

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 27, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to Pacoima Beautiful for project planning and design for the Pacoima Wash Greenway, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to Pacoima Beautiful in the amount of \$175,000 for project planning and design for the Pacoima Wash Greenway, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.

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

Background: Pacoima Beautiful has submitted a grant application for project planning and design of the Pacoima Wash Greenway. Pacoima Wash runs for 9 miles from the Angeles National Forest through the communities of Sylmar, Pacoima, San Fernando, Panorama City, Van Nuys, and into the Tujunga Wash. The Pacoima Wash is a tributary to the Los Angeles River and development of parks and greenways along this has the potential to benefit ecology and communities. Existing studies to date have generally been focused on specific issues or have been focused on small segments of Pacoima Wash. While each of these studies has accomplished their specific goals, there is a need for an overall planning document that identifies opportunities and recommends implementation methods for achieving a continuous greenway along the entire Pacoima Wash. This grant will allow Pacoima Beautiful, with an open-space planning consultant, to examine and synthesize all of the planning efforts to date. Any gaps in multi-benefit approaches or specific geographic areas will be filled. This effort will lead to a comprehensive community-based planning document for the entire Pacoima Wash. Pacoima Beautiful is an environmental justice non-profit organization that works closely with the community as an advocate to improve/create open space, engage youth through environmental education, and provide outreach for community participation. 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 area is 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 a comprehensive planning document that will inform open-space, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation and public access and other resource management decisions in regards to the Pacoima Wash and will establish the goals and recommend an implementation for the development of multi-benefit greenway projects.