

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 26, 2017

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 Conejo Recreation and Park District for the Sapwi Trails Community Park Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant not to exceed \$1,760,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Conejo Recreation and Park District for watershed enhancement improvements for the Sapwi Trails Community Park Project.

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 Conejo Recreation and Park District for detailed description, photos and maps. The Sapwi Trails Community Park is an approximately 145 acre site owned by the Park District, 17 acres of which are the subject of the plan for passive park development and restoration of Lang Creek which flows through it. Lang Creek is a tributary in the Calleguas Creek Watershed ultimately draining to the ocean at Point Mugu. The project includes debris removal, streambank stabilization, riparian habitat improvements, removal of exotic invasive plants, tree planting, establishing best-management-practices parking areas to detain and infiltrate storm water and nuisance flows, and establishing four footbridges across the creek to guide trail users to protect the creek and streambanks.

Project benefits include greatly improved habitat protection, especially in the Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest plant community, flood improvements, reduced erosion, and improving water quality by reducing sediment loading. The project also proposes needed public access improvements, namely trails and environmental education areas: the park watershed resources will provide an accessible venue for the public to learn about and enjoy natural values and sustainability.

The site will improve carbon sequestration from 400+ oak trees, many other trees species, and planting of over 170 new site-appropriate trees. A reduction of 888.60 metric tons of GHGs will be reduced versus the allowable threshold of 3000 metric tons for all land use type development, for a balance of 2,111.31 metric tons of GHG's avoided.

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Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Sapwi Trails Community Park Project receiving 81 points (out of a possible 94; 66 minimum required), plus 18 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 20 out of 20 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points:** 119 (out of possible 132).

Staff recommends award of \$1,760,000 for this project.