

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 23, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to Kounkuey Design Initiative and Pacoima Beautiful for project planning and design for a segment of Pacoima Wash, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds in the amount of \$300,000 to Koukouney Design Initiative and Pacoima Beautiful for project planning of a segment of the Pacoima Wash in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a) and 80110(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Please see the attached grant application for detailed information. Two non-profit organizations, Kounkuey Design Initiative and Pacoima Beautiful, have submitted a Proposition 68 grant application for planning and design of new greenway and open space resources along the southern segment of Pacoima Wash, and for implementing the next phase of the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan.

The planning area is an urban area between Haddon Avenue and San Fernando Road, and includes several jurisdictions and both public and private ownerships. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is currently working on the El Dorado Park project, and the applicants will coordinate their planning efforts with MRCA. Richie Valens Park lies at the southern end of the study area. MRCA's completed watershed park project, the Pacoima Wash Natural Park, lies further upstream in the City of San Fernando. The project area includes Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Community designations.

Analysis—Consistency with Plans

The proposed grant is consistent with all applicable plans, including the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan, and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Plan.

Analysis - General Obligation Bond Law

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

The activities that are to be funded with this grant constitute planning of projects to protect land and water resources, protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources. Thus, the proposed activities fall within the definition of "capital assets" or are incidentally but directly related to acquisition or construction, and therefore are proper under the General Obligation Bond Law.

Scoring - Competitive Grant Program

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Guidelines results in this Pacoima Wash planning project receiving the following:

Prioritization Value: 19(out of 21)
Category Value: 59 (out of 70)
Implementation Value: 15 (out of 16)
Climate Change Value: 14 (out of 16)
Additional Criteria: 25 (out of 25)

Consideration: Staff recommends awarding \$300,000 of Proposition 68 river funds for this grant.