



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
May 21, 2018
Agenda Item 15

May 10, 2018

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

**Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Caballero Creek Park**

Dear Chairperson Sap and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for Caballero Creek Park. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests a grant in the sum of \$2,000,000 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 February 7, 2018.

The proposed grant would fund the completion of the engineering, planning, and construction of a 1.6 acre site owned by the City of Los Angeles adjacent to the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek into a multi-benefit park. Further, the subject grant will fund items related to watershed protection, included a bioswale, a wetland, and a cistern to store the treated water from both sources for use in irrigation.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposed grant and how it fits the Conservancy's Evaluation Criteria. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

Cara Meyer
Deputy Executive Officer

Grant Application

Print Form

SMMC
Attachment
May 21, 2018
Agenda Item 15



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: Caballero Creek Park

Date: 4/9/2018

Funds: Proposition 12

Amount: 2,000,000

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

Total Project Cost: 3,500,000

Zip/Postal code: 90065

Phone: 323-221-9944

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.

Fax: 323-221-9934

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

Name and Title

Phone Number

Email

Person with day-to-day responsibility: Gabriella Garry, Project Manager 323-221-9944, x200 gabriella.garry@mrca.ca.gov

Name and Title

Phone Number

Email

Project Objective:

The requested grant funds will be used to plan and construct a multi-benefit natural park at an approximately 1.6-acre blighted, asphalt, and weedy vacant lot. This project creates a new neighborhood park for recreation, education, habitat, wildlife connectivity, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, and stormwater treatment, which provides both ecosystem and cultural services.

*Attach additional pages as necessary

Project Address: 6353 Lindley Ave. Los Angeles, CA 91335

Latitude: 34.18532

Acreage: 1.55

Trail Length: 0.15

Longitude: -118.52742

APN's: 5442-002-823

Stream Miles: 0.1

Congressional District: 30

State Senate District: 27

Assembly District: 45

Tasks / Milestones:

Budget:

Completion Date:

See attached budget.

All work is expected to be complete by December 31, 2020, 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

5/10/2018
Date

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Caballero Creek Park, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

The Caballero Creek Park project (project) will transform 1.6-acres of vacant land into exemplary demonstration of a sustainable multiple-benefit public park that has both environmental and community benefits. The land is owned by the City of Los Angeles and is located at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek, both of which are visible from the site. Currently, the site is fenced off from the public and made up of almost completely asphalt with weeds growing throughout. A future segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway will run adjacent to the park. All aspects of the Project were designed to enhance water quality in the River and improve the health of the watershed, while providing recreation for the community.

The park will feature watershed learning areas, a wetland, bio-swale BMPs, native drought-tolerant landscaping, walking/jogging trails, fitness stations, seating, picnic areas and other park amenities. A shaded platform near the wetland will serve as an outdoor classroom, and a boardwalk spur will give visitors a closer view of the wetland. The park's trail leads to an overlook, creating advantageous perches for viewing birds and other wildlife. Interpretive signs will contain information about the park's sustainability features and natural resources. These kinds of outdoor learning activities help build meaningful relationships with nature that can lead to a deeper understanding and care for the environment, particularly California's unique riverine ecosystems and the wildlife that thrives within. By creating this small neighborhood park with access to nature and passive recreation, the community is made a healthier and more beautiful place to live and work.

The Project's stormwater management components maximize public benefit and take advantage of the location adjacent to the River and Creek by incorporating an innovative mix of low-tech mechanical and biological methods to achieve watershed protection. This will be accomplished principally through 1) an interactive arroyo and bio-swale on-site which will capture and infiltrate polluted street stormwater runoff from 11-acres of urban residential area, and 2) an interactive riparian habitat wetland that will be fed from both continuous dry-weather and wet-weather flow from Caballero Creek. The filtered and treated water will be fed into a cistern to provide water for irrigation year-round, making the park a net-zero site. The water infiltrated into the park's bio-swale will replenish the local aquifer, increasing local reserves of water and reducing the quantity of water flow and pollution entering into the River. As mentioned, water will be pumped out of Caballero Creek, which is wet year-round due to urban runoff, to create a year-round wetland that creates and supports habitat and also can be used as a learning tool. Water leaving the wetland will enter the bio-swale, supplementing its infiltration function. A connection to potable water will be required for the drinking fountain and as a contingency for the irrigation system.

Furthermore, the Project is uniquely situated to benefit wildlife: The site is 2.5-miles downstream from the Santa Monica Mountains, a significant ecological area, and 3-miles upstream from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve. As such, the park will provide a critical connection between these two sensitive ecological areas and help to mitigate habitat fragmentation.

The Project is a partnership between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), City of Los Angeles (City), and the County of Los Angeles (County). Once the park improvements are complete, the City of Los Angeles' Sanitation and Recreation and Parks Divisions have committed to the maintenance, in perpetuity.

The specific needs addressed by this Project include sustainable stormwater management, cleaner waterbodies and watersheds, and greater awareness and stewardship of coastal

watershed resources. In addition to the physical improvements, the park will serve as an educational tool that creates a dynamic, outdoor experience for youth with opportunities that will allow them and their families to learn about the River environment, water quality issues, and local flora and fauna. It will support the curriculum at nearby Reseda High School, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship.

BUDGET

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The Project currently has 90% Construction Documents completed, hydrology and maintenance report, and is in permitting with the City and County. Permitting is anticipated to take 6-8 months. Once permits are obtained and all formal Agreements are executed, the Project can potentially go out to bid by the end 2018, allowing construction to begin in 2019. All work is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

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.

The construction of the Project itself will provide economic benefits by creating new jobs and profit for the companies providing supplies and materials, and sub-contractors and crews working on-site. Additionally, the Project is intended to be a net- zero park which will have solar panels that tie into the energy grid, and the energy balance that is left over could potentially *add* power to the local area. The removal of pollutants from the waterways will reduce treatment costs downstream.

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 park anticipates these changes and will mitigate them. Native plant landscaping will cover the site: This will serve as new and enhanced habitat and open space for wildlife, and connect the nearby Santa Monica Mountains and Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, serving as a new resting point for migrating species and thereby minimizing the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. The Project will also employ water treatment and conservation measures to improve water quality and reduce trash and other pollutants within Caballero Creek and the Los Angeles River. The water captured and treated will be used on site to irrigate the native plant habitat. Additionally, the density of trees and vegetation within the proposed project is anticipated to 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. One of the primary objectives of the Project is to improve the quality of water within the Los Angeles River, and the Watershed as a whole, by diverting and treating polluted water before it can enter the River. 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, create a new Greenway along the River, 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 Los Angeles River, function as habitat corridors for migratory birds and small mammals, and therefore provide an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. Through its bio-swale and wetland, 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 both the River and Pacific Ocean. As mentioned, the project is located 2.5-miles downstream of Caballero Creek from the Santa Monica Mountains, and 3-miles upstream along the Los Angeles River from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, both of which are significant ecological areas. As such, the park will provide a critical connection between these two sensitive ecological areas and help to mitigate habitat fragmentation, providing new habitat for area birds and other species. Since the habitat enhancement will be located at the confluence of two waterways, the Project's benefits will have a multiplier effect as it can provide respite and increase connectivity for migratory species using both waterways. By capturing and treating urban runoff, the Project will improve water quality in the River and help to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems.

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 aquifer. Stormwater diversion from Lindley Ave. will manage stormwater by capturing, treating and used on site for irrigation, which will help to improve water quality, increase watershed storage capacity, reduce the volume of water entering the River, and reduce the dependency of potable water for irrigation.

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

Lastly, the location of the Project adjacent to the River, future bike path, and residential neighborhood will encourage people to bicycle or walk thereby reducing GHG emissions from

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Caballero Creek Park, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

transportation sources: Nearby residents that currently drive to other parks will have the permanent ability to access a neighborhood park by walking or bicycling.

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 was 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 park was designed to capture and treat the maximum amount of wet and dry weather urban runoff from both the adjacent street and from Caballero Creek in order to remove various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil from the water before they can reach the River. The quantity of polluted runoff that is expected to be treated is 1,202,659 gallons per year. The overall cumulative impact of this Project is substantial for the given urban area and will treat water that would otherwise enter the River untreated. Additionally, the captured runoff will either infiltrate or be stored on site to irrigate the native plants thereby increasing the water supply in the local aquifer and reducing 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.

The Project will improve watershed health and benefit sensitive and endangered species. 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 Caballero Creek and 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 for local schools and future park users; habitat for the area's animal species; stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the 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; and aesthetic enhancement to the neighborhood. Additionally, the Project will create a new public access point to the adjacent river park and bike path and their amenities. Additionally,

the Project will create a new public access point to the adjacent future Los Angeles River Bikeway.

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

The capture and re-use of water (via both wetland and bio-swale) for on-site irrigation 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 benefit both Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River, which provide habitat to sensitive species. The park will be planted with native California species and will create new wetland habitat.

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

By infiltrating both stormwater and dry season urban runoff, and filtering through the bio-swale and wetland, all water that leaves the site and enters the infrastructure of the Los Angeles River will be both reduced and cleaner. The Project will also demonstrate the feasibility of a "net-zero water use" project, encouraging future projects to incorporate this sustainable infrastructure model.

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. The Park's design uses an innovative mix of low-tech mechanical and biological methods to achieve watershed protection. This will be accomplished principally through 1) an interactive stream and bio-swale on-site to capture and infiltrate (thereby naturally filter) polluted street stormwater runoff from 11-acres of urban residential area, and 2) an interactive riparian habitat wetland that will be fed from continuous dry-weather water flow from Caballero Creek. The filtered and treated water will be fed into a cistern to provide water for irrigation year-round. The concept of a "net-zero water use" project is itself a new and innovative practice.

The project uses renewable or non-potable water sources of water, such as reclaimed water, captured stormwater, or other method.

As previously mentioned, the capture and re-use of water (via both wetland and bio-swale) from Caballero Creek will be used for on-site irrigation, it will reduce the amount of potable water needed for irrigation.

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 community within walking distance of the park is comprised of a mix of census tracts which have CalEnviroScreen scores of 66-70%. The census tracts immediately adjacent to the Project site have scores of 81-85%.

The project has demonstrated capability of collecting and treating runoff from off-site sources.

The purpose of the Project's stormwater treatment bio-swale and wetland is to collect and treat runoff from the adjacent Lindley Avenue and from Caballero Creek, all of which is off-site. The Project's hydrological report indicates that with both captured stormwater and dry-weather runoff, the project can sustain irrigation without supplement of potable water.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

As mentioned, the City is a project partner. MRCA has years of experience planning, designing, permitting and implementing projects more complex than this. The Project's design and Construction Documents are 90% complete and are currently in plan check and permitting with the City and County. Once permits are finalized, MRCA can publicly bid the Project and expects to be in construction by 2019.

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

The 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.

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 and County of Los Angeles. The City and MRCA seek to collaboratively work together to use the individual talents within each organization to expediently develop a successful public park. The City's Department of Recreation and Parks will oversee maintenance and operations of the park elements, while the City's Bureau of Sanitation has committed to assist with the design of the stormwater BMPs and infrastructure in the park. The County's Flood Control Division has authorized improvements within their adjacent right-of-way and has entered into a Use Agreement with the City for this Project.

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 Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management (GLAC IRWM) includes Los Angeles River TMDL Plan. The Project will help contribute to one day meeting the TMDL plan and the GLAC regional planning goals, objectives, and targets for watershed health.

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

Both the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation (Watershed Protection Division) and Department of Recreation and Parks will be responsible for long-term Project maintenance and have sufficient experience in maintaining projects of this (and larger) size and scope.

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

City of Los Angeles will be maintaining the improvements in perpetuity and will have funding allocated to the Project. The City's budget is allocated on an annual basis and therefore they cannot formally set aside funding until construction is near completion.

Project implements Best Management Practices (BMP) to treat stormwater.

The Project will include both a wetland and stormwater bioswale that will capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater to recharge groundwater and clean the River and watershed.

The project substantially improves a park site by eliminating or significantly remediating water resource contamination or pollution, such as that from urban runoff or onsite conditions.

The purpose of the Project's stormwater treatment wetland and bio-swale is to remediate pollution from urban runoff. As mentioned previously, the Project will capture stormwater from the adjacent Lindley Avenue and Caballero Creek, treat the water, and allow for infiltration. The water will also be collected and used for irrigation and dramatically reduce the need for potable water.

The project includes or restores an aquatic, wetland, riparian or migratory bird ecosystem in an otherwise natural resource-deficient urban area.

The project lies on the edge of a natural resource-deficient urban area, and its implementation will benefit species in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Sepulveda Basin. The Project's implementation will also benefit both Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River, which provide habitat to sensitive species. The Project enhances biological diversity, improves water quality, habitat, and other natural resources within coastal watersheds. This Project will develop and implement plans for the restoration and enhancement of coastal habitats, including wetland, stream corridors, coastal sage scrub, forests and coastal prairie. The Project develops and implements plans to preserve and enhance coastal watersheds and flood plains, and to improve water quality to benefit coastal and oceanic resources.

Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5-mile radius.

The Project will add a new recreational resource to the area by implementing a nature walk that overlooks Caballero Creek and the Los Angeles River. The project also links the future Los Angeles River regional multi-modal trail and bike path.

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

Both the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the County of Los Angeles Master Plan both identify the Project site as prime location for habitat and water quality improvements.

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

multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.

The Project improves public access to open space within the greater Los Angeles area thereby improving overall public health, creates a new local park for neighborhoods that currently rely on vehicular travel to access public recreational resources, provides a link to the future Los Angeles River regional multi-modal trail and bike path, enhances safe routes to schools for youth walking and bicycling by the site on their way to elementary, middle and high schools within one mile of the site, and creates greater public awareness and stewardship of natural resources through youth experiences with the Project's watershed features.

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

The Project's design simulates the native landscape found in nearby Santa Monica Mountains and brings nature to an urban setting and will benefit watershed health. The native planting aids in improving air quality by sequestering carbon, provides habitat for local wildlife, and creates an adaptable environment resilient to drought and climate change.

The project upgrades an existing regional trail or river parkway to protect its continued use and enjoyment by the public.

As previously mentioned the future Los Angeles River Bikeway will be adjacent to the Project site. The park will serve as rest area and will demonstrate how River front property can be redeveloped using treated and captured dry weather and stormwater runoff.

The site directly abuts and increases the size and ecosystem function of a protected habitat area for aquatic, wetland, or migratory bird ecosystem including fish and wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

The site does not directly abut such an area.

The site contains substantial potential for restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters ecosystems.

The Project site itself will not technically be 'restored', but there will be a beneficial impact on the coastal watershed ecosystem of the River as a result of the implementation of the stormwater management and subsequent capture and treatment of polluted urban runoff and trash prior to its entering the River. The benefits and result of the water treatment features can be considered as conservation and restoration of the River and its associated Coastal water ecosystem.

The project includes improvements that would significantly reduce the amount of untreated runoff entering urban rivers, waterways, or coastal watersheds.

The Project will treat urban runoff before it enters the River. The Project's wetland and stormwater components combined will capture and treat approximately 2.7 million gallons of dry weather and stormwater runoff during an average year thereby reducing the amount of pollution and trash within the River and Pacific Ocean.

The project site has the potential for improvements that would significantly reduce the amount of untreated runoff entering urban rivers, waterways, or coastal watersheds.

The project's stormwater components would treat approximately an 11-acre drainage area, and release 2.2 million gallons of treated and cleaned stormwater during an average year.

The site includes substantial restoration, protection or enhancements of riparian or wetland habitat (>0.2 acres).

The approximately 1.5-acre site will provide opportunity for creation of riparian and/or wetland habitat, protection, and enhancements in an area much larger than 0.2 acres.

The site includes a small scale (0.01 to 0.19 acres) riparian or wetland restoration project.
N/A.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

MRCA has conducted outreach meetings throughout the planning process. Neighborhood working meetings, partnering with the local science magnet school's River Ambassadors program, and partnering with the local Councilmembers Office for community bike rides were all part of the outreach effort.

The project adds a link to a local trail system.

As mentioned, the Project links to the future Los Angeles River regional multi-modal trail and bike path.

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

The Project will provide accessibility and value to a new Park and future bike path to users of all abilities. Accessible curb ramps, walkways, interpretive panels, overlook, and ADA drinking fountains are all incorporated into the design. The Project also seeks to develop public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits, such as stormwater network of a bioswale and wetland, 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 Project will provide information about the park's and River's natural resources. This will promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious 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.

As mentioned the City of Los Angeles is the land owner and partner on the Project. MRCA has been working closely with City staff to design and permit the project. Additionally, the County Flood Control District and City have entered into a Use Agreement for development and maintenance within the County-owned portions of the Project.

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 47 trees to an urban area. The capture and treatment of dry weather and stormwater runoff will be used to irrigate the trees which 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 364,409 pounds (284 tons) of carbon being sequestered by the Project's trees over a period of 40 years (9,110 pound per year).

The iTree Design tool also calculated that the trees being installed as part of the Project will intercept approximately 1,202,659 gallons (.14 acre feet) of stormwater per year. 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 project's bioswale will capture and clean 2.2 million gallons of stormwater from the surrounding drainage area. 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 and clean 2.7 million gallons of stormwater from the surrounding drainage area.

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 runoff. In addition, water will be pumped up from Caballero Creek, treated and stored on site to supply the wetland and for the site's native planting irrigation. The Project includes drought-resistant California native plant species that will require little water; incorporate a cistern that will utilize collected stormwater instead of potable water for irrigation; install water-smart irrigation that will utilize less water; stormwater infiltration, and the uses stormwater management components to capture and treat both dry and wet runoff from the neighborhood and adjacent Creek. The Project will in effect reduce impervious surfaces and promote infiltration and 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 site currently has little to no native vegetation. The existing large shade trees on the site will be preserved and integrated into the new proposed landscaping. The Project will install approximately 47 new California native trees throughout the site. Among many purposes, the vegetation (both native drought-tolerant trees and shrubs) will provide shade, help to generate oxygen, cool the atmosphere, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, 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 engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

All public information regarding the Project, since its inception, has contained education about the Project's many environmental benefits. The surrounding community has participated in public meetings, design workshops, and information has been distributed during local community events. The importance of providing multiple benefit spaces, protecting our natural resources, establishing healthy watersheds, and providing wildlife habitat has been promoted and discussed. The local community will continue to be engaged through the completion of the Project. Key project partners are from Reseda High School, the Councilmember's Office, and other neighborhood organizations.

Interpretive signs in the park will 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 Reseda High School through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

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

While the design phase of the Project has not utilized a local job training entity, a portion of future improvements could be implemented by at-risk youth.

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

The Project has received \$2,446,500 from multiple funding sources, which is 54% of the estimated total cost of the construction.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The Project area is located approximately a 0.2 mile from Metro Bus 164 and 1 mile away from the Metro Orange Line Balboa Station.

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 Caballero Creek Park		
Grant Request: \$ 2,000,000		
Budget Item		Amount
A. MRCA Staff		
various	Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 125,000
9998, 9999	Administrative Cost	\$ 75,000
SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:		\$ 200,000
B. Materials and Supplies		
5112	Land & Building Improvement - Materials	\$ 98,500
7777	Equipment Allocation	\$ 1,500
SUBTOTAL C, Materials and Supplies:		\$ 100,000
C. Consultants and Contractors		
5114	Land & Building Improvement - Subcontractors	\$ 1,200,000
5115	Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 150,000
5116	Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 350,000
SUBTOTAL D, Consultants and Contractors:		\$ 1,700,000
Grand Total (A+B+C):		\$ 2,000,000