

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 26, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 19: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Discovery Cube for nature trail planning, Hansen Dam area, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of \$150,000 from Proposition 68 urban creek funds to the non profit Discovery Cube for planning and design of a nature trail at the Hansen Dam Discovery Cube site.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 33204.2(a) and 80110(a)(1)(A).

Background: Please see the attached grant application material from the Discovery Cube for a detailed description of the project. The organization is seeking funds from the Conservancy's Proposition 68 funds for "Discovery Challenge Trails." The applicants indicate that they have secured matching funds in the amount of \$560,000, and are seeking an additional \$3.83 million to build out their ultimate vision, which would include not just nature trails but also an ambitious set of features including a ranger station, map rooms, swinging bridges, lookout towers, climbing stations, bike trails, and interactive experiences kids. Hansen Dam is within the Tujunga Wash watershed, a San Fernando Valley tributary of the the Upper Los Angeles River. The Discovery Cube is located on the Hansen Dam site under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks, and can develop the wooded area near the Discovery Cube museum for nature education. The facility is adjacent to and serves disadvantaged communities. The site serves as an accessible introduction to nature. Hansen Dam, Little Tujunga Wash, and Big Tujunga Wash support a large variety of plant and animal species.

General Obligation Bond Law

General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of "capital assets." Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government code Section 16727 (a)). Capital assets also includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds

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to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition including costs for planning, engineering and other design work.

Using the Conservancy's Draft Proposition 68 Guidelines for Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects, the Discovery Challenge Trails grant project scores a total of 113 points (out of total possible 145; minimum of 80 to 101), and has a large match.

Staff recommends award of a \$150,000 grant.