

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 28, 2019

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the City of Los Angeles for pre-improvement planning for the G2 Taylor Yard project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant not to exceed \$1,500,000 in Proposition 1 urban creek funds to the City of Los Angeles for project planning and design and improvements for more immediate public access and habitat restoration for the “Early Activation” phase of the G2 Taylor Yard river park project on the Los Angeles River.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the City of Los Angeles. The City is in partnership with the Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for restoring the former Taylor Yard rail site adjacent to a soft-bottom segment of the Los Angeles River into a regionally significant park space, which would “enhance habitat connectivity, develop wildlife habitat, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.” The City’s grant application complements a grant from the Conservancy to the MRCA for planning and construction of at least interim improvements for public access and habitat restoration on G2. The City indicates matching funding of \$1,666,667 for a total project cost of \$3,166,667, which will be used for the project, including Environmental Assessment work.

Scoring under the Conservancy’s revised Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant Guidelines results in the project receiving 86 points (out of a possible 86; (61 minimum required), plus 4 out of 4 carbon reduction points, plus 20 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 110** (out of a possible 115). Staff recommends award of \$1,500,000 for this project.