



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
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SMMC
Attachment
June 1, 2020
Agenda Item 9

May 14, 2020

Chairperson Irma Muñoz
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 West Avenue 26
Los Angeles, California 90065

**Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application –
Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 Project**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 Project. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$1,360,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), under the Conservancy’s Urban Creeks Program. The MRCA’s Governing Board approved submittal of this application on January 8, 2020.

The proposed grant would fund leading the community engagement efforts for G2. Further, the subject grant will fund project planning and design for the early activation river edge greenway called, Paseo del Río Project, focusing on public access and habitat restoration elements. Please also find attached an executed Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by the City of Los Angeles, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MRCA to formally enter into a Partnership called the "100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard" to formally work together. The Paseo del Rio Project will be the opening activity to showcase working collaboratively together.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposed grant and how it fits the Conservancy’s Evaluation Criteria. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

Cara Meyer
Deputy Executive Officer

| SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| Project Name: Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio G2 Project | | Amount of Request: \$1,360,000 | |
| Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority | | Total Project Cost: | |
| Applicant Address: 570 W. Ave 26, # 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065 | | Matching Funds: | |
| Phone: (323) 221-9944 | | Lat/Long: | |
| Email: | | Project Address: APN 5442-002-823 | |
| | | County | Senate District |
| | | Los Angeles | 24 |
| | | | Assembly District |
| | | | 51 |
| | | Tax ID: 77-0112367 | |
| Grantee's Authorized Representative: | | | |
| Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer | | (323) 221-9944 ext. 117 | |
| <i>Name and Title</i> | | <i>Phone</i> | |
| Overhead Allocation Notice: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices. <input type="checkbox"/> The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses. <input type="checkbox"/> The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application. | | | |
| Outreach and Advertising Requirement: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals. | | | |
| <i>All check boxes must be checked</i> | | | |
| Brief Project Description: | | | |
| <p>The Project objectives include local community engagement throughout the project in addition to planning and design of the G2 Parcel, on MRCA's 12.5-acre easement. The MRCA's application is supplemented by two additional grant applications, from the City of Los Angeles and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, for a total of \$10,000,000 in grant funding requested to plan and implement the entire early activation greenway, the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project. The coordinated Project will provide public access and initiate habitat restoration and water quality improvements which will be further developed in the Long-Term project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*attach additional pages with project detail</p> | | | |
| Tasks / Milestones: | | Budget: | Completion Date |
| See attached timeline | | See attached budget | 12/31/2023 |
| For Acquisition Projects: | | APN(s): N/A | |
| | | Acreage: N/A | |
| I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate. | | | |
|  | | 5/14/2020 | |
| <i>Signature of Authorized Representative</i> | | <i>Date</i> | |
| STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY | | | |

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Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 Project, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

The Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project is an early activation project at the Taylor Yard G2 and G1, or “Bowtie,” Parcels which would develop the site into a nature-focused restorative habitat and recreational open space along the Los Angeles River. The integrated Project is planned to be approximately eight acres (approximately six acres on G2, and two acres on G1) to implement over one mile of contiguous River-front public access. Proposed improvements may include trails, native habitat, water quality improvement features, greenspaces, trail recreational opportunities, kayak launch and landing, gathering spaces or outdoor classrooms, restorative elements, amenities, such as parking, access points, restrooms, gates, lighting, and interpretive signage, and access to an adjacent water quality improvement project on the Bowtie.

The Project will be implemented in a joint partnership with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), City of Los Angeles (the City), and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) which will allow the development of a coordinated Project. The three landowners have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) (attached within application) to form the 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard (Partnership) to formally work together, and this Project will be the opening activity to showcase working collaboratively together. The City, who acquired the 42-acre G2 Parcel in fee title, has been working with the MRCA, a permanent easement holder of 12.5-acres of the G2 Parcel, and State Parks, who retains the 18-acre Bowtie Parcel, to develop a contiguous Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project (Project). The activities for which this grant application is for are as follows: the MRCA will manage and execute the community engagement component of the G2 site and actively participate with the City in the planning of the G2 Parcel, while continuing to coordinate with the City and State Parks to develop the integrated Project. The City will be conducting the environmental scopes for both G2 and Bowtie Parcels and project planning and implementation of improvements at the G2 site. State Parks will be conducting project planning, community engagement, and implementation of improvements at the Bowtie Parcel. Both City and State Parks have also submitted complimentary grant applications which will together supplement this grant application. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), the MRCA’s joint powers authority, and the MRCA have concerted efforts over nearly two decades to preserve Taylor Yard for use as a public open space park along the Los Angeles River. The Paseo del Río Project will be an essential part of these efforts in working toward the Long-Term Project.

The Taylor Yard G2 River Park is Project No. 165 of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan adopted by the City Council and described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (ARBOR Study), for which the City of Los Angeles (City) is serving as local sponsor. The Taylor Yard G2 Parcel (G2), a former rail yard and adjacent to a soft-bottomed portion of the Los Angeles River, is critical to fulfilling the ARBOR Study goals to restore ecosystem values in and along an 11-mile corridor of the river from the edge of Griffith Park into downtown Los Angeles, which overall calls for more than 700 acres of riparian restoration in the coming decades. The MRCA’s acquisition of the 12.5-acre easement on the northern end of the site will ultimately allow the development of the easement into a multi-purpose space for habitat restoration; to secure open space preservation; and to provide future wildlife-oriented, habitat restoration, public access, and recreation.

Due to the project site’s size, context, and potential, the Project will be the first implemented project on the G2 and Bowtie Parcels which will, in tandem, establish deeper roots, momentum, and potential advocates in the community as the City, MRCA, and State Parks continue to

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implement the “crown jewel” of the Los Angeles River revitalization effort. Its proximity to existing open space and recreational and interpretive resources, including Río de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian Park, riparian habitat in the River itself, numerous parks along the opposite bank of the River, and Sonia Sotomayor Center for Arts and Sciences, means that Taylor Yard is a singularly unique opportunity to create a regional multiple-benefit park, enhance habitat connectivity, develop wildlife habitat, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.

The Taylor Yard site was used for maintenance and fueling of trains from the 1930s to 2006. Conversion of the site to public parkland and watershed restoration will be through the development of multiple projects to ensure that the public is allowed safe access to portions of the site, while safely remediating other areas of the site. The Project is the first phase to provide riverfront public access all along the G2 and Bowtie Parcels; therefore, community engagement, led by the MRCA and its community partners, will be vital to establish relationships with the neighboring community for both the Paseo del Río Project and long-term Project. The proposed grant will help accomplish the implementation of the Project, along with the City’s and State Park’s proposed implementation grants, to spearhead new strategies in public engagement and outreach in a historic, culturally-rich, significant, and habitat-sensitive area in Los Angeles.

The Project is consistent with the goals set forth in the SMMC’s Climate Change Policy, State Planning Priorities, and AB 32. The Project seeks to improve a locally and regionally significant public resource for public enjoyment and environmental benefit. When fully developed, the Project seeks to ultimately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the State’s natural resources. Further objectives of this pre-improvement planning grant are to protect the Los Angeles River watershed through the planned restoration of native habitat, and promote public access to the watershed’s land, water, and wildlife resources while managing flood risk and remediation.

The supplemental information below describes how the Project would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

BUDGET

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The proposed Project’s design phase will be completed within approximately 18 months after grant approval, followed by the implementation of the Project, which is estimated to last approximately 12 months.

MRCA requests a completion date of December 31, 2023. Work will commence upon execution of the grant agreement.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project achieves the purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a).

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The project will involve the protection and restoration of California rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds. The proposed grant achieves the following eight (8) Proposition 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.

Since the project is expected to improve the accessibility and increase the usage of the future park, it will thereby ultimately bring more visitors to the area and encourage spending at local businesses. Additionally, the construction of the project itself will provide economic benefits by creating new jobs and profit for the companies providing project supplies and materials, sub-contractors and crews working on-site.

2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.

Los Angeles County will likely be affected by climate change in the following ways: more severe droughts, more intense heat spells, and loss of California's native biodiversity. The design of this Project anticipates these changes and will mitigate them. The density of trees and vegetation sequester carbon and help cool the atmosphere. Native plant landscaping will cover the project area, which is currently barren. This will serve as new and enhanced habitat and open space for wildlife, minimizing the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. In addition, the Project will also employ water treatment and conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce trash and other pollutants within Los Angeles River. Additionally, the Project will provide access to an existing storm drain daylighting project, conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the Bowtie parcel, which will demonstrate stormwater capture, stormwater treatment, and habitat enhancement along the Los Angeles River. Since this Project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the River, there is much more wildlife that survives there than in other areas. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species.

3) Restore river parkways throughout the state.

A main objective of the Project is to publicly activate the River's edge with walking paths, native vegetation, look-outs, outdoor classrooms, and other possible recreational uses. The site is directly adjacent to the Río de Los Angeles State Park and the Los Angeles River itself in the highly urbanized Los Angeles River watershed. The Los Angeles River is both a River Parkway and an Urban Stream. Southern California contains a network of open space and trails throughout the local mountains and coastline however, it is not readily accessible to urban residents. Improved connectivity is needed for existing public parks. The Project will provide new access to the River at the Bowtie Parcel and G2 sites, providing over one mile of River-front access and tying nature into the urban community.

4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

This Project will provide a significant habitat link and node within this important ecological and wildlife corridor. Because the River is an open waterway, it functions as a habitat corridor for

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migratory birds and small mammals and provides an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. Additionally, the Long-Term Project will significantly reduce the amount of pollutants, currently being expelled into the River untreated, via proposed stormwater daylighting and capture at the site. This will help improve the habitat potential and water quality within the River and Pacific Ocean. Since the Project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River, more species survive, fly and swim. It is also adjacent to Elysian Park, upstream from the Arroyo Seco Confluence, and downstream from Griffith Park, which are home to many sensitive plant and animal species. By capturing and treating runoff on the site, the implementation of G2 will improve water quality in the River and help protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems. In addition to native planting, the Project will begin to provide new habitat for area birds and other species. This first step in site cleanup, of the historically contaminated site, is important for the ultimate revitalization of the site which will support and restore native habitats and ecosystems.

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.

Because the site is known to be contaminated from previous use as a rail yard, the Project will begin what will be a lengthy remediation process. By capping and/or removing existing contaminants adjacent to the River's edge, the River and the surrounding community will be healthier and more resilient. Also, the project will decrease the amount of untreated pollutants currently making their way into the River. This will protect and restore the health of the watershed. The Project will be the first phase of site cleanup, which will be followed by more comprehensive remediation efforts as the site is further planned and developed.

Another element of the Project is to plant native trees and shrubs throughout portions of the Project site, which will be irrigated by recycled water. The trees will provide a habitat for local wildlife, provide shade for pedestrians, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, generate oxygen, and remove pollutants from the air, ultimately decreasing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming. These benefits will be maximized through location and density of vegetation.

10). Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

As mentioned before, improving stormwater quality improvements is one of the goals of the project that it can be beneficial for the water quality of the LA River and the larger watershed.

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.

The Project will reduce sediment, trash, and organic matter from loading and contaminating the Los Angeles River, thereby limiting sedimentation. The G2 site is currently contaminated with different metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and chlorinated solvents from its historic use as a railroad facility. The Paseo del Río Project is the first phase of site cleanup and multiple-benefit

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improvements that will help reduce the opportunity for contaminants to migrate from the site during storm events, thereby protecting the watershed. The Project will be designed to capture and runoff in order to remove various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil from the water before they can reach the River. Also, the Long-Term Project plans to restore a hydrologic connection from the River to the G2 site, which will help contribute to increased local water supply, improved water quality, and enhanced flood management. The overall cumulative impact of this Project is potentially substantial for the given urban area and will treat water that would otherwise enter the river untreated.

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.

The Project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Stormwater treatment and improvement projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in fragmented urban interface. The Project will employ water conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce the trash within the Los Angeles River. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species. Cleaner water in the River means cleaner water within San Pedro Bay restoring and enhancing local wildlife habitat. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation will sequester carbon as well as cool the atmosphere, further helping California's native biodiversity by reducing intense heat spells created by climate change.

The project will provide multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply and/or watershed protection and restoration.

Upon completion, the Project will feature many uses and benefits including: stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the Los Angeles River; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming) and reduce the heat-island effect; recycled water use for irrigation which will promote a sustainable landscape model; nature education and habitat restoration which will benefit the area's animal and plant species; reduced impervious surfaces and promotion of infiltration projects following contaminant remediation; and aesthetic enhancement to the public and River area. The Long-Term Project will require further site clean up, which will provide multiple benefits related to water quality and watershed health. The early activation Project, Paseo del Río, will initiate a first phase of site clean up and is an important step to restoration within the Los Angeles River watershed. Additionally, the Project will provide access to an existing storm drain daylighting project, conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the Bowtie parcel, which will demonstrate stormwater capture, stormwater treatment, and habitat enhancement along the Los Angeles River.

The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

The Project will include the use of recycled water, which will reduce the amount of potable water needed. This will reduce the amount of imported water needed for Southern California.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant

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to the California Water Action Plan.

The Project's design and eventual implementation will aim to benefit the Los Angeles River and the larger watershed, which provides a migratory route and habitat to both sensitive and endangered species.

The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

By designing to capture onsite runoff, water entering the River infrastructure will be reduced and cleaner through the implementation of design elements that filter stormwater.

The project employs 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.

An innovative approach is being taken for the Project's planning and implementation by the three agencies with land control to jointly work together. The MRCA, City, and State Parks have jointly signed a Letter of Intent to work together across the full 100-acres of publicly-owned open space and this early activation project is the first step in this effort – this Project is truly a partnership between jurisdictions. By the time the Project design is complete, the plans will have been vetted within the City by the Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Bureau of Engineering, the County, and the USACE. Since the Project will provide a connection to adjacent State Park's Bowtie site (currently undeveloped) by way of a MRCA easement, a historical partnership – one that has been of utmost importance to the neighboring communities and stakeholders – will be first utilized in the development of the Paseo del Río Project between the MRCA, City, and State Parks.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

MRCA has years of experience planning, designing, permitting, and implementing projects of this scale. As mentioned, the MRCA has already developed a partnership with the City and together both entities are now working with State Parks that also hopes to jointly implement the early activation project. The Project's design and Construction Documents will be developed in partnership with the City and State Park's design teams, which will allow for a coordinated permitting and implementation phase. The partnership between the MRCA, City, and State Parks will allow both G2 and Bowtie parcels to be developed in tandem and pave the way for further future efforts at Taylor Yard to be planned and implemented together. Working together will simplify, for the community, the complexity of work to occur at Taylor Yard by reducing the volume of meetings and bringing together the project team to better answer questions and collectively receive feedback.

In addition, the MRCA has already been involved with community engagement at the project site and related projects. Implementation of a community outreach plan has been determined feasible as the MRCA plans to develop a community engagement team with knowledge and able to work well with the local community and has a strong technical understanding of brownfield to park projects.

Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.

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MRCA has the financial capacity to perform this project on a reimbursable basis. MRCA has been implementing capital projects on a reimbursable basis for many years and anticipates reimbursable payments in our budgets. MRCA also maintains a line of credit that can be drawn upon in the event of an extended delay.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA has successfully planned, designed, and implemented multiple-benefit recreational projects throughout Los Angeles: Several completed MRCA projects are similar in size, budget, scope and duration to the proposed project including the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan and Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization (ULART) Plan, Tujunga Wash Greenway, Pacoima Wash Natural Park, and Park to Playa Trail.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. MRCA's mission is to complement the work of these and other agencies in protecting land and public access to natural lands in southern California mountains. Since its inception, the MRCA has designed, planned and constructed scores of small and large projects throughout Los Angeles. The MRCA currently manages over 75,000 acres of parkland and holds fee title to approximately 10,000 acres. The overall goal for MRCA's urban parklands program is to "integrate nature into the urban environment". The completion of this project will represent one additional step toward that goal.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.

The proposed project is a joint partnership with the City, MRCA, and State Parks, all entities which have publicly committed to working together in revitalizing the River's edge during the early activation of the G2 and Bowtie parcels. The City, MRCA, and State Parks seek to collaboratively work together to use the individual talents and capacity within each organization to expediently develop a successful early activation River's edge space. Coordination amongst the Partnership will be instrumental to this and subsequent project success, as it is extremely important to the community that the efforts are integrated and that community feedback is shared. Furthermore, MRCA is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation & Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District pursuant to Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code.

Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection, watershed ecosystem restoration, or multi-benefit river parkway plan.

The Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, and the County of Los Angeles Master Plan all include the restoration of Taylor Yard as a high priority.

The project provides a plan or feasibility study that enhances cooperative watershed health protection and restoration important to two or more organizations.

The MRCA's goal of the Project is to successfully engage the local community while developing improvements to the River's edge on the G2 and Bowtie parcels in order to provide an early

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activation opportunity for a site, which includes watershed protection and restoration activities. The City, MRCA, and State Parks are committed to the benefits that this project can provide and analyzing the feasibility of proposed improvements and new project implementation is an inherent part of pre-improvement planning.

Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.

MRCA has more than 30 years of experience implementing pre-improvement projects similar to the proposed Project which involves developing a community outreach plan.

The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational public use facility or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan envisions the River as a natural resource asset and recreational facility. Currently the River sparingly, only in two locations, offers this opportunity: in the Sepulveda Basin and the Glendale Narrows. This Project seeks to maintain and enhance the Master Plan's goal, in addition to objectives stating, "to conserve, maintain and better utilize existing recreation and park facilities which promote the recreational experience". In addition, the Project implements the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study's goals in Reach 6 of the Los Angeles River.

The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.

The River currently offers a regional network of parks and trails that are highly utilized and enjoyed for their natural beauty, and the ability to combat heat-island effect, due to the River's mitigating abilities through providing vegetation and cool shaded areas. However, currently on the north bank of the River in Glassell Park, only the Bowtie parcel offers any open space (with limited amenities) along the River. To date no successful connecting linkage has been developed along the north bank. This project will add to the network of parks and open space along the Los Angeles River, providing a significant new connection and gateway. The proposed Project, in conjunction with the adjacent State Parks and the Taylor Yard Bikeway and Pedestrian Bridge (currently underway), will create a major regional multi-modal Greenway along the River and provide regional links for access to the Project. Upon ultimate Project completion, the Bowtie Parcel, the G2 Parcel, and the existing Río de Los Angeles State Park will be connected and create over 100 acres of contiguous parkland. Also, there are no boat launches within the River Recreational Zone (RRZ) on the River's north bank, and the addition of access points from the Bowtie and G2 sites will serve to create new regional access, as well as create its own smaller Taylor Yard RRZ that might be more conducive to new or inexperienced boaters, or visitors with less time than a trip down the entire RRZ.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

Public outreach and engagement efforts for the Taylor Yard Project have been conducted since the acquisition of the G2 Parcel by the City which includes more than 500 people attending two public events for the Project within five days of one another in January 2018 and 1,321-people completing a paper and online survey between January and March 2018. Input received to date from the public and through the survey presents a clear desire for a more natural and passive

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type of a park that provides opportunities for walking and engaging with nature and play. Overall, the robust amount of input provided to date by the community gives the Project team insights into community expectations and desires for features, activities, and uses for the site, but this Project will supplement those efforts with significant additional on-going community engagement for the development of a River edge greenway. The responses will be actively referenced to guide the design team throughout the Project planning and design process.

The G2 Concept Development Project has been promoted through a combination of traditional grassroots engagement and innovative approaches. Project partners have included non-profit organizations, Mujeres de la Tierra, and Friends of the LA River. Through these entities, the City was able to promote and engage the public at a neighborhood level through local meetings and walking door to door, as well as reaching out to a broader group of river and watershed advocates. Efforts for this Project will include similar types of engagement, but also look to include additional technical strategic guidance from entities that focus on brownfields redevelopment and community health, and a variety of programs that facilitate participation and community trust. Community engagement activities, led by the MRCA, will include a series of brownfield and environmental education workshops or events to further build on past efforts to provide information about brownfields becoming parks. Central to this work will be empowering the local community to understand the environmental process and to advocate for resolutions that meet their goals.

The previous community engagement only involved the G2 Parcel; however, since the importance of joint partnership, between the MRCA, the City, and State Parks, has been recognized to create a meaningful plan for the Taylor Yard site, further community engagement, to build upon previous efforts, will be conducted by the MRCA and in coordination with State Parks, who will work with a team of consultants and stakeholders to ensure community involvement.

The project includes interpretive programming or personal interpretation, and a plan to reach community audiences with meaningful information about a watershed resource.

The Project will include interpretive signage, within the proposed project, which will provide information about the project site, water quality improvement characteristics of the Project, as well as the natural resources of the Los Angeles River. Outdoor classrooms will provide an opportunity for local schools and organizations to convene educational programming at designated locations along the Project. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed. Additionally, the Project can support the environmental science-based curriculum at the Sotomayor Center for Arts and Sciences.

The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.

The proposed project seeks to develop public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits, such as creating networks of walking trails and viewing areas, stormwater networks of bioswales and runoff capture, trees for shade, urban cooling and wildlife protection, and native planting areas that provide habitat patches for wildlife.

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The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a watershed resource.

The Project will include interpretive signage, within the proposed project, which will provide information about the project site, water quality improvement characteristics of the Project, as well as the natural resources of the Los Angeles River. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed.

The project creates a new venue for education and/or interpretation activities that promote water conservation and stewardship, or enhances an existing venue.

All public information regarding the Project will contain education about the Project's many environmental benefits. As mentioned, this will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Panels describe and heighten awareness of GHG emissions, reduction measures that the public can take in their personal lives to improve air quality, highlight water conservation and water quality improvement measures, and carbon sequestration methods and benefits. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, creation of outdoor classrooms, and ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive and/or educational value.

The project will result in new public access to a watershed resource that has both high interpretive and educational value, which will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant, and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

The project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Stormwater treatment and improvement projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in the scattered urban landscape.

EXTRA CONSIDERATION POINTS

QUANTIFIABLE CARBON REDUCTION POINTS

The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

Investment in this Project will support the protection of natural resources and facilitate the further development of a livable, walkable, and healthy community, which is a principal goal of this grant program: As part of the Project's scope, the project team plans to design a River's edge

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greenway corridor that will also enhance and highlight the Taylor Yard bridge (in construction) that connects the site to the opposite side of the River, with already a network of parks and connecting path. This will enable visitors to more conveniently access and utilize the amenity and will encourage more outdoor activity. These proposed new improvements are expected to create better user experiences and watershed benefits. The location of the Project adjacent to a residential community and the River will encourage people to bicycle or walk to the park to exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors instead of commuting to a similar amenity, thereby reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources. The Project would result in very limited new vehicle trips and, as mentioned, is expected to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

The MRCA's grant proposal will primarily focus on local community engagement before and during the project. Key project partners are community-based organizations that represent a variety of disadvantaged populations and who have the ability to reach constituencies that have a varying cultural lens while discussing the topics of stewardship and climate change awareness. The surrounding community will be engaged to participate in public meetings and design workshops where they will be given the opportunity to help shape the vision of the site through this early activation project. During these meetings, the importance of providing multiple benefit spaces, protecting our natural resources, establishing healthy watersheds, and providing wildlife habitat will be promoted and discussed. This will lead to increased public awareness and eventually provide an outdoor learning tool for nearby students, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship. Also, an innovative grass-roots engagement model will be adopted in which conversations and engagement will be ongoing and continue between community meetings.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Completion of the project would assist in fulfilling a Federal water resources protection or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

The Project development will facilitate implementation of public access and habitat restoration through an early activation project at the site. The Long-Term Project aims to implement the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan, led by the City and USACE, to move forward in restoring a hydrologic connection of the River into the Taylor Yard area. The implementation of an early activation project at Taylor Yard helps to make progress towards this larger vision.

Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.

The project will seek to partner with project partners to conduct programs specifically designed to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities. A portion of improvements will be implemented by at-risk youth. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), a local job training entity, could potentially perform a portion of the construction. MRCA frequently partners with Community Nature Connection, a local environmental non-profit that trains and employs youth, for community engagement and outreach services. The City's planning team also includes non-profit entities.

Project has secured matching funds of at least 25 percent of total project costs.

A \$25 million grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board was used to help fund acquisition of the

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MRCA's 12.5-acre multipurpose easement. This investment was a substantial step for the MRCA to fulfill the goals of protecting and restoring the Los Angeles River through watershed planning and water quality improvement projects. This proposed grant would allow the MRCA to continue community engagement efforts as planning for the early activation site on the Taylor Yard parcels moves forward.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The project area is located approximately a 0.25 mile from Metro Bus 90/91 and 94 routes along San Fernando Road. The Metro Gold Line Avenue 26 Station is located 1.6 miles from the project site.

Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.

As mentioned, the design will incorporate a wide range of new amenities that currently do not exist within the site. These elements would kick-start Project goals to attract users of all ability levels to the site and provide a range of amenities in a natural setting that everyone can enjoy.

| Budget for Grant Application Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 Project, MRCA | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Total Grant Request: \$ 1,360,000 | | |
| Budget Item | | Amount |
| A. Staff | | |
| various | Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations | \$ 332,500 |
| 9998, 9999 | Administrative Cost | \$ 142,500 |
| SUBTOTAL A, Staff: | | \$ 475,000 |
| B. Materials and Supplies | | |
| 5115 | Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction | \$ 9,000 |
| 7777 | Equipment Allocation | \$ 1,000 |
| SUBTOTAL C, Materials and Supplies: | | \$ 10,000 |
| C. Consultants and Contractors | | |
| 5115 | A/E and Design Consultants, Professional Services | \$ 225,000 |
| 5115 | Community Engagement Consultants/CBOs | \$ 650,000 |
| SUBTOTAL E, Consultants and Contractors: | | \$ 875,000 |
| Grand Total (A+B+C): | | \$ 1,360,000 |

LA RIVER PARK AT TAYLOR YARD PARTNERSHIP: LETTER OF INTENT

A collection of publicly-owned properties along the Los Angeles River (LA River) -- pieces of the former "Taylor Yard" rail maintenance yard--form an approximately 100-acre area that is being transformed into a significantly-restored signature park. As envisioned by the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP), many relevant plans, numerous supporters including the Los Angeles River State Park Partners, those 100 acres will be home to restored habitats, engaging recreational activities, cultural and educational enrichments, and a full mile of access to the LA River.

The LA River properties included in the 100-acre unified open space are: (1) The Rio de Los Angeles (RdLA) State Park, an existing 40-acre park owned by California State Parks (State Parks) and managed cooperatively by State Parks and the City of Los Angeles (City) through its Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP); (2) The Taylor Yard G1 parcel, an 18-acre property also known as the "Bowtie" parcel for its distinctive boundary shape, which is owned and managed and in the process of design by State Parks; and (3) The Taylor Yard G2 parcel, a 42-acre property that is owned by the City. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) purchased and now holds the rights to a 12.5-acre easement within the Taylor Yard G2 parcel owned by the City. It is subject to use restrictions under grant funding agreements with the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as well as subject to appropriate design, implementation, and early activation integration. Together, these agencies--the City, State Parks, and the MRCA--shall be known as "The River Parties."

The purpose of this letter is to express The River Parties' mutual intent to cooperate to create a unified LA River Park at Taylor Yard (working title) in recognition of the significant mutual public benefits to be realized by cooperating on the design, construction, financing, operation, maintenance and management of the project. The LA River Park will be developed to a standard of global excellence. It will be unique in biological and social character and will be the single largest open space along the LA River to be created in 100 years. The Park will directly benefit the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City at large, it will be a signature feature of Southern California.

The River Parties recognize common goals:

- Create a world-class, physically-connected and unified public open space that advances revitalization of the Los Angeles River and supports urban ecology
- Engage local communities and stakeholders to guide development of the project
- Establish equity, ecology, River revitalization and flood management as the cornerstones for the Park's design, implementation, and programming
- Increase Park access by linking the interiors of the Park and the exteriors of the Parks and community to new transportation options

- Incorporate safety, sustainability and resilience into the remediation, design, construction, operation, and stewardship of the park
- Restore ecosystem values and native habitats along the LA River
- Integrate the Park and the LA River by rethinking the LA River's bank
- Include River activities in the short-term, mid-term and long-term vision
- Establish facilities to enable cultural, artistic, community, and educational experiences and skills
- Curate appropriate revenue-generating programming to provide rich user experiences, to help develop the project, and to sustain future operation and maintenance
- Create physical and programmatic connections between local educational centers and the project's outdoor learning environment
- Provide varied passive and active recreational opportunities and play spaces within the park
- Improve and enhance athletic fields at Rio de Los Angeles State Park
- Establish on-site stewardship staff, on-going daily programming and encourage neighborhood community care
- Include educational, artistic, and cultural/historical partners in the Park's development, programming, and operation
- Create safe and easy physical connections between all of the areas of the 100 acres and to the surrounding communities on both sides of the River

To fulfill these common goals, The River Parties intend to work together to:

- Establish a cooperative agreement within one (1) year to define a collaborative approach to the remediation, design, construction, financing, operation, and management of the project
- Articulate and implement a common vision for the 100-acre area that is ecologically focused and community-driven and delivers on goals outlined above
- Coordinate on marketing, communication and outreach of the common vision
- Seek other implementation and program partners through a wide-ranging engagement process and City-led contracting process

- Provide near-term public programming on each of the properties, as feasible.
- Cooperatively raise funds for design and implementation from multiple sources and using creative value capture techniques
- Engage regulatory and permitting agencies to secure necessary approvals for site remediation, water quality, flood control, and all other environmental reviews consistent with the CEQA and NEPA processes
- Secure necessary authorizations to execute various partnership agreements

The River Parties understand that this Letter of Intent is not a financial commitment to future expenditures and does not create any obligations, legal or otherwise, between them that do not already exist.

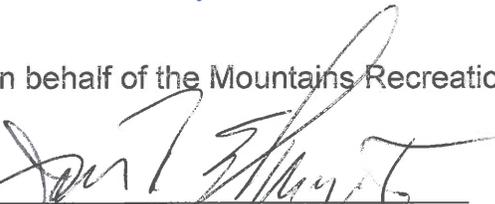
On behalf of California State Parks:



Craig Sap, Parks Superintendent

Date: 12/30/19

On behalf of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority:



Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer

Date: 12-11-19

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles:



Michael A. Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Date: 12/13/19

LA RIVER PARK PARTNERSHIP: LETTER OF INTENT

Gary Lee Moore
Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering

Date: *1-10-20*