needs assessment and constraints analysis receive input from community meetings, and integrate data into GIS model
- Perform a resource inventory and opportunities analysis, collecting and compiling information in a similar way to the needs assessment
- Build a green solution palette by identifying, integrating, and mapping green infrastructure elements in a way that can be applied locally within the region
- Create, launch, and update an online Greening Plan complete with final GIS maps and models, solution palette, framework, design concepts, and final planning report by integrating needs, resources, and solutions, and both collecting and integrating input on this plan

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.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan is 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. Remaining funds which were allocated to NE Trees for the Gateway Greening Plan are being disencumbered and awarded to the Watershed Conservation Authority to complete deliverables for the project.

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.

This is an amendment to Resolution 2013-13 adopted by the RMC Board on September 23, 2013, amendment to Resolution 2017-11 adopted on June 26, 2017, and amendment to Resolution 2018-13 adopted on July 9th, 2018.

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.

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:		

Estimated Payment Schedule based on Completion of Benchmarks/Deliverables:

Task #	Plan Element/Deliverable/ Benchmark	Est. Prop 84 Grant Amt.	Target Completion Date
0.0	Project management (incl. final reviews and WCA reporting)*	\$ 75,500	
0.1	Grant administration	\$ 32,000	Through December 2019
0.2	PM task coordination/field recon	\$ 31,500	Through December 2019
0.3	Reimbursables (mileage, printing, other)	\$ 12,000	Through December 2019
1.0	Stakeholder development and community outreach planning	\$ 27,128	
1.1	Establish greening advisory committee	\$ 12,147	September 2016
1.2	Establish framework of public participation	\$ 2,697	September 2015
1.3	Establish framework for data collection	\$ 3,437	September 2016
1.4	Establish Framework for Data Storage and Management	\$ 8,847	September 2016
2.0	Creation of a resource and site inventory	\$ 24,000	
2.1	Create inventory of resources – land use, existing plans, linkages,	\$ 5,000	September 2016
2.2	Develop opportunities and constraints matrix	\$ 2,000	March 2017
2.3	Create GIS maps integrating resource data & needs	\$ 7,000	November 2016
2.4	Data management and Storage	\$ 10,000	December 2016
3.0	Community and neighborhood needs assessment	\$ 43,100	
3.1	Gather community needs inventory access to parks and open space, health, air and water quality, DAC, density, etc.	\$ -	September 2016
3.2	Collect & report community input on needs (Workshops 1-4)	\$ 6,000	March 2017
3.3	Collect & report community input on needs (Public Outreach)	\$ 37,100	June 2019
3.4	Create GIS maps integrating regional/local data	\$ -	June 2018
4.0	Creation of a greening option palette	\$ 122,000	
4.1	Conduct feasibility & outcome assessments	\$ 32,000	December 2018
4.2	Develop design options	\$ 90,000	December 2018
4.3	Public outreach	\$ -	March 2019
5.0	Develop greening plan web portal	\$ 194,350	
5.1	Contract web host/plan organization	\$ 12,350	March 2018
5.2	Draft plan content – including page layouts, text, and content	\$ 62,000	December 2018
5.3	Web portal soft launch	\$ 30,000	September 2018
5.4	Public outreach	\$ -	June 2019
5.5	Complete Plan	\$ 90,000	September 2019
6.0	Contingency for Tasks 1 thru 5	\$ 13,922	
	Total:	\$ 500,000	December 2019

**Project management costs reimbursed incrementally with payment requests for completed benchmarks/deliverables. Direct project related costs with detailed time information required for in-house services.*

***Project timeline inclusive of grant close-out period*

October 15, 2018 – Item 15

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-26

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS
AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN
GREENING PLAN

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 October 15, 2018.
4. AUTHORIZES a grant to Watershed Conservation Authority with the remaining funds from the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan (RMC 13002), with a performance period through December 31, 2019.

~ End of Resolution ~

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on October 15, 2018

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST:

David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General