

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 24, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council for the design and implementation of the Elmer Avenue Paseo project, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council in the amount of \$127, 411 for the design and implementation of the Elmer Avenue Paseo project, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Section 33204.2(a) provides that the Conservancy may award grants to non-profit organizations.

Background: The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council has submitted a grant application for project planning and design of the Elmer Avenue Paseo project. The project will replace impervious asphalt in a blighted alleyway with a swale/infiltration trench system, native drought-tolerant plants, and a pervious public pathway. The Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council is a non-profit collaborative center for watershed research and analysis in southern California, able to influence and inform policy through convening forums, implementing projects, and conducting applied research that is reliably fair, objective and rooted in science. The attached application describes the proposed work in greater detail.

Public Resources Code Section 75050(g)(2) allocated the sum of \$36,000,000 to the Conservancy for implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. The subject study areas are within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Section 79508 provides that watershed protection activities shall be consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan (Common Ground)*. The proposed project would provide opportunities to implement key strategies found in *Common Ground* including public education, public access, and interpretive opportunities.

The term “protection” found in Section 75050(g)(2) is defined as including both development and interpretation. The project planning and design is for potential development of a recreational trail with educational displays. When constructed, the trail would further

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interpretation of the Arroyo Seco watershed's natural resources and native plants.