

Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria

Staff will deem a grant application complete when it has passed the initial selection process. Staff will submit completed grant applications to the Grant Selection Committee for evaluation and scoring by utilizing the evaluation criteria set forth below. Applications achieving an average score of 70 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, technical assistance, and acquisition projects.

RMC - SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Implementation Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Rivers & Tributaries	Urban Land	Mountains & Foothills	Lower LA River Prop 1
1.0 Access Value				
1.1. Project is identified in an Open Space, Park, or Watershed-Improvement Plan, such as: urban greening plan, river revitalization plan, watershed management plan, active transportation plan, etc. --OR--	5	5	5	5
1.2. Project includes improvements to a non-motorized trail system or improves connections to an existing trail, community facility, recreation area, or school.				1
1.3. Project includes directional signage program that enhances public access.	1	1	1	1
1.4. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.	1	2	1	1
1.5. 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	2	1	2
1.6. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.	2	2	2	2
Subtotal	11	12	10	12

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	5	5	5	5
2.2. Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.	1	3	0	1

2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.	3	3	1	3
2.4 Project involves joint-use of a site (e.g. a school yard, is a public park during off-school hours).	1	2	1	1
Subtotal	10	13	7	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.	3	3	4	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	4	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.	2	1	3	2
3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.	2	1	1	2
3.5. Project utilizes recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).	1	1	0	1
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.	2	2	1	3
Subtotal	13	11	13	15

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 –	3	3	6	3
4.3. Project preserves and/or enhances existing natural habitat and protects native flora and fauna biodiversity.				
4.4. Project maintains a more than a 75% native plant palette or substantial in-stream or native riparian habitat.	2	2	2	2
4.5. Project supports restoration of river parkways as defined by the California River Parkway 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	2

4.6. 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, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.	3	2	5	2
Subtotal	10	8	16	9

5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

5.1. Cal-Enviro Screen standards- https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30 Up to 10 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% ; 7 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 71% -80% ; 10 points = CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 81% or higher	10	10	10	10
5.2. *Project creates a sense of community through educational outreach, community activities, and programs.	1	1	1	1
5.3. 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.	2	2	2	2
5.4. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities .	2	2	1	2
5.5. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC 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/	5	5	5	3
5.6. 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	2	1	2
5.7. 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	3	3	3
Subtotal	25	25	23	23

6.0 Matching Funds

6.1. 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	7	7	7
--	---	---	---	---

6.2. 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	5	5
6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding	3	3	3	3
6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs	2	2	2	2
Subtotal	9	9	9	9

7.0 Readiness

7.1. Project has completed CEQA/NEPA requirements or are advanced in the environmental analysis and review process.	2	2	2	2
7.2. Project has received permit approvals (Fed, State, Local). --OR-- For Acquisitions, completed Due Diligence, such as Title Report, Willing Seller Letter, and Appraisal.	3	3	3	3
Subtotal	5	5	5	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	3	3	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	3	3	3
8.3. Projects will use the California 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	3	3	3
8.4. Educational/Interpretive and/or informational elements are included.	1	1	1	1
8.5. *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	1	1	1
Subtotal	11	11	11	11

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	3	3	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	1	1	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).	2	2	2	2
Subtotal	6	6	6	6
TOTAL POINTS	100	100	100	100

RMC - SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Planning/Technical Assistance/Acq. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Rivers & Tributaries	Urban Land	Mountains & Foothills	Lower LA River Prop 1
1.0 Access Value				
1.1. Project is identified in an Open Space, Park, or Watershed-improvement Plan, such as: urban greening plan, river revitalization plan, watershed management plan. active transportation plan, etc. --OR--	6	6	6	5
1.2. Project includes improvements to a pedestrian, equestrian and/or bicycle connection to an existing trail, trail system, community facility, recreation area or school.				2
1.3. Project is within ¼ mile or 10 minutes walking distance of a residential area.	1	2	1	1
1.4. 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	2	1	2
1.5. Project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.	2	2	2	2
Subtotal	11	12	10	12

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	5	5	5	5
2.2 Project contributes to the removal of a nuisance or contaminated property/use from the community.	1	3	0	1
2.3 Project contributes to an existing or new park, natural area, or greenway in an urbanized area.	3	3	1	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	1	1
Subtotal	10	13	7	9

3.0 Water Sustainability/Water Quality/Water Infrastructure

3.1. Project provides a new opportunity for substantial water conservation and/or water quality improvements.	3	3	5	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	2	3	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.	2	2	3	2
3.4. Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space.	2	1	1	2
3.5. Project will utilize recycled water (e.g. greywater or purple pipes project).	1	1	0	1
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.	2	2	1	3
Subtotal	13	11	13	15

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.	5	3	8	4
--	---	---	---	---

4.4. 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	2
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, wildfire mitigation, and restoration of wetlands, woodlands, riparian areas, and/or seagrass.	5	5	8	4
Subtotal	12	9	19	10

5.0 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

5.1. 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	15	15	15
5.2. 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	3	3	3
5.3. Project will serve a park poor community defined as having less than 2 acres/0.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents—see http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities .	2	2	1	2
5.4. Project creates new park space or improvements to an existing park space in a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC) or serves a SDAC 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/	7	7	5	7
5.5. 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	3	1	2
5.6. 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	3	3	3
Subtotal	32	33	28	32

6.0 Matching Funds

6.1. 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	7	7	7
6.2. 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	5	5
6.3. Contribution of matching funds will count towards completion of the entire project being submitted for funding	3	3	3	3
6.4. Projects has low or no overhead costs	2	2	2	2
Subtotal	9	9	9	9

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	5	6	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	3	3	3
Subtotal	8	8	9	8

8.0 Capacity

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

TOTAL POINTS	100	100	100	100
---------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

**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.*