

August 26, 2019; Agenda Item No. 18

Resolution No. 19-51

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT  
OF PROPOSITION 1 URBAN CREEK FUNDS TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER  
ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY SUPPLEMENTAL  
ANALYSIS, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to joint powers authorities pursuant to Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code;

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects;

WHEREAS, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has requested a grant from Proposition 1, Section 79735(a) of the Water Code in the amount not to exceed \$250,000;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles River Flows Study Supplemental Analysis project contains significant potential for the restoration of riparian habitat along the Los Angeles River;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to restore river parkways throughout the state;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of the multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to 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;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to 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;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets objectives of the California Water Action Plan for restoration of important species and habitat;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives to implement the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, implement the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, implement the *Los Angeles County River Master Plan* implement the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*; further cooperation with local governments in the region to secure open space and parkland, expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment, and expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the proposed action is consistent with the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan* and *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*;

WHEREAS, the proposed action is being taken subject to approval of the grant for compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law;

WHEREAS, the proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Now

*Therefore Be It Resolved*, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 1;
2. FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan;
3. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
4. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives;
5. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 1;
6. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
7. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated August 26, 2019 for this item;
8. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses;
9. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 1 Urban Creeks funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the amount of \$250,000 for the Los Angeles River Flows Study Supplemental Analysis, within the County of Los Angeles; and
10. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to execute the grant agreement and to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the

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Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated:

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Executive Director