

| <b>#</b> | <b>Organization/Entity</b>                                 | <b>Requested Action/Comment</b>  | <b>Conservancy Staff Response</b>   |
|----------|--|--|---|
| 1        | California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) | Provide a clear definition of "local and state conservation corps."  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 1.3.  |
| 2        | California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) | Specify the requirements of Section 80016 of Proposition 68.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 4.4.  |
| 3        | California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) | Clarify consultation process and contacts.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 4.4.  |
| 4        | Community Nature Connection (CNC)                          | A cap of \$50,000 per community access grants limits the potential scope of a proposed program. We recommend that this is increased to a \$100,000 maximum grant award per proposal.                                   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 3.4.  |
| 5        | Community Nature Connection (CNC)                          | The category of climate change value contains criteria that are not possible for community access projects.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 6        | Community Nature Connection (CNC)                          | Community Access AC1 criteria should be removed.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 7        | Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR)                   | Eligibility of Community Access Projects as Stand-Alone Projects   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 3.4.  |
| 8        | Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR)                   | Maximum Allocation of Community Access Funding   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 6.1.  |
| 9        | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Amend the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives in section 2.2 to include implementation of the City of Los Angeles Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. See subtopics below.                                    | The Conservancy supports the City of Los Angeles Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. There is already criteria to address consideration of existing plans within the criteria. For example, there are additional points available when "The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan. "             |
| 10       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Increase public access by completing the trails, greenways and bikeways recommended by the Plan.   | Please see the response to comment 9 regarding implementation of the Plan, also, the Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Category (Section 3.3) addresses these priorities.  |
| 11       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Activate open space recommended by the Plan through design and recreation, cultural and educational activities   | Please see the response to comment 9 regarding implementation of the Plan, also the Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Category (Section 3.4) addresses these priorities.  |
| 12       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Increase community involvement and equity for river communities  | The Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Category (Section 3.4) addresses these priorities.  |
| 13       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Complete the projects recommended in the Plan.   | Please see the response to comment 9 regarding implementation of the Plan.  |
| 14       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Amend the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives in section 2.2 to include implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project. See subtopics below.                        | The Conservancy supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project. There is already criteria to address consideration of existing plans within the criteria. For example, there are additional points available when "The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan. " |
| 15       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Restore Valley Foothill Riparian Strand and Freshwater Marsh Habitat   | The Resource Protection and Restoration Projects Category (Section 3.1) addresses these priorities.   |
| 16       | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services             | Increase Habitat Connectivity between the River the historic floodplain, between habitat patches and nearby significant ecological zones, such as the Santa Monica Mountains, Elysian Hills, and San Gabriel Mountains | The Resource Protection and Restoration Projects Category (Section 3.1) addresses these priorities.   |

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| 17 | LARiverWorks - Mayor's Office of City Services         | Increase Passive Recreation that is consistent with the restored ecosystem   | The Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Category (Section 3.3) addresses these priorities. |
| 18 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Revisions to Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Scoring Criteria. Described below.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 19 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Eliminate criteria not applicable to this project type.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 20 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Reduce total possible points for criteria that do not apply to all projects.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 21 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Combine criteria and allow for a range of points to be given for criteria that are either/or.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 22 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Modify scoring to allow a range of points given.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 23 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Add criteria for provision of drinking water for public use.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 24 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Revisions to Vegetation Management Scoring Criteria. Described below.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 25 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Eliminate criteria not applicable to this project type.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 26 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Reduce total possible points for criteria that do not apply to all projects.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 27 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Revisions to Community Access, Education and Interpretation Scoring Criteria. Described below.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 28 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 29 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Eliminate duplicative criteria   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 30 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Add more criteria that evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of the proposed program for the Conservancy's funding. The points should focus most on core program qualities and how well a program accomplishes the Conservancy's goal to substantially enhance knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural environment, open space, parklands and rivers. | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 31 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Reduce total possible points for criteria that do not apply to all projects.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 32 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Revisions to Resource Protection and Restoration Scoring Criteria. Described below.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 33 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 34 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Combine criteria and allow for a range of points to be given for criteria that are either/or.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 35 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Modify scoring to allow a range of points given.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 36 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Reduce total possible points for criteria that do not apply to all projects.   | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |
| 37 | Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) | Criteria PV7 should only be applied for projects within the Common Ground plan area  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.  |

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| 38 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>While it is important that projects reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this will be difficult for many applicants in this geography to quantify without a standard protocol to compare applications fairly and will require special resources/assistance. In particular, to measure projects that “yield measurable greenhouse gas reductions” or “quantifiable impact” (19), applicants will have to use a tool that is tailored to the Greater Los Angeles region. The guidelines state, “Quantification of greenhouse gas reductions must be done according to the best economic and scientific information available at the time of estimation. Applicants have the burden of measuring and demonstrating emissions reductions, however the Conservancy may assist applicants in selecting tools or methodologies for evaluating carbon benefits” (20). We recommend that the tools or methodologies be included in the application guidelines.</p> | <p>Staff recognizes the difficulty in identifying calculators for the GHG benefits and want to provide guidance while also keeping the door open for new and creative ideas and solutions to address climate change. Staff will develop and provide a list of recommended GHG calculator tools, which it will update regularly and include with the grant round announcements. Staff will update the list as new tools become available. In addition, staff will consider reviewing new calculator tools that are not on the list.</p> |
| 39 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>Projects funded with bond money should be required to not only provide clear metrics of success, but should also generate information from lessons learned for future funding. Projects should explicitly be required to show what went wrong in addition to the traditional list of successes.</p>   | <p>This will be added to the Project Completion Report Template.</p>   |
| 40 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>Projects should build from a strong science foundation and/or advance ongoing research and include publicly accessible monitoring, methods, and data.</p>   | <p>Such projects would be eligible for funding so long as they meet the criteria described in the guidelines.</p>  |
| 41 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>Some allocation of funding should be reserved for investment in “pilot projects” that test new criteria, methods, and approaches for climate resilient habitat and green infrastructure projects that can demonstrate multi-benefit outcomes including potential for carbon sequestration.</p>  | <p>While the Conservancy does not reserve funding for specific project categories, such projects would be eligible for funding so long as they meet the criteria described in the guidelines.</p>  |
| 42 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>We recommend a higher rating for C47 “The site contains substantial potential for restoration of natural vegetation” (25). Currently, it receives a 2, but we recommend a 4.</p>  | <p>This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.</p>  |
| 43 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>However, for CC3, we recommend prioritizing water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions like wetlands, rain gardens, swales, berms, curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, vegetation, tree planting, stream daylighting/restoration, and floodplain reclamation.</p>  | <p>This comment has been implemented as CC8, please see section 7.</p>   |
| 44 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>Also, for “drought-efficient landscaping,” we recommend amending the language to include climate resilient and native landscaping whenever possible (28).</p>   | <p>This comment has been implemented, please see section 7.</p>  |
| 45 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | <p>For projects serving disadvantaged communities, we recommend a specific definition in CV15 of a “realistic plan” (31). In particular, when serving disadvantaged communities, projects should utilize nature-based solutions that provide multiple benefits (water supply, water quality, more impermeable surfaces, water infiltration, urban cooling, shade, access to open space). The projects should be either within a minimum distance of the disadvantaged community or allow access to the projects where siting of the project is not possible in the neighborhood directly.</p>  | <p>This comment has been implemented by assigning a range of points available. A higher score is available for a plan with secured funding, please see section 7.</p>  |

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| 46 | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | We also recommend using the LA County Park Needs Assessment's designation of high need and very high need areas in conjunction with CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool along with any other Greater Los Angeles region specific tools that have been developed in the past 5 years to identify underserved communities. | While the Conservancy must comply with the definitions provided in the language of Proposition 68, we recommend these tools for identifying projects and encourage applicants to include this information in applications. We have added this language in section 2.4. |
| 47 | The Wilderness Society       | Increase the maximum grant size for Community Access projects from \$50,000 to \$80,000 to ensure high-impact project applications that can deliver meaningful programming in Los Angeles County, where the majority of the population is park poor.  | This comment has been implemented, please see section 3.4.   |



CIVICORPS (EAST  
BAY)

July 16, 2018

CONSERVATION  
CORPS NORTH BAY

Craig Sap, Chairperson  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, CA 90265

CONSERVATION  
CORPS OF LONG  
BEACH

*Via email: comments@smmc.ca.gov*

EOC / FRESNO  
LOCAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

**Re: Comments Re: Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines**

Dear Chair Sap,

GREATER VALLEY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

On behalf of the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Draft Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines.

LOS ANGELES  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

CALCC represents 14 local conservation corps certified by the state's California Conservation Corps. The mission of the LCCs is to develop young men and women with job skills training and educational opportunities, especially in the conservation and clean energy fields. The LCCs offer alternatives to youth unemployment, incarceration, poverty, and substance abuse by providing them with targeted job skills training, career planning, educational opportunities, leadership development, counseling, and soft skills training. Corpsmembers participate in programs and projects that address critical state needs, including natural resources and land management projects, energy and climate programs, emergency response and disaster relief, recycling and land diversion programs, and active transportation development.

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

Section 80016 of Proposition 68 contains the following language:  
*"To the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant under this division."*

SACRAMENTO  
REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

Although we appreciate the requirement in Section 4.3 of the Conservancy's guidelines that applicants indicate whether the project will use the services of local or state conservation corps, we fear that this single reference does not explain the legal requirement nor clarify the process in which the corps are to be consulted. CALCC suggests the following changes to satisfy the above, similar to the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines:

SAN FRANCISCO  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

**Provide a clear definition of "local and state conservation corps"** – To be eligible for Section 80016 of Proposition 68, an applicant must utilize the services of a California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps. To prevent confusion, we suggest that the Conservancy provide a clear definition of both in their guidelines. Although the California Conservation Corps is very clearly defined by name, we must highlight that a "certified community conservation corps" is defined by Section 14507.5 of the Public Resources Code.

SAN JOSE  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

**Specify the requirements of Section 80016 of Proposition 68** – Our review of the Conservancy's guidelines identify one reference to the corps, Section 4.3 item 13, which requires that all applicants must indicate if their project utilizes the corps. While we appreciate the clarification this requirement provides, we could not find additional information explaining how this information is to be used in project eligibility and

SEQUOIA  
COMMUNITY  
CORPS (TULARE)

URBAN CORPS OF  
THE INLAND  
EMPIRE

URBAN CORPS  
OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY





CIVICORPS (EAST  
BAY)

selection. We would suggest that the Conservancy include additional information, such as that in the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines, which provide information regarding eligibility and processes for determining feasibility representative of the requirements in statute.

CONSERVATION  
CORPS NORTH BAY

CONSERVATION  
CORPS OF LONG  
BEACH

**Clarify consultation process and contacts** – In order to increase transparency of the requirements of Section 80016 in Proposition 68 and best prepare applicants, we suggest that the Conservancy include clear and concise information about how the statute will impact applications, how applicants can communicate with the corps, and pertinent contact information. We would support the inclusion of information similar to that in Section 2.3 of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines, and would highly suggest the preparation of resources similar to the "Corps Consultation Process" document on the Conservancy's website, produced and dated June 2015.

EOC / FRESNO  
LOCAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

GREATER VALLEY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

Through these comments, we hope to create a more transparent program that represents the language in Proposition 68, and the goals supported by California voters. Proposition 68 provides great opportunities for our environment, communities, and especially our youth, and we look forward to seeing these programs implemented. On behalf of the California Association of Local Conservation Corps and the thousands of underserved youth we serve annually, thank you for your consideration.

LOS ANGELES  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

Best Regards,

ORANGE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SACRAMENTO  
REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner  
President  
California Association of Local Conservation Corps

SAN FRANCISCO  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SAN JOSE  
CONSERVATION  
CORPS

SEQUOIA  
COMMUNITY  
CORPS (TULARE)

URBAN CORPS OF  
THE INLAND  
EMPIRE

URBAN CORPS  
OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNTY

**ENABLING  
CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL  
CONSERVATION CORPS  
TO WORK TOGETHER TO  
BUILD STRONG YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANIZATIONS  
THROUGH A PROGRAM**

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July 16, 2018

Craig Sap, Chair  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Dear Chairman Sap and Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Draft Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines. Community Nature Connection (CNC) is particularly focused on the exciting opportunity that is the category of Community Access. We appreciate the SMMC's timely inclusion of criteria for community access programs in its proposed grant guidelines and encourage the Conservancy to allocate their full 5% allowance to community access projects to ensure support for the great need that exists.

CNC applauds the leadership that the SMMC has shown throughout the years in ensuring that access to public lands extends to our most underserved audiences. Prop 68's focus on community access will allow that legacy to continue. As defined below by Section 800002(b) "Community access" means engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities."

Community Nature Connection's mission is to increase access to the outdoors for diverse communities with innovative programs and in partnership with the communities we serve. We know that to address barriers to access to open space programs much address lack of transportation for underserved communities, job training to diversify staff and increase representation of all communities, culturally relevant programming and inclusive community outreach and engagement. The inclusion of community access in Proposition 68 allows for all of that. With that said we respectfully submit the following comments:

A cap of \$50,000 per community access grant limits the potential scope of a proposed program. We recommend that this is increased to a \$100,000 maximum grant award per proposal.

The category of climate change value contains criteria that are directed at acquisitions or capital improvement projects and are not possible for community access projects, such as those described in your own examples, to accomplish. Category CC7 seems appropriate for community access grants.

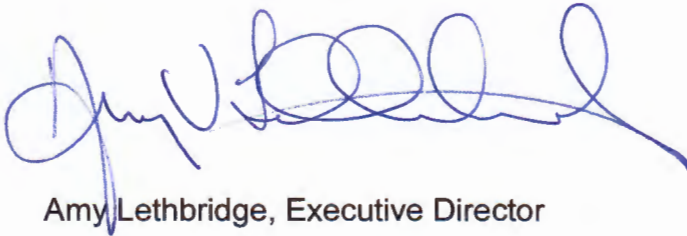
Similarly, in the category of "Additional Consideration," AC1 should be deleted. While a targeted and specifically designed community access program may have a direct impact on "an imminent threat to



[WWW.COMMUNITYNATURECONNECTION.ORG](http://WWW.COMMUNITYNATURECONNECTION.ORG)

natural environment, open space, parkland and rivers” most programs, as demonstrated by your own examples, will not. We believe this is more relevant to capital projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy Lethbridge', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amy Lethbridge, Executive Director

Community Nature Connection





July 16, 2018

Craig Sap, Chairperson  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, CA 90265

*Via email: comments@smmc.ca.gov*

**Re: Comments Re: Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines**

Dear Chair Sap,

On behalf of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR), I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Draft Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines.

Friends of the Los Angeles River, also known as FoLAR, was founded in 1986, and is the longest standing grassroots river advocacy organization in Los Angeles. With over 100,000 members, our organization has worked for years to ensure the Los Angeles River is both sustainable and accessible, encouraging community engagement and promoting public awareness and education. FoLAR's vision is for the upper Los Angeles River to become a mecca for Los Angeles residents, where recreation and wildlife can coexist, and we have been actively and strategically working to achieve this goal through grassroots leadership and advocacy, including river cleanups, watershed education, and community programming.

Proposition 68 is a landmark initiative, cementing the state's dedication to not only our natural resources and environments, but also to advancing equity in the distribution of funding, delivery and implementation of programs, and access to completed projects.

To this end, we strongly support your inclusion of Sections 80002(b) and 80008(c) of Proposition 68 in your program guidelines as they pertain to "community access" projects, and suggest the following:

**Eligibility of Community Access Projects as Stand-Alone Projects** – We appreciate the Conservancy's identification of "Community Access, Education and Interpretation

Projects” as an eligible use of program funding, as well as the additional detail and examples provided. We would especially urge that community access projects remain eligible as stand-alone projects, and that further clarity be provided to maintain this eligibility if needed.

**Maximum Allocation of Community Access Funding** – We want to highlight Section 80008(c) of Proposition 68, and encourage the Conservancy to allocate their full 5% allowance to community access projects to ensure support for the great need that exists.

Community access projects are critical to ensure that residents are able to truly and equitably experience the benefits of our natural environment, and we appreciate and encourage the Conservancy’s inclusion of this landmark language and funding in its Proposition 68 Program Guidelines.

On behalf of Friends of the Los Angeles River, thank you for your consideration, and for your continued support of our local communities and environment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Christiansen', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Marissa Christiansen  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Los Angeles River

## Melissa Smith

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**From:** Amalia Merino <amalia.merino@lacity.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 3:29 PM  
**To:** Comments@smmc.ca.gov  
**Cc:** Artie Mandel; michael.affeldt@lacity.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment - PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon State of California, The Natural Resources Agency, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy:

Please find comments to the draft Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines below.

To include on page 7 of the Guidelines under 2.2, Strategic Objectives:

*Implement the City of Los Angeles Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan*

- Increase public access by completing the trails, greenways and bikeways recommended by the Plan
- Activate open space recommended by the Plan through design and recreational, cultural and educational activities
- Increase community involvement and equity for river communities
- Complete the projects recommended in the Plan

*Implement the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project*

- Restore Valley Foothill Riparian Strand and Freshwater Marsh Habitat
- Increase Habitat Connectivity between the River and the historic floodplain, between habitat patches and nearby significant ecological zones, such as the Santa Monica Mountains, Elysian Hills, and San Gabriel Mountains
- Increase Passive Recreation that is consistent with the restored ecosystem

Thank you,  
Amalia Merino

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**Amalia M. Merino**  
Policy Analyst, LARiverWorks  
Mayor's Office of City Services  
Tel: 213-473-9924  
[www.lariver.org](http://www.lariver.org)



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 441-8691

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 16, 2018  
**TO:** File  
**FROM:** Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer  
**RE:** Comments on Proposition 68 draft guidelines

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MRCRA offers the following comments on the Conservancy's draft Proposition 68 competitive grant guidelines. Our comments are focused specifically on the scoring criteria.

### **Visitor Serving Development and Improvement**

A revised scoring rubric that incorporates all the changes listed is attached for your convenience.

Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type: CC5, CV25, CC2, CV5.

The following criteria do not apply to all projects, and the total points possible should be reduced as needed:

Criteria PV7 should only be applied for projects within the Common Ground plan area (Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds).

PV4 – should only apply if a potential consequence is an increase in the cost of housing.

CV11 – should only apply if the project is a plan or feasibility study.

Combine criteria and allow for a range of points to be given, for criteria that are either/or:  
CV8 and 9: combine and give range of 2-4 points, with higher score for new venue and lower for enhancing an existing one.

CV22 and 23: combine and give a range of 2-4 points, with higher scores for larger areas restored (4 points for restoration area >2.0 acre, 2 points for <1.0 acre). No points for projects landscaped with species not part of a native ecosystem appropriate to the site.

Modify scoring to allow a range of points given:

PV3 – 1 point for planning level permit, 2 for all use agreements and submittal to regulatory agencies, 3 for all building permits ready to issue.

CV1 – 2 to 4 points, with higher score for more benefits.

CV3 – 1-3 points, with higher score for new access point and lower score for improvements to an existing one.

CV4 – 2-4 points, with higher score for new links that bridge a gap in system to make a continuous trail, lower score for new segments that don't address a non-continuous gap.

CV13 – 2-4 points, with higher score for more ability levels/types served.

CV14 – 2-3 points, with higher score only for accommodating all three.

CV15 – 1-3 points, with higher score for a plan with secured funding .

CV16 – 2-4 points, with higher score for new access and lower for enhancing an existing.

CV19 – 1-4 points, with higher score for multiple BMPs providing greater benefit.

**Additional Notes:**

Add criteria for provision of drinking water for public use, 2 points.

CV11 – modify wording

**Vegetation Management**

Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type:

PV3, CV5, CV7, CC2, CC5, AC1, AC3.

The following criteria do not apply to all projects, and the total points possible should be reduced as needed:

Criteria PV6 should only be applied for projects within the Common Ground plan area (Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds).

**Community Access, Education and Interpretation**

Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type: PV3, CV3, CV4, CV6, CV7, CV11, CV13, CV14, CC1 ,CC2, CC3, CC4, CC5, CC6.

Eliminate duplicative criteria: CV1.

Add more criteria that evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of the proposed program for the Conservancy's funding. The points should focus most on core program qualities and how well a program accomplishes the Conservancy's goal to substantially enhance knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural environment, open space, parklands and rivers.

The following criteria do not apply to all projects, and the total points possible should be reduced as needed:

Criteria PV6 should only be applied for projects within the Common Ground plan area (Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds).

**Resource Protection and Restoration**

Eliminate criteria not applicable to the project type: PV2, CC1, CC3.

Eliminate duplicative criteria:

Combine criteria and allow for a range of points to be given, for criteria that are either/or:

C3 and C4 – 2-4 points, with higher score for larger amount of area in significant area

C5 and C6 – 2-3 points, with higher score for higher species diversity

C13 and C14 – 2-4 points, with higher score for greater percent cover

C16 and C17 - 2-4 points, with higher score for greater percent cover

C18, 19, and 20 – 1-4 points, with higher score for better quality habitat that is better integrated

C25 and C26 – 1-4 points, with higher score for a more valuable trail link

C35 and C36 – 2-4 points, with higher score for larger-scale features

C38 and C39 – 2-4 points, with higher score for more significant contribution

C43 and C44 – 2-4 points, with higher score for larger areas connected

C45 and C46 – 1-3 points, with higher score for larger restoration potential

C47 and C48 – 1-3 points, with higher score for larger restoration potential

Modify scoring to allow a range of points given:

C1 – 2 to 4 points, with higher score for more benefits.

C31 – 2-3 points, with higher score only for accommodating all three.

C30 – 2-4 points, with higher score for more ability levels/types served.

The following criteria do not apply to all projects, and the total points possible should be reduced as needed:

Criteria PV7 should only be applied for projects within the Common Ground plan area (Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds).

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

| Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects |  |              |                     |
|--|--|--------------|---------------------|
| Project Evaluation Criteria                          |  |              |                     |
| MRCA comments, 7/16/2018                             |  |              |                     |
| Prioritization Value                                 |  | Rating       |                     |
| PV1  | Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.   | 3            |                     |
| PV2  | Project achieves 80001(b)(5) by providing workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.   | 3            |                     |
| PV3  | Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.   | 1-3          | range of 1-3 points |
| PV4  | Project achieves 80001(b)(9) - advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project is an increase in the cost of housing.                                       | 3            | only as applicable  |
| PV5  | Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).   | 3            |                     |
| PV6  | Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.  | 3            |                     |
| PV7  | Project achieves more than one of Common Ground guiding principles.  | 3            | only as applicable  |
| <b>Total Prioritization Value</b>                    |  | <b>13-21</b> |                     |
| Category Value                                       |  | Rating       |                     |
| CV1  | The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.  | 2-4          | range of 2-4 points |
| CV2  | The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan.  | 4            |                     |
| CV11   | The project provides a plan or feasibility study <del>to advance that</del> <u>enhances</u> cooperative watershed health protection <u>activities</u> or recreation <u>goals</u> important to two or more organizations. | 2            | only as applicable  |
| CV15   | Applicant has a realistic plan for serving disadvantaged communities upon completion of the improvements.  | 1-3          | range of 1-3 points |
| CV19   | The project uses renewable or non-potable water sources of water, such as reclaimed water, captured stormwater, or other method.   | 1-4          | range of 1-4 points |
| CV20   | Project implements Best Management Practices (BMP) to treat stormwater.  | 1-3          | range of 1-3 points |
|  | Project provides safe and reliable drinking water supplies to park and open space visitors.  | 2            |                     |
| CV3  | The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.  | 1-3          | range of 1-3 points |
| CV4  | The project completes a new, significant link in a regional trail system.  | 2-4          | range of 2-4 points |



| Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects |   |               |                     |
|--|---|---------------|---------------------|
| Project Evaluation Criteria                          |   |               |                     |
| MRCA comments, 7/16/2018                             |   |               |                     |
| CV6  | Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5 mile radius.  | 4             |                     |
| CV14   | The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists and equestrians.   | 2-3           | range of 2-3 points |
| CV16   | The project results in new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.                      | 2-4           | range of 2-4 points |
| CV17   | The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a natural resource.                         | 2             |                     |
| CV8  | The project creates a new venue, <u>or enhances an existing venue,</u> for education and/or interpretation activities that promote natural resources stewardship. | 2-4           | range of 2-4 points |
| CV7  | The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5 mile radius.  | 2             |                     |
| CV10   | The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic viewshed.   | 3             |                     |
| CV12   | The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to existing parkland.   | 3             |                     |
| CV13   | Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.   | 2-4           | range of 2-4 points |
| CV18   | The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.  | 3             |                     |
| CV21   | The project directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area including fish and wildlife corridors.                                | 2             |                     |
| CV22   | The project includes restoration, protection or enhancements of a native ecosystem appropriate to the site.   | 2-4           | range of 2-4 points |
| CV24   | Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.  | 2             |                     |
| CV26   | The project employs new or innovative technology or practices.  | 1             |                     |
| <b>Total Category Value</b>                          |   | <b>55-73</b>  |                     |
| <b>Implementation Value</b>                          |   | <b>Rating</b> |                     |
| IV1  | Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.  | 3             |                     |
| IV2  | Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.  | 3             |                     |
| IV3  | Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.   | 3             |                     |
| IV4  | The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.                 | 2             |                     |
| IV5  | Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.   | 2             |                     |
| IV6  | Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.  | 1             |                     |

| Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects                       |   |                |  |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Project Evaluation Criteria  |   |                |  |
| MRCA comments, 7/16/2018   |   |                |  |
| IV7  | Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.   | 1              |  |
| IV8  | Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.  | 1              |  |
| <b>Total Implementation Value</b>  |   | <b>16</b>      |  |
|  |   |                |  |
| <b>Climate Change Value</b>  |   | <b>Rating</b>  |  |
| CC1  | 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.  | 3              |  |
| CC3  | 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, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage. | 3              |  |
| CC4  | The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.  | 3              |  |
| CC6  | The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.  | 2              |  |
| CC7  | The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.   | 2              |  |
| <b>Total Climate Change Value</b>  |   | <b>13</b>      |  |
|  |   |                |  |
| <b>Additional Consideration</b>  |   | <b>Rating</b>  |  |
| AC1  | The site is subject to an imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.  | 5              |  |
| AC2  | Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.   | 5              |  |
| AC3  | Project is within 0.25 miles of public transportation.  | 5              |  |
| AC4  | Project serves a disadvantaged community.   | 5              |  |
| AC5  | Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.  | 5              |  |
| <b>Total Additional Consideration</b>                                      |   | <b>25</b>      |  |
|  |   |                |  |
| <b>Primary Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating</b> |   | <b>Rating</b>  |  |
| Prioritization Value   |   | 13-21          |  |
| Category Value   |   | 46-70          |  |
| Implementation Value   |   | 16             |  |
| Climate Change Value   |   | 13             |  |
| Additional Consideration   |   | 25             |  |
| <b>Total Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating</b>   |   | <b>113-145</b> |  |
|  |   |                |  |
| <b>Matching Funds Weighting</b>  |   |                |  |

|  |  |               |  |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects |  |               |  |
| Project Evaluation Criteria                          |  |               |  |
| <b>MRCA comments, 7/16/2018</b>                      |  |               |  |
|  | Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double. |               |  |
|  |  |               |  |
|  |  |               |  |
| <b>Minimum Score Required for Consideration</b>      |  | <b>80-101</b> |  |



July 12, 2018

Dear Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board Members,

The Wilderness Society would like to provide comments on the Draft Proposition 68 (Prop 68) Program Grant Guidelines. Our organization thanks you for the prompt release of the draft guidelines as this help will provide timely availability of much needed funds.

The passage of Prop 68 is a major victory for parks, open space, and clean water across California. As an organization that advocates for public lands and seeks to inspire champions of parks and open space from all communities, we are excited to see its implementation. Prop 68's focus on community access, as defined below by Section 80002(b), is a unique and bold step towards advancing park and open space funding equity:

*"Community access" means engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities."*

Additionally, Section 80008(c) authorizes administering agencies to allocate as much as 5% of their Proposition 68 funds for community access projects, as defined in the following:

*(1) Up to 5 percent of funds available pursuant to each chapter of this division shall, to the extent permissible under the State General Obligation Bond Law (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16720) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code) and with the concurrence of the Director of Finance, be allocated for community access projects that include, but are not limited to, the following:*

*(A) Transportation.*

*(B) Physical activity programming.*

*(C) Resource interpretation.*

*(D) Multilingual translation.*

*(E) Natural science.*

*(F) Workforce development and career pathways.*

*(G) Education.*

*(H) Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.*

*(2) This subdivision does not apply to Chapter 11.1 (commencing with Section 80141) and Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 80150).*

The Wilderness Society supports the inclusion of Community Access language in your grant guidelines as it will encourage applications for projects that bring various benefits to a diverse range of communities, in particular marginalized communities of color that are not in close proximity to mountains, beaches, parks, trails, or rivers.

Further, we would urge you to increase the maximum grant size for Community Access projects from \$50,000 to \$80,000 to ensure high-impact project applications that can deliver meaningful programming in Los Angeles County, where the majority of the population is park-poor.

The Wilderness Society believes that everyone, regardless of race, income or zip code should have access to parks and open space. We look forward to seeing Prop 68 funds reach a wide range of projects in areas of high-need, and we support increased community access as we continue to inspire champions for public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette Lopez-Ledesma', followed by a period.

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma  
Urban to Wild Assistant Director  
The Wilderness Society



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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July 16, 2018

Mr. Joe Edmiston  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265

Dear Mr. Edmiston,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) Draft Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines).

The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) is a global, nonprofit conservation organization with over one million members. The mission of the Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In pursuing this mission, the Conservancy relies on a science-based approach both to identify key threats to important natural communities and to develop effective strategies for their conservation.

Proposition 68 affords an excellent opportunity to direct funding to achieve the broader objective of moving the State toward a climate resilient future with a safe, clean water supply, equitable park access, wildlife corridors, and open space.

In order to achieve the prioritization of meeting regional and statewide goals, SMMC should reward grant proposals that deliver multiple benefits (e.g., ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply, community benefits, flood protection, economic, etc.).

The consideration of preparing for and addressing the impacts of climate change should be at the forefront as SMMC finalizes its guidelines and implements Proposition 68. For this reason, we greatly appreciate the consideration of climate change in the Program Guidelines and encourage SMMC to keep this issue top of mind going forward. In addition, the Conservancy offers the following general comments on the Program Guidelines:

- We commend SMMC for supporting the State's goals of conserving water and reaching greenhouse gas reduction targets by seeking to fund land acquisition, ecosystem protection and restoration, vegetation management, water quality, and natural system function restoration projects.

- Consideration of future climate impacts is essential for long term project success. Thus, projects funded with bond funds should not only advance restoration today, but promote durability, adaptability, and resilience into the future.
- While it is important that projects reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this will be difficult for many applicants in this geography to quantify without a standard protocol to compare applications fairly and will require special resources/assistance. In particular, to measure projects that “yield measurable greenhouse gas reductions” or “quantifiable impact” (19), applicants will have to use a tool that is tailored to the Greater Los Angeles region. The guidelines state, “Quantification of greenhouse gas reductions must be done according to the best economic and scientific information available at the time of estimation. Applicants have the burden of measuring and demonstrating emissions reductions, however the Conservancy may assist applicants in selecting tools or methodologies for evaluating carbon benefits” (20). We recommend that the tools or methodologies be included in the application guidelines.
- Projects funded with bond money should be required to not only provide clear metrics of success, but should also generate information from lessons learned for future funding. Projects should explicitly be required to show what went wrong in addition to the traditional list of successes.
- Projects should build from a strong science foundation and/or advance ongoing research and include publicly accessible monitoring, methods, and data.
- Some allocation of funding should be reserved for investment in “pilot projects” that test new criteria, methods, and approaches for climate resilient habitat and green infrastructure projects that can demonstrate multi-benefit outcomes including potential for carbon sequestration.

The Conservancy offers the following specific comments on the Program Guidelines:

- We commend that the “Prioritization Value” in the “Project Evaluation” section includes urban recreation, protection or restoration of natural resource, workforce education and training, and anti-displacement solutions that take the cost of housing into account.
- We also commend the inclusion of “water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources” in the “Category Value” section as well as ratings for ecology and species diversity, plant communities, forest and/or oak woodland, fresh water habitat, riparian habitat, wetland habitat, upland habitat, vegetative cover, wildlife, and trails.
- We recommend a higher rating for C47 “The site contains substantial potential for restoration of natural vegetation” (25). Currently, it receives a 2, but we recommend a 4.
- For the “Climate Change Value” section, we commend the inclusion of greenhouse gas emission reduction, tree canopy cover, greenways in urban areas, wildlife corridors and linkages, trails, outreach, and education. However, for CC3, we recommend prioritizing water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions like wetlands, rain gardens, swales, berms, curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, vegetation, tree planting, stream daylighting/restoration, and floodplain reclamation. Also, for “drought-efficient landscaping,” we recommend amending the language to include *climate resilient and native landscaping* whenever possible (28).



- For projects serving disadvantaged communities, we recommend a specific definition in CV15 of a “realistic plan” (31). In particular, when serving disadvantaged communities, projects should utilize nature-based solutions that provide multiple benefits (water supply, water quality, more permeable surfaces, water infiltration, urban cooling, shade, access to open space). The projects should be either within a minimum distance of the disadvantaged community or allow access to the projects where siting of the project is not possible in the neighborhood directly. We also recommend using the LA County Park Needs Assessment’s designation of high need and very high need areas in conjunction with CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool along with any other Greater Los Angeles region specific tools that have been developed in the past 5 years to identify underserved communities.

The Conservancy looks forward to the opportunity to work with SMMC to ensure the final Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines provide funding for multi-benefit ecosystem protection and habitat restoration projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shona Ganguly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shona Ganguly  
Associate Director, Advocacy & Campaigns  
The Nature Conservancy