

**DATE:** January 28, 2019

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** 15. Consideration of a resolution approving RMC's California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) Final Guidelines; Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017, Chapter 7. California River Recreation, Creek, and Waterway Improvements Program. 80100(a)(1)(B) - Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries, Chapter 8. State Conservancy and Authority Funding. 80110(b)(6) – Territory-wide

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**PROGRAM AREA:** All

**PROJECT TYPE:** Planning and Development

**JURISDICTION:** Territory-wide

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Joseph Gonzalez

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC Board approve RMC Grant Guideline criteria for the establishment of a competitive grant program for the awarding of grants under Proposition 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 program funds, Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Exhibit A – RMC Proposition 68 Draft Guidelines – workshop notice

Exhibit B – Community Access Comments

Exhibit C – RMC Proposition 68 Final Guidelines (uploaded to RMC's home page)

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, under chapter 7, the RMC allocated \$37,500,000 for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries, and under chapter 8, is allocated \$30,000,000 for territory wide projects. The RMC is required to update and approve guidelines consistent with the Proposition 68 bond language. 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. Draft Prop 68 Guidelines are based on the grant program frameworks adopted by the RMC Board for Prop 84 (Resolution 2007-34) and Prop 1 (Resolution 2017-03).

The draft RMC Prop 68 Grant Guidelines were posted on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 on RMC's Home Page at: <http://rmc.ca.gov> and broadcast through emails. RMC staff hosted 4 public workshops to increase awareness and attended meetings upon request for awareness of this grant program. Throughout the public awareness process and comment period staff engaged in solicitation of public comments regarding RMC's Prop 68 draft guidelines.

RMC received a total of 2 comments, both related to Community Access. Staff has reviewed all comments and included responses in RMC's Prop 68 guidelines. Up to 5% of the program funds shall be allocated for community access projects. Current language includes funding for transportation, physical activity programming, resource interpretation, multilingual translation, natural science, workforce development and career pathways, education, parks, climate, etc. This language is currently under legislative review. RMC staff shall amend the guidelines for community access depending on the result of legislative review.

Additionally, Prop. 68 allows funding 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. RMC will seek to provide technical assistance to disadvantaged communities in our jurisdiction and will be surveying to determine how an RMC technical assistance program could best support applicants in disadvantaged communities.

**BACKGROUND:** The RMC has administered five successful competitive grant programs, the Prop 40 competitive program, the short term (18 month) program, the Proposition 50 competitive grant program, Proposition 84 competitive grant program, and most recently Proposition 1 competitive grant program. With the passage of Prop 68 (2018 Park bond), the RMC is well positioned to continue to provide grants through a competitive process to cities, non-profits, other county entities, and joint powers authorities through its existing grant funding program areas: Urban, Rivers & Tributaries; and Mountain and Foothills Programs and Projects. The following is a description of each of these program areas for Prop 68:

- **Urban Lands**—All land within the developed, urban core of the RMC territory 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 territory, but NOT within the Mountains, Hills and Foothills or Urban Land areas.
  - **Lower Los Angeles River**— Projects within the Lower Los Angeles River corridor, defined in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan as within 1-mile of the river, will mostly fall within the River/Tributary Parkways Program. Applicants should make the case if they feel their project is better defined as an Urban Land Value and Environmental Justice project.
- **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 territory of the RMC but NOT within the Urban Lands or River/Tributary Parkways.

Upon approval of the Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines, RMC Staff will issue the official Call for Projects. Any grant applications submitted will be reviewed and scored according to the Project Evaluation Criteria.

## **PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### **Project Implementation Evaluation Criteria**

Value	Rivers & Tributaries	Urban Land	Mountains & Foothills
1.0 Access Value	11	12	10
2.0 Urban Land Value	10	13	7
3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure	13	11	13
4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values	10	8	16
5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities	25	25	23
6.0 Matching Funds	9	9	9
7.0 Readiness	5	5	5
8.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value	11	11	11
9.0 Stewardship and Management Plan Value	6	6	6
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Project Planning Evaluation Criteria**

Value	Rivers & Tributaries	Urban Land	Mountains & Foothills
1.0 Access Value	11	12	10
2.0 Urban Land Value	10	13	7
3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure	13	11	13
4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values	12	9	19
5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities	32	33	28
6.0 Matching Funds	9	9	9
7.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value	8	8	9
8.0 Capacity	5	5	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Staff recommends that emphasis will be given for the projects that score 80 or higher.

### **Program Area Evaluation**

It is anticipated that projects will only be evaluated within one program area, so that River/Tributary Projects are only compared to one another, and the same for Urban Lands and Mountains, Hills, Foothills. The total points for each program areas are shown in the PEC chart above.

### **Application Process**

RMC will operate two separate grant programs for each of its funding allocations: Lower LA River watershed and territory-wide. Applications process for each program is described below:

1. **Lower LA River Watershed Application:** Once there is an open call for projects and grant applications (expected Spring 2019), proposals will be accepted on an on-going basis until funding is expended.

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 placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. This extended consideration process will ensure that the most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

In the spirit of transparency and RMC's on-going commitment to Lower LA River (LLAR) stakeholder engagement, RMC is requiring that all LLAR grant program applicants present their proposed projects before the LLAR Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) prior to final evaluation and presentation to the RMC Board for consideration to award funding for a project. Subject to the elements of each proposal, projects will present to one of the three IAG ad hoc committees (presentations will be limited to 10-15 minutes) and a 1-2-page project summary will be provided to the IAG Steering Committee.

IAG stakeholders will be provided with project comment forms that they can fill out and submit to RMC. While the IAG does not have any approval authority over RMC grants, submitted IAG stakeholder comments will be incorporated as stakeholder feedback in our final recommendations to the RMC governing Board for consideration before they vote to approve or deny a project. RMC will coordinate the scheduling of presentations before an IAG committee with Public Works and committee chairs. Scheduling of applicant presentations will be based on the date that an application is received by RMC and the availability of the applicant.

Applications will be reviewed quarterly, and review teams will review applications received during the previous quarter. 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.

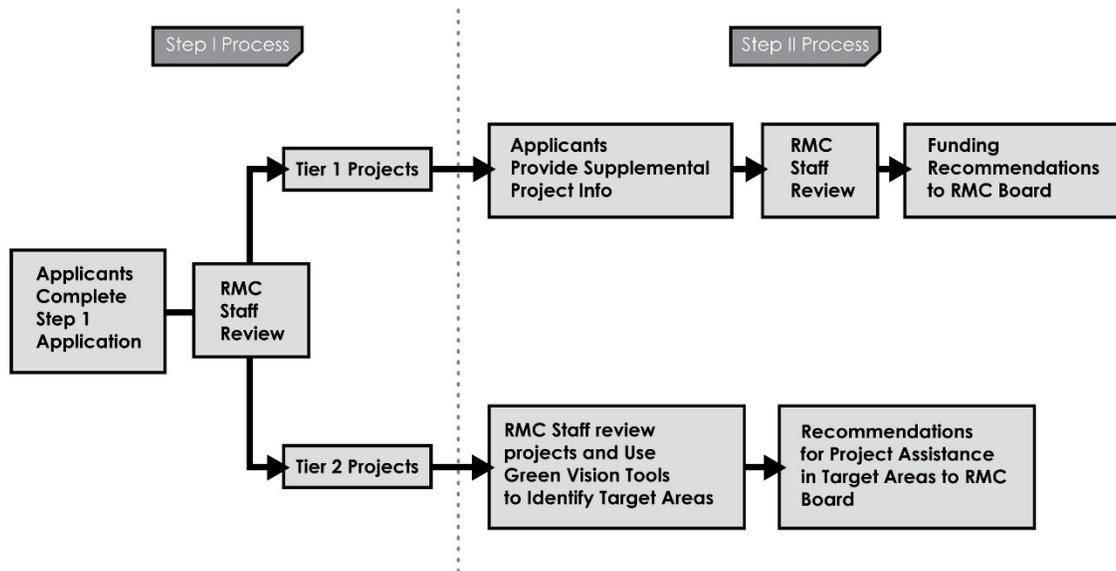
2. Territory-Wide Application: will be solicited via a two-phase grant application process, which is depicted in Figure 1 below. All project applicants will submit a completed Step 1 grant application (refer to Appendix D) and provide all requested supporting information. RMC staff will review all grant applications and supporting information and place all projects into one of two categories: Tier 1 and Tier 2.

Tier 1 projects are those ready for immediate implementation, while Tier 2 projects are all projects that do not meet the Tier 1 criteria. Tier 1 project applicants will be asked to submit additional information, which will be evaluated using GIS planning tools and Project Evaluation Criteria to score individual project applications. Based on available funding, at its discretion the RMC Board will award funds to the highest ranked Tier 1 projects within each geographic program area. Award of funding will be contingent on the successful completion of a Project Development Plan and Grant Agreement with the RMC.

To the extent that the analysis indicates a scarcity of projects within priority target areas, RMC staff will recommend that the RMC Board allocate staff resources to aid potential project applicants to increase the number of projects that may be submitted in

subsequent funding rounds. Tier 2 projects may move toward Tier 1 readiness if analysis indicates a scarcity of projects within priority target areas where Tier 2 projects are proposed. The determination of the target areas and the selection of project concepts eligible for project assistance or grants will be at the sole discretion of the RMC Board and will be based upon the results of the Tier 2 project analysis and available funding and staff resources.

It is anticipated that subsequent grant rounds will follow a similar process, subject to availability of funding. Applicants will be asked to re-submit the Step I 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, which will be included in materials presented to the RMC board and posted to the RMC website when available.



**FISCAL INFORMATION:** There is no fiscal impact with approval of the Proposition 68 guidelines.

Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017, SB5 allocates to RMC in Chapter 7, 80100 (a)(1)(B) thirty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) and in Chapter 8, 80110(b)(6) thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

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.
- (c) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.

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.



## NOTICE

The conservancy will be hosting four (4) public meetings to provide information and solicit public comments regarding RMC's Proposition 68 Draft Grant Guidelines. This meeting will include discussion on technical assistance and funds pursuant to community access.

The RMC Proposition 68 Draft Grant Guidelines, Grant Application Form and other Important information regarding RMC grant programs is available at: [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

■ **Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 9:30am – 11:30am**

Fullerton Community Center

340 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92835

■ **Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 3:30pm – 5:30pm**

San Dimas City Hall, City Council Chamber

245 E. Bonita Ave, San Dimas, CA 91773

■ **Thursday, November 15, 2018, 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

South Gate Park, Auditorium

4900 Southern Ave, South Gate, CA 90280

■ **Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 9:30am – 11:30am**

SCV Water, Newhall Division

23780 Pine St, Newhall, CA 91321



California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) was approved by the voters on June 5, 2018 which authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program.

Purposes of Proposition 68 include: 1) developing urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects, 2) provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities, 3) result in public benefit, 4) create new partnerships to expand access to diverse populations

### Prop 68 throughout RMC territory

■ Funding Allocation: \$30 million

### Prop 68 for Lower L.A. River Corridor

■ Funding Allocation: \$37.5 million

■ Draft Grant Guidelines Released: Posted October 12, 2018 ([rmc.ca.gov](http://rmc.ca.gov))

■ 30-day Comment Period: October 20 - November 20, 2018

■ Draft Grant Guideline Meetings: November 13-20, 2018

■ Anticipated Call-for-Projects: February 2019

■ Award Funding: Starting May 2019

■ At least 20% of the funds available shall be allocated for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities.

■ Up to 10% of the funds available may be allocated for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities.

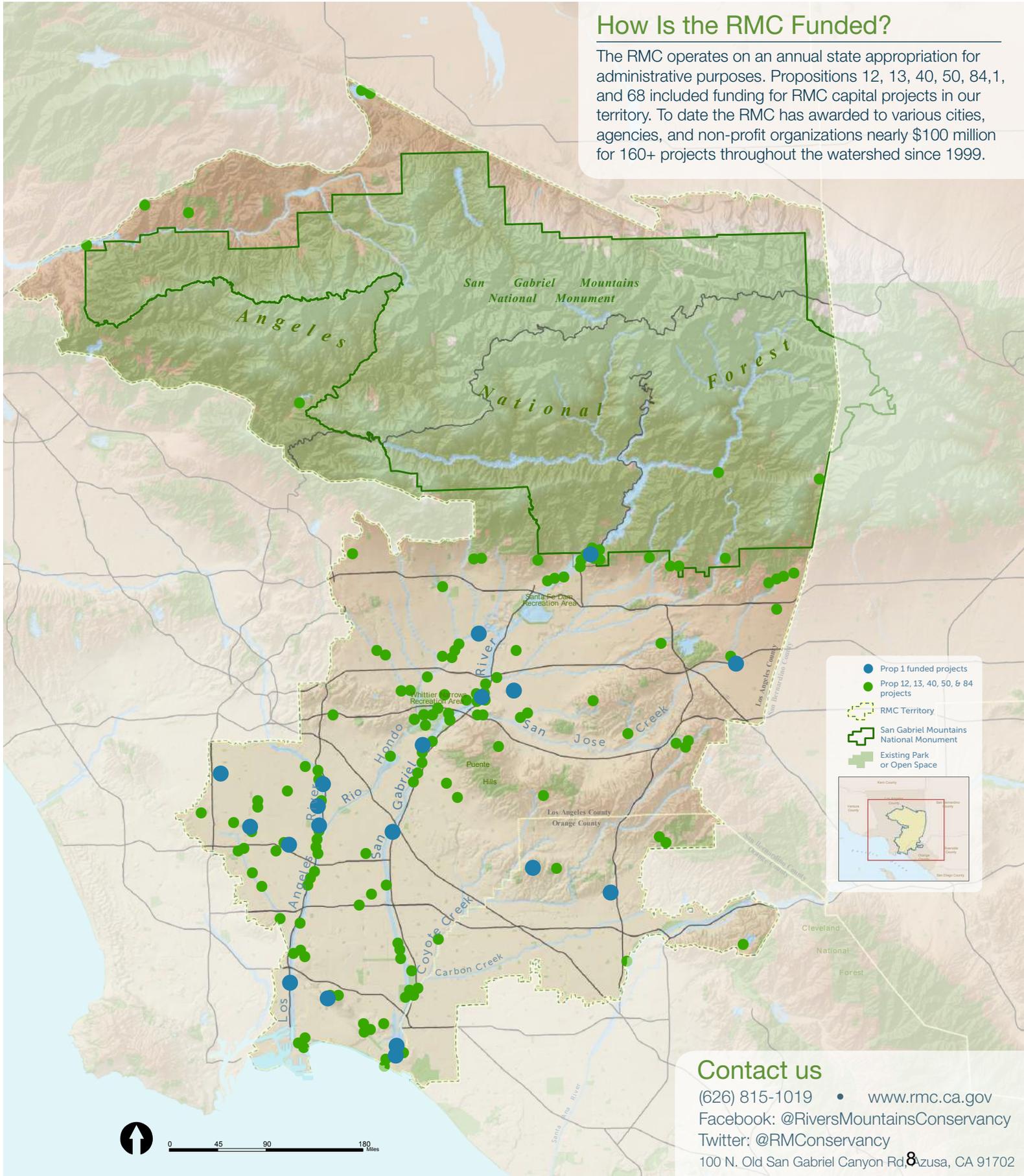
■ Up to 5% of the funds available pursuant to each chapter of this division shall be allocated for community access projects, including for: transportation, physical activity programming, resource interpretation, multilingual translation, natural science, workforce development and career pathways, education, parks, climate, etc.

■ Up to 10% of the funds available may be allocated to support planning-related applications.



## How Is the RMC Funded?

The RMC operates on an annual state appropriation for administrative purposes. Propositions 12, 13, 40, 50, 84, 1, and 68 included funding for RMC capital projects in our territory. To date the RMC has awarded to various cities, agencies, and non-profit organizations nearly \$100 million for 160+ projects throughout the watershed since 1999.



## Contact us

(626) 815-1019 • [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)  
 Facebook: @RiversMountainsConservancy  
 Twitter: @RMConservancy  
 100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd. #8 Azusa, CA 91702



November 19, 2018

Grant Program  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
100 N Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.  
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: Proposition 68 Grant Program Draft Guidelines-COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Stanley,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (Neighborhood Land Trust), we are writing to thank you for all of your hard work developing the Proposition 68 Grant Program Draft Guidelines and for this important opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Guidelines. We appreciate the provisions in Proposition 68 that prioritize funding in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, and we are eager to see the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) exceed these expectations and maximize investments in these areas when implementing its Proposition 68 Grant Program.

As a community-based, nonprofit land owner and park developer, the Neighborhood Land Trust is committed to addressing park inequity by building, maintaining, and programming parks and gardens in low-income communities of color. We believe all people, regardless of zip code, racial composition, or income level, deserve to live within a ten-minute walk of a safe and well-maintained park, playground, or garden.

Section 80008(a)(1) of Proposition 68 requires that “at least 20% of funds available pursuant to each chapter of this division shall be allocated for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities”. The Neighborhood Land Trust sees this as an important step in bringing resources to historically underserved communities, and **we encourage RMC to exceed the 20% requirement and prioritize projects that are physically located in disadvantaged communities.**

The 20% funding requirement is a critical step in addressing the systemic absence of high quality greenspace in many low-income communities of color across the state, but it is a baseline that only begins to rectify the impacts of historic underinvestment for parks and open space in these communities. According to [the Los Angeles Countywide Park and Recreation Needs Assessment](#), more than 50% of Los Angeles residents experience high or very high park need, and the majority of these residents are low-income people of color. Additional investments, particularly in the communities they seek to benefit, are necessary to compensate for the disproportionate lack of resources in these areas and to ensure capacity to create new parks and upgrade existing, low-quality greenspace.

While we recognize that various types of projects can benefit members of disadvantaged communities, we hope that RMC will give preference to projects that are physically located in disadvantaged communities. Since 2002, the Neighborhood Land Trust has built 27 parks and gardens throughout the County of Los Angeles. It is, and has always been, our position that building and activating greenspace *in* park-poor neighborhoods is the best way to *serve* those areas. For this reason, we encourage RMC to prioritize new neighborhood park development, renovations of existing greenspace, and additional local park programming physically located in disadvantaged communities to guarantee the most benefits to the area.

As RMC does this, we also suggest specific consideration of the following:

- **Separately Maximizing Community Access Funding:** The Neighborhood Land Trust understands the importance and supports the promotion of community access projects, as defined by Section 80008(c) of Proposition 68. However, we advise RMC to allocate the up to 5% that can be used for community access independently from the 20% for disadvantaged communities. We acknowledge the benefits that community access projects could have for members of disadvantaged communities, and we would like to see RMC allocate the full 5% towards these types of projects. We also want to emphasize the value in keeping investments in the communities that need them and caution RMC not to let these two important allocations trade off during implementation.
- **Requiring Robust Community Engagement and Design:** As RMC further develops its Proposition 68 Grant Program, we recommend robust community engagement efforts that elevate community needs to inform project development. The Neighborhood Land Trust utilizes a community design model where community residents design new park developments and renovations with our organization. Our projects also include community stewardship plans, which empower community members to take ownership of greenspace in their neighborhoods. We recommend RMC require or award additional points for projects that include meaningful community engagement components.
- **Including Anti-displacement Protections:** We want to elevate the importance of Section 80001(b)(9), “ 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”. We recognize the potential for park development to contribute to gentrification in disadvantaged communities and the displacement of low-income residents, but we do not believe this has to happen. We encourage RMC to provide additional points for applicants that include a strong anti-displacement strategy that will promote park development without displacement.<sup>1</sup> RMC could also develop and implement a

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<sup>1</sup> Prevention Institute’s [“Healthy Development without Displacement: Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All”](#) highlights the public health impacts of displacement and recommends anti-displacement strategies.

default anti-displacement strategy that requires all Proposition 68 grant-funded projects include baseline anti-displacement protections. We encourage RMC to review the Displacement Avoidance Policy recommendations in Los Angeles County's Measure A Guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

Proposition 68 funding creates a unique opportunity for the State to meaningfully invest in underserved communities throughout California and foster equitable access to active, well-maintained greenspace. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust hopes that RMC will embrace this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to collaborating with you as RMC implements its Proposition 68 Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Keshia Sexton  
Director of Organizing



Beth Kent  
Policy and Legal Fellow

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<sup>2</sup> [Proceedings of the Measure A Implementation Steering Committee](#)- 2.12 Displacement Avoidance Policy. July 28, 2018



November 20, 2018

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

**RE: Comments - Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines**

Dear Mr. Stanley:

Nature for All is a coalition of 11 organizations working to build a diverse base of support for ensuring that everyone in the Los Angeles area – no matter where they live – has equitable access to the wide range of benefits that nature can provide. Nature for All is best known as the leading community group that built support for the designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in 2014. For more than a decade, Nature for All has been advocating for policies and programs to protect the mountains, rivers and parks in our area, create more natural spaces, and connect people to public lands. We bring together local, state and national organizations to develop leaders who advocate for policies and programs to positively impact our historically-underserved communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines. The voters and supporters of Prop 68 and the enabling legislation are all expecting that a robust community access program will emerge in all Prop 68 programs and we believe that the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy can serve as a leader on this issue. We are pleased that the revised guidelines include a new section for the Access Program and suggest that strong consideration be given to including the language drafted by a broad coalition of organizations attached to this letter. Further, provisions for the access program must also be reflected throughout the guidelines, particularly Sections 3.1, 4.1 and 7.4. As currently written these sections do not make references to the access program.

Most importantly, Appendix B must be updated to include criteria which is applicable to the access program as a stand-alone program. Further, access program applications must be evaluated distinctively from all other project types. Addition of these items will insure that projects are meeting the access policy goals established in Proposition 68. Thank you for your attention and we look forward to release of the final guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Belinda Faustinos".

Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Director

## Proposition 68: Recommendations for Implementation of Community Access Provision

### PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Up to 5% of total available funds can be used towards community access projects and programming that enables thoughtful, comprehensive projects and programming.

#### Individual Funding Program or Project Category/Type

As a distinct funding program, or as an eligible project category within an existing funding program, applicants shall be able to apply for funding for stand-alone community access projects. The community access project category shall be scored equally to other project categories. These projects should include at least one of the following elements:

- 1) Transportation,
- 2) Physical activity programming,
- 3) Resource interpretation,
- 4) Multilingual translation,
- 5) Natural science,
- 6) Workforce development and career pathways,
- 7) Education, and/or
- 8) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.

The community access program or project category/type should be designed with the following elements:

- 1) Projects should be required to have measurable elements that tie to other state goals (i.e. California State education standards, Prop 68 goals, Department strategic plans, etc.);
- 2) Preference should 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;
- 3) Projects serving disadvantaged park-poor cities or low-income communities should be exempt from cost sharing requirements;
- 4) Projects should not have a maximum application amount; and
- 5) All relevant direct and indirect costs should be eligible for funding.

#### Eligible Project Cost

Acknowledging the importance of community engagement and participation in all projects, community access projects, as defined, shall also be an eligible cost for any project submitted to any funding program or project category/type.

### DEFINITIONS

According to Public Resources Code 80002(b):

*“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.*

Public Resources Code 80008(c) further states that:

*(1) Up to 5 percent of funds available pursuant to each chapter of this division shall, to the extent permissible under the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code) and with the concurrence of the Director of Finance, be allocated for community access projects that include, but are not limited to, the following:*

*(A) Transportation.*

*(B) Physical activity programming.*

*(C) Resource interpretation.*

*(D) Multilingual translation.*

*(E) Natural science.*

*(F) Workforce development and career pathways.*

*(G) Education.*

*(H) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.*

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

Community access projects and programming improves park, open space, cultural resources, and other facilities by enhancing the appeal, appreciation, enjoyment, and general use of properties and facilities to increase stewardship, mission fulfillment, relevancy, and to ensure that properties and facilities are meeting the long-term needs of California. Providing funding to implement community access projects improves use, stewardship, and longevity of facilities and open space.

Examples of community access projects include:

- 1) Transportation – Programs that provide bus transportation and a naturalist to facilitate a trip and provide resources interpretation to visitors who do not have the ability to visit a park;
- 2) Physical activity programming – Programs that encourage physical activity in the outdoors or appreciation of historical land use, including guided bike tours and kayak and fishing trips;
- 3) Resource interpretation – Free programs for members of the general public to participate in interpretive nature walks through the outdoors that enhance their appreciation of the local watershed community of native plants and wildlife, as well as the cultural history of the region including indigenous people;
- 4) Multilingual translation – Multi-lingual and multi-ability signage at trailheads and on trails that promote language access and culturally sensitive wayfinding for visitors;
- 5) Natural science – Training programs that focus on environmental justice, air quality, water quality testing and monitoring, rivers and streams, outdoor exploration, field trips, advocacy training, and exposure to outdoor careers,
- 6) Workforce development and career pathways – Leadership programs at local parks or recreation centers that provide youth with opportunities to gain skills and experience that launch academic and professional careers in outdoor education and land management, and provide real pathways to park-based job training and employment;
- 7) Education – Programs that offer low-income students STEM education in the outdoors to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship; Community gardening classes;
- 8) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits – Volunteer programs for adults who provide guided tours and field trips for indigenous descendants, guests and visitors to inform the public about the history of the land, the importance of preservation and restoration, current use and participation opportunities, and community and state support that facilitated its preservation.

January 28, 2019 – Item 15

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-06

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS  
AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) TO APPROVE  
RMC GRANT GUIDELINE CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPETITIVE  
GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE AWARDING OF GRANTS UNDER PROPOSITION 68:  
CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND  
OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 PROGRAM FUNDS

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 which provides funds for the RMC grant programs (Proposition 68 Park Bond); and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to establish policies and procedures for allocation of RMC grant funds under this Bond program; and

WHEREAS, The Conservancy is seeking to approve RMC grant guideline criteria for the establishment of a competitive grant, which is consistent with the purposes of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code and the Water 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 this action is consistent with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, which provides funds for the RMC grant programs.
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 January 28, 2019.
5. AUTHORIZES a resolution approving the RMC Grant Guideline criteria for the establishment of a competitive grant program for the awarding of grants under

Proposition 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 program funds.

~ 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 January 28, 2019

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General