

Attachment
SMMC Item 14
October 27, 2014

Grant Application

Print Form



The Natural Resources Agency

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road

Malibu, California 90265

Phone: 310-589-3200

Fax: 310-589-3207

www.smmc.ca.gov

Project Title:	Upper LA River Multi-Benefit Project	Date:	2014/10/20
Funds:	Proposition 84	Amount:	110000
Applicant Name:	City of LA Sanitation	Match amount:	0
Address:	1149 S. Broadway, Los Angeles	Match source:	NA
State/Province:	CA	Total Project Cost:	110000
Zip/Postal code:	90015		
Phone:	213-485-3984	Brief Project Description:	Select 6-8 multi-benefit regional projects in upper LA River watershed and develop conceptual proposals
Fax:	213-485-3939		

Grantee's Authorized Representative:

Enrique C. Zaldivar, 213-485-2210, Enrique.Zaldivar@lacity.org

Name and Title

Phone Number

Email

Person with day-to-day responsibility:

Hubertus H.J. Cox, 213-485-3984, hubertus.cox@lacity.org

Name and Title

Phone Number

Email

Project Objective: See attached.

*Attach additional pages as necessary

Project Address:

Various potential locations in the upper Los Angeles River watershed

Latitude:

NA

Acreage:

NA

Trail Length:

NA

Longitude:

NA

APN's:

NA

Stream Miles:

NA

Congressional District:

25, 28, 29, 30, 34

State Senate District:

18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

Assembly District:

38,39,43,45,46,51,53,59

Tasks / Milestones:

Budget:

Completion Date:

*Attach additional pages as necessary

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Project Title: Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Regional Multi-benefit Project

Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum):

Develop Conceptual Design Proposals for 6-8 regional multi-benefit projects in the upper LA River watershed. Conduct analyses and screening of initial regional project list developed for the Upper LA River EWMP to identify 6-8 top priority projects based on such criteria as anticipated water quality benefits, spatial distribution over watershed, green/open/recreational space and habitat benefits, and quantity of potable water offset by direct use and infiltration.

Project Objective:

Narrative/Detailed Project Description:

Background

The new NPDES Permit for the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4 Permit) for the County of Los Angeles became effective in December 2012, requiring municipal permittees, the County of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Flood Control District to comply with multiple water quality regulations, including waste load allocations established in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The City of Los Angeles (City) is the largest municipality in LA County and has an established track record in using green infrastructure for watershed protection and addressing water quality regulations. The MS4 Permit provides several pathways for permittees to comply with permit requirements. One of these pathways is to develop and implement Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs), which differs from other compliance pathways by focusing on the identification, prioritization, development and implementation of regional projects that rely on green infrastructure. These regional projects will not only address water quality compliance requirements, but also provide additional benefits for local water supplies (either by stormwater infiltration or direct use), creation of new green and open space, habitat improvements, flood protection and other healthy community benefits.

The City is the lead agency for EWMP development for the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and works together with 16 partner agencies (co-permittees). This watershed is approximately 480 square miles, extends from the headwaters in the north to the City of Vernon in the south. This EWMP is due for submittal to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by June 2015. As noted, the identification and prioritization of regional water quality improvement projects is an important component of the EWMPs as regional projects are the most cost effective for capture, treatment, infiltration and/or direct use of storm water. However, regional projects do require sufficient space to be built and maintained and innovative approaches are needed to find regional opportunities in urban environments. While the EWMPs will primarily focus on the potential water quality benefits of regional projects, there is now the opportunity to leverage EWMP planning efforts with other ongoing watershed and urban planning efforts and create a sustainable, multi-benefit approach for the Upper LA River watershed.

Through the effort to develop EWMPs for the Upper LA River Watershed, the LA Sanitation has already begun work critical to this proposal. As a first step, LA Sanitation performed an initial GIS parcel screening to identify new regional project locations (criteria used: publicly owned, greater than 1/4 acre in size, and within 1000 yards from a 36" storm drain). The initial list was further refined by removing federally owned land and land owned by entities other than the City of Los Angeles, land with extensive

development, parcels less than 1 acre in size, and land more than 1000 feet away from the bottom of the drainage basins within the watershed to seek maximum benefits, resulting in over 200 potential project locations.

Section 75050 of the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), allocates funds to various entities “for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.” Section 75050 (g)(2) of the Act specifically allocates funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy “for implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code.” The section of the Water Code referenced therein states that watershed protection activities in the Los Angeles River shall be consistent with the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan.

The proposed project planning and design grant constitutes watershed protection activities in a portion of watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River. The geographic area covered by the grant is within the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and the projects to be developed shall contain elements to protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources. The land acquisition and improvement projects that will be planned with the proposed project planning and design grant will be required to fit within the definitions of eligible activities: development, preservation, protection, interpretation, and/or restoration.

The project planning and design grant is consistent with the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan as required by Section 79508 of the Water Code. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan, also known as and hereinafter referred to as the "Common Ground" plan, was jointly developed by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The purpose of the plan is to “articulate a vision for the future of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watersheds” and “provide a framework for future watershed and open space planning.” The plan outlines a holistic approach to watershed protection and development, organized by a set of Guiding Principles. These broad principles are designed to accommodate the varying priorities and needs of projects in the region.

Project planning and design of land acquisition and improvement projects in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed area is consistent with the following Guiding Principles:

- Coordinate Watershed Planning Across Jurisdictions and Boundaries
- Encourage Multiple-Objective Planning and Projects
- Create, Expand and Improve Public Open Space Throughout the Region
- Connect Open Space with a Network of Trails
- Establish Riverfront Greenways to Cleanse Water, Hold Floodwaters, and Extend Open Space
- Improve Quality of Surface Water and Groundwater

This project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Objectives to further cooperation with local Governments in the region to secure Open Space and Parkland and expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment.

Summary of this proposal

Through this proposal, LA Sanitation aims to further rank and prioritize regional project locations to result in 6-8 high priority regional multi-benefit projects in the Upper LA River watershed. LA Sanitation will develop an approach to evaluate and screen regional project locations, taking into account multi-benefits targets that reflect water quality, water resources, habitat, flood protection, recreation, and green space benefits, geographic locations relative to major tributary areas and opportunities along the main stem, and feasibility for timely implementation. We anticipate this effort to result in 6 to 8 “high priority” regional project opportunities. Subsequently, LA Sanitation will develop Conceptual Design Proposals for the selected regional projects. These project proposals are not intended to be complete project concept reports (i.e., ready to move to design), but rather preliminary documents containing all necessary information to help guide and develop project agreements and for future project implementation including: overview of BMP type and location; sketch of BMP design elements; map of assumed BMP footprint; delineated drainage area to the BMP; soils screening for infiltration capacity; preliminary environmental screening; and anticipated BMP performance and multiple benefits.

The anticipated project schedule is nine months upon execution of the grant agreement as summarized below:

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Start Date:	Completion Date:
Task 1. Develop screening/ ranking criteria for potential regional multi-benefit projects	5,000	Month 1	Month 2
Task 2. Perform project ranking and prioritize regional project opportunities for implementation to 6-8 highest priority projects	5,000	Month 2	Month 3
Task 3. Develop and finalize Conceptual Design Proposals for 6-8 highest priority regional project opportunities	\$100,000	Month 3	Month 9
Total Project	\$110,000		