

DATE: February 3, 2020

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15: Consideration of a resolution approving a Proposition 68 grant to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for developing the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (RMC19010)

PROGRAM AREA: Rivers/Tributary Parkways

PROJECT TYPE: Planning

JURISDICTION: Conservation Corps of Long Beach

PROJECT MANAGER: Sally Gee

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC Board approve a grant in the amount of \$312,015 to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for developing the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (RMC19010).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Exhibit A – Location Map
 Exhibit B – CalEnviroScreen Scores
 Exhibit C – Task list and Timeline
 Exhibit D – Budget
 Exhibit E – Current Conditions

With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, the RMC established Proposition 68 grant program guidelines which provided for project applications to be submitted for funding consideration (RMC Resolution 2019-06).

In Spring 2019, staff opened a Call for Projects between April 29, 2019 and July 15, 2019. Under Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, \$30,000,000 is allocated for projects throughout all of RMC territory. Note, projects within the Los Angeles River corridor have a separate RMC urban river funding source.

Projects prioritized for funding recommendations to the Governing Board are subject to multiple factors upon review, including project score and ranking amongst territory-wide submittals, project readiness, and public benefit value. Project proponents are provided the opportunity to receive higher scores based on additional information provided through staff interviews that demonstrate an alignment with RMC goals and objectives, and granting of funds is consistent with RMC programs, which include:

Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea - Supports the Watershed and Open Space Plan vision for the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds, seeks to restore

balance between natural and human systems. Guiding principles: 1) growing greener (create, expand and improve open space and access to open space), 2) enhancing waters and waterways, and 3) coordinate regional planning efforts.

RMC Environmental Justice Policy - To ensure that the public, including minority and low-income populations, are informed of opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of all RMC-related programs, policies and activities, and that they are not discriminated against, treated unfairly, or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental decisions.

Tribal Consultation - To ensure indigenous tribes and tribal communities are able to provide meaningful input into the development of regulations, rules policies, programs, projects, plans, property decisions, and activities that may affect tribal communities; supporting AB52 and CEQA, which require separate consideration of tribal cultural resources from that of paleontological resources.

After review by RMC staff, this grant received a score of 78/100 or 78% and a recommends funding the planning activities.

Project:	Developing a Master Plan for the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space	
Applicant:	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	
Program area:	Rivers/Tributary Parkways	
Amount requested:	\$312,015	
Amount recommended for funding:	\$312,015	
RMC PROP 68 REGIONWIDE GRANT PROGRAM - EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY		
Factor	Project Score	Total Possible Points
1. Access Value	10.38	11
2. Urban Land Value	8.13	10
3. Water Sustainability/Water Storage/Water Infrastructure	10.5	13
4. Habitat and Restoration Resource Values	11.25	12
5. Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities	20.75	32
6. Matching Funds	4.25	9
7. Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value	7.75	8
8. Capacity	5	5
TOTAL POINTS	78.01	100

The Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) will help re-envision a 60-acre open space region of Lakewood that centers around the Lakewood Equestrian Center, and includes Rynerson Park, the San Gabriel River Trail, and Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka (Exhibit A). The Master Plan will link these various spaces, to integrate the community's recreational desires and needs with sustainable, long-term practices, and guide the City of Lakewood's regional management and programs. While these facilities sit adjacent to each other, they currently lack safe and marked connections to one another. The area has the potential to entertain a multitude of recreational and educational activities, connect the local community to the outdoors, and host best management practices (BMPs) for natural resources.

The objectives of the Master Plan are to:

1. Address access to the San Gabriel River Trail, Bikeways, and Equestrian trails;
2. Integrate BMPs for sustainable site planning and natural resource use;
3. Enhance and improve the region's purple pipes and water conservation efforts;
4. Incorporate habitat protection BMPs that not only enhance the region's open space for public use, but also increase biodiversity and natural disaster mitigation efforts;
5. Address the needs of disadvantaged communities in the City of Lakewood and nearby municipalities by integrating data collected during outreach and facilitations; and
6. Bring together various resources through partnerships and collaboration.

The Conservation Corps of Long (CCLB) has partnered with the City of Lakewood, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka, and DakeLuna Consultants to complete the Master Plan. CCLB will be responsible for the oversight and management of developing the Master Plan and facilitate coordination between all project partners. The project heavily emphasizes Stakeholder Engagement lead by LANI to facilitate community outreach and data collection necessary to develop the Master Plan. The project's outreach will consist of creating a Project Steering Committee (PSC), made up of neighborhood stakeholders and community leaders, creating a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of representatives from public departments and agencies that have jurisdiction over the various project components, as well as, hosting open forum public meetings and workshops. DakeLuna is responsible for integrating the data and developing the Master Plan. CampFire will support all partners in the process.

Once completed, the Master Plan will be implemented by the City of Lakewood, and the City will be responsible for oversight and management of all facilities within Lakewood borders. Key City recreation and public works staff will be involved in the development of the Master Plan, and the City has expressed their full support for this project.

The project location spans both sides of the San Gabriel River, with a majority of the sites on the East side of the San Gabriel River. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 scores in the Eastern project area range between the 65 – 70% and 80 – 85%, and scores in the Western project area are between 10% - 15% (Exhibit B). Development of the Master Plan will help increase recreational access to a majority DAC and severely disadvantage community.

The timeline for developing the Master Plan will be from January 2020 – June 2021 (Exhibit C). Matching in-kind funds of \$389,357.76 is being provided by the project applicants (Exhibit D).

BACKGROUND: The Lakewood Equestrian Center was established in the 1980s and offers 19-acres of open space for horse owners and various animal welfare groups to board, exercise, and train horse. The Center is one of very few horse-friendly facilities throughout the Gateway Cities area, and although it is currently being used only for limited boarding and training, the Center has the capacity to expand its community impact through environmental education, demonstration gardens, therapeutic riding, leisure recreation, and energy conservation. Current public access to the Center is limited to Carson Street with no direct connection to the San Gabriel River Trail System. The facility is leased and operated by the City of Lakewood from SoCal Edison.

Rynerson Park sits just north of the Equestrian Center, and is a 40-acre, heavily utilized open space area. Vehicles can only access the Park from Studebaker Road, which does not connect to Carson Street, and pedestrians have limited access to the Park via the East San Gabriel River Trail. This park is also under SoCal Edison powerlines, and is managed by the City of Lakewood.

Camp Fire is located southwest of the Equestrian Center and Rynerson Park. Camp Fire sits in an isolated quadrant of the San Gabriel River/ Carson Street grid. Camp Fire hosts thousands of youth every year at its site for educational purposes. Its site is only accessible off of Los Coyotes Diagonal with no connection to the San Gabriel Trails north of Carson or to the Equestrian Center.

In Lakewood, the San Gabriel River Trails are located on both the east and west side of the River. While the River connects all facilities and the surrounding neighborhoods, community members have limited access to the trails due to lack of park, lack of marked access, and excess fencing.

All these facilities are currently open to the public, but due to lack of synchronization and cohesive accessibility, community members are often unaware of the recreational opportunities that they can partake in. In addition, due to the lack of safe linkages, all facilities are believed to be underutilized (Exhibit E).

FISCAL INFORMATION: This grant awards to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach \$312,015 in Prop 68 grant funds for Developing a Master Plan for the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space (RMC19010).

Proposition 68, Chapter 852 Statutes of 2017
California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 allocations, Chapter 8, under statute:

80110(b)(6): San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:

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.

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.



Project Location

Legend



Rynerson Park



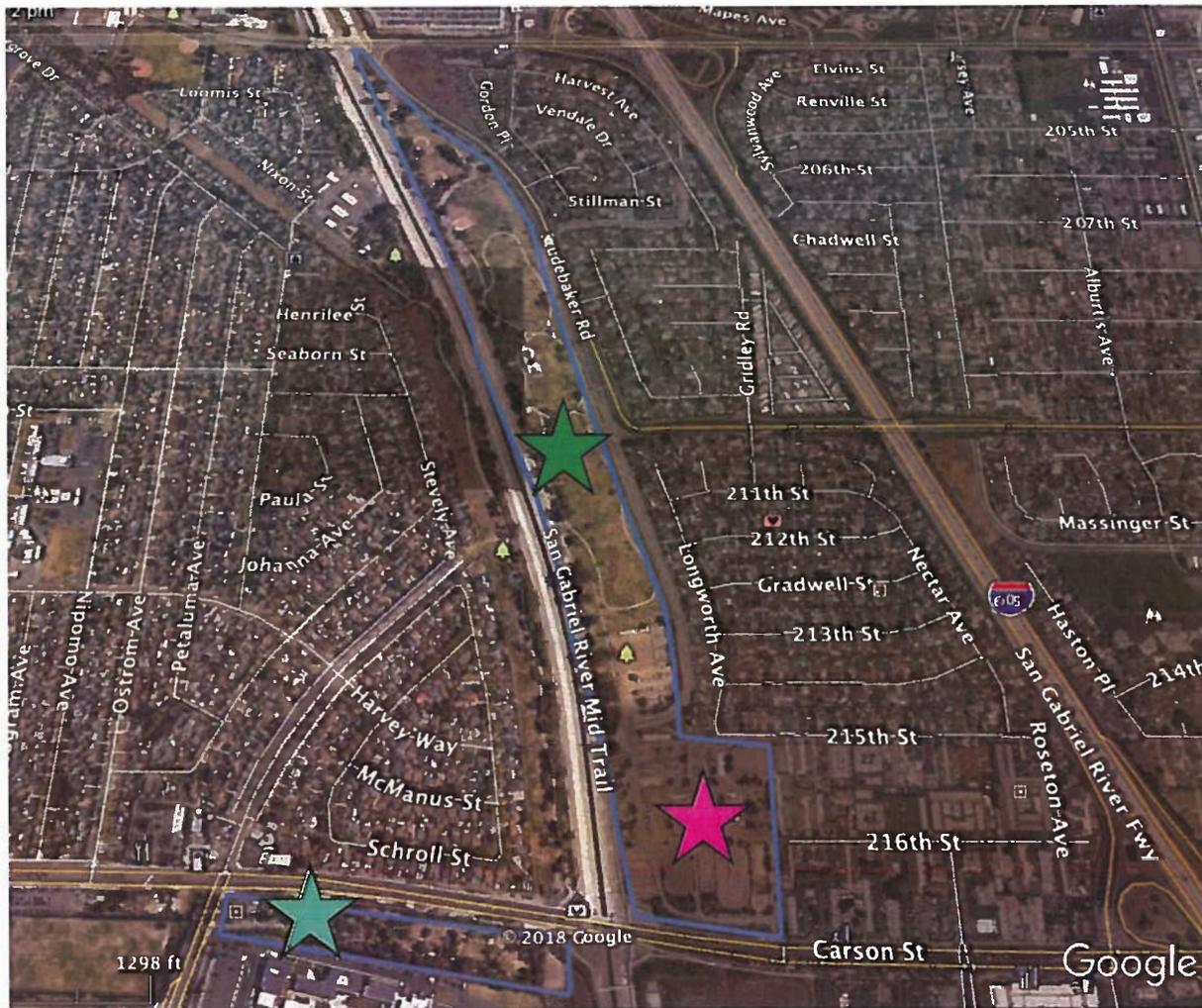
Lakewood Equestrian Center

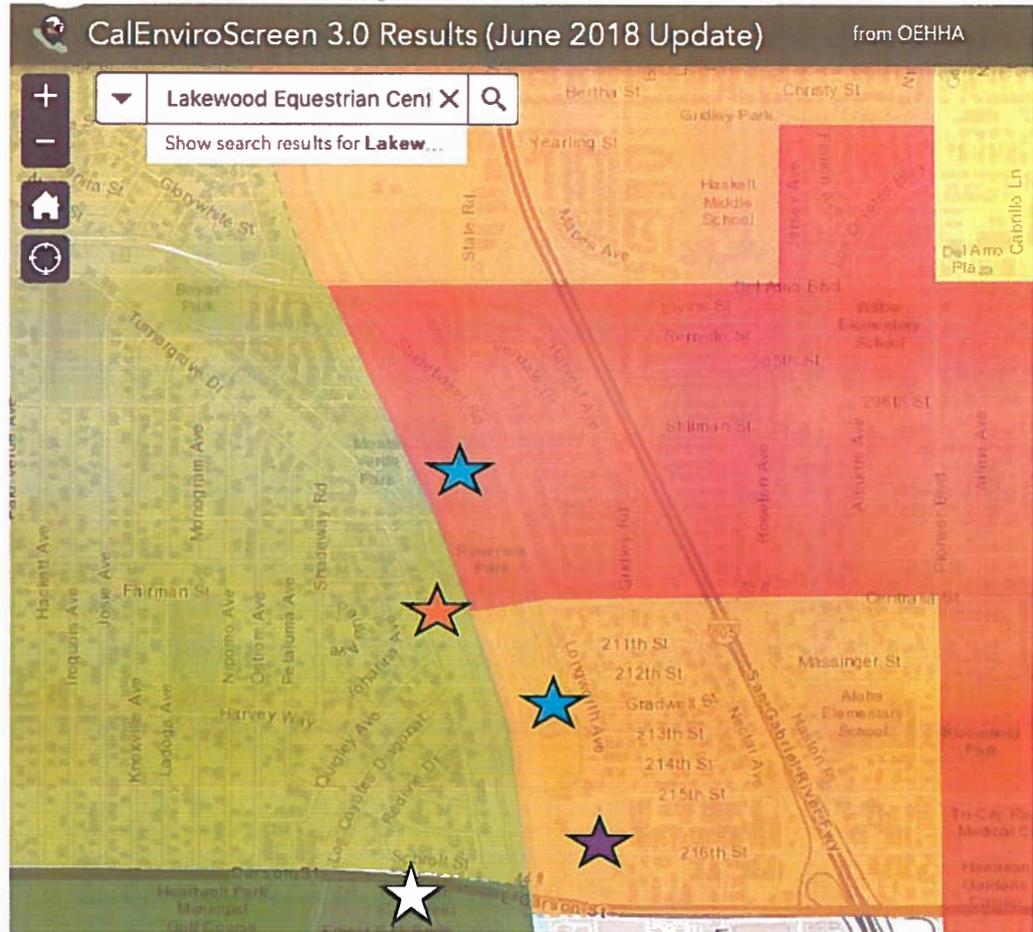


Camp Fire



Master Plan focus areas





	San Gabriel River – East		San Gabriel River - West
CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Census Tract	6037555001	6037555002	6037571000
Population	5,411	3,475	5,747
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African-American Asian-American Hispanic White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9% 25% 46% 18% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11% 17% 42% 26% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% 8% 24% 62%
Pollution Burden Percentile	72%	78%	51%
Traffic	84%	91%	46%
Impaired Water	41%	81%	41%
Poverty	54%	51%	9%

Tasklist and Timeline

Lakewood Equestrian Center Master Plan Timeline and Tasks

*** Please note: from start to finish, CCLB anticipates that this process will take 2 years to complete. The below timeline represents stakeholder engagement and draft Master Plan development.**

	Project Months																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Project Start-up																		
Coordinate w RMC, SD4, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Equestrian Center to identify steering committee membership	█																	
Assemble and correspond with the Technical Advisory Committee	█																	
Public Outreach to define roles of the Project Steering Committee and to finalize membership		█																
Ongoing Community Outreach																		
Create Outreach Materials		█	█			█			█			█						
Distribute Outreach Materials				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
Mobile Community Hub Outreach				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
Conduct Community Meetings (4)			█			█			█			█						
Conduct PSC Meetings (9-11)		█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			█	█	█
Design Phase																		
Master Plan Development									█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Develop Cost-Estimates											█	█	█		█	█	█	█

Developing a Master Plan for the Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space
BUDGET

Task	RMC Prop 68 Grant	Match:	Match: Private/Local	Match: In-Kind	TOTAL
0.00 Project Management	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,550	\$ -	\$ 30,550	\$ 80,550
0.01 Project Initiation	\$ 11,050.00			\$ 4,550	
0.02 Project Management	\$ 32,950.00			\$ 26,000	
0.03 Grant Administration	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -		\$ -	
1.00 Stakeholder Engagement	\$ 156,100.00	\$ 38,018	\$ -	\$ 38,018	\$ 194,118
1.01 Establishment and Engagement - Technical Advisory Committee	\$ 34,825.00			\$ 10,812	
1.02 Establishment and Engagement - Project Steering Committee	\$ 46,075.00			\$ 12,581	
1.03 Development of Outreach Materials and Surveys	\$ 29,825.00			\$ 6,500	
1.04 Distribution and Collection of Outreach Materials and Data	\$ 45,375.00			\$ 8,125	
2.00 Development of Master Plan	\$ 77,550.00	\$ 8,775	\$ -	\$ 8,775	\$ 86,325
2.01 Development of Draft Master Plan	\$ 54,800.00			\$ 6,175	
2.02 Development of Final Master Plan	\$ 22,750.00			\$ 2,600	
3.00 Indirect Costs	\$ 28,365.00				\$ 28,365
Total:	\$ 312,015.00	\$ 77,343		\$ 77,343.00	\$ 389,358



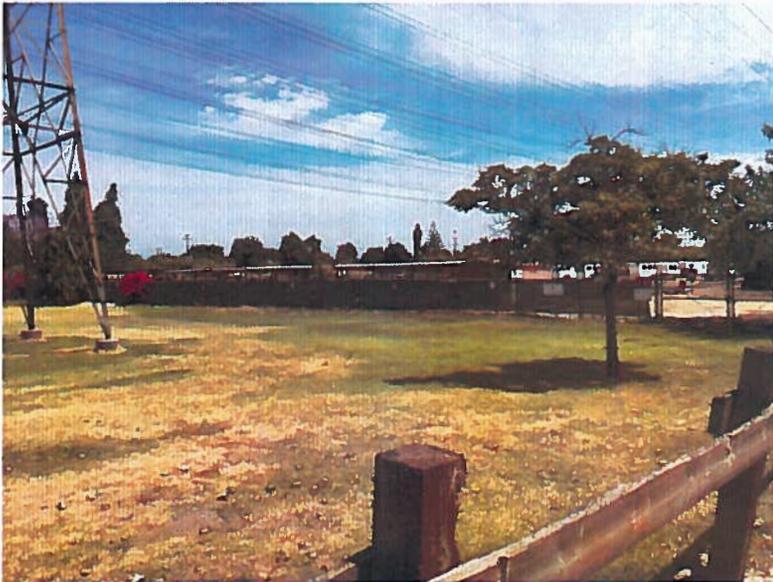
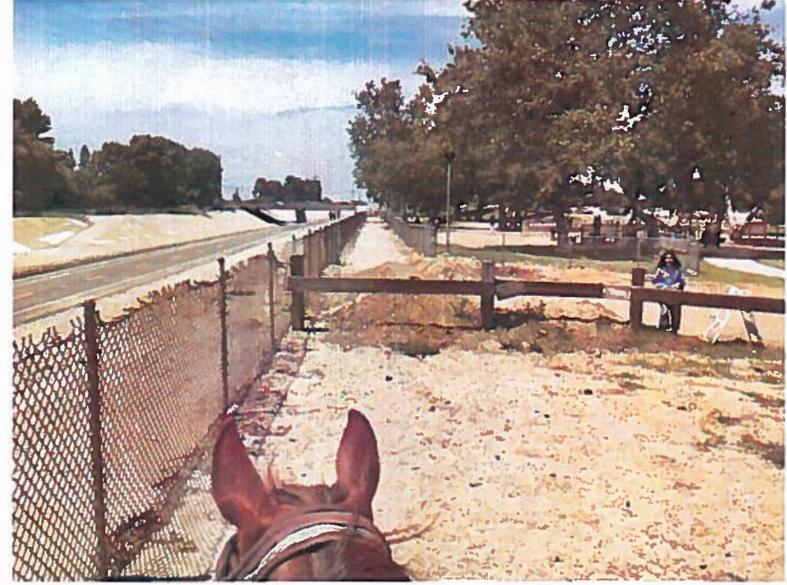
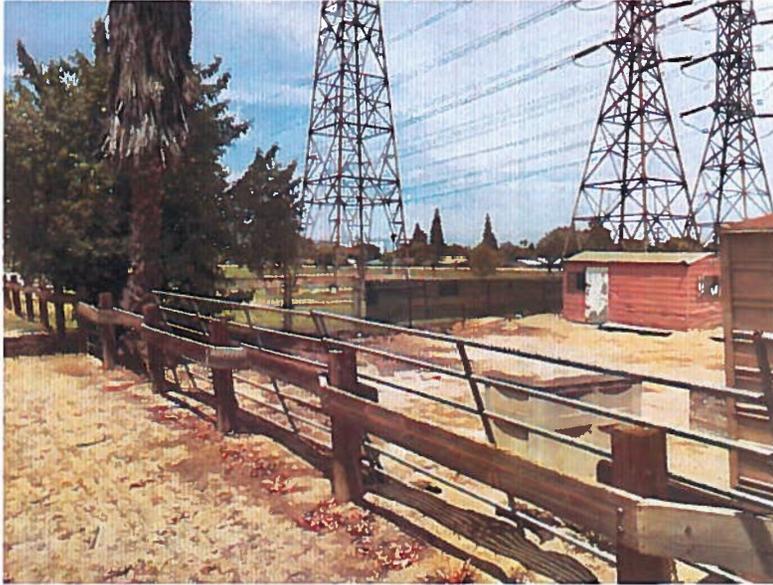
Project Photos

Underutilized Space & Safety Concerns





Lack of Access



February 3, 2020 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2020-07

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH FOR DEVELOPING THE LAKEWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER AND SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (RMC19010)

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 (“Proposition 68”); and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 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 68, Chapter 7, Section 80100(a)(1)(B) or Chapter 8, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Water Code; 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 Proposition 68 RMC Grant Program is consistent with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (“Proposition 68”), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
- 3 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 68.
- 4 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan.
- 5 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;
- 6 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 7 ADOPTS the staff report dated February 3, 2020.
- 8 AUTHORIZES a grant of in the amount of \$312,015 to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for developing the Lakewood Equestrian Center and Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (RMC19010).

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on February 3, 2020.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General