

DATE: November 18, 2019

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to approve a Professional Services Contract for the Development of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District

PROGRAM AREA: Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Planning

JURISDICTION: Lower Los Angeles River Corridor

PROJECT MANAGER: Salian Garcia

RECOMMENDATION: That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) approve a professional services contract for the development of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District with Suely Saro

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Exhibit A – Proposed Scope of Work

The consultant would continue the development and implementation activities of the Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District (LLARRPD) including the promotion open space and parks along the Lower Los Angeles River, establishment of the initial Board of Directors of the LLARRPD. The consultant would also provide project assistance and support to the RMC (Exhibit A – Proposed Scope of Work). Several objectives have been prescribed through the contract, such as ensuring all cities listed in Senate Bill 1374 (PRC § 5795 et seq) each adopt a resolution support formation of and inclusion of the LLARRPD by communicating with relevant point of contacts from the cities and representing the RMC at scheduled city council meetings to support the adoption of those resolutions, provide outreach and education to stakeholders of the Lower LA River region, and draft bylaws and funding plan of the LLARRPD. The consultant would also coordinate with the lead applicant City of South Gate and the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to complete and submit the application to establish the LLARRPD.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill SB 1374 (PRC § 5795 et seq.) authorizes the establishment of the LLARRPD by petition or resolution submitted to the LAFCO before January 1, 2021, subject to specified existing laws governing recreation and park districts, including their formation, except as provided. Through the formation of the LLARRPD, working in collaboration with the Working Group and the RMC, SB 1374 will help facilitate the construction, improvement, and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, and promote the development of open space and parks for the benefit of communities along the Lower Los Angeles River. The bill also establishes the Board of Directors of the district, made up of two public members, appointed by the Los Angeles County

Board of Supervisors and one representative appointed by each of the following cities: Vernon, Maywood, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Paramount, and Long Beach. Additionally, one representative may be jointly appointed by the city councils of the cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera.

On January 29, 2019, the RMC Governing Board approved funding of not less than \$120,000 per year for three consecutive years for an amount not to exceed \$360,000 to support operational and administrative expenditures, including a full-time management position, for the formation of the LLARRPD (Resolution No. 2019-08). Staff began the Request for Personnel Action process with CalHR for the position Conservancy Project Development Specialist (CPDS) on February 26, 2019 with the anticipation to complete recruitment and fill the vacancy by April 30, 2019. However, the recruitment process has been delayed considerably primarily due to prolonged discussions with CalHR and research of finding an appropriate written examination for the CPDS as it does not have an existing examination. In an effort to prevent delays in the execution of SB 1374, the RMC entered into a short-term contract, under GC § 19130(b)(10), with a contract value of \$9,999.99 in July 2019 with Suely Saro, a field representative from former Senator Ricardo Lara's office. Saro has

While there has been progress toward the final stages of the Request for Personnel Action, the RMC anticipates recruitment for the CPDS position will not begin until after January 2020. Therefore, the RMC recommends continuing the contract with Suely Saro through December 2019 with a new contract value of \$25,000.00, with an option to extend through April 30, 2020 or until the Conservancy Project Development Specialist vacancy is filled, whichever comes first.

FISCAL INFORMATION: Funding for this contract is allocated from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's commitment to fund the LLARRPD at a rate of \$120,000 per year from its general fund/local assistance for Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization Projects.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:

General Fund via Budget Act of 2018, Ch. 29, Statutes of 2018 § 2.00
0540-101-0001 Schedule 1(f)

Public Resources Code Division 5.4 provides in part that:

Section 5795 (a) The Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District may be established subject to this chapter and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Division 3 (commencing with Section 56000) of Title 5 of the Government Code).

Section 5795.20 (a) In addition to the powers enumerated in Article 7 (commencing with Section 5786), which shall be subject to review and approval by the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission upon formation, change of organization, or reorganization under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Division 3 (commencing with Section 56000) of Title 5 of the Government Code), and to the financing authority provided by Article 9 (commencing with Section 5788), Article 10 (commencing with Section 5789), and Article 11 (commencing with Section 5790), the district shall do all of the following:

- (1) Promote the development of open space and parks along the Lower Los Angeles River.
- (2) Identify funding and resources to promote the revitalization of the Lower Los Angeles River and open spaces along the river for the benefit and enjoyment of local communities.
- (3) Acquire, construct, improve, maintain, and operate parks and open space along the Lower Los Angeles River.
 - (b) The district shall conduct the activities specified in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, of subdivision (a) in coordination with the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group established pursuant to Section 32622 and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy established pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600), which have certain responsibilities regarding the Lower Los Angeles River.

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute of the Public Resources Code Division 22.8 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.

**San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers, Mountain, and Conservancy
Scope of Work – October- December 2019
Suely Saro**

Goals:

1. Create the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District to promote the development of open space and parks along the Lower Los Angeles River.
2. Establishes the Board of Directors of the district, made up of two public members, appointed by the Los Angeles County board of Supervisors, one representative appointed by each of the following cities: City of Vernon, City of Maywood, City of Bell, City of Bell Gardens, City of Cudahy, City of South Gate, City of Lynwood, City of Compton, City of Paramount, City of Long Beach, and one representative jointly appointed by the cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera.
3. Provide assistance and support to RMC staff on projects.

Strategies and Activities to Achieve Stated Goals	Deliverables	Timeline	Services Performed
Objective #1 – Ensure all cities adopt a resolution to support formation of and inclusion in the Lower LA River Recreation and Parks District.			
a. Communicate with point of contacts at the cities to include an agenda item to adopt a resolution to support the formation of and inclusion in the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District.	Agenda items in the City council meetings	Oct-Dec 2019	
b. Represent RMC at the scheduled city council meeting to support the adoption of the resolution.	Copies of the adopted resolutions.	Oct-Dec 2019	
Objective #2: Coordinate with Lead Applicant City of South Gate and LAFCO to ensure application is completed and submitted.			

Strategies and Activities to Achieve Stated Goals	Deliverables	Timeline	Services Performed
a. Provide support to the Lead Applicant City of South Gate to complete the application.	Completed Application to form the Lower LA River Recreation and Parks District	Oct-Dec 2019	
b. Communicate with LAFCO and Lead Applicant City of South Gate to submit a completed application.	Submission of completed application to LAFCO.	Oct-Dec 2019	
Objective #3: Develop draft by-laws, operating policy and procedure, budget, and funding plan for the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District.			

Strategies and Activities to Achieve Stated Goals	Deliverables	Timeline	Services Performed
<p>Research and study 63 California recreation and park district’s governing structure, operation’s policy and procedure, budgets, and funding/income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreadsheet of the findings of the CA recreation and park district’s governing structure, operation’s policy and procedure, and budget. • Draft bylaws and operations policy and procedures. • Draft budget • Draft funding plan 	<p>Oct-Dec 2019</p>	
<p>Objective #4: Provide outreach and education to stakeholders of the Lower LA River</p>			

Strategies and Activities to Achieve Stated Goals	Deliverables	Timeline	Services Performed
<p>Schedule and conduct meetings with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff at the County Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreations. • Port of Long Beach • LA County Supervisor's staff: Mark Baucum, MBaucum@bos.lacounty.gov (Hahn), and Karly Katona (Ridley-Thomas), KKatona@bos.lacounty.gov • Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director, Gateway Cities COG • Grace Kast, Executive Officer, Gateway Water Management Authority 	<p>Written report of meeting</p>	<p>Oct-Dec 2019</p>	
<p>Objective #5: Represent RMC at meetings and events</p>			
<p>a. Attend Lower LA River Implementation Advisory Committee Meetings</p>	<p>Written reports of meetings and events attended.</p>	<p>Oct-Dec 2019</p>	
<p>b. Attend the River Master Plan Meetings-Steering Committee meeting</p>	<p>Written reports of meetings and events attended.</p>	<p>Oct-Dec 2019</p>	

Strategies and Activities to Achieve Stated Goals	Deliverables	Timeline	Services Performed
Objective #6: Provide assistance to other duties assigned			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Strategic Planning RMC staff • Work with a consultant on the RMC Board and Staff Retreat • SB1374 Bill amendment • River Ranger Program • SB693- Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District • RMC’s Communications with Stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda and notes for the Strategic Planning meeting • Agenda for the board and staff retreat • Mailchimp set up to send regular emails to RMC’s stakeholders 	<p>Oct-Dec 2019</p>	

November 18, 2019 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2019-37

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

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 State of California has authorized an expenditure of local assistance funds enacted in the Budget Act of 2018 (Senate Bill No. 840) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for local assistance for the Los Angeles River Community Restoration and Revitalization 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, Senator Ricardo Lara has introduced Senate Bill 1374 to create the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1374 approved by the Governor September 22, 2016 and filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2016, Chapter 486, Statutes of 2016; and

WHEREAS, the RMC accepts the proposal from Suely Saro to provide professional services for the development of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District; 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 November 18, 2019.
4. AUTHORIZES the RMC to approve a professional service contract for the development of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District with Suely Saro.

~ 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 November 18, 2019.

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General