



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 19

December 11, 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 –
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Planning for the Upper Los Angeles River. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$500,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), under the Conservancy's Urban Creeks Program and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). The MRCA's Governing Board approved submittal of this application on December 6, 2017.

The proposed grant would fund the planning and analysis of potential impacts of new parkland projects along the Los Angeles River and tributaries. The project includes community outreach and planning for appropriate mitigation of river revitalization impacts.

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

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION			
Project Name: Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design	Amount of Request: \$500,000 \$250,000 – Prop 1 \$250,000 – Prop 84 Total Project Cost: Matching Funds: Unknown Lat/Long: Various		
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Project Address: various		
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, ste 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	County Los Angeles	Senate District various	Assembly District various
Phone: 323-221-9944 Email: Sarah.rascon@mrca.ca.gov	Tax ID: 77-0112367		
Grantee's Authorized Representative: Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer <i>Name and Title</i>			
323-221-9944 x 117 <i>Phone</i>			
Overhead Allocation Notice: Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices. The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses. The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.			
Outreach and Advertising Requirement: Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies. Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals. <i>All check boxes must be checked</i>			
Brief Project Description: MRCA will provide staff and expertise to assist the Conservancy to administer the Working Group and develop the revitalization plan the address the needs of the Los Angeles River Tributaries as described by AB 466, Chapter 341, Statutes of 2017. <div style="text-align: right;">*attach additional pages with project detail</div>			
Tasks / Milestones: See attached.	Budget:	Completion Date	
For Acquisition Projects: APN(s): N/A Acreage: N/A			
I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.			
 <i>Signature of Authorized Representative</i>			12/5/2017 <i>Date</i>
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY			

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

SMMC Attachment December 11, 2017 Agenda Item 19

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.

Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), Chapter 341 of the Statutes of 2017, authored by Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra and signed by the Governor on September 28, 2017 establishes, within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group (Working Group). AB 466 requires that by March 1, 2019, the Working Group develop, through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, a Revitalization Plan (Plan) for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary. The Plan will, at a minimum, address the unique and diverse needs of the Upper Los Angeles River, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, the communities through which they pass, and include watershed education programs.

The unique obstacles that state and local governments encounter when managing the River and its surrounding areas require consideration when developing a revitalization plan for the Los Angeles River. As a Joint Powers Authority of the Conservancy who has years of experience managing areas in and around the River and its tributaries, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is in a unique position to provide support and assistance to the Conservancy in the implementation of AB 466. The MRCA is requesting a grant from Proposition 1 to fund the project, planning and design necessary to assist the Conservancy in this effort.

This Working Group will allow for input from the affected agencies, organizations and communities while protecting the river's watershed resources and its vitality to their communities. A similar working group for the Lower Los Angeles River has been implemented with much success by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Working Group. This grant would ensure that the Upper Los Angeles River has similar local representation for the revitalization of the Los Angeles River. The subject grant is a proactive way to clarify and articulate the concerns, priorities and ideas of the communities along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and to allow them to be incorporated into the large planning processes throughout the City and County. MRCA will provide staff and expertise to assist the Conservancy to administer the Working Group and develop the revitalization plan the address the needs of the Los Angeles River Tributaries as described by the bill. As the lower portion of the Los Angeles River already has a similar working group, the plan developed by this Working group would ensure that concerns of representatives along the full length of the are represented and reflected in recommendations to the County's Master Plan. As the Lower and Upper sections of the Los Angeles River have different obstacles to address, it is appropriate to have separate working groups.

The Plan will be submitted to the Conservancy board for approval and adoption by March 1, 2019. Once adopted by the Conservancy, the Plan will be considered an amendment to the Watershed and Open Space Plan for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers also known as "Common Ground." The Conservancy will also submit the Plan for adoption to the Los

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

SMMC Attachment December 11, 2017 Agenda Item 19

Angeles County Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the Master Plan of the County of Los Angeles and to the Los Angeles City Council for inclusion into the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan.

BUDGET

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The revitalization project is due by March 1, 2019. The Working Group will be established and commence meeting in the beginning of 2018. The MRCA will begin work upon approval of the grant proposal and will continue until the revitalization plan is adopted by the Conservancy and submitted for inclusion into the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master plan in 2019.

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 impacts of river revitalization projects, especially in disadvantaged communities. These projects are critical to improving watershed health in urban areas, yet cannot succeed without community input and the support of 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 community input, especially from disadvantaged neighborhoods, along the Los Angeles River and tributaries. 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 on the communities surrounding the Los Angeles River and

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

SMMC Attachment December 11, 2017 Agenda Item 19

tributaries. 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 community 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 and river projects 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.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The project partners have already committed to its implementation and logistics are already

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

underway. The Working Group members will be established in early 2018 and meeting and public outreach will begin soon after.

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:

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy)

Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority (MRCA)

Working Group Members – pending appointment by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Recommended members include, but are not limited to:

- Local community groups and non-profits
- Los Angeles County Flood Control
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Districts
- City of Los Angeles
- Los Angeles Council Districts
- City of Glendale
- City of San Fernando
- City of Burbank
- State Senate Districts
- State Assembly Districts

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 December 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 plans for the Los Angeles River, and the issues identified are necessary to address during implementation. The resulting Plan will be submitted for incorporation into those plans.

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

SMMC
Attachment
December 11, 2017
Agenda Item 19

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 research will assist in future development of new access points.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

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 planning process itself will 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.

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

SMMC
Attachment
December 11, 2017
Agenda Item 19

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 planning process 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 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.

No, as the bill was only recently passed and the Working Group member have yet to be appointed, no matching funds are available yet. As the Working Group is developed and meetings are underway, it is likely matching funds will be provided.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The many meetings will be held 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.

**Budget for Grant Application
Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design**

Grant Request: \$ 500,000.00

as of: 12/11/2017

Required for All Bond Funded Grants				
G/L Acct.	G/L Name	Total Budget	Prop 1	Prop 84
(A) PAYROLL Related Expenses:				
Enter TOTAL Payroll Related Expenses Here →→→ [Note: No need to fill out the individual payroll line items below]				
		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Several	Direct Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
9998, 9999	Administrative Cost	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
(B) NON-PAYROLL Expenses:				
4001	Grants-MRCA	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
5001	Land Purchase - Land			
5002	Land Purchase - Appraisals/CEQA			
5003	Land Purchase - Escrow, Title & Closing Fees			
5111	Land & Building Improvement - Roads			
5112	Land & Building Improvement - Materials			
5113	Land & Building Improvement - Equipment			
5114	Land & Building Improvement - Sub Contractors			
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Design/Pre-Construction	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
5116	Land & Building Improvement - Other			
7777	Equipment Allocation			
Totals:		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00