

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 26, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 planning grant to the Friends of the Los Angeles River for an ecosystem feasibility study, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$172,000 in Proposition 1 urban creek funds to the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) for an ecosystem feasibility study on a stretch of the river identified in the federal ARBOR plan.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from FOLAR for a detailed description of the project. The grant request is for \$1720,000 in Proposition 1 urban Los Angeles River funds. The proposed project is focused on the Elysian Valley and the G2 site, identified in the ARBOR plan for potential removal of 1000 feet of concrete, 300 feet of channel widening, and over 20 acres of ecological restoration. The G2 site has complicated issues including those of flood risk concern and clean up, and potentially different jurisdictional priorities between the City of Los Angeles, Conservancy, Army Corps, and community stakeholders. As the design of G2 and any channel modifications along this portion of the river are being planned, this study has some urgency. FOLAR has engaged Sherwood Design Engineers to provide alternative improvement feasibility planning to stress natural resource restoration while retaining or enhancing flood protection.

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 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 105** (out of a possible 115). Staff recommends award of \$172,000 for this project.