

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration Project in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve	Amount of Request: \$50,000 Total Project Cost: Matching Funds: \$167,860 Lat/Long:								
Applicant Name: Friends of the Los Angeles River	Project Address: 6350 Woodley Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">County</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Senate District</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Assembly District</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>			County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	27	45
County				Senate District	Assembly District				
Los Angeles				27	45				
Applicant Address: 570 W. Avenue 26 #250 Los Angeles, CA 90065									
Phone: 323 223-0585 Email: sbacklar@folar.org									
Tax ID: 954171497									

Grantee's Authorized Representative:

Name and Title **Shelly Backlar, Vice President of Programs**

Phone **323 223-0585**

Overhead Allocation Notice:

- ☒ Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.
- ☒ The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.
- ☒ The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.

Outreach and Advertising Requirement:

- ☒ Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies.
- ☒ Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.

All check boxes must be checked

Brief Project Description:

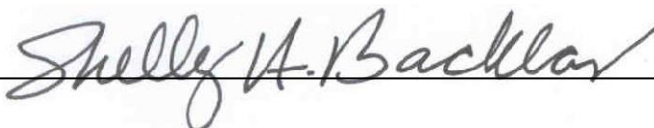
Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) are engaging volunteers to remove invasive plant species from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. This project will re-establish native vegetation, improve habitat, reduce fire hazard, address climate change, and connect disadvantaged residents to both active and passive recreational opportunities afforded in the 2,000-acre Sepulveda Basin.

*attach additional pages with project detail

Tasks / Milestones:		Budget:	Completion Date
1	Volunteer Management, Community Engagement	\$10,000	December 2019
2	Communication, Promotion, Media Relations	\$7,500	December 2019
3	Biological monitoring and GIS mapping	\$20,000	December 2019
4	Video documentation	\$5,000	December 2019
5	15% Administration Expense	\$7,500	December 2019

For Acquisition Projects: **APN(s):** N/A
 Acreage: N/A

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



November 30, 2018

Signature of Authorized Representative

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration Project

NARRATIVE (Summary)

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) are partnering to engage volunteers to remove invasive plant species from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. This project will re-establish native vegetation, improve habitat, reduce fire hazard, address climate change, and connect disadvantaged residents to both active and passive recreational opportunities afforded in the 2,000-acre Sepulveda Basin.

Proposals must include:

1) A detailed scope of work, including a list of specific tasks, a detailed budget, and a timeline for project implementation (including a completion date for each task);

BUDGET

Volunteer Management, Community Engagement	\$10,000
Communication, Promotion, Media Relations	\$ 7,500
Video Documentation	\$ 5,000
Biological Monitoring and GIS Mapping	\$20,000
15% Administration Expense	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
Request	\$50,000

SCOPE OF WORK

JANUARY 2019

Friends of the Los Angeles River and the California Native Plant Society convene a meeting with Tom Ryan of Ryan Ecological Consulting, Jason Casanova of the Council for Watershed Health and other stakeholders from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee to walk the site, share information and discuss our work plan.

A February date for an invasive plant removal work day will be set, prior to nesting season, and promoted via our collective networks. FoLAR will write a blog post, promote the event via our database of over 40,000 supporters and contact local media.

FoLAR staff and docents will canvass the neighborhoods north of the project area, where according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0 over 5,000 residents identified as disadvantaged community members live, with bi-lingual flyers informing community members of our efforts and encouraging them to join us for weekly Tuesday and Thursday morning efforts as well as the February work party. FoLAR's 30th annual Great Los Angeles River CleanUp, happening on April 13 in the Sepulveda Basin, will also be promoted.

Biological monitoring will take place and a cadre of volunteers will be trained by Tom Ryan to assist with bird point counts. Data will be uploaded to FoLAR's iNaturalist page as well as eBird. Jason Casanova will prepare the GIS mapping system and train point people on how to record data that can be uploaded.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and outreach events.

Weekly invasive plant removal activities will continue. A dedicated group of up to seven people regularly attend. FoLAR will promote the effort, encouraging volunteers to join in.

FEBRUARY 2019

The first of two weekend invasive plant removal work parties will take place, likely from 9:00 AM to Noon. The LA River Rover will be on site along with FoLAR education staff and docents. Bird and plant walks will be offered. The event will be documented via video.

Participants will RSVP for the event and will receive a survey afterward. We will track how volunteers heard about the event and other details that will inform our project going forward. FoLAR will share photos and stories via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and volunteers will be encouraged to do the same.

Weekly invasive plant removal activities will continue. Data will be collected and shared with Jason Casanova for GIS mapping.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and outreach events. FoLAR will promote the effort, encouraging volunteers to join in.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Great LA River CleanUp, encouraging volunteers to join us

MARCH 2019

Friends of the Los Angeles River and the California Native Plant Society will convene a meeting with project stakeholders to discuss successes and lessons learned.

Data collected will be shared with volunteers and the general public through our Stakeholder network, social media, FoLAR's website and our monthly electronic newsletter – the River Reader.

Biomonitoring data and GIS mapping will be distilled and shared.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Great LA River CleanUp, encouraging volunteers to join us.

APRIL 2019

FoLAR's 30th Annual Great LA River CleanUp will take place in the Sepulveda Basin. The invasive plant removal efforts will be shared with CleanUp volunteers to inform them about the Basin's habitat and our efforts to restore a crucial ecosystem for nesting and migrating birds.

Each year FoLAR engages a Public Relations Consultant in conjunction with the CleanUp and the media campaign will be executed in connection with this historic event and press releases will include information on the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve Habitat Restoration Project. FoLAR staff and stakeholders will be on hand to speak with the public and the press. Our videographer will document the event.

Press coverage will be shared as above.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at CleanUp sites in the Glendale Narrows and the Lower River.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Great LA River CleanUp, encouraging volunteers to join us.

MAY 2019

A CleanUp recap will be shared via FoLAR's monthly electronic newsletter, the River Reader. Press associated with the event and the Reserve Habitat Restoration Project will be highlighted and promoted via FoLAR social media.

The Sepulveda Basin Recreation Zone opens on Memorial Day. Information about the Project will be shared with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and kayak operators to raise awareness of and recruit volunteers for invasive plant removal.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Recreation Zone kayak and fishing activities.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and other outreach events.

JUNE 2019

Friends of the Los Angeles River and the California Native Plant Society convene a meeting with Tom Ryan of Ryan Ecological Consulting, Jason Casanova of the Council for Watershed Health and other stakeholders from the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee to walk the site, share information and discuss our work plan.

Ryan Ecological Consulting monitors bird habit in and adjacent to invasive plant removal efforts. Documents and shares results with Stakeholders.

Jason Casanova updates GIS map and shares results with Stakeholders.

JULY 2019

FoLAR staff and docents will canvass the neighborhoods north of the project area, where according to CalEnviroscreen 3.0 over 5,000 residents identified as disadvantaged community members live, with bi-lingual flyers informing community members of our efforts and encouraging them to join us for weekly Tuesday and Thursday morning efforts as well as the September work party.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Recreation Zone kayak and fishing activities.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and outreach events.

Weekly invasive plant removal activities will continue. A dedicated group of up to seven people regularly attend. FoLAR will promote the effort, encouraging volunteers to join in.

AUGUST 2019

Biological monitoring will take place and a cadre of volunteers will be trained by Tom Ryan to assist with bird point counts. Data will be uploaded to FoLAR's iNaturalist page as well as eBird. Jason Casanova will prepare the GIS mapping system and train point people on how to record data that can be uploaded.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts as well as the Recreation Zone kayak and fishing activities.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and outreach events.

Weekly invasive plant removal activities will continue. A dedicated group of up to seven people regularly attend. FoLAR will promote the effort, encouraging volunteers to join in.

SEPTEMBER 2019

The first of two weekend invasive plant removal work parties will take place, likely from 9:00 AM to Noon. The LA River Rover will be on site along with FoLAR education staff and docents. Bird and plant walks will be offered. The event will be documented via video.

Participants will RSVP for the event and will receive a survey afterward. We will track how volunteers heard about the event and other details that will inform our project going forward. FoLAR will share photos and stories via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and volunteers will be encouraged to do the same.

Weekly invasive plant removal activities will continue. Data will be collected and shared with Jason Casanova for GIS mapping.

Information about the Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration Project will be shared at FoLAR River Rover, tabling and outreach events. FoLAR will promote the effort, encouraging volunteers to join in.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts and encourage volunteers to join us

OCTOBER 2019

Friends of the Los Angeles River and the California Native Plant Society will convene a meeting with project stakeholders to discuss successes and lessons learned.

Data collected will be shared with volunteers and the general public through our Stakeholder network, social media, FoLAR's website and our monthly electronic newsletter – the River Reader.

Biomonitoring data and GIS mapping will be distilled and shared.

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly bird walks will be promoted and a FoLAR representative will attend to promote our invasive removal efforts and encourage volunteers to join us

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019

The activities undertaken during the project will be filmed and turned into multi-media presentations to demonstrate the power of volunteerism and citizen science. The data collected will be distilled into a report that can be shared and cited for future habitat restoration efforts to come.

Results will be shared with the press, on FoLAR's website, via our monthly electronic newsletter, the River Reader, and on social media.

2) Any preliminary project plans as required;

Not applicable for this project

3) A detailed description of the need and urgency for the grant;

According to the California Coastal Conservancy, close to 100 percent of the original wetlands and 90 to 95 percent of in-stream riparian habitat within the Los Angeles River watershed have been lost, a consequence of urbanization and the channelization of rivers and creeks. Within the 32-mile Los Angeles River project area, the only areas that presently support riparian habitat are Sepulveda Basin and the Glendale Narrows. These areas

are increasingly stressed by exotic species, hydrologic modifications, dumping of trash and debris, and encroaching development.

Located in the San Fernando the 2,000-acre Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area is a flood control basin managed by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. In 1990 the City of Los Angeles set aside 200 acres to establish the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. There are scant historical records depicting the habitat of the Sepulveda Basin before it was dammed in the 1940's. While the soft-bottomed portion of the Los Angeles River has always been a "wildlife area," it wasn't until the late 1970's when the Army Corp of Engineers began to revegetate the east portion of the Sepulveda Basin with California native plants.

The 225-acre Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve is the only officially designated wildlife area along the River, within the city of Los Angeles. The soft-bottom portions of the River here and at the Glendale Narrows provide valuable resting and feeding zones for migratory birds. Since the Reserve is located in a flood control basin every time the Basin floods, every invasive plant seed (as well as native seeds) in the upper L.A. River watershed gets caught there. As the flood waters recede, a one-half to one-inch layer of silt is deposited over every portion of the Basin that was flooded. This silt layer is the perfect example of exposed, disturbed soil, the kind of condition that weed seeds are highly adapted to and thus can easily germinate if the seeds are also exposed to light. So weed management will be an ongoing project in the Basin.

Since 1989 Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) has mobilized over 50,000 volunteers to remove over 400 tons of trash and debris from the Los Angeles River. These volunteers turn out year after year to protect and restore the River's habitat and they are looking for further volunteer opportunities. Friends of the Los Angeles River seeks to provide such an opportunity while expanding our services to include the much needed invasive species removal that threatens the little remaining riparian habitat. Friends of the Los Angeles River has the most extensive network of motivated River volunteers to aide in this effort, making this a prime opportunity for both community-building, as well as habitat repair.

Since 2010, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has led a small but dedicated volunteer team to manually remove weeds by hand and with tools. Because weeds are often loaded with viable seeds, waste is considered trash and the City of LA Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) has assisted by picking up bags and disposing of them in landfills. Records since 2011 show the following activities:

- 2011 -144 hours (Oct.-Dec.) with 161 bags
- 2012 -626 hours with 629 bags
- 2013 -287 hours with 255 bags
- 2014 -298 hours with 311 bags
- 2015 -365 hours with 238 bags
- 2016 -491 hours with 425 bags
- 2017 -555 hours with 397 bags

Common weeds that have been nearly eliminated from the North Wildlife Reserve include giant reed grass (*Arrundo donax*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca scariola*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), and burning nettle (*Urtica urens*).

Annual non-native mustards-like *Hirschfeldia incana* and *Brassica* species-can grow to 6' tall and create a thick accumulation. This layer of biomass hides the dreaded horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) quickly learned that removing the mustard allowed them to find and remove horehound and other invasive weeds such as Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.), thistles (*Centaurea* spp., *Carduus* spp.), and wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*). Another researched-based reason to remove mustard is that nonnative members of the

mustard family can suppress mycorrhizal fungi. The lack of fungi reduces the germination success of native plants (Burke 2008).

4) A detailed description of how the project will provide multi-benefit ecosystem, water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and public benefits;

Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife over thousands of years, and therefore offer the most sustainable habitat. They also assist in managing rain water runoff and maintain healthy soil as their root systems are deep and keep soil from being compacted.

Bird species of special concern that are found along the River Corridor include:

American White Pelican	Coopers Hawk	Yellow Warble
Double Crested Cormorant	Merlin	Yellow-breasted Chat
Osprey	California Gull	Tri-colored Blackbird
Northern Harrier	Vaux's Swift	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	

(California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch, 2007 website).

More rarely seen species include:

Least Bittern	Long-billed Curlew
White-faced Ibis	Burrowing Owl
Golden Eagle	Vermillion Flycatcher
Prairie Falcon	California Horned Lark
Summer Tanager	

(San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, pers. Comm., 2007)

In addition to improving natural ecosystem function this project fosters environmental stewardship by engaging citizens of all ages, ethnicities and socio-economic statuses to make a difference for both wildlife and humans. The project connects them to the LA River ecosystem and to the plethora of experiences and recreational opportunities available in the Sepulveda Basin.

5) A detailed description of how the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 1 as stated in Water Code Section 79732(a);

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

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

The spread of invasive plants is one of the most significant threats to the native plant species and vegetation communities of the state, second only to habitat destruction. Threatened and endangered species are particularly vulnerable to the pressures of invasive plants. A sample of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans showed that 73 percent of the threatened and endangered species reviewed are threatened by exotic species (Lawler 2002). Many of California's most imperiled species occur in close proximity to human development, and with development comes invasive plants. These invasive plants encroach upon the last bastions of many endangered plant species and could be the final straw driving them to extinction. The control and prevention of invasive plant infestations is of the utmost importance for maintaining

the biodiversity of California and preventing the extinction of rare, threatened and endangered plant species.

Invasive species threaten the diversity or abundance of native species through competition for resources, predation, and parasitism, interbreeding with native populations, transmitting diseases, or causing physical or chemical changes to the invaded habitat. Through their impacts on natural ecosystems, agricultural and other developed lands, water delivery and flood protection systems, invasive species may also negatively affect human health and/or the economy. Examples of direct impacts to human activities include clogging navigable waterways and water delivery systems, weakening flood control structures, damaging crops, introducing diseases to animals that are raised or harvested commercially, and diminishing sportfish populations.

- **(2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.**

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, maintaining and restoring ecosystem function is a cornerstone of natural resource climate change adaptation. CDFW is pursuing actions that will increase resistance to climate change, promote resilience, enable ecosystem responses, and realign restoration and management activities to better reflect changing conditions. Reducing non-climate stressors, such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, pollution, and invasive species will help improve the ability of natural systems to withstand or adapt to impacts associated with climate change.

Invasive species can be incredibly destructive to biodiversity, ecosystem function, agriculture, and human health. The California Climate Adaptation Strategy specifically calls for restoration and other land stewardship practices that reduce existing stressors and CDFW's efforts to eliminate or control invasive species is one tangible action that has many benefits to safeguard fish, wildlife, and habitats from continued climate change. Specifically, removing or preventing the establishment of invasive species will support the integrity and function of an ecosystem and help systems buffer future impacts associated with climate change. To that end, CDFW is focusing resources on restoration, education and outreach, and other land stewardship practices that reduce or prevent environmental stressors in order to improve watershed conditions, enhance ecosystem function, and restore ecosystem services on priority lands.

- **(3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkway Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways.**

Located in the San Fernando Valley near the intersection of the 101 and 405 Freeways, the 2,000-acre Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area is a flood control basin managed by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. Features include two parks, an 80-acre sports field, an archery range, three 18-hole golf courses, Balboa Lake with boat rentals and fishing, the Balboa Park and Sports Center, playgrounds, a velodrome, bike paths, hiking trails, tennis courts, a Japanese garden, an off-leash dog park, a premiere wildlife preserve, and the only unpaved stretch of the Los Angeles River. About nine miles around the entire perimeter is a flat, easy to ride

bike path with access to green space that includes amenities such as water, restrooms, picnic tables, golf courses, soccer fields, baseball and softball fields.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), in cooperation with the City and County of Los Angeles, and the Army Corps of Engineers is managing the Los Angeles River Recreation Program to increase safe public access to the L.A. River and to further river revitalization. The Recreation Zones open on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 and are open from sunrise to sunset daily (except during inclement weather or after storm events).

There are two segments of the Recreation Zone:

The 2.5 mile Elysian Valley River Recreation Zone

The 2-mile Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone

The public is allowed to access and enjoy the river in designated areas to walk, fish, and use non-motorized and steerable boats such as kayaks. MRCA Rangers will promote public safety and regulate usage with rules established by the MRCA Ordinance. Both areas offer access to portions of the river where natural habitat flourishes and wildlife is abundant.

Access to the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Zone is west of Woodley Avenue on Burbank Boulevard – The approximate address is 16212 Burbank Boulevard, Encino, CA 91436. Access is also allowed at Balboa Boulevard north of Victory Boulevard. The exit point is just west of Woodley Avenue. Parking is on Woodley Avenue. Any member of the public is welcome to walk, fish, and kayak in the Recreation Zones free of charge. You do not need a permit unless you are part of an organized group. Organized groups and fee-based groups must obtain special use permits from the MRCA for which there is a fee. Private vendors will also offer guided trips at each of the locations as well as kayaks for rental.

- **(4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.**

It's difficult to overstate the Sepulveda Basin's importance to wildlife. A restored fragment of what was once a chain of wetlands and flood plains along the course of the Los Angeles River, the Wildlife Reserve offers a bit of habitat for the more than 200 species of birds that have been sighted there, including the Federally Endangered least Bell's vireo, White pelicans, North America's second-largest native bird, use the Reserve in Woodley Park as a migration pit stop in September and October.

Seasonal migration is an incredibly perilous undertaking for most birds. The amount of energy put into flying for hundreds or thousands of miles is just part of the issue. While aloft, birds must contend with a wide range of stresses from dehydration and hunger to extremes in temperature. Without enough so-called stopover habitat to provide not only food and water but just a place to sleep for a few days, migration can often prove fatal for birds on the edge.

There are some birds that migrate through in the fall and spring en-route to other areas (warblers, flycatchers, shorebirds, swallows, etc.). There are also many more who migrate from Alaska, Canada, the Sierra Nevada, and the Great Basin to spend their winter here - in a more appealing climate (ducks, shorebirds, hawks, sparrows, etc.). And then, there are those who migrate here from Central America during the summer to breed (hummingbirds, kingbirds, orioles, grosbeaks).

- **(8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.**

By removing acres of dry mustard plants this project reduces the risks associated with wildfire in the area. Special consideration is given to removal near trees, especially California coastal oak.

- **(9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, storm water resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.**

One opportunity to achieve broad environmental benefits is through the use of natural infrastructure solutions to mitigate climate risk. Restoration and conservation of natural systems such as forests, grasslands and shrub lands, agricultural lands, and wetlands can provide more resilient natural systems that also offer protection from climate impacts. For example, wetlands can provide protection from flooding, while also providing valuable habitat and other hydrological benefits. Prioritizing these solutions can maximize the benefits of investments to reduce climate risks by providing a broad portfolio of benefits across several sectors.

- **(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.**

Native plants promote ground water recharge, minimize flooding and remove pollutants from storm water runoff. Restoring and reconnecting both riparian and upland habitat, and recreating wetland areas where feasible, would contribute a great deal to the restoration of a functional ecosystem along the Los Angeles River.

- **(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.**

Least Bell's Vireo nests in dense brush areas of mule fat or coyote brush. Removing invasive mustard plants encourages native plants to return, providing much needed habitat for birds, restoring ecological health and contributing to the breeding success of this and other birds – those that live in the area year round as well as those migrating in both the spring and fall.

6) A detailed description of how the project promotes and implements one or more of the objectives of the California Water Action Plan as stated in Section 1.3 of this guideline;

Goals: Reliability, Restoration and Resilience

The California Water Action Plan has been developed to meet three broad objectives:

1. More reliable water supplies,
2. The restoration of important species and habitat, and

3. A more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades.

This project addresses the goal of restoration of important species and habitat by affirming: In watersheds around the state, fish and wildlife no longer have access to habitat or enough cold, clean water at key times of the year. In response to these losses and ecological challenges, as well as in anticipation of the effects of climate change on the timing, volume and temperature of water flows, activities to protect and restore the resiliency of our ecosystems will help support fish and wildlife populations, improve water quality, and restore natural system functions. This effort will increase collaboration and transparency and ensure that management decisions are supported by the best available science.

Furthermore:

This project protects and restore degraded stream and meadow ecosystems to assist in natural water management and improved habitat. Meadows provide a natural storage opportunity, critically important with a changing climate, while properly functioning stream systems reduce downstream sedimentation and enhance critical aquatic habitat.

7) A detailed description of how the project helps meet the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, including a quantification of the metric tons of CO₂ or CO₂e removed or avoided, and an explanation of the methodology used to quantify this figure;

Biological Sequestration is typically accomplished through conservation practices that enhance the storage of carbon (such as restoring forests, wetlands, and grasslands) or reduce CO₂ emissions (such as reducing agricultural tillage and suppressing wildfires). Therefore, efforts to increase biological sequestration are focused on increasing carbon storage, while simultaneously avoiding disturbances that cause CO₂ emissions.

Re-vegetation of reclaimed lands presents an excellent opportunity to optimize the carbon sequestration on these lands. An attractive re-vegetation strategy for extreme environments is the use of native vegetation or vegetation that is well adapted for similar environments.

https://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/proceedings/01/carbon_seq/p51.pdf

All types of wetlands are carbon sequestering systems (aka "carbon sinks"), from temperate freshwater wetlands to boreal peatlands. That means that wetlands have the ability to store excess carbon (via photosynthesis) from the atmosphere – one of the primary components of greenhouse gases and a driver of climate change. Drainage and degradation of wetlands can release significant amounts of this stored carbon back into the atmosphere in the form of methane and reduce the ability of wetlands to sequester additional carbon. Better management practices can help protect these stores of carbon and the ability of wetlands to sequester it. Terrestrial wetland soils also function as carbon sinks and can store carbon produced by upland agriculture, forestry and other land uses. As carbon, in the form of organic material (such as eroded soil, leaves, and

tree debris), is washed into low lying wetland areas, it is deposited into wetlands where it becomes part of the wetland sediment through decomposition or burial.

8) A detailed description of how the project promote and implements other relevant regional and state plans and policies;

- **The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan states:**

Opportunities for regional-scale water quality treatment within the Plan's study area include: Sepulveda Basin: The Basin provides significant land area that could be used for water quality treatment and habitat improvement.

- **Los Angeles' Sustainability Plan prioritizes:**

Establish landscape cover type priorities Plant communities are foundational for biodiversity. Relatively self-sustaining natural ecosystems that are high-integrity are most important to protect, and some plant communities are rarer than others. For example, riparian areas that are still interconnected, soft-bottomed, and directly influenced by key natural processes including flooding that support self-germination and resist exotic invasive species are irreplaceable. The California Wildlife Action Plan emphasizes the significance of wetlands and riparian areas for the Los Angeles area: mesic habitat that supports more wildlife across landscape cover types than any other in our semi-arid climate. Today less than 5% of our historic wetland and riparian habitats remain. Wet meadow has been extirpated completely.

Improve perception and behavior toward biodiversity and measure changes

Evaluate community perceptions of biodiversity. Consider programs to raise awareness and appreciation of biodiversity. Encourage the public to be knowledgeable about wildlife habitat/corridors and how to care for them. Advocate for use of nontoxic personal care products and appropriate disposal of pharmaceutical waste with a freshwater fish advocacy campaign.

Expand indicators of educational programs, practices (life-long learning) Increase visits by schools and other educational entities to natural areas, the LA Zoo, Natural History Museum, botanical garden, and other nature/biodiversity areas. Conduct additional biodiversity education and outreach awareness efforts through the public library and school systems, including use of natural areas and biodiversity stewardship efforts.

Measure access to biodiversity and use to locate biodiversity enhancement in underserved areas Human dimensions of biodiversity, including access, equity, and cultural values, should be incorporated. Expand on this, include specific methods for measuring population density, distance to natural areas, and identification of relatively high quality hot spots. Community areas used for accessing biodiversity, including natural areas and other more urban biodiversity areas, should be surveyed and incorporated into indicators.

9) Indicate whether the project will have matching funds from private, local, or federal sources, and if so, to what extent;

Friends of the Los Angeles River received a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to enhance the Los Angeles River's habitat through in-channel trash removal along the entire length of the River and plant natives in three pocket parks along the River in the Elysian Valley.

We received \$99,860 in funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of thirteen Urban Wildlife Refuge Partners because of our ability to connect people of all ages, ethnicities and socio-economic status via our school and community outreach programs. The habitat restoration work we conduct in the Sepulveda Basin with the California Native Plant Society will complement and reinforce the work plans identified in both programs and grant awards.

By relying solely on a work force of volunteer labor, the in-kind contribution to this Project is likely \$10,000 or more. Friends of the Los Angeles River is also contributing the \$3,000 cost associated with a Public Relations Consultant through 30th Annual Great Los Angeles River CleanUp sponsorships; as well as the staff time needed for our Communications and Impact Manager to create and send electronic newsletters and social media posts; \$5,000.

10) indicate whether the project will benefit a disadvantaged community;

According to CalEnviroScreen 3.0, the red areas on the map indicate disadvantaged communities per SB 535 (see map at the end of this request) <http://arcg.is/OWPKjL>

Population: 5,446

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Percentile: 95-100% (highest scores)

Pollution Burden Percentile:	98	Cleanups:	82
		Groundwater Threats:	72
		Hazardous Waste:	93
Population Characteristics Percentile:	84	Impaired Water:	49
		Solid Waste:	85
		Asthma:	79
		Low Birth Weight:	57
		Cardiovascular Disease:	87
Ozone:	78	Education:	69
PM 2.5:	69	Linguistic Isolation:	73
Diesel:	65	Poverty:	58
Pesticides:	2	Unemployment:	83
Toxic Releases:	60	Housing Burden:	76
Traffic:	94		
Drinking Water:	70		

11) Indicate whether the project will use the services of local or state conservation corps;

At this time the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' LA River Corps is on hold due to funding constraints; they are not deploying their crew to maintain parks and habitat along the River corridor. However, The LA River Corps is an important partner and, when the funding needed to reactivate their LA River Corps is received, we will definitely partner with them to assist with invasive plant removal at the Sepulveda Basin.

12) A detailed description of any new or innovative technology or practices that will be applied to the project; and

FoLAR teaches and utilizes iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/folar-river-guide> and eBird with students in our Source to Sea watershed education program and with the general public through public engagement efforts via our mobile visitor and education center, the LA River Rover. Ecologist Dan Cooper has created a project page entitled "LA River Flora"; data from our effort will be linked. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/la-river-flora> We intend to involve members of the general public, those who assist with invasive plant removal and/those who come out to learn more about these efforts to improve habitat and quality of life. These applications will be taught by FoLAR educators and docents in conjunction with plant and bird walks in the area. In this way we will collect data, promote environmental stewardship and engage members of the public – especially those living adjacent to the Wildlife Refuge.

We will explore using the Calflora website to track our progress and Collector for ArcGIS has also been recommended to us.

<https://www.calflora.org/about-cf.html>

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/collector-for-arcgis>

13) A detailed method for monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the project during and after project implementation.

Ryan Ecological Consulting is a consulting company specializing in general biological surveys, focused surveys for threatened and endangered avian species, endangered species recovery and restoration. They provide expertise in endangered species issues, including providing biological assessments. They also recommend innovative solutions to mitigating and minimizing impacts to wildlife species including providing assessments of impacts and recommendations for minimizing impacts with the CEQA process. Their on-the-ground services include nesting migratory bird and raptor surveys, and restoration in support of wildlife recovery.

Tom Ryan and Audubon Staff are currently conducting bird banding activities at the Audubon Center at Debs Park, located next to the Arroyo Seco and only two miles from the Los Angeles River. He teaches volunteers how to setup and monitor mist-nets, carefully remove birds, and take measurements. Identifying individual birds in a large open space like Debs Park can greatly aid scientists in studying how wildlife cope with fragmented, urban habitats. This data is especially important as habitat is becoming increasingly fragmented due to development and climate change. Each community scientist involved in the project is essentially a research assistant to biologists doing real-world research.

Tom recommends:

Task 1: Avian Monitoring.

Birds occupy multiple ecological niches within the different habitats that occur at the site. Common species found here include species that mostly forage on vegetation consuming mostly seeds and fruits; others forage on insects ranging from those in the leaf litter, on the vegetation, and in the

air above the vegetation; other birds are predatory feeding on small vertebrates, including other birds. Because birds occupy multiple ecological roles and forage throughout the food chain they are a good taxa to use in monitoring animal use and recovery in a newly restored plant community. Here we propose using a point count methodology to survey bird species prior to the initial clearing at both the restoration site (treatment site) and an adjacent plot with similar topography and plant composition that will not be subject to vegetation removal for at least one year (control site). We propose placing survey points throughout each site and using a 10-minute point count with variable distances to count all bird species detected at each point. Species richness will be measured using all birds detected, density and frequency will be calculated only using those detected within the first 30 meters. The points will be placed within both the treatment and control sites and surveys will be conducted prior to vegetation removal and then monthly for one year. This would provide information on the existing vegetation community prior to removal and the changes that occur immediately following removal. It is recommended that these surveys then be repeated in the subsequent 5 years to monitor changes in the bird community as the restored vegetation community continues through the different succession levels.

Task 2: Public Outreach

We propose using 2-3 community volunteers for each of the monitoring days and training them on conducting point counts and identification of local bird species. Once proficient, they will be able to conduct supplementary counts in the weeks between the monthly counts and be able to continue these counts into the future. Additionally we propose conducting community bird walks in English and Spanish during each of the community work days.

Task 3: Report

A report summarizing the species richness, abundance, density and frequency will be provided. Bird species will be categorized by their vegetation associations and either, "generalist," "associated," or "obligate" species. Additionally any special status species or nesting species will be noted and if possible mapped. Comparisons will be made between the treatment and control plot.

The Council for Watershed Health's mission is to advance the health and sustainability of our region's watersheds, rivers, streams and habitats - both in natural areas and urban neighborhoods. They do this through science-based research, education and inclusive stakeholder engagement.

As the Director of Planning and Information Design at the Council, Jason Casanova currently oversees mapping and visualization activities across the Council's programs. Jason has been implementing local and regional invasive plant mapping and long-term monitoring initiatives for over ten years and is presently active in the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (WMA). His past work included projects that drove the compilation and development of a comprehensive invasive plant GIS database for the Los Angeles Region, a standardized *Arundo* dataset for the South California coast and Central Valley, and an outreach campaign that supported land managers and educated residents on local invasive plant issues.

The Council's conservation/habitat restoration programs aim to create positive changes in human behaviors that not only improve the lives of the region's diverse communities, but also protect ecosystem health and wildlife habitat:

- **Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Arundo Eradication Program** - A partnership to plan and coordinate the eradication of approximately 80 acres of *Arundo donax*, a highly invasive riparian plant species, for the remaining areas of the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Efforts are focused on *Arundo* populations that negatively impact City of Los Angeles' water resources, water quality, habitat and infrastructure both in the City jurisdiction and upstream in the surrounding San Gabriel, Santa Susana, and Santa Monica Mountains.
- **Weed Watch** - A CWH-lead program highlighting monitoring and outreach accomplishments along with regional, local, and statewide efforts focused on the spread, control, and education of invasive plants. The program focuses on developing baseline datasets that help facilitate early detection of infestation, mobilize eradication/restoration efforts, track efficacy of treatment methods, and allow spatial analysis of dispersion dynamics. Outreach efforts build on creating targeted campaigns that helps support land managers educate residents on local invasive plant issues.

As a Director on the Board of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), Jason has taught several field-mapping courses to professionals and volunteers alike. Jason will work directly with FoLAR and our partners to document our accomplishments. The results from this effort will contribute to and enhance ongoing efforts to improve habitat in the Los Angeles River watershed.

- **A description of how scope of work will protect or enhance and urban creek as defined in Section 7048(e);**

This project is consistent with Urban Creek protection or enhancement per the following:

For purposes of this section, urban creek protection, restoration, and enhancement include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of channel capacity, channel stabilization, vegetation management, the reduction of water quality impairments and nonpoint source water pollution, the establishment of parkways for public use that benefit flood control and water quality, and adaptive management to meet program objectives. Where appropriate, the protection, restoration, and enhancement shall utilize efficient, nonstructural low-maintenance flood protection techniques. The department shall utilize in this program its expertise in a variety of disciplines, including, but not limited to, soil bioengineering, hydrology, and plant ecology.

And

As used in this section, "urban creek" means a creek, stream, or river that crosses built-up residential, commercial, or industrial property, or that crosses land where, in the near future, the land use will be residential, commercial, or industrial.

- **A description of how project is consistent with the Common Ground Plan.**

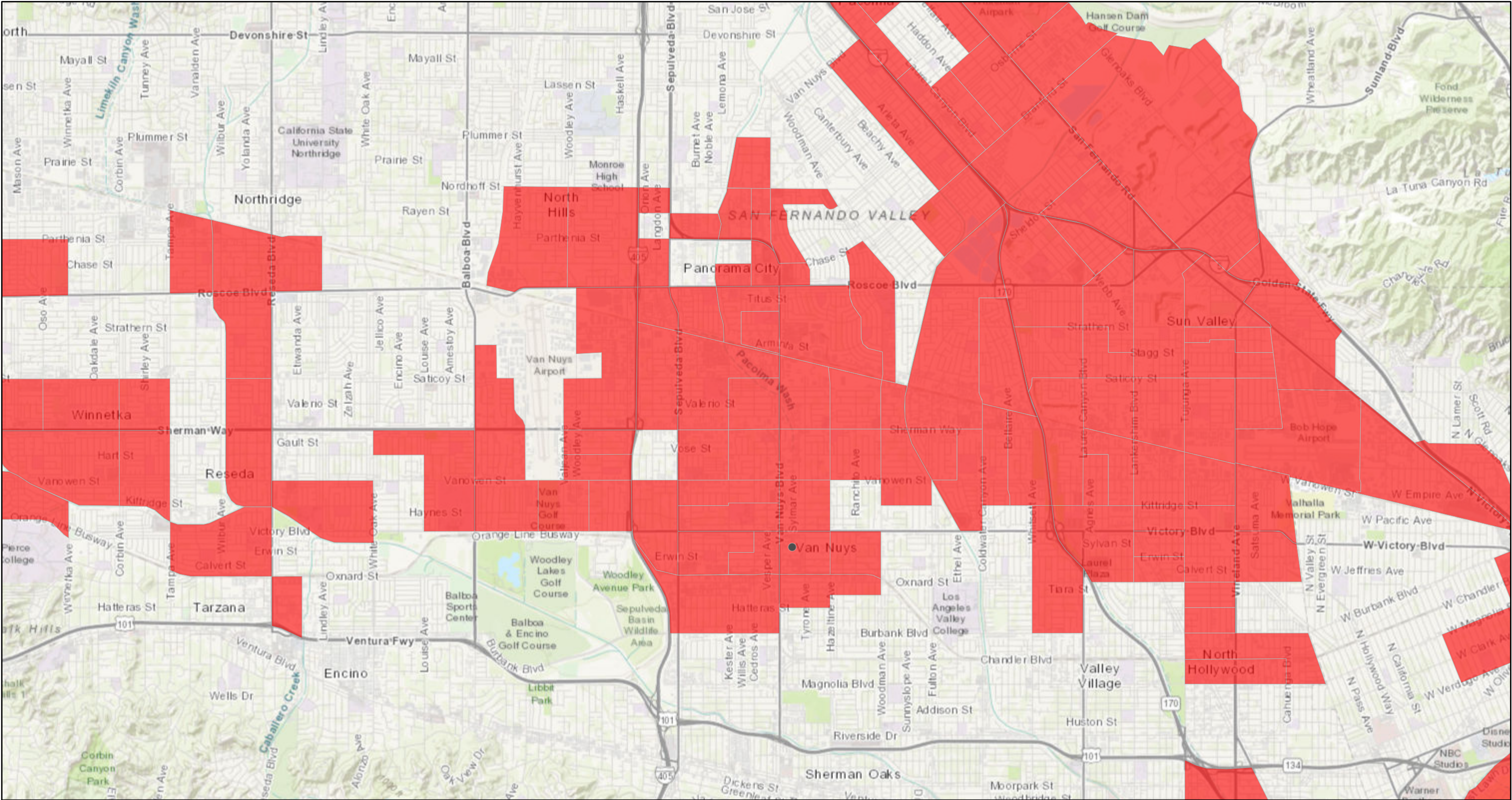
This project is consistent with the Common Ground Plan for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers as it addresses the vision to: Restore balance between natural and human systems in the watersheds. The project also:

- Involves the Public Through Education and Outreach Programs
- Improves Habitat Quality, Quantity, and Connectivity Connect Open Space with a Network of Trails Promote Stewardship of the Landscape
- Preserves and protects important terrestrial, avian, and aquatic habitats in the watersheds.

Additional Scoring Consideration:

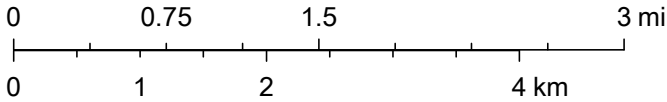
- This project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.
- The site directly abuts and increases the size and ecosystem function of a protected habitat area for aquatic, wetland, or migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.
- The site contains substantial potential for restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters ecosystems.
- The project includes improvements that would improve or support regeneration of important native vegetative cover on slopes near a stream or river, which if substantially disturbed may contribute to flood, erosion, creek sedimentation, or reduced groundwater recharge.
- The project implements fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health
- The project substantially restores a site by removal of exotic species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.
- The project includes substantial restoration, protection or enhancements of riparian or wetland habitat (>0.2 acres).
- 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, storm water filtration, impervious surfaces and other forms of water capture and storage.
- The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.
- The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.
- The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.
- Project has secured matching funds of at least 25 percent of total project costs.
- Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities



November 29, 2018

1:72,224



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

INDIRECT COST POLICY

Indirect costs, also known as facilities and administrative costs, are the expenses related to the general operations and administration of an organization, which are not directly allocated to or identified with a specific project. These costs include items such as equipment use, accounting, utilities, and administrative costs that are hard to calculate but are true costs for running programs.

INDIRECT COST CALCULATION

In developing budgets for submission, applicants are to calculate project costs using the following rates.

- Federal Agencies: 10% rate applied to all direct costs
- State Agencies: 15% rate applied to all direct costs
- Non-Federal Agencies (e.g., private foundations): 15% rate applied to all direct costs

Although indirect expenses are recognized as real costs, some funding agencies will not provide full reimbursement of indirect costs. Given this reality, applicants should strive to recover the maximum indirect costs allowable by the granting agency.

APPROVAL REQUIRED TO USE DIFFERENT RATE

All grants and contracts that will require the organization to absorb some portion of the indirect cost must be discussed with the Executive Director and Director of Operations & Finance.