



## 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

March 20, 2017

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

### **Grant Application Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning**

Dear Chairperson Sap and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$50,000 from Proposition 1 for planning a regional summit on homelessness and developing a report on best practice guidelines based on a cross-sectional and comprehensive response from parks stakeholders. The MRCA's Governing Board approved submittal of this application on February 7, 2018.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposed grant. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cara Meyer".

Cara Meyer  
Deputy Executive Officer

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION**

<b>Project Name:</b> Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning	<b>Amount of Request:</b> \$50,000
	<b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$50,000
<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	<b>Matching Funds:</b> N/A (in-kind donations) <b>Lat/Long:</b>
<b>Applicant Address:</b> 570 W. Ave 26, Ste 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	<b>Project Address:</b> Various locations
	<b>County</b>
	<b>Senate District</b>
	<b>Assembly District</b>
<b>Phone:</b> 323-221-9944	<b>Tax ID:</b> 770112367
<b>Email:</b> cara.meyer@mrca.ca.gov	

**Grantee's Authorized Representative:**

Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer (323) 221-9944 ext. 117  
*Name and Title* *Phone*

- 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.
- All check boxes must be checked*

**Brief Project Description:**  
 The activities proposed include: hosting a full day regional forum for discussion of the reciprocal impacts of parks on homelessness and homelessness on parks and natural spaces with a wide range of agency and parks representatives, community stakeholders and advocacy organizations; related research; and consultation with advocates for public health, parks and open space, public safety and law enforcement, housing and transportation, and environmental and economic justice issues to examine these impacts, identify innovative tactics and strategies to relieve homelessness in communities, and form a cross-sectional and comprehensive parks response to needs of a growing homeless population via development of a best practices report to provide recommendations to other agencies.\*

\*attach additional pages with project detail

Tasks / Milestones: (See attached)	Budget:	Completion Date
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I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Cara Meyer 3/20/2018  
*Signature of Authorized Representative* *Date*

## Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

### Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is requesting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) Proposition 1 funds for planning activities that specifically analyze the impacts of parks and open space, and recreational projects therein, such as those the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy may fund with Proposition 1, on homelessness and reciprocal impacts of homelessness on parks and open space along the Los Angeles River and region-wide. MRCA will consult with advocates for parks and open space, public health, public safety and law enforcement, housing and transportation, and environmental and economic justice issues to identify innovative tactics and strategies to relieve homelessness in the communities; related research; and host a full day regional forum for discussion of these issues. The summit will bring together stakeholders from state and local parks agencies, municipalities, and homeless service providers and advocacy organizations to examine impacts of parks on homelessness and vice versa, and develop a report of best practices for recommendation to other agencies for implementation of a cross-sectional and comprehensive regional parks response to needs of the region's most vulnerable populations.

Maintaining parklands, and creating parks and open spaces along the LA River and urban core using the funding resources from the Proposition 1 appropriation, will require this kind of engagement to ensure positive outcomes for public health and safety, access to parklands, and resilient communities and ecosystems.

## Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

### Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

#### **BUDGET**

See attached budget. In-kind donations have been secured and will continue to be solicited, including the following:

In-kind support for regional summit:

- Community Nature Connection has offered in-kind staff time to plan and run summit
- Enterprise Community Partners has offered in-kind staff time to plan and run summit
- Southeast Asian Community Alliance has offered in kind staff time to plan and run summit
- Trust for Public Land has offered has offered in-kind staff time to plan and run summit

#### **TIMELINE**

The proposed project will be completed approximately 9 months after approval. The regional summit will occur in August 2018 with comprehensive parks response recommendations and best practices report to follow.

#### **RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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

The proposed grant achieves the following Prop 1 purposes:

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

The project accomplishes this by recommending best practices for agencies and stakeholders to implement along the Los Angeles River and adjacent communities with regard to remediation of homelessness in parks and natural spaces. With strategic guidelines in place, agencies and stakeholders can effectively reduce encampments and improve watershed health in urban areas with resultant economic benefits: enhance riparian habitat, fishery resources, and instream flow for both active and passive recreational purposes; and improve water quality and reduce pollution/runoff to minimize infrastructural costs for water agencies.

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, including those

## Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

### Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

that are currently homeless. Furthermore, homeless populations are socially more vulnerable to climate change. The project's summit will address the needs of a growing regional homeless population in the context of parks and natural spaces, including the population's increased exposure to impacts of and undermined resilience to cope with climate change, and will identify ways to reduce impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change (such as wildfires, heat waves, and flooding) in communities and ecosystems.

#### 3) Restore river parkways throughout the state.

The project accomplishes this by focusing on disadvantaged neighborhoods along the Los Angeles River. Proposition 1 projects along the River will be connected to the bike paths and multi-use trails that are (or will be) adjacent to the river. Ensuring that existing and new river projects promote public access to trails, including public safety and health, as well as improved water quality and restoration of riparian habitat, 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 upon the watershed health of urban Los Angeles through its focus on the effects of a growing homeless population and encampments along the Los Angeles river area on parks and natural spaces in disadvantaged communities, and the reciprocal impacts of parks and open space on the homeless population. Protecting and restoring urban watershed health is essential to the project's goals, via discussions of public health and sanitation, river water quality, protection of riparian habitat and recreational areas, and protection from extreme weather events caused by climate change, such as flooding and wildfires. The environmental, social, and economic benefits of remediation of homelessness in urban Los Angeles are myriad. The project will convene a forum of experts to discuss these impacts, benefits of remediation, and achievable solutions, and create a guideline for best practices to recommend to other agencies and stakeholders for implementation.

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

Proposition 1 projects will already have water quality, water supply, and watershed protection as primary components and the proposed project will help define how those can be augmented with benefits to public health, recreation, habitat, housing, and economic and environmental justice.

## Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

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

The project will focus specifically on the Los Angeles River area and will produce a best practices report on relieving homelessness in parks and natural spaces along the river and region-wide, which will result in more reliable and resilient water supplies, pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

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

The project will address the impacts of homelessness on parks and natural spaces with an emphasis on riparian habitat along the Los Angeles River. Waste and pollution from encampments end up in waterways, stressing important species and harming the ecosystem, and increased risk of wildfire related to cooking in encampments may threaten habitat. The project will produce a best practices report following the summit to agencies and other stakeholders to implement remediation efforts of homelessness and encampments, and thus aid in restoration and protection of species and habitat, in parks and natural spaces along the Los Angeles river area and region-wide.

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

The project will produce guidelines for implementation by parks agencies and related stakeholders to relieve homelessness in parks and natural spaces along the Los Angeles River and region-wide which will result in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

### **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 development of a cross-sectional, multi-jurisdictional and comprehensive parks response to a growing homeless population along the Los Angeles River and region-wide with a best practices report to recommend to parks agencies and other stakeholders for implementation. Water quality, flood control, land use and sanitation issues are among the core issues of this project and experts from these areas will participate in the project.

### **Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.**

The project partners have already committed to its implementation and logistics are already underway. The full day summit is scheduled for August 2018. The MRCA staff has many years of experience and expertise to undertake these tasks, as do the other partner organizations.

### **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

## Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application

### Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

has been implementing capital projects on a reimbursable basis for many years, and anticipates reimbursable payments in our budgets. MRCA also maintains a line of credit that can be drawn upon in the event of an extended delay.

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

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

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

Project partners include the following:

- Community Nature Connection (CNC)
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA)
- Trust for Public Land (TPL)

The contributions of each organization are described above under Budget. Furthermore, MRCA is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation & Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District pursuant to Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code. These three entities each have a voting member on MRCA's Governing Board, which approved the proposed grant application on February 7, 2018.

**Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection, watershed ecosystem restoration, or multi-benefit river parkway plan.**

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

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

MRCA will be partnering with parks agencies, municipalities, homeless service providers and advocacy organizations, as well as other stakeholders 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

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Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning  
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partners have been in existence for over one year, and have relevant experience.

**The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational public use facility or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.**

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

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

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

**Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.**

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

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

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

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

The project will address public safety within public parklands at the conference and develop a document of guidelines that incorporates recommendations of public safety improvements to public parklands with multiple ecosystem benefits.

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

No physical improvements are included.

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

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

**The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive**



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### Los Angeles River Community and Regional Planning Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

#### **and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.**

The information generated by the summit and best practices report 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 Los Angeles River and Community Planning project will assist implementation of any projects to fulfill the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan. These issues will need to be addressed in order for the projects identified in the plan to go forward.

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

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

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

A portion of project costs are being provided through in-kind services by partners.

#### **Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.**

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

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

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

**MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

February 7, 2018 — Agenda Item VII

Resolution No. 18-32

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

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

1. FINDS that Planning for Los Angeles River and Regional Community Engagement will provide significant public benefits;
2. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act;
3. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated February 7, 2018;
4. AUTHORIZES the grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for Planning for Los Angeles River and Regional Community Engagement in the amount of \$50,000;
5. AUTHORIZES any budget amendments as necessary;
6. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer or his designee to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Governing Board; and
7. AUTHORIZES the Chair to sign the grant agreement if the grant application is approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

  
Chair

Agenda Item VII  
February 7, 2018  
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AYES: Peterson, Daniel, Hasenauer, Lange

NOS: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the governing board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

Date: 2/7/18

  
Executive Officer

**Budget for Grant Application**  
**Los Angeles River Community & Regional Planning**

**Grant Request: \$ 50,000**

Budget Item	Amount	Source 1	Source 2
<b>A. MRCA Staff</b>			
<i>If applicable: Provide the breakdown between multiple funding sources</i>			
various Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 22,500		
9998, 9999 Administrative Cost	\$ 7,500		
<b>SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>		
<b>B. Materials and Supplies</b>			
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 18,000		
7777 Equipment Allocation	\$ 2,000		
<b>SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>		
<b>Grand Total (A+B+C+D):</b>			
	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Budget Amendment for SMMC Grant No. xxxx-xxx-xxxx**  
**[project name here]**

**Approved Grant Amount: \$ 210**  
**Augmentation Request Amount: \$ -**  
**Total Requested Amount: \$ 210**

Budget Item	Approved Amount	Change Amount	New Total Budget
<b>A. MRCA Staff</b>			
various Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 1	\$ 15	\$ 16
9998, 9999 Administrative Cost	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 2
<b>SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:</b>	<b>\$ 3</b>	<b>\$ 15</b>	<b>\$ 18</b>
<b>B. Materials and Supplies</b>			
3001 Gas & Fuel-Auto & Equipment	\$ 3		\$ 3
3007 Supplies/Maint - Weeds/Brushing	\$ 4		\$ 4
3011 Minor Equipment - Fire	\$ 5		\$ 5
3014 Signs & Information Fixtures	\$ 6	\$ (5)	\$ 1
5112 Land & Building Improvement - Materials	\$ 7	\$ 10	\$ 17
5113 Land & Building Improvement - Equipment	\$ 8		\$ 8
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 9		\$ 9
5116 Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 10		\$ 10
6521 Equipment - Construction	\$ 11		\$ 11
7777 Equipment Allocation	\$ 12		\$ 12
<b>SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>	<b>\$ 5</b>	<b>\$ 80</b>
<b>C. Consultants and Contractors</b>			
4001 Grants	\$ 13	\$ (5)	\$ 8
5111 Land & Building Improvement - Roads	\$ 14		\$ 14
5114 Land & Building Improvement - Subcontractors	\$ 15		\$ 15
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 16		\$ 16
5116 Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 17		\$ 17
<b>SUBTOTAL C, Consultants and Contractors:</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>	<b>\$ (5)</b>	<b>\$ 70</b>
<b>D. Land Acquisition</b>			
5001 Land Purchase - Land	\$ 18		\$ 18
5002 Appraisals, CEQA	\$ 19	\$ (15)	\$ 4
5003 Escrow, Title and Closing Fees	\$ 20		\$ 20
<b>SUBTOTAL D, Land Acquisition:</b>	<b>\$ 57</b>	<b>\$ (15)</b>	<b>\$ 42</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B+C+D):</b>	<b>\$ 210</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 210</b>