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
December 11, 2017
Agenda Item 16

December 1, 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 –
G2 Project Acquisition and PP&D

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for G2 Project Acquisition and PP&D. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of $10,000,000 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 July 26, 2017.

The proposed grant would fund acquisition of an additional up to 3.22-acre area from the City of Los Angeles (APN 5442-002-823), totaling up to 12.5 acres in total easement owned by the MRCA and forever protected as public open space. Further, the subject grant will fund project planning and design for both permanent and interim improvements within the easement, focused on the public access and habitat restoration elements.

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

SMMC
Attachment
December 11, 2017
Agenda Item 16

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: G2 Project Acquisition and Project Planning

Date: 12/1/2017

Funds: Proposition 12

Amount: 10,000,000

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

Zip/Postal code: 90065

Total Project Cost: 10,000,000

Phone: 323-221-9944

Fax: 323-221-9934

Brief Project Description: Acquisition of easement, project planning and design, and improvements for public access and habitat restoration for the G2 project on the Los Angeles River

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: Brian Baldauf, Project Manager 323-221-9944, x110 brian.baldauf@mrca.ca.gov

Name and Title *Phone Number* *Email*

Project Objective: The objectives include acquisition of an up to 3.22-acre area from the City of Los Angeles (APN 5442-002-823), totaling up to 12.5 acres in total easement owned by the MRCA and forever protected as public open space; project planning and design for interim and permanent improvements for public access and habitat restoration; and implementation of such improvements. (See attached)

*Attach additional pages as necessary

Project Address: N/A

Latitude:

Acreage: 3.22451

Trail Length:

Longitude:

APN's: 5442-002-823

Stream Miles:

Congressional District: 28

State Senate District: 24

Assembly District: 51

Tasks / Milestones:

Budget:

Completion Date:

See attached budget.

All work is expected to be complete by December 31, 2022, notwithstanding weather or other delays outside of MRCA's control.

*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

12/1/2017

Date

The Taylor Yard G2 parcel (G2) site is a critical site for restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed, and was acquired by the City of Los Angeles in March 2017. The 42-acre site includes nearly one-mile of river frontage along the soft-bottom portion of the River. This large property has the potential to treat regional stormwater flows and therefore can greatly impact the long-term water quality of the River. Its proximity to existing open space, and recreational and interpretive resources, including Rio de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian Park, riparian habitat in the River itself, numerous parks along the opposite bank of the River, and Los Angeles River High School, means that G2 is a singularly unique opportunity to create a regional multiple-benefit park, enhance habitat connectivity, develop wildlife habitat, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.

The G2 site was used for maintenance and fueling of trains from the 1930s to 2006. Conversion of the property to public parkland and watershed restoration will require a multi-year remediation process to address pollutants on portions of the site. The MRCA has received grant funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for acquisition of a 9-acre easement at the G2 site in order to develop public access and habitat restoration improvements. The proposed grant will help fund the acquisition of an additional approximately 3-acre area from the City of Los Angeles (APN 5442-002-823), totaling approximately 12-acres of easement owned by the MRCA, forever protecting it as public open space. MRCA is currently in the process of receiving additional funding from WCB for the balance of the cost to acquire the 3-acre area. The proposed grant will also fund project planning and design for both permanent and interim improvements for public access and habitat restoration, and implementation of such improvements at the G2 site.

The specific needs addressed by this project include sustainable stormwater management, cleaner waterbodies and watersheds, and greater awareness and stewardship of coastal watershed resources. The project will lead to physical improvements which will increase public awareness of the natural resources, and provide a plant and wildlife learning tool for nearby students, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship.

The proposed project is consistent with the goals set forth in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Climate Change Policy, State Planning Priorities, and AB 32. The Project seeks to improve a locally and regionally significant public resource for public enjoyment and environmental benefit. The project seeks to ultimately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the state's natural resources. Further objectives of the project are to protect the Los Angeles River watershed through the restoration of native habitat, and promote public access to the watershed's land, water, and wildlife resources.

Unique to the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines is the requirement to describe how the project would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The supplemental information below is provided to meet that requirement.

BUDGET

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The proposed project easement acquisition will be completed within approximately 12 months after grant approval. The project planning and design will take place over the next 2-3 years, with the majority of the improvements being implemented following a community planning process, environmental review, and environmental remedial cleanup efforts of the project site. A more specific timetable can be provided once the easement is acquired and the community planning process commences.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

The project will involve the protection and restoration of California rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds. The proposed grant achieves the following eight (8) Proposition 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.

Since the project is expected to improve the accessibility and increase the usage of the future park, it will thereby ultimately bring more visitors to the area and encourage spending at local businesses. Additionally, the construction of the project itself will provide economic benefits by creating new jobs and profit for the companies providing project supplies and materials, sub-contractors and crews working on-site.

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

Los Angeles County will likely be affected by climate change in the following ways: more severe droughts, more intense heat spells and loss of California's native biodiversity. The design of this Project anticipates these changes and will mitigate them. Native plant landscaping will cover the easement area. This will serve as new and enhanced habitat and open space for wildlife, minimizing the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. The Project will also employ water treatment and conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce trash and other pollutants within Los Angeles River. Since this Project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the River, there is much more wildlife that survives there than in other areas. Additionally, the site is relatively near Griffith Park which provides habitat to sensitive species. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation within the proposed project will sequester carbon and cool the atmosphere.

3) Restore river parkways throughout the state.

The Los Angeles River is both a River Parkway and an Urban Stream. The Project is directly adjacent, but not currently connected to, the Río de los Angeles and "Bowtie" State Parks, and the Los Angeles River itself in the highly urbanized Los Angeles River watershed. Southern California contains a wonderful network of open space and trails throughout local mountains and

the coastline, but it is not readily accessible to all urban residents as better linkages need to be made to existing public parks. This Project will provide a new gateway to the directly adjacent river parkway and create a new Greenway along the River north bank and will bring nature to the urban community.

4). Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

Open waterways, such as the River, function as habitat corridors for migratory birds and small mammals, and therefore provide an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. Through proposed stormwater daylighting and capture at the site, the Project will significantly reduce the amount of pollutants presently being expelled into the River untreated and thus improve the habitat potential and water quality within the River and Pacific Ocean. As mentioned, the project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River where more species survive, fly and swim to, as well as the Arroyo Seco Confluence. It is also adjacent to Elysian Park and downstream from Griffith Park, which are home to many sensitive plant and animal species, and this project will provide a significant habitat link and node within an important ecological and wildlife corridor. By capturing and treating urban runoff on the site, it will improve water quality in the River and help to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems. Additionally, the installation of native plant landscaping (trees and shrubs) will provide new habitat for area bird and other species.

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.

As mentioned in response #4 above, the Project will reduce the amount of pollutants presently being expelled into the River untreated and will thus protect and restore the health of the watershed, and improve storage within the local groundwater aquifer. The stormwater daylighting will manage stormwater by capturing, treating and infiltrating which will help to improve water quality, increase watershed storage capacity, and reduce the volume of water entering the River.

Furthermore, the Project plans for installation of California native trees and shrubs throughout the project site. The purpose of the trees is to create habitat for local wildlife, provide shade for pedestrians, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, generate oxygen, and remove pollutants from the air thus helping to address and reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming. The future spacing of the vegetation will maximize those benefits.

10). Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

The Los Angeles River is a coastal watershed, and the Project's implementation will benefit its natural resources and water quality.

11). Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

The project will be designed to reduce sediment, trash, and organic matter from loading and contaminating the Los Angeles River draining the watershed thereby limiting sedimentation and encouraging ground water recharge. As mentioned, the project will be designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate the maximum amount of wet and dry weather urban runoff in order to remove various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil from the water before they can reach the river. Once implemented, the captured runoff will infiltrate thereby increasing the water supply in the local aquifer and will reduce the volume of water entering the river (helping with flood management). Furthermore, the G2 site is currently contaminated with many different metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and chlorinated solvents from its historic use as a railroad facility. Site cleanup and multiple-benefit improvements will help reduce the opportunity for contaminants to migrate from the site during storm events, thereby protecting the watershed. Additionally, the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (LARERP or “ARBOR” plan) also plans to restore a hydrologic connection from the River to the G2 site, which will help contribute to increasing local water supply, improving water quality, and enhanced flood management.

12). Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

The Project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Stormwater treatment and improvement projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in fragmented urban interface. The Project will employ water conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce the trash within the Los Angeles River. Improving the water quality within the River is essential to the survival of the area’s wildlife species. Cleaner water in the River means cleaner water within San Pedro Bay restoring and enhancing local wildlife habitat. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation will sequester carbon as well as cool the atmosphere, further helping California’s native biodiversity by reducing intense heat spells created by climate change.

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

Upon completion, the Project will feature many uses and benefits including: nature education and habitat for the area’s animal species; stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the Los Angeles River; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming) and reduce the heat-island effect; reduced impervious surfaces and promotion of infiltration projects following contaminant remediation; and aesthetic enhancement to the public and River area. Additionally, the Project will create a new public access point to the adjacent river park and a new alternate bank Greenway path with amenities.

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

The infiltration of stormwater throughout the project will reduce the amount of potable water needed for irrigation, thereby reducing the amount of imported water needed for Southern California.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.
The project's design and eventual implementation will aim to benefit the Los Angeles River and the larger watershed, which provides a migratory route and habitat to both sensitive and endangered species.

The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.
By designing to infiltrate and filter stormwater, the water entering the infrastructure of the River will be both reduced and cleaner.

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 project's stormwater treatment will be innovative and a partnership with many City of Los Angeles Departments and likely the County Flood Control District. The design and details used in the project's Construction Documents (CDs) will seek to employ some of the standard plans developed by the City's Bureau of Engineering. By the time the design is complete, the plans will have been vetted by two more City departments: Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division. Additionally, since the project will provide a connection to adjacent State-owned (and currently undeveloped) land, MRCA and City plan on working with State Parks to create the best and most appropriate interface for future users. This Project is truly a partnership between jurisdictions.

The project uses renewable or non-potable water sources of water, such as reclaimed water, captured stormwater, or other method
The proposed project will seek to utilize reclaimed water for landscape irrigation at the site from the nearby distribution pipeline that runs under San Fernando Road and has been planned by the City to lateral down Kerr Road to the project site. Additionally, design will seek to keep all stormwater on-site and daylight a large stormwater pipe under for capture, treatment, and multiple benefits.

The project is located in or adjacent to communities defined no less than 81 percent disadvantaged as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.
The proposed project is located in Glassell Park and the US Census tract occupied by the entire G2 site is shown on CalEnviroscreen 3.0 to be a 96-100% Disadvantaged Community (DAC).

The project has demonstrated capability of collecting and treating runoff from off-site sources.
The site's capability of collecting and treating runoff from off-site sources will be examined during the project planning and design. As a major component of the LARERP/ARBOR plan, the site will necessarily play a significant role in the long-term management for the Los Angeles River and its water.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.
As mentioned, the City is supportive of the rehabilitation project. MRCA has years of experience planning, designing, permitting and implementing projects more complex than this. The project's design and Construction Documents will be developed in partnership with the City in order to make it more likely to be permitted and implemented faster.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.
The MRCA has successfully designed and implemented many multiple benefit recreational projects throughout Los Angeles: Several completed MRCA projects are similar in size, budget, scope and duration to the proposed Project including Ballona Creek Milton Park, Marsh Park, Pacoima Wash Natural Park, and the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration, all exemplary urban projects with innovative water quality treatment components. All of the projects listed above are multi-million dollar projects that bear similarities to the proposed Project and serve park-poor neighborhoods.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.
The proposed project is a joint partnership with the City, which has publicly committed to revitalizing the full project site during their acquisition and within the LARERP. The City and MRCA seek to collaboratively work together to use the individual talents within each organization to expediently develop a successful public park. 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 July 26, 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 Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the County of Los Angeles Master Plan both include acquisition and restoration of G2 as a high priority.

The project includes or restores an aquatic, wetland, riparian or migratory bird ecosystem in an otherwise natural resource-deficient urban area.
The proposed project seeks to help guarantee that the site permanently remains in public ownership and thereby allow it to mature into the vision of the LARERP, which envisions the site to be restored into a multi-braided channel riverbed of the River. Notwithstanding the long-term vision for the site, the interim improvements will also seek to create new habitat throughout the project.

Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5 mile radius.
The project will add new 0.25 mile multi-purpose trail and greenway along the River, as well as a trail network throughout the property. The new Greenway will connect to an additional critical section of currently undeveloped land known as the Bowtie Parcel owned by State Parks (and currently in planning) to create a total 1.25 mile path along the north bank of the River.

The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional

multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.
The addition of the project to the network of parks and open space along the Los Angeles River will realize a significant new node along as well as gateway. Currently on the north bank of the River in Glassell Park, only the Bowtie State Park parcel offers any open space (with limited amenities) along the River. However, to date no successful connecting linkage has been developed along the north bank. Together with the adjacent State Park sites and the planned Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge, the proposed project will create a major regional multi-modal Greenway along the River and regional links for access to the project. Once completed, by connecting to Bowtie and the existing Río de Los Angeles State Park, the project will create over 100 acres of contiguous parkland. Additionally, currently, there are no existing boat launches within the River Recreational Zone (RRZ) on the River's north bank, and the addition of access points from the G2 area will serve to both create new regional access, as well as to create its own smaller Taylor Yard RRZ that might be more conducive to new or inexperienced boaters, or visitors with less time than a trip down the entire RRZ.

The project adds a significant link to a major regional multi-modal trail or river parkway.
The Los Angeles River is a River Parkway and directly adjacent to the project. The existing Los Angeles River regional bike path is located across the River from the G2 site, however, currently there are plans to develop a bridge to connect the project with the bike path. The addition of the proposed project to the network of parks and open space along the Los Angeles River will realize a significant new gateway for the residents on the north side of the river to the bike path on the south. Currently on the north bank of the River in Glassell Park, only Bowtie State Park offers limited open space. However, to date no successful linkage has been developed. Together with the adjacent State Park sites and the planned Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge, the project will create a major regional multi-modal Greenway and river parkway.

The project upgrades an existing regional trail or river parkway to protect its continued use and enjoyment by the public.
The project will add a new river frontage Greenway along the north bank and link to the planned Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge that connects to the existing Los Angeles bike path along the south bank of the River.

The site directly abuts and increases the size and ecosystem function of a protected habitat area for aquatic, wetland, or migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.
The acquisition of the project site will directly increase the size and ecosystem area that will be developed into habitat area that will serve aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems that include fish and wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

The site contains substantial potential for restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters ecosystems.
The proposed project via the LARERP has detailed plans to restore a hydrologic connection from the Los Angeles River to the project site through relocation of the armored channel wall, excavation to the river bottom, and development of braided streams into what is currently landlocked above the River. These restoration activities will allow for resumption of natural processes in the Taylor Yard portion of the River, including sediment deposition, aquifer recharge, and enhanced flood protection.

The project site has the potential for improvements that would significantly reduce the amount of untreated runoff entering urban rivers, waterways, or coastal watersheds.
Through the capture and treatment of on-site stormwater runoff and daylighting of stormwater lines currently running beneath the site, the project will have the potential to significantly reduce the amount of untreated runoff entering the Los Angeles River and ultimately San Pedro Bay and Pacific Ocean.

The project site has the potential for improvements that would improve or support regeneration of important native vegetative cover on slopes near a stream or river, which if substantially disturbed may contribute to flood, erosion, creek sedimentation, or reduced groundwater recharge.
The proposed project seeks to directly facilitate efforts to regenerate natural riverine habitat areas into the site that will include vegetative cover on slopes in order to reduce erosion and flooding, and fostering groundwater recharge.

The site has the potential for substantial restoration, protection or enhancements of riparian or wetland habitat (>0.2 acres).
The approximately 12-acre easement site will provide opportunity for restoration of riparian and/or wetland habitat, protection, and enhancements in an area much larger than 0.2 acres.

The site has the potential for a small scale (0.01 to 0.19 acres) riparian or wetland restoration project.
The approximate 12-acre site will provide opportunity for restoration of riparian and/or wetland habitat, protection, and enhancements in an area much larger than 0.01 to 0.19 acres.

The project significantly enhances the potential for fish or wildlife movement in an identified corridor chokepoint for an aquatic, wetland, or migratory bird ecosystem.
Open waterways, such as the Los Angeles River, function as habitat corridors for migratory birds and small mammals, and therefore provide an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. The site is located near to the Northeast LA Hilltops and Griffith Park, both of which provide a habitat stepping stone to facilitate movement of wildlife. This project will be a necessary additional stepping stone for migratory birds.

The project adds a link to a local trail system.
The proposed project will add a new river frontage Greenway along the north bank and link to the planned Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge that will connect to the existing bike path along the south bank of the River.

Project creates a new public access point to existing parks and water resources that would otherwise be inaccessible.
The project will create new public access points along a future Greenway linking the River frontage, but it may also create a new boat launch area for recreational on-water use. As previously mentioned, there are no existing boat launches within the RRZ on the River's north bank, and the addition of access points from the Taylor Yard G2 area will serve to both create new regional access points, as well as to create its own smaller Taylor Yard RRZ that might be more conducive to new or inexperienced boaters, or visitors with less time than a trip down the entire RRZ.

The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.
The proposed project seeks to develop public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits, such as creating networks of walking trails and viewing areas, stormwater networks of bioswales and infiltration basins, trees for shade, urban cooling and wildlife protection, and native planting areas that provide habitat patches for wildlife.

The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a watershed resource.
Interpretive signage within the proposed project will provide information about the project site as well as the natural resources of the Los Angeles River. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed.

The site has the potential to create a new venue for education and/or interpretation activities that promote water conservation and stewardship.
All public information regarding the Project will contain education about the Project's many environmental benefits. As mentioned, this will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Panels describe and heighten awareness of GHG emissions, reduction measures that the public can take in their personal lives to improve air quality, highlight water conservation and water quality improvement measures, and carbon sequestration methods and benefits. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

The site contains important fresh water habitat and/or a perennial natural water source.
As detailed in the LARERP, the River and its environs contain important fresh water habitat due to the perennial flow from upstream discharge locations. These flows have supported a diverse flora and fauna, and the proposed project seeks to additionally provide valuable habitat for those species living within the River and/or using it for migratory routes.

The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive and/or educational value.
The project will result in new public access to a watershed resource that has both high interpretive and educational value, which will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues and the areas' precious natural resources. Additionally, the Project will support the curriculum at Sotomayor Learning Academy through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.
The project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Stormwater treatment and improvement projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in fragmented urban interface.

Project will prevent the conversion of natural lands to land uses with little ecological benefit.
While the City currently envisions that the full 42-acre site in the interim will be a visitor serving public natural park and later integrate restoration of the site with the River, there is a possibility that could change. The financing mechanism used by the City to purchase the land necessitated that the land itself become a type of collateral. Accordingly, if needed, a portion of the G2 site could be converted to other uses, or sold, for financial reasons.

The multipurpose easement acquisition by the MRCA will permanently protect at least 12-acres from the uncertainty of future political change and potential sale, and permanently prevent their conversion to land use uses with little ecological benefit. These limited opportunities for large riverfront open space parcels, such as G2, must be protected whenever feasible. The G2 project has the additional benefit of physically connecting to previous State Parks investments.

EXTRA CONSIDERATION POINTS

QUANTIFIABLE CARBON REDUCTION POINTS

The project demonstrates a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration or other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills.
Carbon sequestration will be achieved through the addition of approximately 85 trees per acre, or more than 1,050 trees in total, within an urban area. The infiltration of stormwater will reduce the amount of imported water needed, indirectly reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the reduced need to pump water to Southern California. The calculations provided represent the best analysis by a certified arborist and landscape architecture staff:

The iTree Design tool was used in order to calculate the estimated projected GHG sequestered by the project. This tool enabled staff to insert the size and species of each future tree on-site and locate it in relation to the neighboring property boundaries and residential structures. In estimating the amount of GHG sequestered, the tool considered the types of trees that are being installed: How large they will get and their ability to sequester carbon (since different tree types are able to sequester carbon more successfully and at much higher rates than others). The tool also considered the tree's abilities to shade nearby structures as trees near buildings can reduce heating and air conditioning demands thereby reducing emissions associated with power production. The result of these inputs was a total of 17,106,563 pounds (8,553 tons) of carbon being sequestered by the Project’s trees over a period of 40 years (427,664 pound per year).

The iTree Design tool also calculated that, per year, the trees being installed as part of the Project will intercept approximately 922,801 gallons (2.83 acre feet) of stormwater. This will also save energy by capturing and infiltrating water into our local aquifers. Urban stormwater runoff ("non-point source pollution") washes chemicals (oil, gasoline, salts, etc.) and litter from the roadway surface into the River. The more impervious the surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt, rooftops), the more quickly pollutants are washed into our community waterways. Drinking water, aquatic life, and the health of our entire ecosystem can be adversely affected by this process. The on-site stormwater network and vegetation will slow down and capture the majority of runoff. The stormwater network and trees will act as mini-reservoirs, controlling runoff at the source and

reducing runoff by intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches, and bark and increasing infiltration and storage of rainwater through the tree's root systems.

If the project site were not acquired and sold to a developer, compare this with metrics from a conventional development that would provide significantly less benefits due to structures covering the property and lack of open space. A typical development might include 35 trees per acre, or 438 trees total, yielding only 1,215 tons of carbon being sequestered over 40 years, which is eight times less than the proposed project. Furthermore, approximately 0.25-acre feet of stormwater would be intercepted, which is over 11 times less than the proposed project!

The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.
As mentioned, while the City currently envisions that the full 42-acre site in the interim will be a public park, there is a possibility that priorities within the City could change. Therefore, if needed, a portion of the G2 site (with the exception of MRCA's approx. 12-acre easement area) *could* be sold to developers to bring an infusion of cash back to the City to help balance their financial future. Potentially, hundreds of multi-family condo units could fit onto a 12-acre area and will be avoided by the acquisition.

Construction Carbon Calculation on-line tool was used in order to calculate the amount of carbon that would be embodied and expended during the construction of a 3-story multi-family condos covering 250,000 square feet of the total 522, 720 square feet 'available'. This provided us with an estimate of the amount of GHG avoided by the Project. By not being developed, the project would avoid at least 19,476 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Additionally, as most development install water-thirsty turf for the majority of the landscaping, and this Project will instead install drought-tolerant native plants, not only water will be saved but energy required to run the irrigation system will be saved as well.

The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces and other forms of water capture and storage.
As discussed above, the project seeks to not only retain all water that falls on-site, but will divert a storm drain to capture significant quantities of wet and dry- weather runoff. The overall cumulative impact of this project is substantial for the given urban area and will treat and infiltrate water that otherwise currently enters the River untreated. Additionally, the project will seek to use a combination of renewable or non-potable water sources of water (reclaimed water and captured stormwater) for landscape irrigation.

The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.
As mentioned, the site currently has no large or native vegetation: The project will install a large quantity of California native trees and shrubs throughout the project site. Among many purposes, the trees will provide shade, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, generate oxygen, and remove pollutants from the air thus helping to address and reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming.

The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.
The Los Angeles River functions as a habitat corridor for migratory birds and small mammals, therefore providing an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. The project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River where more species survive, fly and swim to, as well as the Arroyo Seco Confluence. The project will provide a direct connection between the undeveloped portions of adjacent State Parks land, creating a contiguous 100-acres of open space in urban Los Angeles. It is also adjacent to Elysian Park and downstream from Griffith Park, which are home to many sensitive plant and animal species, and this project will provide a significant habitat link and node within an important ecological and wildlife corridor. By capturing and treating urban runoff on the site, it will improve water quality in the River and help to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems. Additionally, the installation of native plant landscaping (trees and shrubs) will provide new habitat for area bird and other species.

The acquisition provides an opportunity to develop or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.
Investment in this project will support the protection of natural resources and facilitate the further development of a livable, walkable, and healthy community, which is a principal goal of this grant program: As part of the Project's scope, MRCA plans to design aa system of trails within the park and also enhance and highlight the bridge that connects the remainder of the park on the opposite side of the river. This will enable visitors to more conveniently access and utilize the amenity and will encourage more outdoor activity. These proposed new improvements are expected to create better user experiences and watershed benefits. The location of the Project adjacent to a residential community and the river will encourage people to bicycle or walk to the park to exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors instead of commuting to a similar amenity, thereby reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources. The Project would result in very limited new vehicle trips and, as mentioned, is expected to 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. The surrounding community will be engaged to participate in public meetings, design workshops. During these meetings, the importance of providing multiple benefit spaces, protecting our natural resources, establishing healthy watersheds, and providing wildlife habitat will be promoted and discussed. This will lead increase public awareness and eventually provide an outdoor learning tool for nearby students, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Completion of the project would assist in fulfilling a Federal water resources protection or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.
The acquisition of the G2 site will facilitate implementation of the Los Angeles River Ecosystem

Restoration Plan to move forward in restoring a hydrologic connection of the River into the Taylor Yard area.

Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.
The project will seek to partner with project partners to conduct programs specifically designed to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities. A portion of improvements will be implemented by at-risk youth. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), a local job training entity, could potentially perform a portion of the construction. MRCA frequently partners with Community Nature Connection, a local environmental non-profit that trains and employs youth, for community engagement and outreach services. The City's planning team also includes non-profit entities.

Project has secured matching funds of at least 25 percent of total project costs.
As noted within the narrative above, a $25 million grant from the WCB is being used to help fund acquisition of the MRCA's multipurpose easement.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.
The project area is located approximately a 0.25 mile from Metro Bus 90/91 and 94 routes along San Fernando Road. The Metro Gold Line Avenue 26 Station is located 1.6 miles from the project site.

Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.
As mentioned, the design will incorporate a wide range of new amenities that currently do not exist within the project site. The improvements will be designed to accommodate users of all ability levels.

Budget for Grant Application
G2 Project, Los Angeles River

Grant Request: $ 10,000,000

Budget Item		Amount
A. MRCA Staff		
various	Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	$ 250,000
9998, 9999	Administrative Cost	$ 200,000
	SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:	**$ 450,000**
B. Land Purchase		
5001	Land Purchase - Easement	$ 3,000,000
	SUBTOTAL B, Land Purchase:	**$ 3,000,000**
C. Materials and Supplies		
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	$ 25,000
7777	Equipment Allocation	$ -
	SUBTOTAL C, Materials and Supplies:	**$ 25,000**
D. Consultants and Contractors		
5114	Land & Building Improvement - Subcontractors	$ 5,000,000
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	$ 1,525,000
	SUBTOTAL D, Consultants and Contractors:	**$ 6,525,000**
	Grand Total (A+B+C):	**$ 10,000,000**