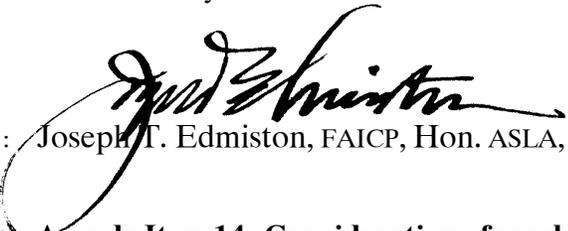


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 14, 2015

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the City of Calabasas for restoration of approximately 1.5 miles of Las Virgenes Creek, City of Calabasas.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant of \$980,500 in Proposition 1 funds to the City of Calabasas for restoration of Las Virgenes Creek.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79731(h) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the City of Calabasas, for restoration of a one-and-one-half mile section of Las Virgenes Creek. The project includes concrete debris removal, sediment and erosion control via biotechnical slope and bank stabilization, riparian habitat improvements, fish passage barrier removal, and removal of exotic species. Greatly improved habitat, flood safety, reduced erosion, and water quality from reduced sediment loading are the biggest project benefits fundable by the Conservancy's Prop 1 funds. The project also proposes needed public access improvements, namely, trails and environmental education areas for public recreation and interpretation of watershed resources. The total project cost is nearly \$3 million, and the City has secured or identified approximately \$2 million of that sum via an Urban Streams grant, a Prop 84 IRWMP grant, and \$500,000 from the City's General Fund.

This restoration project is a second phase of work in Las Virgenes Creek, the major regional creek in the Malibu Creek Watershed (becoming Malibu Creek farther downstream). A significant part of the work will be removal of a 400' by 4' section of failed concrete bank armoring which has been undermined and diverts creek flow against the opposite bank, causing severe erosion and undercutting. The concrete debris also presents a barrier to fish movement. The creek historically supported the federally-listed Southern Steelhead Trout, so improving the stream geomorphology and restoring native vegetation in this 1 ½ mile section could also enhance future reestablishment of steelhead once the Rindge Dam barrier farther downstream in Malibu Canyon is remediated. The City has included a number of support letters in their application, including ones from the National Park Service, Senator Fran Pavley, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Las Virgenes School District, and City of Malibu.

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The City has provided a Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sequestration Inventory prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the project, calculating carbon sequestration with restoration tree growth and carbon production associated with the restoration and maintenance over a 40 year period. They conclude that there will be a net decrease of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions between 2394 and 2848 metric tons.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for Restoration Projects results in the application receiving 102 points (out of a possible 123), with a score of 15 out of 18 possible from climate change value points, plus 15 out of 15 Additional Criteria points. **Total points: 132** (out of possible 155). Staff recommends award of \$980,500 for this project.