

Grant Application

Print Form



The Natural Resources Agency

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone: 310-589-3200
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www.smmc.ca.gov

Project Title:	River Center Water Capture & Other	Date:	1/22/2018
Funds:	Proposition 1	Amount:	450,000
Applicant Name:	North East Trees	Match amount:	0.00
Address:	570 West Avenue 26	Match source:	n/a
State/Province:	Los Angeles, CA	Total Project Cost:	450,000
Zip/Postal code:	90065	Brief Project Description:	Project design and implementation for capital improvements to River Center
Phone:	323-441-8634		
Fax:	323-441-8618		

Grantee's Authorized Representative: Mark Kenyon, Executive Director, 323-441-8634 mark@northeasttrees.org

Name and Title Phone Number Email

Person with day-to-day responsibility: Aaron Thomas, Urban Forestry Manager, 323-441-8634 aaron@northeasttrees.org

Name and Title Phone Number Email

Project Objective: The objectives include project planning and design and implementation for water capture and other improvements to portions of the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens in Los Angeles. See attached narrative.

*Attach additional pages as necessary

Project Address: 570 W. Avenue 26, Los Angeles, CA 90065

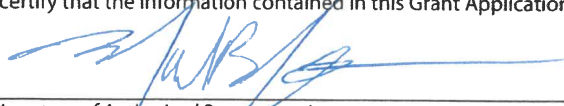
Latitude:	34.0850400	Acreage:	approx. 6 acres	Trail Length:	N/A
Longitude:	-118.2248400	APN's:	portion 5446-013-906	Stream Miles:	N/A
Congressional District:	CA 34	State Senate District:	SD 24	Assembly District:	AD 51

Tasks / Milestones: See attached budget. **Budget:** **Completion Date:**

All work is expected to be complete by June 30, 2019, notwithstanding delays outside of North East Trees' control.

*Attach additional pages as necessary

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


Signature of Authorized Representative

1-15-18
Date

NARRATIVE

The Los Angeles River Center and Gardens (River Center) was acquired as a public parkland in 1998 by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Since then, it has been a highly used multi-use venue that is visited by people from all over Los Angeles for special events, to learn more about the Los Angeles River, hold indoor or outdoor conferences and meetings, picnic, enjoy the outdoors and park space, play futsal, etc. In addition, several buildings at the River Center house offices which provide space for multiple private, public, and non-profit entities. Although the River Center has so many valuable uses and visitor-serving amenities including restrooms, drinking fountains, bicycle parking, and outdoor recreational areas, it lacks critical water capture or treatment elements which are more important today than ever before. Additionally, facility upgrades to the roof of the "MRCA Building" are crucial to provide use and extend the lifespan of the facility.

The River Center Improvement Project (project) will transform an ordinary building into an exemplary demonstration of sustainable multi-purpose infrastructure that has environmental benefits. Currently, the roof is leaking in multiple locations causing significant damage to the interior and exterior of the structure and surrounding landscaping is either non-existent, struggling, or non-native. This project will convert it into an attractive, thriving, and innovative structure. All aspects of the project will be designed to enhance water quality in local area, decrease reliance on water resources, and improve the health of the Los Angeles River watershed.

The project will install a new roof, California native shade trees and shrubs, incorporate an educational element, and integrate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water capture by installing drains that will irrigate the adjacent landscaping. These improvements are necessary to the building and surrounding grounds to provide continued safe and enjoyable public use of the River Center facility and expose more people to the site's interpretive opportunities.

The objectives of this improvement project are to interpret, protect, restore, preserve and develop the River Center's resources to allow the continued use and enjoyment of the facility, conserve water, and provide a new interpretive opportunity. The Project's stormwater management components maximize public education and benefit and take advantage of the highly-used location. The Project will be a demonstration project for future, similar project in the area and an important learning tool for the public. It will provide an opportunity to allow a wider segment of the public to learn about water quality and supply issues and creative solutions to those issues.

The proposed \$450,000 grant would be used to complete planning, design and implementation of the project. The project is a partnership between North East Trees and MRCA.

BUDGET / TIMELINE

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The project planning, design, and construction will take place over the next approximately 1 year.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

The proposed project achieves the following four (4) Proposition 1 purposes:

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 will anticipate these changes and mitigate them. Native plant landscaping will be incorporated in order to serve as new habitat for wildlife, helping to minimize the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. The project will also employ water conservation measures to reduce our reliance on imported water and improve the health of the Los Angeles River watershed. As Los Angeles is a desert and is normally in a state of drought, conserving water is essential and critical. Additionally, the new trees and vegetation will sequester carbon and cool the atmosphere.

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.

This multiple benefit project incorporates green infrastructure and water re-use and filtration to produce both water quality conservation and improvement. Currently, untreated and uncaptured water from an approximately 21,000 square foot building sheet flows directly to the adjacent parking lot (picking up oil, grease and trash on its way) and enters a nearby storm drain. This Project will result in the protection and enhancement of our precious water resources because it will reduce the amount of polluted water flowing directly into our storm drains. Since the amount of pollutants being expelled into the Los Angeles River untreated will be decreased, the project will thus protect and restore the health of the Los Angeles watershed. The new water capture drains will manage stormwater by collecting, treating, utilizing, and infiltrating water which will help improve water quality, increase watershed storage capacity, and reduce the volume of water entering the River.

Furthermore, the project will plan for installation of California native trees and shrubs within. The purpose of the trees is to create habitat for local wildlife, provide shade, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect created by the adjacent completely asphalt parking lot, 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.

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.

As mentioned in #9 above, the project will meet standards for TMDL reductions in trash, metals and oil in the Los Angeles River, while augmenting ground water recharge: This will be achieved via the Project's drains which will capture, treat, re-use, and infiltrate stormwater. The overall cumulative impact of this project is substantial for the given area and will treat water that would otherwise enter the River untreated. Additionally, the captured runoff will infiltrate into the planting beds thereby increasing the water supply in the local aquifer and will reduce the volume of water entering the River (helping with 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.

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 will enhance local wildlife habitat. Additionally, the new native 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: water and nature education; habitat for local species; stormwater capture, use, and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and less wasted water; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming); promotion of infiltration projects; and aesthetic enhancement.

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

The re-use and infiltration of stormwater 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 implementation will create additional native habitat and will benefit the local wildlife, which includes sensitive species, such as the Sharp-shinned Hawk and Coopers Hawk.

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

By infiltrating stormwater and re-using it for native plant irrigation, the water entering the local storm drains 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 component is innovative and is still a concept that most large facilities, similar to the River Center, are not implementing. This project is truly a partnership in that North East Trees will be implementing the improvement project on MRCA owned property and they will be maintaining the improvements in perpetuity once complete.

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 Cypress Park and is shown on CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to be a 96-100% Disadvantaged Community (DAC).

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The MRCA is supportive of the improvement project. North East Trees has years of experience planning, designing, permitting and implementing projects more complex than this. The project's design will be developed in partnership with the MRCA in order to make it more likely to be permitted and implemented faster.

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

North East Trees has the financial capacity to perform this project on a reimbursable basis. We have been implementing capital projects on a reimbursable basis for many years, and anticipate reimbursable payments in our budgets.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.

North East Trees was founded in 1989 by Mr. Scott Wilson, a retired LAUSD high school teacher and licensed Landscape Architect. Mr. Wilson's pledge to plant 5 trees a day for the rest of his life, and his parallel commitment to helping at-risk youth find meaningful employment in the green industry, have resulted in a non-profit organization delivering effective training and environmental restoration programs to under-resourced communities in the greater Los Angeles Area.

North East Trees has years of experience implementing, managing and operating a wide range of projects that are similar in size and scope such as Ascot Hills Park landscaping, various trees installations, Cudahy River Park, Eastern Gateway Project, Glendale Narrows Riverwalk, and many more. These projects were all completed through strong partnerships and mostly located in disadvantaged, park-poor communities.

Our active partner, MRCA, has successfully designed and implemented many multiple benefit and roofing projects: Several completed MRCA projects are much larger in size, budget, scope and duration of the proposed project including Marsh Park, King Gillet roofing, and the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration, all exemplary projects with innovative water quality treatment components. All of the projects listed above are multi-million dollar projects that serve park-poor neighborhoods.

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

As mentioned, the Project is a partnership in that North East Trees will be implementing the improvement project on MRCA owned property and they are committed to participating in the design process, permitting the work, and to maintaining the improvements.

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

As mentioned, since its inception in 1989, North East Trees has designed, planned and constructed scores of small and large projects throughout Los Angeles. The MRCA will be responsible for long-term project maintenance and has sufficient experience, not to mention, currently maintains the site.

Applicant has identified funding for proper maintenance throughout the expected life of the improvements.

MRCA has funding and is committed to maintaining the improvements in perpetuity.

Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.

MRCA is committed to maintaining the improvements in perpetuity.

The project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.

Although the project is not technically considered a 'restoration', the landscaping will reestablish native species and will promote and benefit watershed health.

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

Interpretive signage or online resources will be incorporated into the design in order to provide information about the future stormwater capture, installation of native landscaping, and the importance of both. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, about the areas'

precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed.

Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.

The MRCA owns the River Center and is committed to working with North East Trees on the design and providing final permission to complete the project on their property.

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 four (4) trees to an urban area within an asphalt parking lot. Although, 4 sounds like an insignificant number, the long-term results of the carbon sequestration and stormwater interception is not insignificant. The infiltration of stormwater in the planting beds will reduce the overall amount of imported water needed, indirectly reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the reduced need to pump water to Southern California.

The multiple purposes of the project's vegetation is to create habitat for local wildlife, intercept stormwater, provide shade, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect created by the adjacent parking lot and urban community, 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. Additionally, through planting of these trees, the Project will enhance above and below ground carbon storage. Trees can have an impact by reducing atmospheric carbon by sequestering ("locking up") CO₂ in their roots, trunks, stems, and leaves while they grow, and in wood products after they are harvested. Combating climate change will take a worldwide, multifaceted approach, but by planting a tree in a strategic location, we can each reduce our individual carbon "footprints".

The calculations provided represent the best analysis by our staff:

The i-Tree Design tool was used to calculate the estimated projected GHG sequestered by the Project. i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. 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 result of these inputs was a total of approximately 24,000 pounds (12 tons) of carbon being sequestered by the project's trees over a period of 40 years (600 pounds per year).

The i-Tree Design tool also calculated that, per year, the trees being installed as part of the project will intercept approximately 330,649 gallons of stormwater over a period of 40 years (depending on amount of rainfall). This will also save energy by capturing and infiltrating water into our local aquifers. The 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.

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.

The project includes drought-resistant California native plant species that will require little water, incorporate water-smart irrigation that will utilize less water, and stormwater re-use and infiltration. By installing the stormwater capture system, the project will in effect reduce waste and promote regeneration of our groundwater table.

The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.

The project includes approximately 4 additional trees in an urban area adjacent to a parking lot. The vegetation (both native, drought-tolerant trees and shrubs) will help to generate oxygen, cool the atmosphere, and reduce the urban heat-island effect caused by the urban environment.

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

As mentioned, interpretive signage or online resources will be incorporated into the design in order to provide information about the future stormwater capture, installation of native landscaping, and the importance of both. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed. The project itself will heighten awareness of measures that the public can take in their personal lives to conserve water.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

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

The landscaping portions of the improvements will be implemented by North East Trees which employs at-risk youth.

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, North East Trees

SMMC Attachment January 22, 2018 Agenda Item 14
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Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

Multiple Metro bus stops are located on every major street intersection surrounding the River Center. The closest stop being directly in front of the property closest to the “River Park”. Additionally, the Metrolink train (Gold Line) station is located within walking distance (.3 miles / 1,780 feet) down the street on Avenue 26, which takes people east towards Azusa or west to downtown LA (where additional train and bus connections can be made).

**Budget for Grant Application
LA River Center Water Capture & Other Improvements**

Grant Request: \$ 450,000

Budget Item	Amount
A. North East Trees Staff	
Project Planning / Admin	\$ 25,000
Project Construction Management	\$ 25,000
Labor	\$ 87,500
SUBTOTAL A, NET Staff:	\$ 137,500
B. Materials and Supplies	
Landscape & Irrigation	\$ 10,000
Paving (Concrete / Asphalt)	\$ 5,000
Water Capture	\$ 10,000
Signage	\$ 2,500
Equipment Rentals	\$ 5,000
Misc / Other	\$ 5,000
SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:	\$ 37,500
C. Consultants and Contractors	
Roofing Contractor	\$ 200,000
Tree Removal (non-native)	\$ 25,000
Consultants (MRCA)	\$ 50,000
SUBTOTAL C, Consultants and Contractors:	\$ 275,000
Grand Total (A+B+C):	\$ 450,000