



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

SMMC
Attachment
Sept 25, 2017
Agenda Item 14

September 18, 2017

Chairperson Irma Muñoz
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

**Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application –
Los Angeles River Community Access Planning**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Community Access Planning for the Los Angeles River. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$50,000 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 September 6, 2017.

The proposed grant would fund the planning and analysis of potential social impacts of new parkland projects along the Los Angeles River and appropriate mitigation. The proposed activities include hosting a forum for discussion of these issues with a wide range of community representatives, developing a research paper that describes best practices, and consultation with advocates for public health, housing and transportation, and environmental justice issues to identify innovative solutions for park and open space projects.

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

Grant Application

Print Form

SMMC
Attachment
Sept 25, 2017
Agenda Item 14



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: Los Angeles River Community Access

Date: 9/14/2017

Funds: Proposition 1

Amount: 50,000

Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Match amount: 0.00

Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100

Match source: n/a

State/Province: Los Angeles, CA

Total Project Cost: 50,000

Zip/Postal code: 90065

Phone: 323-221-9944

Brief Project Description: Planning activities to analyze social impacts of parkland projects and appropriate mitigation.

Fax: 323-221-9934

Grantee's Authorized Representative: Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer 323-221-9944, x117 cara.meyer@mrca.ca.gov

Name and Title Phone Number Email

Person with day-to-day responsibility: Spencer Eldred, Staff Counsel 323-221-9944, x spencer.eldred@mrca.ca.gov

Name and Title Phone Number Email

Project Objective:

The activities proposed include hosting a forum for discussion of these issues with a wide range of community representatives, developing a white paper that describes best practices, and consultation with advocates for public health, housing and transportation, and environmental justice issues to identify innovative solutions for park and open space projects. (See attached)

*Attach additional pages as necessary

Project Address:

Various Locations

Latitude:

Acreage:

Trail Length:

Longitude:

APN's:

Stream Miles:

Congressional District:

State Senate District:

Assembly District:

Tasks / Milestones:

Budget:

Completion Date:

See attached budget

June 30, 2018

*Attach additional pages as necessary

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

Cara Meyer

Signature of Authorized Representative

9-18-2017

Date

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Los Angeles River Community Access Planning
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

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Since Proposition 1 was passed in 2014, the amount of development activity in the vicinity of the Los Angeles River has greatly increased, as has the awareness of potential negative impacts. Typical developments can have negative effects as property values increase, such as the displacement of residents. Park planning in Los Angeles today must address these potential effects and engage a wide range of stakeholders in order to be successful.

The Los Angeles Regional Open Space & Affordable Housing Collaborative (LA ROSAH) was formed in 2016 by a group of agencies representing open space conservation, affordable housing, and community based engagement. With concerns about the lack of green space in most Los Angeles communities and the role that investment and river restoration may play in contributing to the growing affordable housing crisis in Los Angeles, the group's goal was to create a new model of development that would expand low-income communities' access to nature while also mitigating their risk for gentrification and displacement.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is requesting a grant from Proposition 1 to fund planning activities that specifically analyze the real impacts of green space and recreational projects, such as those the Conservancy may fund with Proposition 1, on low-income communities and disadvantaged populations. With the LA ROSAH collaborative, MRCA will co-host a two-day forum for discussion of these issues with a wide range of community representatives, commission a research paper, and consult with advocates for public health, housing and transportation, and environmental justice issues to identify innovative solutions for park and open space projects.

While broad guidelines exist to guide the analysis of benefits and burdens of a potential development project, these metrics may not be the best way to evaluate the impact of new parks and open space. Lack of park space is an equity issue for many communities, and the impacts of access to new parkland must go beyond traditional measures of property value and unemployment. There are also widely accepted approaches to mitigate negative social impacts of a development projects, but these solutions may not be the best approach for the creation of parks and open space. The positive impact to public health of more green space must also be taken into account.

The delay between passage of Proposition 1 and budget authority for the Conservancy's Los Angeles River funding has meant that potential projects may have been on hold for several years. The proponents of these potential projects may not yet have incorporated analysis of the social impacts, or incorporated appropriate mitigation. The subject grant is a proactive way to clarify and articulate how social impacts should be analyzed for parkland projects, as well as to identify how affordable housing developers should consider the green space and recreational needs of the low-income communities they are trying to create and expand. These issues need to be addressed with specific attention to the type of projects funded by Proposition 1.

BUDGET

See attached budget. A variety of cash and in-kind matching funds have been secured for this project, including the following:

In-kind support for two-day summit:

- All collaborative members have offered in-kind staff time to plan and run summit
- LURN will provide A/V
- CNC will provide videography
- TPL will provide print materials
- NRCD will provide social event for post-conference discussion

Cash support for the two-day summit:

- TPL and Enterprise are paying the venue costs
- TPL and Enterprise are covering keynote transportation in LA, flights, hotel, per diem
- Boeing has contributed \$2,500

Cash support for follow-up research:

- LA Thrives and the Southeast Asian Community Alliance are contributing
- NRDC and Enterprise are paying for a post-conference strategic plan and project identification effort (\$50,000)

TIMELINE

The proposed project will be completed approximately 9 months after approval. The forum, "Building Equitable Communities: A Housing & Parks Summit" will occur in late October 2016, and the research paper will follow.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

The proposed grant achieves the following Prop 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow. The project accomplishes this through its focus on the economic impacts of conservation and park projects in disadvantaged communities. These projects are critical to improving watershed health in urban areas, yet cannot succeed if there are negative social and economic impacts to the residents.

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

identifying solutions to making urban park and water conservation projects more likely to succeed. These are inherently watershed adaptation projects and will reduce impacts of climate change, but such projects cannot succeed, or be replicated, if there are negative social and economic impacts to the residents.

3) Restore river parkways throughout the state. The project accomplishes this by focusing on disadvantaged neighborhoods along the Los Angeles River. Proposition 1 projects along the River will be connected to the bike paths and multi-use trails that are (or will be) adjacent to the river. Ensuring that new development projects promote public access to the trails will contribute to the long term success of the parkway.

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. The project will have a direct beneficial impact to the watershed health of urban Los Angeles, through its focus on the economic impacts of conservation and park projects in disadvantaged communities. These projects are critical to improving watershed health in urban areas, yet cannot succeed if there are negative social and economic impacts to the residents. The health benefits of park and open space projects are magnified in disadvantaged communities, and ensuring that projects can succeed there is critical to improving public health.

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

Multiple-benefit projects are the core issue, with a specific focus on defining how projects can benefit both conservation and affordable housing interests. Proposition 1 projects will already have water quality, water supply, and watershed protection as primary components and the proposed grant will help define how those can be augmented with benefits to recreation, habitat, housing, economic, and environmental justice.

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

The types of projects studied will include water conservation measures, leading to more reliable water supplies for the State. Developing open space in conjunction with other developments, such as affordable housing, could create new opportunities to use stormwater and gray water from the developments to support the parklands.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

The types of projects studied will include use of native plants and habitat creation in urban areas. The development of open space in conjunction with other developments, such as affordable housing, could create new opportunities to use native plants in traditional developments, as well as to use a coordinated plant/habitat palette across a larger geographic area where ornamental species are typically used.

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

The types of projects studied will include use of publicly owned but underutilized land along waterways, as well as ways to reduce the amount of untreated stormwater that enters the Los Angeles River. Coordinating a multi-benefit park project along with a more traditional development, such as affordable housing, allows new opportunities to better manage stormwater, dry weather runoff, and gray water from the developments to support the parkland.

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.

The primary innovation for the proposed project is the acknowledgement of the social and economic impacts under study, as well as the diverse group of stakeholders that is already involved. Affordable housing and parks are not currently integrated in most jurisdictions, and there isn't an existing framework for partnerships.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The project partners have already committed to its implementation and logistics are already underway. The two-day conference is scheduled for October 2017. The MRCA staff has many years of experience and expertise to undertake these tasks, as do the many other members of LA ROSAH.

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

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.

MRCA has successfully completed scores of previous planning efforts, many of which included coordination with multiple partners.

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

Project partners include the following:

- Community Nature Connection (CNC)
- Enterprise Community Partners
- From Lot to Spot
- Global Green
- LA THRIVES
- Leadership for Urban Renewal Network (LURN)
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Mujeres de la Tierra
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Public Counsel
- Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA)

The Trust for Public Land (TPL)
Urban Waters Federal Partnership

The contributions of each organization are described above under Budget. 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. These three entities each have a voting member on MRCA's Governing Board, which approved the proposed grant application on September 6, 2017.

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 implementation of several regional plans will be influenced by the outcome of the proposed planning effort. Both Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles have such plans related to the Los Angeles River, and the issues identified are necessary to address during implementation.

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

As noted, MRCA has over a dozen partners for this project that value cooperative watershed health protection and are interested in the subject plan and recommendations.

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

The MRCA has been managing land in the region since 1985 and our mission is to protect land and public access to natural lands in southern California. All of the project partners have been in existence for over one year, and have relevant experience.

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 proposed work itself does not implement such a component, although the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan does call for economic analysis of future developments. As noted, the results of the proposed grant will influence future projects to implement such plans.

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

No physical improvements are included in the subject grant. The outcome of the summit and research will assist in future development of new access points.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

Publicity for the two-day forum has already begun, and each of the partner organizations is targeting their supporters and constituents. The wide diversity of partners ensures that members of the affected communities will be included.

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

The project itself does not provide programming or personal interpretation, but the discussions are intended to reach a wide community audience, and will introduce the goals of conservation and restoration of the Los Angeles River's resources to them.

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

No physical improvements or amenities are planned.

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

No physical improvements are included.

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

While the project will not create a new physical venue, the conference itself is a new communication tool to promote these values, and the goals of conservation and restoration of the Los Angeles River's resources will be introduced to a new, diverse audience.

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

The information generated by the summit and research paper will be available to the public. While this does not create a new physical access point, it will contribute to educating a wider audience about the issues.

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

The project is not expected to benefit such species, as the type of project under discussion is not expected to occur in that habitat type.

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

The proposed project does not develop or maintain trails. Many of the potential projects that would be studied would be located near a river parkway, bike path, or multi-use trail. These projects could increase use of such trails and reduce vehicle miles traveled.

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

Yes, local communities will be engaged during the project. Key project partners are community-based organizations that represent a variety of disadvantaged populations, and the topics of stewardship and climate change awareness will be included.

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

Yes, the results of this Community Access Planning project will assist implementation of any projects to fulfill the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan. These issues will need to be addressed in order for the projects identified in the plan to go forward.

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

Several of the project partners conduct programs specifically designed to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

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

Yes, as noted above under Budget, a significant portion of project costs are being provided through cash or in-kind services by partners. Most significantly, a 100% match (\$50,000) will be provided by NRDC and Enterprise Community Partners to fund additional post-conference research.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The summit will be held in downtown Los Angeles with a variety of public transportation options nearby.

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

The proposed work would not result in any additional uses of public land.

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

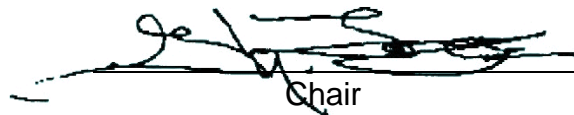
September 6, 2017 — Agenda Item XII

Resolution No. 17-151

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION
AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO
THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR PROPOSITION 1
FUNDS FOR LOS ANGELES RIVER COMMUNITY ACCESS PLANNING**

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) hereby:

1. FINDS that Los Angeles River Community Access planning will provide significant public benefits.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated September 6, 2017.
4. AUTHORIZES the grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for Los Angeles River Community Access planning in the amount of \$50,000.
5. AUTHORIZES any budget amendments as necessary.
6. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer or his designee to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Governing Board.
7. AUTHORIZES the Chair to sign the grant agreement if the grant application is approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.



Chair

AYES: Peterson, Hasenauer, Daniel, Lange

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NOS: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the governing board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 6th day of September, 2017.

Date: 9/6/17


Executive Officer

Budget for Grant Application Los Angeles River Community Access Planning		
Grant Request: \$ 50,000		
Budget Item		Amount
A. MRCA Staff		
various	Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 7,500
9998, 9999	Administrative Cost	\$ 2,500
SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:		\$ 10,000
B. Materials and Supplies		
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 18,000
7777	Equipment Allocation	\$ 2,000
SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:		\$ 20,000
C. Consultants and Contractors		
4001	Grants	\$ 20,000
5114	Land & Building Improvement - Subcontractors	
SUBTOTAL C, Consultants and Contractors:		\$ 20,000
Grand Total (A+B+C):		\$ 50,000