San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

Lower Los Angeles River Grant Program Guidelines

Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
(Proposition 1), Section 79735(a)

The State Resources Agency
State of California

2018-2023

Inquiries and Contact Information

All inquiries, correspondence, and grant applications should be addressed to:

Proposition 1 Lower Los Angeles River Grant Program
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702
626-815-1019
RMCProp1@rmc.ca.gov

For further information please log on to our website at www.rmc.ca.gov

This is an open call for projects and grant applications. Requests will be accepted on an on-going basis until all funding is expended.

Guidelines and Criteria are subject to change at any time. The regular RMC Board meeting schedule, which is adopted at the beginning of each calendar year, convenes on the fourth Monday of January, March, May, June, July, September, and November and alternates between the Garvey Center in the city of Rosemead and the city of Bellflower City Hall. Schedule and location are subject to change.

–Last updated 9/21/20 – to allow for digital submission of applications due to COVID-19

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 Background

1.1 RMC Authority 3
1.2 Grant Funding Sources—Proposition 1 3

SECTION 2 Purpose and Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines and Eligibility 4
2.2 RMC Objectives and Proposition 1 Consistency 4
2.3 Proposition 1, Chapter 6 Objectives 5
2.4 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and the RMC Environmental Justice Policy 6
2.5 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and the RMC Tribal Consultation Policy 6
2.6 RMC Proposition 1 Priorities 7
2.7 Eligible Applicants 8
2.8 Project Eligibility 8
2.9 Project Ineligibility 9
2.10 Additional Considerations 9
2.11 Funding Categories 10

SECTION 3 Grant Application Process

3.1 Geographic Program Areas 12
3.2 Project Evaluation Criteria 12
3.3 Notice of Funding Availability 12
3.4 Grant Application 13
3.5 Completeness and Selection Criteria 15
3.6 Scoring 15
3.7 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality 16
3.8 Typical Grant Process 16

SECTION 4 Grant Agreement

4.1 Grant Award 17
4.2 Board Meetings 17
4.3 Grant Agreement 17
4.4 Environmental Documents 17
4.5 Project Monitoring and Reporting 17
4.6 Leveraging Funds 17
4.7 Project Withdrawal 18
4.8 Changes to the Project Scope 18
4.9 Time Extensions 18
4.10 Payment of Grant Funds 18
4.11 Advance Payment Requests 18
4.12 Final Payment Request 18
4.13 Site Visits 18
4.14 Loss of Funding 18
4.15 Accounting Requirements 19

SECTION 5 Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions 19
Appendix B: Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 26
Appendix C: Project Evaluation Criteria 29
Appendix D: Grant Application Form 38
Appendix E: California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation 41

SECTION 6 FIGURES

Figure 1 & 2 RMC Territory and Lower LA River Map 44

SECTION 1: Background

1.1 RMC AUTHORITY

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is one of ten conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency established in 1999 (Chapters 788 and 789, Statutes of 1999). The RMC's mission is to preserve open space and habitat in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements within our jurisdictions. RMC's jurisdiction includes eastern Los Angeles County and western Orange County, comprised of the San Gabriel River Watershed and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed and its tributaries, Upper Santa Clara River and its tributaries, northern slope of the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Puente Hills and the San Jose Hills (Division 22.8. of the Public Resources Code California 32600-32621), please see Figure 1, RMC Territory Map. Additionally, the RMC recently adopted an Environmental Justice Policy with three key environmental justice principles: (1) community driven empowerment/organizing campaigns, 2) identification of incompatible land uses, and 3) recognize opportunities to create green infrastructure such as community open space and alternative transportation modes including bicycling and walking (RMC Resolution 2014-19).

The RMC was established to preserve open space and habitats in order to:

- Improve watersheds within its jurisdiction
- Provide for low-impact recreation, educational uses and water conservation
- Restore and protect wildlife and habitat
- Provides the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the RMC Territory in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds

1.2 Grant Funding Sources—Proposition 1

The voters of California approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") in November 2014 codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code which authorized $7.545 billion dollars in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Purposes of Proposition 1 include *implement[ing] the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure (Proposition 1, Chapter 2, Section 79701 (e*)). Chapter 6 of Proposition 1, entitled "Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds," pursuant to Section 79735(a), up to $100 million may be allocated to the RMC or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or a combination of both, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048.

Proposition 1 funds will be awarded for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources consistent with the RMC statutes, the Proposition 1 goals identified in the *California Water Action Plan* and statewide plans and priorities. The RMC Board may administer one or more competitive grant cycles during the fiscal year through the issuance of a notice of funding availability and may fund certain phases of a project in order to maximize the distribution of grant funds to multiple recipients and throughout the RMC territory.

The amount of funding available for each grant cycle will depend upon the amount appropriated to the RMC by the State Legislature each year. In addition, the amount awarded will also depend on the quality of submittals, leverage of matching funds, and multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

SECTION 2: Purpose and Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines and Eligibility

RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines establish the process and criteria that the RMC will utilize to solicit applications, evaluate proposals and award grants, pursuant to Proposition 1 and RMC guiding principles. All projects funded by the RMC with Proposition 1 grant funds must be consistent with the RMC's enabling legislation *Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea (Common Ground)*, *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*, and the watershed and open space plans for the *Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds* which was adopted by the RMC in 2001 (http://www.rmc.ca.gov) for the distribution of grant funds. In addition, the purposes defined in Proposition 1 specify that projects must carry out at least one of the three objectives of the *California Water Action Plan* (Water Code 79706(a)) in order create a sustainable strategy for managing its water resources and supply. Concurrently with these efforts to conserve and manage its water supply, the State passed the *Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006* (AB32) and subsequent policy and program implementation, therefore the RMC's Proposition 1 Guidelines and project scoring criteria are designed to fund projects that achieve the State's foremost goals of conserving water resources, water supply and adhering to the State's policies for reaching greenhouse gas reduction targets.

These guidelines apply to Proposition 1, Chapter 6, Section 79735(a), which allocates the following funding to the RMC: *Section 79731(f) of the funds authorized by Section 79730, the sum of three hundred twenty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars ($327,500,000) shall be allocated for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state in accordance with the following schedule:..Section 79735(a) of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) shall be available for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries, pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of, and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.* Further, the RMC Proposition 1 Guidelines adopted by the RMC Board and pursuant to Water Code Section 79706(a) may be updated periodically.

2.2 RMC Objectives and Proposition 1 Consistency

The RMC Board will adopt the Proposition 1 Guidelines which set forth the evaluation criteria for its competitive grant programs and may be updated accordingly if necessary (See Appendix C for the Project Evaluation Criteria). The project evaluation criteria are set by the RMC objectives which are articulated in *Common Ground* and the *Open Space Plan Phase II Final Report*. The types of projects proposed to be supported by this grant program are also consistent with Proposition 1 for purposes of prioritizing and for improvements to the waters of state. The RMC's *Common Ground* objectives and the types of projects supported by this grant program are as follow*:

- Projects must promote the RMC's statutory programs and purposes as stated in Division 22.8. of the Public Resources Code 32600-32621.
- Projects must be consistent with the purposes of the funding source (Proposition 1)*
- Projects must promote and implement the State's Water Plans and Policies.
- Create, expand, and/or improve public open space throughout the region by improving water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat.

- Improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Improve habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity through creation, enhancement, preservation, and restoration.
- Connect open space with a network of trails, accessible as appropriate to the site.
- Promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement and long-term maintenance (long-term means for the life of the bond which is typically a period not less than 20-30 years).
- Encourage sustainable growth that balances environmental, social, and economic benefits.
- Maintain and improve flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration.
- Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.
- Optimize water resources by improving the quality of surface and ground water and enhance ground water recharge, to reduce dependence on imported water.
- Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries.
- Encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects.
- Involve the public through education and outreach programs.
- Projects will utilize the best available science to inform decisions regarding, state and local water resource. In addition, special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.

**Please note, all grant applications must have a water-related benefit in order for consistency with Proposition 1 and all proposed project must improve water quality supply, create, enhance and improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat.*

2.3 Proposition 1, Chapter 6 Objectives

Proposition 1 allocation to the RMC is pursuant to Chapter 6 Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds and sets forth thirteen specific purposes and all grant funds must achieve at least four or more of the following objectives in order to receive funds:

1. Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and instream flow.
2. Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
3. Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004, in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048 and urban river greenways.
4. Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.
5. Fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
6. Remove barriers to fish passage.
7. Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.
8. Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
9. Protect and restore coastal watershed including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.
10. Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

11. Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
12. Protect and enhance an urban creek as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048 and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of, and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.
13. Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects that promote water conservation.

2.4 Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and RMC Environmental Justice Policy

The RMC Proposition 1 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities and that projects be consistent with the goals identified in the *California Water Action Plan*. Links to key plans can be found at http://resources.ca.gov/california_water_action_plan/.

Additionally, the RMC adopted an environmental justice policy at its November 24, 2014 Board Meeting, although it may be amended as necessary. It is the policy of the RMC that the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income shall be fully considered during the planning, decision-making, development and implementation of all RMC programs, policies, and activities. The intent of this policy is to ensure that the public within the RMC catchment area including minority and low-income populations are not discriminated against, treated unfairly, or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental and land-use decisions, and children and their families have access to safe open space and healthy neighborhoods.

The RMC adopted the following key principles:

1. Make environmental justice considerations a standard in the way we do business. We will keep an environmental justice perspective in our programs, activities, and training, as we set priorities, identify program gaps, and assess the benefits and adverse impacts our programs have on communities in our catchment area.

2. Work with local elected officials, staff of cities, and community groups, to address concerns about lack of access to safe open space, especially in low-income and minority communities.

3. Review and evaluate RMC programs and activities to ensure that the environmental justice perspective through its programs does not contain any substantive gaps.

4. Develop and incorporate an environmental justice program element into our employee-training curriculum.

5. Annually provide a staff briefing to the Board at a public meeting regarding ongoing and planned activities. Issue a written annual status report identifying action items accomplished and a proposed work plan outlining the action items for the next year. The work plan shall include quantitative goals for working in disadvantaged communities and populations adversely impacted by industrial and transportation proximities.

6. Strengthen our public outreach, education, and organizing efforts in all communities, especially low-income communities and where we see a need for the implementation.

7. Identify partners within land-use and transportation agencies that are responsible for the environmental benefits or adverse impacts in our neighborhoods and address potential mitigation activities.

8. Work with cities, County of Los Angeles, and community groups in identifying relevant populations living in close proximity to industrial and transportation locations that may benefit from RMC programs and activities.

9. Taking a proactive role in working with cities in adopting and/or updating their General Plans to implement environmental justice policies.

10. Work in conjunction with other federal, state, regional, and local agencies to ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations and create action-oriented mitigation plans.

11. Fostering broad access to existing and proposed data sets and technology to better identify, analyze, and respond to environmental justice issues (database bank).

RMC commits to integrating environmental justice principles into its programs and plans and will continue to improve our outreach efforts in all communities of our catchment area, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully in the development and implementation of our programs. As an oversight agency we will work closely with local cities and County of Los Angeles, and other stakeholders to jointly develop environmental justice awareness so that it is in line with our funding grant programs for project design and development. Our commitment is to take consideration of neighborhoods where people encounter environmental pressures given their close proximity to industrial and transportation zones, as well as incompatible land uses. The RMC's goal is to ensure that the populations in our area, especially children and families, are empowered to play a role in creating a healthful environment.

2.5 Promotion and Implementation of State and RMC Tribal Consultation Policy

The RMC Proposition 1 Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities. On September 19, 2011, Governor G. Brown, Jr. issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of administration that every state agency and Department subject to executive control to implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes. On July 24, 2017, the RMC Governing Board approved a Tribal Consultation Policy consistent with the approved policy adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. Details can be found on the RMC website here: http://rmc.ca.gov/Tribal_Policy_Resources%20Agency.pdf

Additionally, Assembly Bill No. 52 (AB52) specifies that projects with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. With regards to CEQA, the bill requires a lead agency to begin consultation with a California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project, if the tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency of proposed projects in that geographic area and the tribe requests consultation, prior to determining whether a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report is required for a project.

2.6 RMC Proposition 1 Priorities

The RMC will seek to prioritize multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities. A proposed project must be consistent with Proposition 1 bond language, RMC Common Ground, the California Water Action Plan, and California State Assembly Bill 530 Lower Los Angeles River Working Group's Revitalization Plan. Further, the proposed project must be evaluated under the RMC priority areas in order to be considered for funding. The RMC will set priority areas for evaluating and funding projects within the RMC jurisdiction, which will include review of existing state plans, screening for projects that achieve multi benefits, serves disadvantaged communities and result in a quantifiable outcome in the following priority areas:

- Water Sustainability and Resiliency
- Serves disadvantaged communities

- Preservation, restoration enhancement and adaptive management of coastal wetland habitat of regional and statewide importance
- Urban Greening along the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers
- Climate Change Adaptation and Greenhouse Gas Reductions
- Create, expand, and/or improve public open space throughout the region by improving water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat

2.7 Eligible Applicants

All proposed projects must be located within the boundaries of the RMC and eligible applicants include (Proposition 1, Chapter 4, Section 79712):

- Public Agencies
- Public Utilities that is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission
- Federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List
- Mutual Water Companies shall have a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of a water system and not the investors
- Cities
- Counties
- Joint Powers Agencies
- Nonprofit organizations (existing under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS Code) and whose purposes are consistent the RMC's enabling legislation

Individuals and corporations are not eligible for this grant program; however, RMC encourages multiple partners or joint projects. As long as the applicant is a listed eligible applicant, applications will be accepted from joint projects with non-eligible agencies.

2.8 Project Eligibility

RMC Proposition 1 Guidelines will fund projects which are consistent with the RMC's enabling legislation, meet the RMC's required project selection criteria, support the RMC's Common Ground Objectives and advance the objectives of Proposition 1. Each project is to be evaluated base on merit to satisfy the criteria set forth by the RMC Prop 1 grant guidelines and the ability to meet standards presented in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Eligible projects for funding should follow the outline of the project area as defined in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, which is within one mile of the banks of the Lower Los Angeles River and the tributaries of the Rio Hondo River and Compton Creek.

In addition, Proposition 1 funds must be spent consistent with the General Obligation Bond Law, Government Code Section 16727; and in order to provide for a competitive grant application the RMC encourages applicants to develop complete and comprehensive projects which may include trails access improvements, educational, natural based play infrastructure, interpretive programming and public outreach that will further the mission of the RMC and advance the objectives of Proposition 1. The RMC is committed to funding well-formed projects that provide multiple benefits but applicants must ensure these elements are funded through matching funds since Proposition 1 funds only water related projects. Additionally, these supplementary elements may earn applicants additional points in the scoring criteria and makes for a more competitive grant application.

The following costs are ***eligible for RMC*** grant funds:

- Grant funds may be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources.

- Land acquisition costs may include appraisals, land, improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow. Land must be acquired from willing sellers and at fair market value.
- Direct expenses include project-specific management costs such as CEQA/NEPA compliance, permitting, direct project administration and management.
- Projects that have lower overhead or no overhead costs will be deemed more competitive. The RMC may cap indirect and overhead costs at 10% of the total project cost.
- Proposition 1 funding has limited funding available for preparation of planning documents, such as watershed plan updates, CEQA compliance documents and other planning documents *(79735(d): Up to 10 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section may be allocated for project planning*)

2.9 Project Ineligibility

The following uses are ***not*** eligible for RMC grant funds:

- Operations and Maintenance related costs for the lifetime of project.
- Playground equipment and/or infrastructure such as swing sets and skate parks. Only passive or low-impact recreation is eligible, e.g. fitness equipment and trail development.
- Facilities that do not have an environmental education focus or theme, such as basketball courts, hockey courts, etc. Multi-use projects may include these elements, but this program will not fund planning or development of such facilities.
- Projects that cause erosion or contribute to flooding.
- Projects on land or improved property acquired by condemnation from an unwilling seller.
- Project has no water related benefits, lack an improved habitat or species restoration, has a low impact public recreation access and it is not consistent with Proposition 1 objectives.
- Projects traditionally provided by the private, non-government sector or by concessionaires, such as gift shops, equipment rentals, concession stands, etc., unless it can be shown that no private entrepreneur is willing to provide services, and there is demonstrated need for the Project.
- Projects that exclusively fulfill other mitigation requirements.

2.10 Additional Considerations

The following are additional considerations for evaluating project eligibility:

- Each project must include information that addresses RMC Project Evaluation Criteria.
- Applicants shall submit an individual application for each eligible project within their jurisdiction.
- Project applicants are required to consult with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and Local Certified Conservation Corps or look to hire youth through certified Youth Employment Program in coordination with the State/County or qualified non-governmental organization (NGO). See Appendix E.
- Projects that utilize Youth Employment Program, please include the organization's capacity to develop, manage and implement the youth employment program.
- All projects funded by Proposition 1 must be consistent with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the Water Code) and the State's five-year infrastructure plan prepared pursuant to Government Code section 13100.
- Facilities development projects must demonstrate a strong relationship and value to natural resource stewardship or environmental education.
- Rehabilitation and restoration projects of natural habitats must be biologically and technically feasible.
- Agencies acquiring land may use the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 (Division 28 of the Public Resources Code. Water Code Section 79711(h)).

- Grantees will be required, unless not feasible, to provide signage informing the public that the project received Proposition 1 funding. This requirement will be addressed in the grant agreement.
- Applicants must complete the project and submit all documentation within five years of grant award or by the bond reversion date (whichever comes first).
- Grants shall be paid on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise requested and approved by the RMC Board or Executive Officer.
- Applicants shall provide for public access and low-impact recreation unless it is specifically prohibited or not ecologically or biologically feasible.
- Projects that have multiple benefits will be considered more competitive.
- Projects which have a clearly articulated monitoring and assessment plan will be considered more competitive.
- All real property shall be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current State laws governing Relocation and Acquisition of real property by public agencies. Appraisals will be subject to prior approval of fair market value by the State Department of General Services.
- All projects must comply with CEQA and/or NEPA as appropriate. These costs may be funded under this program as part of planning dollars. Status will be carefully evaluated and projects that have completed CEQA/NEPA and/or are advanced in the environmental process prior to the application will be considered more competitive.
- Applicants shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and permitting requirements.
- All information contained in the grant applications is confidential until the grant awards are announced. After that time, all applications will become public information.
- Applicants awarded grants (Grantees) must enter into a grant agreement with the RMC within 60 days of award before funds can be disbursed.
- Grantees will be required to submit reports to the RMC, including progress, financial, and monitoring and assessment reports. Under usual circumstances, reports shall not be required more frequently than on a quarterly basis.
- Projects need to meet and exceed the criteria set forth in *Common Ground* and Chapter 6 of Proposition 1, as well as any planning criteria approved by agencies within the project jurisdiction, such as master plans or watershed management plans.
- Matching funds or in-kind services are not required, but a key strategy of the plan is to coordinate planning efforts that can leverage funding sources such as Prop. 1 to maximize implementation approaches that will fully realize the benefits of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Matching funds include project planning, operations and maintenance, volunteer support, and ongoing monitoring and assessment for the lifetime of the project. Contributions may be in the form of cash contributions, property, or in-kind services and must be verifiable.
- Special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use and sanitation (Section 79707(e)).

2.11 Funding Categories

The Lower LA River Prop 1 grant program is to include, but not be exclusive to, the following funding line items in accordance with Prop. 1 and subsequent grant program allowances. There are six total categories identified in the grant program.

1. *Acquisition Fund*

    - Fund to support land purchases recommended within the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Approximately 20% is recommended for this category.

2. *Enhancement Fund: Small Starts*

- Competitive funding for river adjacent enhancement projects ready for implementation costing under $1 million. Approximately 10% is recommended for this category.

3. *Enhancement Fund: Planning*

   - Funding to support planning-related applications connected to the revitalization plan. Approximately 10% is recommended for this category.

4. *Matching Fund*

   - Provide a monetary match for public-private partnerships projects that will benefit the long-term revitalization of the Lower LA River. Project are not subject to identification in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan. Approximately 10% is recommended for this category.

5. *Construction Fund*

   - Funding to support construction projects related to the revitalization plan. Approximately 34% is recommended for this category.

6. *Green Incubator Fund*

   - Approximately 16% is recommended for this category. While not called out specifically in the revitalization plan, the Rivers Green Incubator project will serve as a base and catalyst for the implementation of the plan by building capacity, providing coordination, and facilitating collaboration by and for all community stakeholders. The Green Incubator will have the potential to provide funding for a river adjacent, RMC managed, site to support housing:

     - A “green innovator-in-residence” entrepreneurship
     - A STEM/Citizen Scientists Academy for local youth
     - Local green and environmental justice non-profits

   The RMC anticipates working collaboratively with educational partners from school districts to universities, river advocates and coalitions, and social enterprise organizations to articulate a program curriculum and schedule.

   The goal is to allocate $8 million, a portion of Prop. 1, and other funding sources towards this endeavor. The funding would cover acquisition of a site and related build-out expenses.

Section 3 Grant Application Process

3.1 Geographic Program Areas

To facilitate the comparison and aggregation of similar projects and assure that funds are available for a wide range of projects, these grant funds will be applied to three program areas that can be described in

geographic terms. Project applicants will be asked to identify their program area. Projects cannot qualify for inclusion in more than one program area:

- **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.
- **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. *To determine the specific area in which your project might fall, please refer to the RMC website:* http://www.rmc.ca.gov/about/territory.html.

3.2 Project Evaluation Criteria

The RMC Board will adopt the following project evaluation criteria with the major elements of the project evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Restore River Parkways
- Educational/Interpretive*
- Habitat and Restoration Resource Values
- Matching Funds
- Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities
- Multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities
- Stakeholders/Partners
- Stewardship and Organizational Capacity
- Water Sustainability, Water Storage and Water Infrastructure
- Urban Land
- Water Resource and Water Quality

*These project elements may provide additional information for evaluating the project but these elements are not eligible costs under Proposition 1.

3.3 Notice of Funding Availability

The RMC Board may administer one or more competitive cycles each fiscal year through the issuance of a notice of funding availability and may fund certain phases of a project in order to maximize the distribution of grant funds to multiple recipients and throughout the RMC territory. Grants will be awarded in a manner which supports and advances the RMC's objectives and meets and exceeds the purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1.

3.4 Grant Application

RMC will accept applications for our Prop 1 Lower LA River Grant Program until funding is expended.

A complete application package will consist of **one (1) complete digital copy** of the required materials emailed to RMCprop1@rmc.ca.gov. An esignature must be included on the

Application Form via an online document signing application (i.e. DocuSign). Applicants shall provide the electronic format in PDF and provide using an online cloud storage link (i.e. Dropbox or Google Drive). A wet-signed, hard copy of the Application Form will be required before a project is recommended for award. Please provide a digital copy on a CD or flash drive before award recommendation as well. Photos, images, maps, etc. should be included in the PDF. *The submittal requirements have been updated to consider difficulties related to COVID-19 Pandemic, please contact the RMC if submittal any of the application requirements are still an issue.*

The following materials are required for a complete application (some submittal requirements may not be applicable to all submittals):

1. **Application Form** (Refer to Appendix D)
2. Supporting Documents
3. Photo(s) of the Site (Optional)

Information required for the Application is proposed to include:

1. **Grant Application Form (Refer to Appendix D)**
2. **Project Description includes:** (Sections 2a-2g should not exceed 7 pages, single-spaced, 11-point font minimum).

   a. Complete Project Description: for acquisition projects include APN, acreage and purpose for acquisition; for planning and implementation include specific tasks and deliverables.

   b. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project: a summary of the needs for the project and how the project meets the RMC's policies and project evaluation criteria, and exceeds Proposition 1, Chapter 6 objectives of the water bond legislation (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.3).

   c. Description of audience and geographic area served: provide a summary of the communities, cities, and populations that will be served once the project is completed.

   d. Description of Goals and Objectives: the goals and objectives should clearly define measurable and outcome-oriented goals and objectives for the project, performance measures to track progress toward objectives, and a reporting system to present the analysis of performance measures against the deliverables and tasks.

   e. Community Outreach: how will the community be involved in the project design and implementation, include how the project is consistent with the RMC Environmental Justice Policy and RMC Tribal Consultation Policy (RMC Grant Guidelines Section 2.4 and 2.5, include specific plans for community outreach, education, community involvement).

   f. Monitoring and Assessment Plan: the monitoring and assessment plan should include the tracking of the progress of the measurable goals and objectives of the project during as well as after the project is completed. Outline of a monitoring and assessment plan should include measurable and quantifiable targets for a planning and implementation project. And, for acquisition projects include the long-term management and maintenance plan. The RMC is interested in measuring the progress of each of its activities in achieving results or outcomes. Hence, the focus of each project evaluation must be on outcomes, defined as the project results or impact on users and society. Output and other measures are important, but the focus should be on results.

   g. Organizational capacity, include a brief history of your organization and the ability to fully complete and maintain the project long-term.

3. **California Conservation Corps:** Applicants applying for funds to complete restoration and ecosystem protection projects are required to consult with representatives of the California

Conservation Corp (CCC) and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the entity representing the certified CCC, to determine the feasibility of the CCC in completing the proposed project (Sec. 79734). Unless otherwise exempted, all applicants that fail to engage in such consultation will not be eligible to receive Proposition 1. CCC and CALCC have developed the consultation process for inclusion in Proposition 1 funding, please complete Exhibit B and for more information, visit https://ccc.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/proposition-1-water-bond/.

Note, the Corps already has determined that it is not feasible to use their services on projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are **exempt** from consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Consultation Review Document, Appendix E.

4. **Certified Youth Employment Plan:** please include the organization's capacity to develop, manage and implement a training program for young adults in the environmental discipline that leads to permanent employment in the green industry (maximum one page).

5. **Tasklist and Timeline**: The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment. An example of a tasklist can be found on the RMC website at http://www.rmc.ca.gov/.

6. **Budget**: The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact). See the RMC website for an example of a project budget at http://www.rmc.ca.gov/. Applicants should endeavor to submit a budget in the format presented in the example on the RMC website.

7. **Resolution:** The applicant's governing body certifies that their governing board gives the authorized signatory the authority to apply, receive and manage the project.

8. **Environmental Compliance**: Identify the status of the environmental assessment. This information may include a notice of exemption filed with the county clerk, an initial study, or a brief description of how the applicant will comply with CEQA/NEPA once the grants are awarded.

9. **Permits, Easements, or Certifications**: Identify status of all permits related to the proposed project for implementation of the project and/or brief description of how applicant will obtain all permits (plan/schedule).

10. **Operation and Maintenance: The applicant must demonstrate**, specifically for development projects an outline of how the project will address future **operations and maintenance** needs (no more than one page).

11. **Agreements: The applicant** must include proof of ownership and compliance with Land Tenure Requirements or the applicant must demonstrate movement to secure land tenure through a willing seller letter, memorandum of agreement, or other binding agreements in place

12. **Non-profit:** If applicable, provide proof of non-profit status (Copy of IRS Determination Letter)

13. **Design/Construction Documents and/or Project Site Photographs:** Digital format is preferred, on CD, and each photograph should be saved as a separate file (no more than six (6) photographs, not larger than 8 ½" by 11").

14. **Project location map:** the applicant must submit a map of the project location.

15. **Letters of Support**: The applicant is required a minimum of three support letters to fulfill this requirement, but additional support letters may be included.

3.5 Project Completeness and Selection Criteria

RMC staff will review grant applications for completeness and incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Following is the initial selection criteria which all grant applications must adhere to:

- The applicant is an eligible entity
- The applicant has submitted a complete grant application, as previously stated in Section 3.4, Items 1-15
- The project meets the RMC's required grant selection criteria per the RMC Proposition 1 Guidelines
- The project meets the RMC's Common Ground and the Proposition 1, Chapter 6 objectives
- The project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the General Obligation Bond Law

Applications that do not pass the initial selection criteria will not proceed to the scoring process. The RMC has the discretion to either return the application or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the screening process.

3.6 Scoring

Complete applications that have passed the initial selection will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise. Reviewers may include local, state and federal agency staff and others with relevant expertise, including consultants and academics. All reviewers other than the RMC staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. The total score of the three reviewers will be averaged and then weighted against other grant proposals. All reviewers will score each grant application 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. Recommendation for funding is dependent on numerous factors such as funding availability and project readiness and not solely dependent on a high evaluation criteria score. Staff will determine if funding is available and if the project is ready for recommendation to the RMC Board.

If projects do not meet the minimum administrative thresholds for grant award, they will be assigned a Tier and placed in a queue which will be regularly reviewed and considered for award against subsequent applications that also did not meet the minimum threshold. During this time, project proponents are provided the opportunity to receive higher scores based on additional information provided through staff interviews, clarifications, and/or updates that demonstrate project's alignment with RMC goals and objectives, and granting of funds is consistent with RMC programs. This extended consideration process will ensure that the

most competitive projects are recommended for funding and prioritization is not based on proposal submittal date.

3.7 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

All participants are subject to federal and State conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Accordingly, before submitting an application, applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding potential conflict of interest concerns that they may have and requirements for disclosure. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code Section 1090, and Public Contract Code Sections 10410 and 10411 for State conflict of interest requirements.

Applicants should note that by submitting an application, they waive their rights to the confidentiality of that application. RMC staff will review each application. Once the application is signed and submitted to RMC any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law will be waived.

3.8 Typical Grant Process

The following table outlines the typical grant process for successful applicants.

Responsible Entity	Task
RMC	Announces draft guidelines and holds public meetings for submittal of comments.
RMC	Approval of Grant Guidelines at the RMC Board Meeting.
RMC	Announces Grant Funding Cycle and release of application and guidelines.
Applicant	Submits grant application and supporting documents to the RMC .
RMC and Grant Selection Committee	Staff determines if grant application is complete and submits to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring which occurs quarterly.
RMC	Staff notify project applicants of their status, either complete or incomplete.
Grant Selection Committee	If complete, the Grant Selection Committee evaluates grant applications, may perform site visits on semi-finalists, and recommends projects for funding to the RMC Board.
RMC Board	Board approves or denies funding recommendations
RMC	If approved by Board, Staff sends a Grant Agreement to the Grantee.
Grantee	Returns the signed Agreement to RMC.
RMC	State/Staff sends a fully executed Grant Agreement to the Grantee.
Grantee	Completes environmental documentation and permitting as needed.
Grantee	Commences work on the Project.
Grantee	Submits required reports (i.e. Quarterly), plans, and documents, as required, to RMC.
Grantee	Grantee posts signs during construction per attached Sign Guidelines.
Responsible Entity	**Task**
Grantee	Requests progress payments.
Grantee	Upon completion of the Project, posts signs acknowledging source of funds.
Grantee	Submits Project completion packet upon completion of the Project.
RMC	Staff checks final documentation for completeness and accuracy and makes final inspection of Project.
RMC	Staff processes the final payment.
Grantee	Submits documents for audit, if requested.

Section 4 Grant Agreement

4.1 Grant Award

RMC staff will determine which qualified applications to recommend to the RMC Board for funding and the amount of funding, taking into account the project's score relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for Prop 1 projects, the urgency of the project relative to other eligible projects, the RMC's Common Ground, and the application of the RMC's Project Evaluation Criteria. The RMC expects that it will take an average of six to eight months from application submittal, through evaluation and recommendation to the RMC Board for action and if approved an additional month for execution of the grant agreement.

4.2 Board Meetings

No grant shall be awarded unless the RMC Board has approved the grant at a public meeting. The RMC typically holds seven public meetings per calendar year. The meeting schedule is published on the RMC's website. The agenda for each public meeting is published on the RMC's website at least ten days in advance of the meeting. RMC staff will prepare a report for each proposed grant presented to the RMC Board at a public meeting. The staff report will describe the project and explain how the project is consistent with the RMC's enabling legislation, the RMC Program Guidelines, and the evaluation criteria in these Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines.

4.3 Grant Agreement

Once the RMC has approved a grant at a public meeting, RMC staff will prepare a grant agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with conditions in order to receive funds. Please note the grant agreement is being developed and will become final within the next few months.

4.4 Environmental Documents

The RMC is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Grant applicants should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration or whether a CEQA exemption applies. How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application.

4.5 Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. In addition, RMC staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures.

4.6 Leveraging Funds

The RMC will award additional points to applicants with significant matching funds. The amount of leveraged funding will be specifically identified in every staff recommendation for potential approval by the RMC Board. The RMC will provide a summary of the total leverage of RMC funds from all its grant programs to the RMC Governing Board.

4.7 Project Withdrawal

If a Grantee wishes to withdraw a Project, Grantee shall notify RMC in writing. In the event an approved project cannot be completed, and if grant funds were advanced, those funds, plus any accrued interest, must be returned to the State. If the CEQA/NEPA work is done after the grant has been awarded, and the determination is an impediment to completing the project, RMC will reimburse the applicant for costs expended up to 20 percent of the total grant as outlined above.

4.8 Changes to Project Scope

A Grantee wishing to change the scope of an approved project shall submit the proposed change in writing to RMC for approval. Any change must be consistent with the authorizing legislation and Common Ground *and* Proposition 1, Chapter 6 objectives.

4.9 Time Extensions

The Grantee is expected to complete the project according to the time identified in their project timeline. However, each contract will have a 3-5-year project performance period. While projects can be provided timeline extensions, extensions are limited to the bond reversion date.

4.10 Payment of Grant Funds

- Disbursements of grant funds will be made incrementally, as separate components of the Project are satisfactorily completed.
- Payments shall be on the basis of costs incurred, less 10 percent to be withheld from all invoiced amounts.
- Requests for **reimbursement** are preferred on a quarterly basis. Requests must include documentation that demonstrates that costs have been incurred and an itemized description of all work done, including updated project budget expenditures summary in relation to project tasks, for which reimbursement is requested. Payment requests should clearly identify the specific elements of the work plan to which they pertain.
- After approval of a complete payment request package, grantees should allow four to six weeks to receive payment.
- Any request that is submitted without supporting documents will not be approved for payment.

4.11 Advance Payment Requests

- ***Advance payments for Project costs are not typically allowed.*** RMC, at its sole discretion, may honor advance payment requests, if warranted by a documented compelling need.
- For Acquisition Projects, advances are made after the property is in escrow, directly into an interest-bearing escrow account and any remaining amounts with interest incurred must be returned to the RMC.

4.12 Final Payment Request

The funds withheld from Project payments are referred to as the Final Payment Request. The Project Completion procedures will be specified in the Grant Agreement.

4.13 Site Visits

The Grantee shall permit and arrange periodic site visits including a final inspection by RMC to determine if the work performed is in accordance with the approved Project Scope.

4.14 Loss of Funding

The following actions may result in a loss of part or all of the funding allocation to the Grantee:

- A Grantee fails to return a signed agreement with the RMC within 60 days of receipt of the grant agreement.
- A Grantee withdraws from the Program in writing.
- A Grantee fails to complete all funded project scope and/or fails to submit all documentation within five years from grant award unless otherwise approved for extension by the RMC Board (project cannot extend beyond bond reversion date).

4.15 Accounting Requirements

Grantees shall maintain an accounting system that does all of the following:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards
- Provides good audit trails, especially the source documents (purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, time cards, cancelled warrants, warrant numbers, etc.).
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual Project can be readily determined
- Projects are subject to audit by the State within five/ten years following first payment of grant funds. The purpose of the audit is to verify that project expenditures were properly documented. If your project is selected for audit, you will be contacted at least 30 days in advance. The audit will include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the Grantee, as they related to the project for which RMC funds were granted. The Grantee shall have the Project records, including the source documents and cancelled warrants, readily available to the State. The Grantee must also provide an employee having knowledge of the Project and the accounting procedure or system to assist the State's auditor. The Grantee shall provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like requested by the State. All Project records must be retained for at least one year following an audit or final disputed audit findings.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

"**Acquisition**" means to obtain from a willing seller fee interest or any other interest, including easements and development rights, in real property.

"**Allocation**" means a distribution of funds or an expenditure limit established for a Grantee for one or more projects.

"**Applicant**" means the local, state, nonprofit organization, or Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe, requesting funding from a program administered by RMC.

"**Application**" means the individual Application Form and its required attachments and supporting documentation for grants pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or program.

"**Appraisal**" means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

"**Appropriation**" means a budget authorization from a specific fund to a specific agency/or program to make expenditures or incur obligations for a specific purpose and/or period of time.

"**Brownfields**" means abandoned or underutilized land and buildings in already-developed urban, suburban, or rural locations that have actual or perceived contamination from previous or adjoining uses.

"**California Indian Tribe**" means any California Indian tribe, band, nation, consortia, or other organized group or community.

"**CEQA**" means the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.; Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq. (For more information, please see http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html) Applicants must assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake.

"**Competitive**" means the allocation of moneys for one or more projects for the acquisition, development, or interpretation of recreational lands and facilities, and historical or archeological resources on a project-by-project basis, based upon stated criteria, through the competitive process.

"**Common Ground**" refers to the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan prepared by RMC and approved by a majority of the cities representing a majority of the population, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, and by the Central Basin Water Association and the San Gabriel Valley Water Association.

"Commission" means the California Water Commission.

"Committee" means the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Finance Committee created by Section 79787.

"**Connectivity**" means continuity in open space enabling linkages between open space, and wildlife habitat areas and typically including trails and passive or active recreation nodes.

"**Contract**" means the agreement between the RMC, grantee, property owner, and/or mortgage lender, specifying the payment of funds for the performance of a project scope within the project performance period by the grantee.

"**Contractor**" means the prime person or firm that has been selected by the grantee to perform the project work.

"**Development**" means improvements to real property by construction of new facilities or rehabilitation, restoration, renovation or additions to existing sites, property, or facilities.

"Disadvantaged community" (DAC) has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 79505.5, is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income or a community with an annual per capita income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual per capita income (term may be amended). A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/

"**District**" means an agency of the state, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries, such as a regional park district, regional open space district, water district, conservation district, or flood control district.

"**Ecological Value**" means the project will support the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

“Economically distressed area” means a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual median household income that is less than 85 percent of the statewide median household income, and with one or more of the following conditions as determined by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment:
(1) Financial hardship.
(2) Unemployment rate at least 2 percent higher than the statewide average.
(3) Low population density.

"**Ecosystem**" means a balanced natural system of living organisms and their environment.

"**Enhancement**" means to modify current conditions and may be used to describe a project that would result in a natural resource, habitat, cultural or historic site, recreational area, or existing facility achieving a desired level of improvements while considering the protection of the natural environment. It is distinguishable from "restoration" in that it does not imply merely a return to historic natural conditions but may include the provision of recreation or other aspects that were not original features.

"**Environmental Education**" means programs and related facilities and processes that increase knowledge and awareness about the environment and help develop skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that impact the environment.

"**Environmental Justice**" is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people –regardless of race, ethnicity and cultures, physical and cognitive abilities, income, and/or education level – in environmental decision-making. Environmental justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

"**Exotic species**" means any non-indigenous plant or animal species.

“Fund” means the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014 created by Section 79715.

"**Grantee**" means an Applicant who has a contract for grant funds.

“**Green Building**” means a building which is designed, constructed, and operated consistent with the rating system for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system developed by the US Green Building Council.

“**Habitat creation**” means the formation or increase of at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors.

"**Habitat linkage**" means connections between otherwise isolated areas of habitat that may (1) provide for daily and seasonal movements of animals; (2) facilitate dispersal, gene flow, and rescue effects (for animals or plants); (3) allow for range shifts of species; and (4) maintain flows of ecological processes (e.g., fire, wind, sediments, water).

“**Habitat preservation**” means keeping threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned urban development.

"**Habitat restoration**" means to return the site’s hydrology, topography and natural vegetative communities to historic predisturbance conditions so that the site provides food and shelter for wildlife, and performs natural processes including reducing the volume and velocity of runoff, and increasing the water infiltration rates.

"**Historical Resource**" includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, site area, place, artifact, or collection of artifacts that is historically or archaeologically significant in the cultural annals of California.

"**In-Kind**" means applicant's land, materials and/or services provided as matching funds for a project in lieu of monetary type funding.

"**Indirect Costs**" means expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically with a grant, contract, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to the project; functions such as personnel, accounting, and salaries of supervisors and managers; and overhead such as rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

"Instream flows" means a specific streamflow, measured in cubic feet per second, at a particular location for a defined time, and typically follows seasonal variations.

"Integrated regional water management plan" has the meaning set forth in Part 2.2 (commencing with Section 10530) of Division 6, as that part may be amended.

"**Interpretation**" means an intelligent and meaningful presentation and explanation of the significance and value of natural resources or historical or archeological resources.

"**Jurisdiction**" means the legal boundary of the grant Applicant, i.e. the city, county, or district.

"**Large or multi sub watershed project**" means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in more than one watershed plan; 2) address more than one habitat issue identified by the Green Visions planning tools; 3) provide substantive water quality benefits to more than one designated impaired water body; or 4) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is regionally accessible.

"**Local Agencies**" means a city, county, or district entity formed for purposes pursuant to a joint powers agreement between two or more local entities that are eligible for Grant Programs administered by RMC.

"**Local Conservation Corps**" is a community conservation corps that is certified by the California Conservation Corps ("CCC").

"Long-term" means for a period of not less than 20 years.

"**Low Impact Recreation**" means any development, rehabilitation, or enhancement of resource-based facilities and the associated visitor activities that result in minimized impacts on natural areas and natural systems. Low impact activities are generally human powered and may include walking, picnicking, hiking, cycling, non-motorized boating or equestrian use, bird watching, fishing, star-gazing or photography; and organized events such as interpretive tours, nature walks or educational programs.

"**Management Plan**" means a plan that identifies responsibility for future management of a given area to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resource values, and where appropriate, provides for multiple objectives, and identifies funds for that management.

"**Match**" means funds or equivalent in-kind contributions in addition to RMC Grant Funds. Increased consideration will be given to projects that provide matching funds or equivalent in-kind contributions.

"**Medium sub watershed project**" means a project intended to: 1) address water quality, habitat, or other watershed restoration issues identified in an applicable watershed plan or by the Green Visions planning tools; 2) provide substantive water quality benefits to a designated impaired water body; or 3) provide open space or passive recreational benefits in a location that is generally accessible to multiple local communities.

"**Monitoring and Assessment**" means an assessment process to evaluate the success of the proposed action or improvement, and monitoring progress towards meeting project goals. The standards for monitoring each project approved for funding will be developed in concert with RMC.

"Multi-jurisdictional" projects that provide shared solutions for multiple communities, for example a community that lacks safe, affordable drinking water and is served by a small community water system, state small water system, or a private well when improved can service more than one community. Projects that create, preserve, restore open space that will benefit a regional territory. As another example, a watershed management plan update that serves an entire watershed.

"**Multiple Benefit**" projects that provide multiple benefits such as water quality, water supply, flood control, or open space. Funds shall be allocated to multibenefit projects that achieve public safety and include fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Projects that involve more than one public benefit objective including habitat enhancement or protection, water quality improvement, historic resource protection or improvement, public access development, environmental education or any combination of such objectives.

"**Natural habitat**" means relatively undisturbed lands and vegetation communities that provide food and shelter for wildlife and also perform natural functions such as, reducing the volume and velocity of storm runoff, and enabling water infiltration.

"**NEPA**" means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Public Law 91-190, Title 42 United States Code Sections 4321-433347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, Section 4 (b), September 13, 1982). NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake, fund or approve.

"**Nonprofit Organization**" means any private, nonprofit organization, existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation or enhancement of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic or open-space values, the protection of the natural environment, or the preservation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife or their habitat.

"**Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work**" means the notice completed by the grantee and filed with the county recorder in the county where the property is located, upon completion and acceptance of any and all construction work related to a project.

"**Open Space**" means any area that can potentially serve as wildlife habitat, facilitate natural processes, or allow for public access for passive forms of recreation.

"**Planning**" means specific preparations necessary to execute eligible projects. Planning includes conceptual designs, pre-schematic work, such as initial architectural or engineering plans prepared during the preliminary project phase; schematic documents; technical consulting; construction design; CEQA/NEPA documentation; preparation of construction bidding documents; permits or appraisals. Planning costs are distinct from hard project costs of actual construction or land acquisition.

"**Plans**" means the detailed drawings or exact reproductions that show location, character, layout, dimensions, and details of the work to be constructed under the contract for a historical resource Project.

"**Project**" means the acquisition, development, (rehabilitation and restoration), or interpretation activities to be accomplished with grant funds.

"**Project Management Plan**" means the overall plan used to describe how the completed project would be operated and maintained on a long term basis. This document could include habitat, landscape, park, and other facility/resource long term management plans.

"**Project Manager**" means an employee of RMC, who acts as a liaison with Grantees and administers grants.

"**Project Performance Period**" means the period of time that the grant funds are available, and the time in which the project must be completed, billed, and paid.

"**Project Scope**" means the description or activity of work to be accomplished on the project.

"**Property**" means the land, including all structures attached to such land, upon which the project is located.

"**Property Owner**" means the person or entity that holds the fee simple interest of the Property.

"**Public access**" refers to public access generally with full right of way from a public thoroughfare or public transportation. It could also mean the provision for visitor support facilities, including public parking, trails, bikeways, restrooms, picnic areas and campgrounds and other recreational facilities.

"Public agency" means a state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state.

"Rainwater" has the meaning set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 10573.

"**Restoration**" means the process of reproducing, re-establishing, or rehabilitating a natural area or a cultural or historical site or feature that has otherwise deteriorated so that it emulates the site's historic condition before degradation.

"**Riparian**" means locations and associated vegetative communities related to or on the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes or other fresh water bodies.

"**Scenic Value**" means any historic, open space or other natural resource features with significant visual aesthetic values.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

"Severely disadvantaged community" has the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 116760.20 of the Health and Safety Code, as a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the statewide average. A Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool has been developed by Department of Water Resources to identify DACs for the purpose of Prop 1, please visit https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/

"Significant" 1: having meaning; *especially*: <a *significant* glance> 2a: having or likely to have influence or effect **:** <a *significant* piece of legislation>; *also*: of a noticeably or measurably large amount <a *significant* number of layoffs> <producing *significant* profits> 2b: probably caused by something other than mere chance <statistically *significant* correlation between vitamin deficiency and disease>

"**Small or neighborhood project**" means a project intended to address site-specific, or neighborhood-scale, water quality or habitat issues, or that is intended to provide open space or passive recreational amenities intended for local community.

"Small community water system" means a community water system that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.

"**Specifications**" means all written directions, provisions, and requirements governing the methods and procedures to be followed in connection with bidding and awarding of contract and performance and execution of the work, the quantities and qualities of materials to be used, the method of measurement of the quantities of work, and the nature of the contractual relationships that will exist during the course of the work.

“State board” means the State Water Resources Control Board.

“State General Obligation Bond Law” means 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).

“State small water system” has the meaning set forth in subdivision of Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

"**Stewardship**" means the development, implementation, and long-term management of important resources and typically involving the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of natural systems and/or outstanding features, and historical and cultural resources.

“Stormwater” has the meaning set forth in subdivision (e) of Section 10573.

“**Sustainable/Sustainability**” means the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Also, the goal of life, liberty, and social well-being within the means of nature.

"**Threatened or Endangered Species**" means species listed as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act passed in 1973.

“Threatened Natural Habitats” include any areas that contain natural habitat that will be destroyed or degraded by a proposed urban development plan which, at the least, has already been submitted to the governing jurisdiction or planning commission.

"**Trailhead and Trailside Facilities**" include, but are not limited to parking, utilities, restrooms, benches, bridges, draining structures, fencing, and interpretive and informational signs, exhibit and brochure shelters and related facilities.

“Urban Greening” per the adopted guidelines by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Master plans.

APPENDIX B: CHAPTER 6 OF PROPOSITION 1

Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds
79730.
The sum of one billion four hundred ninety-five million dollars ($1,495,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the fund, in accordance with this chapter, for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

79731.
Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, the sum of three hundred twenty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars ($327,500,000) shall be allocated for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state in accordance with the following schedule:
(a) Baldwin Hills Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(b) California Tahoe Conservancy, fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000).
(c) Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(d) Ocean Protection Council, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(e) San Diego River Conservancy, seventeen million dollars ($17,000,000).
(f) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(g) San Joaquin River Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(h) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(i) Sierra Nevada Conservancy, twenty-five million dollars ($25,000,000).
(j) State Coastal Conservancy, one hundred million five hundred thousand dollars ($100,500,000). Eligible watersheds for the funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision include, but are not limited to, those that are in the San Francisco Bay Conservancy region, the Santa Ana River watershed, the Tijuana River watershed, the Otay River watershed, Catalina Island, and the central coast region.
(k) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, fifty million dollars ($50,000,000).

79732.
(a) In protecting and restoring California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds, the purposes of this chapter are to:
(1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.
(2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.
(3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways.
(4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.
(5) Fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
(6) Remove barriers to fish passage.
(7) Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.
(8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
(9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
(10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.
(11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

(12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
(13) Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.
(b) Funds provided by this chapter shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

79733.
Of the funds made available by Section 79730, the sum of two hundred million dollars ($200,000,000) shall be administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board for projects that result in enhanced stream flows.

79734.
For restoration and ecosystem protection projects under this chapter, the services of the California Conservation Corps or a local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps shall be used whenever feasible.

79735.
(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries, pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of, and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.
(b) (1) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, twenty million dollars ($20,000,000) shall be made available to the secretary for a competitive program to fund multibenefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds that increase regional and local water self-sufficiency and that meet at least two of the following objectives:
(A) Promote groundwater recharge and water reuse.
(B) Reduce energy consumption.
(C) Use soils, plants, and natural processes to treat runoff.
(D) Create or restore native habitat.
(E) Increase regional and local resiliency and adaptability to climate change.
(2) The program under this subdivision shall be implemented by state conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other entities whose jurisdiction includes urban watersheds, as designated by the secretary. Projects funded under the program shall be a part of a plan developed jointly by the conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other designated entities in consultation with the secretary.
(c) At least 25 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section shall be allocated for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.
(d) Up to 10 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section may be allocated for project planning.

79736.
Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, four hundred seventy-five million dollars ($475,000,000) shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency to support projects that fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of any of the following:
(a) Subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).
(b) Interstate compacts set forth in Section 66801 of the Government Code pursuant to Title 7.42 (commencing with Section 66905) of the Government Code.
(c) Intrastate or multiparty water quantification settlement agreement provisions, including ecosystem restoration projects, as set forth in Chapters 611, 612, 613, and 614 of the Statutes of 2003.
(d) The settlement agreement referenced in Section 2080.2 of the Fish and Game Code.
(e) Any intrastate or multiparty settlement agreement related to water acted upon or before December 31, 2013. Priority shall be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:
(1) The project is of statewide significance.
(2) The project restores natural aquatic or riparian functions, or wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species.

(3) The project protects or promotes the restoration of endangered or threatened species.
(4) The project enhances the reliability of water supplies on a regional or interregional basis.
(5) The project provides significant regional or statewide economic benefits.

79737.
(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, two hundred eighty-five million dollars ($285,000,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for watershed restoration projects statewide in accordance with this chapter.
(b) For the purposes of this section, watershed restoration includes activities to fund coastal wetland habitat, improve forest health, restore mountain meadows, modernize stream crossings, culverts, and bridges, reconnect historical flood plains, install or improve fish screens, provide fish passages, restore river channels, restore or enhance riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial habitat, improve ecological functions, acquire from willing sellers conservation easements for riparian buffer strips, improve local watershed management, and remove sediment or trash.
(c) For any funds available pursuant to this section that are used to provide grants under the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, a priority shall be given to coastal waters.
(d) In allocating funds for projects pursuant to this section, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall only make funds available for water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta.
(e) Funds provided by this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.
(f) Funds provided by this section shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).

79738.
(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, eighty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars ($87,500,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta, including, but not limited to, the following:
(1) Projects to improve water quality or that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Delta, including projects in Delta counties that provide multiple public benefits and improve drinking and agricultural water quality or water supplies.
(2) Habitat restoration, conservation, and enhancement projects to improve the condition of special status, at risk, endangered, or threatened species in the Delta and the Delta counties, including projects to eradicate invasive species, and projects that support the beneficial reuse of dredged material for habitat restoration and levee improvements.
(3) Scientific studies and assessments that support the Delta Science Program, as described in Section 85280, or projects under this section.
(b) In implementing this section, the department shall coordinate and consult with the Delta city or Delta county in which a grant is proposed to be expended or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired.
(c) Acquisitions pursuant to this section shall be from willing sellers only.
(d) In implementing this section state agencies shall prioritize wildlife conservation objectives through projects on public lands or voluntary projects on private lands, to the extent feasible.
(e) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be used to acquire land via eminent domain.
(f) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.

APPENDIX C: PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA*

Staff will deem a grant application complete when it has passed the initial selection process. Staff will recommend the grant application to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring by utilizing the evaluation criteria set forth below. Applications achieving an average score of 75 percent or higher will be more likely to qualify for recommendation of grant funds to the RMC Board. RMC has established two evaluation criterions, one for implementation projects and one for planning projects.

*Criterion that are marked with an asterisk are not eligible for funding, however these elements will contribute to an applicant's overall score. Applicants must demonstrate that supplemental funding is available for non-eligible costs.

Project Implementation Evaluation Criteria

Project Name:

Program Area: Lower Los Angeles River corridor and watershed

Criteria	Possible Score	Score
1.0 Restore River Parkways		
1.1. Project is identified in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, city plan, regional plan, active transportation plan, water management plan, or supports connecting communities to major existing or planned trails or open space.	5	
1.2. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkways Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements.	2	
1.3. Project includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.	2	
1.4. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.	2	
Subtotal	**11**	

2.0 Urban Land Value		
2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change: 1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility 2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency, 3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy, 4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and 5) Carbon sequestration	3	
2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.	1	
2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.	2	

2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).	1	
2.5. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.	1	
2.6. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane.	2	
Subtotal	**10**	

3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure

3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.	4	
3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff	3	
3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure.	3	
3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.	3	
3.5. Project utilizes recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).	2	
3.6. The project utilizes cisterns or similar devices to collect and recycle rainwater on site. Project includes water conservation measures.	2	
3.7. Project is part of or consistant with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.	3	
Subtotal	**20**	

4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values

4.1. Project results in new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. **– OR –** 4.2. Project preserves threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. **– OR –** 4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity.	3	
4.4. Project maintains a more than a 75% native plant palette or substantial in-stream or native riparian habitat.	3	

4.5. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.	3	
Subtotal	**9**	

5.0 Matching Funds

5.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). **– OR –**	7	
5.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). **– OR –**	5	
5.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding	3	
5.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs	1	
Subtotal	**8**	

6.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

6.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards- https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30 Up to 7 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science. 3 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ; 5 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ; 7 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher	7	
6.2. Project concept and designs are a result of direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located and occurred no earlier than January 2016.	3	
6.3. Project will serve an area that has a significant percentage of residents living with chronic diseases (examples: cardiovascular disease, asthma, or obesity), please visit https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30	2	
6.4. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a disadvantaged or park poor community defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/, and/or having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities.	3	

6.5. Project design and/or location provides relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.	2	
6.6. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).	2	
Subtotal	**19**	

7.0 Readiness

7.1. Project has completed CEQA/NEPA requirements or are advanced in the environmental analysis and review process.	2	
7.2. Project has received permit approvals (Fed, State, Local).	3	
Subtotal	**5**	

8.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value

8.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization.	3	
8.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).	3	
8.3. Projects will use the California Conservation Corps and/or Local Certified Conservation Corps for project implementation (whole or partial) or look to hire youth through certified Youth Employment Program in coordination with the State/County or qualified non-governmental organization (NGO).	3	
Subtotal	**9**	

9.0 Stewardship and Management Plan Value

9.1. Project will be managed in such a manner as to provide maximum long-term habitat protection and has an established long-term maintenance plan (at least 20-25 years) as evidenced by an adopted guidelines or agreement, such as with a non-profit.	3	
9.2. Project includes a landscape maintenance manual containing details regarding logistics of weed management, trail maintenance, trash management, unauthorized uses, and a habitat establishment monitoring program.	1	

9.3. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5+ years of experience or recent successes).	3	
Subtotal	**7**	

10.0 Educational/ Interpretive Signage

10.1. Educational/Interpretive and/or informational elements are included.	1	
10.2. *Signage or educational/interpretive message includes the natural history, cultural history, and watershed stewardship, and/or that promote physical activity and "healthy living" practices such as mileage markers, walking trails and other physical activities (not included in criteria).	1	
Subtotal	**2**	

TOTAL POINTS	**100**	

Planning Project Evaluation Criteria

Planning Project:

Program Area: Lower Los Angeles River corridor and watershed

Criteria	Possible Score	Score
1.0 Restore River Parkways		
1.1. Project is identified in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, city plan, regional plan, active transportation plan, water management plan, or supports connecting communities to major existing or planned trails or open space.	5	
1.2. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkways Act of 2004, Section 79732 (a)(3). Project must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, and includes recreation, habitat, flood management, parkway conversion, conservation, and/or interpretive education elements	3	
1.3. Project proposes or includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.	2	
1.4. Project proposes or would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.	2	
Subtotal	**12**	**0**

2.0 Urban Land Value		
2.1. Project includes 3 or more of the following elements to address climate change: 1) Sustainable site planning and land use compatibility 2) Safeguarding water and water efficiency, 3) Energy efficiency and renewable energy, 4) Conservation or recycling of materials and resources, and 5) Carbon sequestration	3	
2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.	1	
2.3. Project supports an existing park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.	2	
2.4. Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).	1	
2.5. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.	1	
2.6. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a major public transportation hub (e.g. high-use or regional bus stop and/or transit station) or Class I Trail or Class II Bike Lane.	2	
Subtotal	**10**	**0**

3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure

3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.	4	
3.2. Project maintains and improves flood protection through natural and non-structural systems and ecosystem restoration and/or includes treatment of water runoff	3	
3.3. Project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan objectives which include: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure.	3	
3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.	1	
3.5. Project would utilize recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).	2	
3.6. Project is part of or consistent with Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs), and/or Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans within the Greater LA County region.	3	
Subtotal	**16**	**0**

4.0 Habitat and Restoration Resource Values

4.1. Project will identify or include new habitat and increases at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors. **– OR –** 4.2. Project supports preservation of threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal biodiversity that may be lost to a planned development. **– OR –** 4.3. Project supports preservation and/or enhancement of existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity (e.g. native tree planting).	5	
4.4. Project supports resiliency and adaptation to climate change and compliant with Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, (AB 32). Activities could include land protection, urban forestry, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.	5	
Subtotal	**10**	**0**

5.0 Matching Funds

5.1. Project sponsor will contribute 100% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). **– OR –**	7	
5.2. Project sponsor will contribute 50% or more matching funds (does not include in-kind services; can be other grants/gifts or private and local funding). **– OR –**	5	
5.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding	3	

5.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs	2	
Subtotal	**9**	**0**

6.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

6.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards- https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30 Up to 15 bonus points will be awarded to proposed projects that primarily benefit communities with high pollution burdens and/or high population characteristic scores, based on CalEnviroScreen maps. If your project area is not included in the Cal-Enviro maps, then include in the project narrative, the data and analysis utilized for evaluating the pollution burden and it is also the best available science. 5 points= CalEnviro Screen 3.0 score of 61% -70% ; 10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ; 15 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher	15	
6.2. Project's concept development has included direct community input held through community meetings within the vicinity of where project is located.	3	
6.3. Project will serve an area that has a significant percentage of residents living with chronic diseases (examples: cardiovascular disease, asthma), please visit https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30	2	
6.4. Project proposes new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a disadvantaged or park poor community defined as a census tract with a population that has less than 80% of the state's annual median income, see https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/, and/or having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities.	5	
6.5. Project focus and/or location provides or supports relief from the negative impacts of urban density such as incompatible land uses, industrial impacts, or effects of a nearby freeway.	2	
6.6. Project conforms to the RMC Environmental Justice Policy per Section 2.4 (e.g. community driven empowerment, ID of incompatible land uses, and green infrastructure promoting open space and trails).	3	
Subtotal	**30**	**0**

7.0 Stakeholders/Partners Resource Value

7.1. Project is a multi-benefit and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection project in accordance with statewide priorities. Multi-benefit = Achieves more than one water related element. Ex: water recycling AND trail use, water infrastructure AND sustainability, etc. Multi-jurisdictional = Partnership with more than one city, agency, or non-profit organization.	5	

7.2. Project is significant to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations as evidenced by a letter of support from the organization's governing body. At least 3 letters must be submitted for points (letters from government agencies receive less credit).	3	
Subtotal	**8**	**0**

8.0 Capacity

8.1. Applicant has organizational capacity and experience developing planning projects of similar size and scope (e.g. 5 years of experience or recent successes).	5	
Subtotal	**5**	**0**
TOTAL POINTS	**100**	**0**

Appendix D

RMC GRANT PROGRAM
Grant Application Form

1. **Grant Program:**

☐ **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River ***
☐ **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River ***
**within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

☐ **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**
☐ **Small Grants Program** (between$50,000-$300,000) **
***w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program*

2. **Applicant Information:**

Name of Applicant			
Title			
Name of Agency			
Address			
Telephone No.		**Tele-Extension**	
Email			

3. **Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)*(max. 50 characters):*

4. **Project Description** (150 words or less)**:**

5. **Program Type:**

☐ Urban Lands ☐ Rivers/Tributary Parkways ☐ Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. **Project Type** (check all that apply)**:**

☐ Planning
☐ Acquisition
☐ Open Space
☐ Development
☐ Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only)
☐ Low Impact Recreation Wetland
☐ Habitat Restoration Upland
☐ Habitat Restoration
☐ Riparian Habitat Restoration
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage

7. **Project Location:**

Address:		City:
County:	District:	County Sup. District:
Senate Dist:	Assembly Dist.:	Congressional Dist.:
Lat/Long:	Parcel No(s).:	

8. **Will this project result in areas of <u>restored or protected</u> habitat?** ☐ No (skip to question 10) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

☐ Upland Habitat Acres:_____ ☐ Riparian Restoration Acres:_____ ☐ Coastal Wetlands Acres:_____

☐ Land Protection Acres:_____ ☐ Oak Woodland Restoration Acres:_____ ☐ Freshwater Wetlands Acres: _____

9. **Will this project result in new or improved park/open space?** ☐ No (skip to question 9) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

☐ No. of Acres: _____ ☐ Trail Miles: _____ ☐ Urban Forestry, No. of trees: _____

10. **Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?**

(includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))

☐ Yes, Project serves an SDAC ☐ No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. **Does your project involve an acquisition?** ☐ No (skip to question 12) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application

Status:	☐ Option ☐ Other (Describe): ☐ Willing Seller Letter	
Appraisal:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:
Current Title Report:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:
Environmental Assessment:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:

12. **Does your project involve development/implementation?** ☐ No (skip to question 13) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application

Land Tenure:

Do you have site control? ☐ No
☐ Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

Land Use:

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances? ☐ Yes ☐No *(Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit).*
Comments:

Permits:

Do you have permits? ☐ No ☐ Yes, answer questions below

Agency	Yes	No	N/A	Date	Comments
California Fish and Wildlife	☐	☐	☐		
State Water Control Resources Board	☐	☐	☐		
US Army Corp of Engineers	☐	☐	☐		
US Fish and Wildlife	☐	☐	☐		
Los Angeles County Flood Control District	☐	☐	☐		
City/County Construction Permits	☐	☐	☐		
Coastal Commission	☐	☐	☐		
Other:	☐	☐	☐		

Design:

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

☐ General project concept with no professional design work
☐ Professionally drafted concept design
☐ Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
☐ 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
☐ 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
☐ Approved construction drawings with all permits

What is the status of the environmental documentation for this project (check the most appropriate box)?

- ☐ No CEQA/NEPA work initiated
- ☐ Initial Study completed, date of completion: _____
- ☐ Negative Declaration, date of certification: _____
- ☐ Categorically Exempt, date of certification: _____
- ☐ CEQA/NEPA in process, expected date of completion: _____
- ☐ CEPA/NEPA completed, date of completion: _____

13. **Have you completed the California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation Process (Appendix E in guidelines). Required for Prop 1, recommended for Prop 68. Check only one:**

- ☐ Exempt, this project is a planning or acquisition (or Prop 68)
- ☐ Yes, state the CCC that your agency is proposing to hire to complete the project:
- ☐ No, explain why the CCC cannot provide the services for your project (summarize here, and explain in Section 3 of submittal): _____
- ☐ Other, explain the Youth Employment Program (summarize here, and explain in Section 3 of submittal): _____

14. **Funding information:**

Amount Requested: $

Is your funding request for the full amount necessary to complete this project? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Matching Funds: If yes, total amounts, status, and funding agency (include additional lines if necessary):

Source	Status	Amount
	Total	

15. **Assuming that RMC grant funds may be awarded within next 6 months, what is the expected timeline for this project?**

Start Date	Completion Date

16. **Signatures**

Name of Person authorized to execute agreements, if different from applicant:

Name			
Title			
Name of Agency			
Address			
Telephone No.		**Tel. Extension**	
Email			

Signature of Applicant: _____ Name/Title: _____ Date _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____ Name/Title: _____ Date _____

APPENDIX E: CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND CERTIFIED COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CORPS CONSULTATION

California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps
Proposition 1 - Water Bond Guidelines – Chapter 6
Corps Consultation Process

This process has been developed to ensure compliance with Division 26.7 of the Water Code, Chapter 6, Section 79734 that specifies the involvement of the CCC and the certified community conservation corps (as represented by the California Association of Local Conservation Corps-CALCC).

Section 79734 states "For restoration and ecosystem protection projects funded pursuant to this chapter, the services of the California Conservation Corps or a local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps ***shall*** **be used whenever feasible**."

Applicants applying for funds to complete restoration and ecosystem protection projects shall consult with representatives of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) AND the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the entity representing the certified community conservation corps, to determine the feasibility of the Corps participation. Unless otherwise exempted (see notes below), applicants that fail to engage in such consultation should not be eligible to receive Chapter 6 funds. CCC and CALCC have developed the following consultation process for inclusion in Prop 1 – Chapter 6 project and/or grant program guidelines:

Step 1: Prior to submittal of an application or project plan to the Funder, Applicant prepares the following information for submission to both the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CALCC (who represents the certified community conservation corps):

- Project Title
- Project Description (identifying key project activities and deliverables)
- Project Map (showing project location)
- Project Implementation estimated start and end dates

Step 2: Applicant submits the forgoing information via email concurrently to the CCC and CALCC representatives:

California Conservation Corps representative:
Name: CCC Prop 1 Coordinator
Email: Prop1@ccc.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 341-3207

California Association of Local Conservation Corps representative:
Name: Dominique Lofton
Email:inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org
Phone: 916-426-9170

Step 3: Within five (5) business days of receiving the project information, the CCC and CALCC representatives will review the submitted information, contact the applicant if necessary, and respond to the applicant with a Corps Consultation Review Document (template attached) informing them:

(1) It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project; or

(2) It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and identifying the aspects of the project that can be accomplished with Corps services.

Note: While the Corps will take up to 5 days to review projects, applicants are encouraged to contact the CCC/CALCC representatives to discuss feasibility early in the project development process.

The Corps cannot guarantee a compliant review process for applicants who submit project information fewer than 5 business days before a deadline.

Step 4: Applicant submits application to Funder that includes Corps Consultation Review Document. If the Corps determine their participation is feasible, the applicant must describe the project components involving Corps in the application and provide an estimated budget for that component.

Step 5: Funder reviews applications. Applications that do not include documentation demonstrating that the Corps have been consulted will be deemed "noncompliant" and will not be considered for funding.

NOTES:

1. The Corps already have determined that it is not feasible to use their services on restoration and ecosystem protection projects that *solely* involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from the consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Consultation Review Document.

2. An applicant that has been awarded funds to undertake a project where it has been determined that Corps services can be used must thereafter work with either the CCC or CALCC to develop a scope of work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps. Unless otherwise excused, failure to utilize a Corps on such a project will result in Funding Entities assessing a scoring penalty on the applicant's future applications for Chapter 6 Funds.

APPENDIX E: CONSERVATION CORPS CONSULTATION REVIEW DOCUMENT

Unless an exempted project, this Corps Consultation Review Document must be completed by California Conservation Corps and Community Conservation Corps staff and accompany applications for projects or grants seeking funds through Proposition 1, Chapter 6, Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds. Non-exempt applications that do not include this document demonstrating that the Corps have been consulted will be deemed "noncompliant" and will not be considered for funding.

1. Name of Applicant:

Project Title:

Department/Conservancy to which you are applying for funding**:**

To be completed by Applicant:
Is this application solely for planning or acquisition?

- ☐ Yes (application is exempt from the requirement to consult with the Corps)
- ☐ No (proceed to #2)

To be completed by Corps:
This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:

- ☐ The California Conservation Corps (CCC)
- ☐ California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)

2. Applicant has submitted the required information by mail, hand-delivered or email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

- ☐ Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC and CALCC)
- ☐ No (applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps – application is deemed non-compliant)

3. After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC and CALCC has determined the following:

- ☐ It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant)
- ☐ It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant).

  _____

  _____

CCC AND CALCC REPRESENTATIVES WILL RETURN THIS FORM AS DOCUMENTION OF CONSULTATION BY MAIL, HAND-DELIVERED OR EMAIL TO APPLICANT WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS OF RECEIPT AS VERIFICATION OF CONSULTATION. APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.

Figure 1: RMC Territory Map
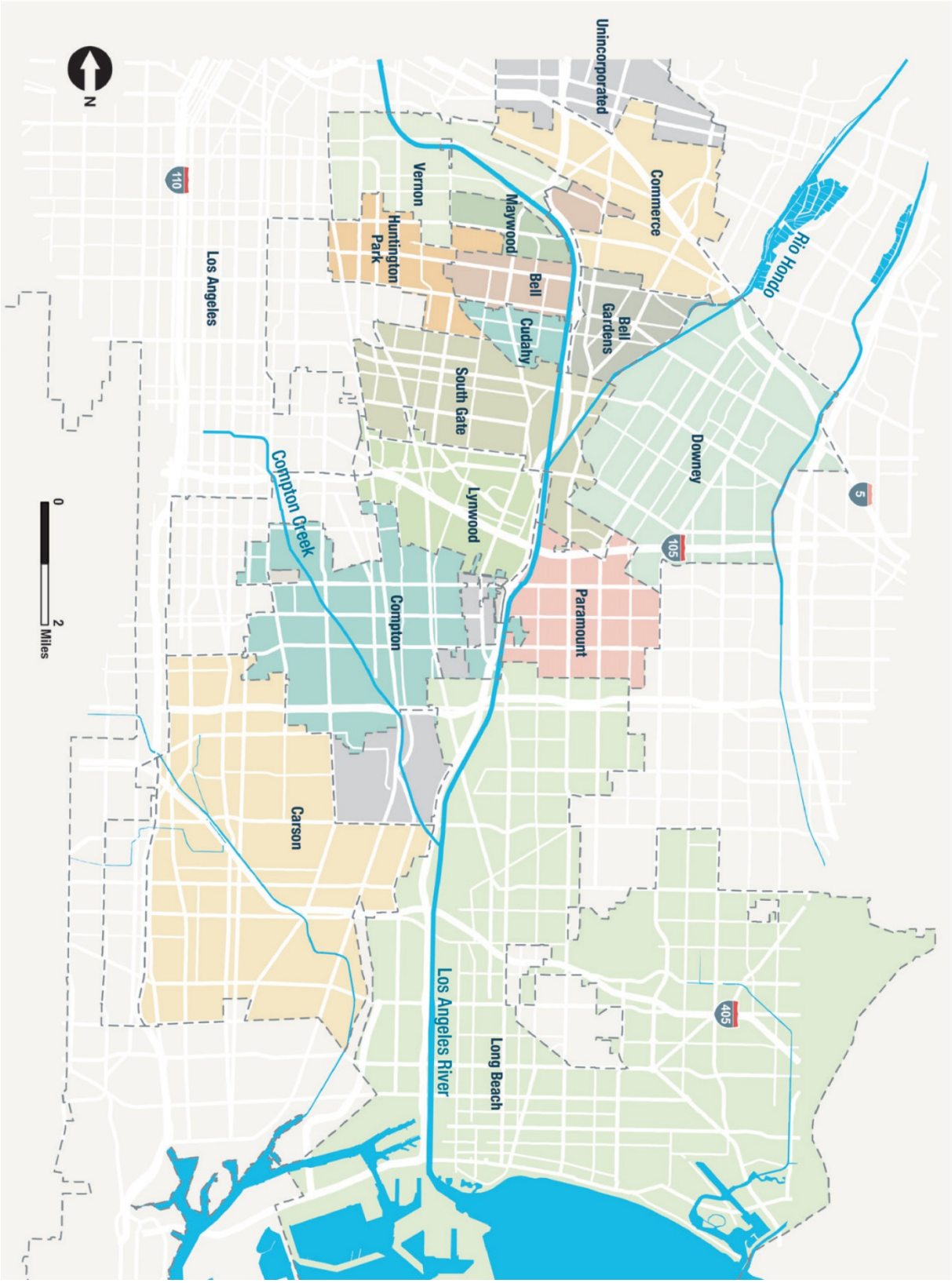
Figure 2: Lower Los Angeles River