

**RMC Project Evaluation Criteria:
Program Area:
Rivers and Parkways**

I. REQUIRED FOR FISCAL YEAR 05-06 FUNDING CYCLE

Readiness

- Project has 18 month project completion schedule.
- Project is ready to proceed: site control, CEQA documentation, permits and or appraisals can be completed and approved to allow for project completion within 18 months.
- Application provides evidence of commitment by higher management or authorized representative of the agency.
- Project has adequate, experienced staff to move the project along.
- Project application has a long-term maintenance and operations component outlining sources of funding (maintenance and operations are not funded by grant).

Plan and Land Use consistency

- The project is consistent with local land use (zoning).
- The project is not consistent with local land use (zoning) but the city/county approves of the project.
- The project is consistent with the guiding principles of Common Ground.
- The project is part of an agency open space plan, watershed plan, bicycle or trail plan.
- The project has been so identified as an area of exceptional resource value through a government agency plan.

II. MOUNTAINS

EVALUATION CRITERIA (57 points)

1. Feasibility Value (3 points)

- A. The project has clear goals.
- B. The project identifies ways to measure success of meeting stated goals and evaluates outcomes based on stated goals.
- C. The planned activities are feasible and practicable.

2. Willing Seller (2 points)

- A. If acquisition, a letter of support from the owner is available.

3. Partner Resource Value (3 points)

- A. The project is significant to government agencies, individually or in partnership as evidenced by a letter of support.
- B. The 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.
- C. The project has matching funds available in the amount of 20% or more of the proposed project completion budget.

4. Sustainability Value (3 points)

- A. Project includes best flood management practices (California Stormwater Association).
- B. The project incorporates a minimum of 50% recycled hardscape materials.
- C. The project contains a minimum of 75% locally indigenous plants.

5. Water Resource and Quality Value (9 points)

- A. There is an established water supply for project.
- B. The project contains or improves groundwater supply and/or recharge capabilities.
- C. Project increases capture, storage, treatment of storm water runoff.

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- D. The project is a groundwater project that is consistent with the Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001.
- E. There is existing recycled water infrastructure and the project will utilize recycled water.
- F. The project utilizes cisterns to collect and recycle rainwater on site.
- G. Project achieves a measurable reduction in water usage, compared to conventional projects.
- H. Project uses permeable surfaces for paved areas and includes a maintenance plan to ensure their continued permeability.
- I. The project addresses water quality through measures that prevent or remedy water quality impairment and includes management and monitoring of water quality.

6. Educational (5 points)

- A. The project plans include active stakeholder participation in the planning and design or long-term management of the facility/site.
- B. Interpretive and/or informational elements are included.
- C. Signage or educational message addresses watershed stewardship.
- D. Signage is culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- E. Measurable goals with regard to public education are included in the project.

7. Habitat Resource Value (9 points)

- A. The project contributes to the connection of existing protected areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.
- B. The project preserves/creates habitat diversity and biodiversity.
- C. The project supports substantial upland vegetative cover or riparian habitat in a watershed.
- D. The project protects watershed processes affecting downstream habitat or open space uses.
- E. The project includes habitat that supports or may support either a special status species, or a candidate for special status species per federal, state, local, or California Native Plant Society designations.
- F. The project largely contains undisturbed native habitat with a rich level of species diversity.
- G. The project includes habitat that provides a buffer between protected or proposed protected areas and incompatible uses (e.g. Wildland-Urban Interface).
- H. The project is located within a county-designated ecologically sensitive watershed and/or Significant Ecological Area.
- I. The project supports unique ecological processes.

8. Restoration Resource Value (4 points)

- A. The project includes an evaluation of the suitability of the project site for restoration.
- B. The project contains a reasonable strategy for habitat restoration.
- C. The project contains a quantifiable plan for evaluating the success of restoration.
- D. The project increases the effective size of an existing protected area.

9. Urban Open Space Value (2 points)

- A. The project provides linkages to open space from a park-poor community (defined as an area having less than 2 acres of open space per 1,000 residents).
- B. The project contains joint-use of a site e.g. it includes an off-site school, study or research facility.

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10. Recreational Resource Value (3 points)

- A. The project contains a suitable area for a recreational facility or use area (e.g. picnic area, useable open space or campground).
- B. The project could provide an access point, parking, etc. for an adjacent protected area or overlook.
- C. The project could support public use facilities ancillary to the primary value of a protected area.

11. Access Value (6 points)

- A. There is a directional signage program that enhances public access.
- B. The project is within walking distance or is easily accessible from public transportation.
- C. The project has adequate space for on-site parking and/or available street parking.
- D. The project is located and accessible to an urbanized area that lacks open space.
- E. The project would be accessible via an adjacent protected area.
- F. The project is on land that is an underutilized public or private holding.

12. Trail/Bikeway Resource Value (4 points)

- A. The project connects communities to major existing/planned trails or open space.
- B. The project connects new parks or nodes of activity to existing/planned trails or open spaces.
- C. Project provides amenities that would enhance public use of a trail (e.g. signage, other).
- D. The project would open an inaccessible area or public resource by the addition of a new trail.

13. Scenic Resource Value (1 point)

- A. The project would create or enhance vistas of natural, architectural or cultural resources.

14. Cultural or Historic Resource Value (3 points)

- A. The project contains a registered archaeological, cultural or historical resource.
- B. The project contains an archaeological, cultural or historical resource of significance (but not registered).
- C. The project contains an archaeological, cultural or historic resource that is damaged.

TOTAL CATEGORY POINTS (57 points maximum) _____

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Program Area:
Mountains**

III. DOES PROJECT MEET MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES (Maximum 15 Points)?

Target Categories Criteria sets 3-13

SUSTAINABILITY	3. Sustainability Value	
WATER RESOURCE	4. Water Resource Value	
HABITAT	6. Habitat Resource Value 7. Restoration Resource Value	
ACCESS	5. Education Stewardship Value 9. Recreational Resource Value 10. Access Value 11. Trail/Bikeway Resource Value 12. Scenic Resource Value 13. Cultural or Historic Resource Value	
URBAN	8. Urban Open Space Value	
TOTAL TARGET CATEGORY SCORE	_____	(15 points maximum)
FINAL SCORE	_____	(72 points maximum)

The following is a formula for determining the multiple objective scores. It is organized to be calculated in an Excel program calculation.

Step 1. Consolidate criteria from categories 3-13 into the 5 "Target" Categories listed to the left

Step 2. Total the score achieved for each of the Target Categories (give 1 point for each criteria included in the Target Category, i.e. 3A = 1 point), and calculate the percentage achieved of the total possible points for each of the Target Categories. If the total percentage exceeds 50% assign 1 point - less than 50% gets 0 points

Step 3. Sum the Target Category scores for a maximum total score of 5 (1 for each Target Category)

Step 4. Multiply the Target Category total score by a multiplier of 3 (maximum total of 15) and add them to the Total Category Points to determine the final score.