



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

October 28, 2019

Chairperson Irma Muñoz  
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
570 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Augmentation Request  
Upper Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present a grant augmentation request for Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design, related to the Revitalization Plan required by Assembly Bill 466 (ab 466), Chapter 347 of the Statutes of 2017. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests an augmentation in the sum of \$1,500,000 from Propositions 1 and 68 for additional work. The MRCA's Governing Board approved submittal of this application on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposal. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

Cara Meyer  
Deputy Executive Officer

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION**

<b>Project Name:</b> Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning	<b>Amount of Request:</b> \$1,500,000 <b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$3,200,000						
<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	<b>Matching Funds:</b> 0 <b>Lat/Long:</b> various						
<b>Applicant Address:</b> 570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	<b>Project Address:</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">County</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">various</td> <td style="text-align: center;">various</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	various	various
County	Senate District	Assembly District					
Los Angeles	various	various					
<b>Phone:</b> 323 221-9944 <b>Email:</b> 323 221-9934	<b>Tax ID:</b> 770112367						

**Grantee's Authorized Representative:**

*Name and Title* Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer, Cara.Meyer@mrca.ca.gov      *Phone* 323 221-9944 ext.117

**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:**  
Project planning for the Upper Los Angeles River and tributaries.

\*attach additional pages with project detail

<b>Tasks / Milestones:</b> See attached.	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Completion Date</b> June 30, 2020
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<b>For Acquisition Projects:</b>	APN(s): N/A	
	Acreage: N/A	

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

<i>Signature of Authorized Representative</i>	<i>Date</i>
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Prop 68 Grant Application - Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Project  
**Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design**  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

**SCOPE OF WORK / PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Chapter 341 of the Statutes of 2017, also known as Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), established, within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group (Working Group). The legislation requires that the Working Group develop a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and potential additional tributaries as necessary. In accordance with AB 466, Working Group members shall prioritize planning efforts that represent disadvantaged communities, while developing a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of these waterways and the communities through which they pass, including a master planning process with community engagement and outreach to disadvantaged communities, identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code. Senate Bill 1126 (SB 1126) Chapter 895 of the statutes of 2018, is subsequent legislation that amended the original bill to officially recognize and add the Arroyo Seco as a waterway for the working group to include in the revitalization plan. The bill also extended the deadline for the revitalization plan to be developed on or before June 30, 2020.

December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant to MRCA for Upper Los Angeles River project planning and design, to carry out the studies required by AB 466, and the later added SB 1126. MRCA staff have been consistently working on the Plan development and throughout the process have encountered additions that have increased the complexity of work, and by extension, the cost of the plan. On September 28, 2018, SB 1126 was approved and the Arroyo Seco waterway was added for the working group to include in the revitalization plan. SB 1126 also granted an extension to the legislative deadline, the new date is June 30, 2020. Subsequently, based on the CalEnviroScreen matrix analysis, the Working Group voted to add the Aliso Canyon Wash as well as the Burbank Western Channel to the analysis for the revitalization plan. Earlier this year, additional funding was authorized to further analyze those added waterways similarly to those already included in the legislation.

As this project has progressed, the parameters established by the Working Group to complete the Plan have become more defined through extensive discussion and review of opportunities. On multiple occasions this has led to further study, additional work products, and adjustments to the project timeline. During the committee meetings of the Working Group in August 2019, it was noted that there are still elements that could be more robustly envisioned, or added to the scope, to better achieve the project's goals. These include exploration of channel modifications, potential diversions, and creation of new open space for habitat and recreation. Furthermore, if the region's critical needs for housing were incorporated into analysis, it could make the final Plan more relevant and applicable. As a result, at the September 26, 2019 meeting, the Working Group supported the resolution recommending the following components to the Plan to make it more visionary, relevant, and comprehensive: Deeper Analysis of Opportunity Areas; Project Area Expansion; Revisions and Additional Renderings; New Assessment of Publicly Owned Properties; New Assessment of Privately Owned Properties; a section on anti-displacement strategies; Addition of Climate Change Analysis for Open Space Benefits; Public Engagement for Plan Release; Multilingual Communication, and Project

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Management. The extension provides time to complete more in-depth analysis, which also increases costs for consultants and project management.

The grant augmentation request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is for \$1,500,000, for a total of \$3,200,000 dedicated to this effort. If additional funding is not secured, the scope of the revitalization plan may be minimized and therefore may not meet the thorough standards and critical components required by the legislation and the Working Group. The goal of a process based upon robust community engagement, a detailed analysis of tributaries, as well as further exploration of channel modifications, potential diversions, and creation of new open space for habitat and recreation is dependent upon a grant augmentation at this time.

The proposed project is consistent with the goals set forth in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Climate Change Policy, State Planning Priorities, the State's Climate adaptation Plan, *Safeguarding California* and AB 32. The Project seeks to improve a locally and regionally significant public resource for public enjoyment and environmental benefit. The project seeks to ultimately mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the state's natural resources. Further objectives of the project are to protect the Los Angeles River watershed through the restoration of native habitat, and promote public access to the watershed's land, water, and wildlife resources.

MRCA is proposing that both Proposition 68 and Proposition 1 funds fund this effort. Responses to the evaluation criteria for Proposition 68 is provided below. The original application met all requirements of the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines and scored a total of 86 points (out of possible 115). The proposed grant augmentation is for additional work under the same project description.

## **BUDGET**

See attached budget.

## **TIMELINE**

The project planning and design will take place over the next 6-10 months.

Continued Working Group meetings and Plan development: 4-6 months

Final draft Plan release: 5-6 months

Plan adoption by Working Group and Conservancy: 5-7 months

Contingency for unexpected delays: 2 months

Total: 6-10 months

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**PROPOSITION 68 - RESPONSES TO EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**Prioritization Value**

The proposed project achieves the following Proposition 68 grant program priorities:

**PV1. Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.**

The project accomplishes this through providing urban recreation, identifying connectivity opportunities and challenges, while creating linkages to urban open spaces, waterways, hillsides, mountain ranges and natural environments. Natural resource protection is achieved by using opportunity analyses through technical and engineering studies that support river and tributary restoration. The proposed grant will also be used to further identify, analyze and envision transformative open space and waterway opportunities for a wide range of potential projects through plans and renderings that would meet the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Working Group goals and objectives, which include new access points, recreational opportunities, new habitat and open space.

**PV2. Project achieves 80001(b)(5) by providing workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.**

The project accomplishes this criterion through its partnership with project partners to undergo outreach and engagement, specifically to non-traditionally engaged communities and those hard to reach. Through doing so, local hire and increased employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities are encouraged so that partners may have capacity to be effective in their mission. As part of this process, MRCA has already partnered with five local non-profit organizations for outreach services: Pacoima Beautiful; Sacred Places for Indigenous People; The River Project; River LA and the William C. Velasquez Institute. Within this grant proposal, a local technical analysis by each organization is included.

**PV3. Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.**

The proposed project is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21102, and 21150, which exempt this planning study from the requirements to prepare an environmental impacts report. Nevertheless, this study thoroughly considers environmental factors throughout the study area. The Plan is also fully consistent with applicable plans, including the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan, Los Angeles River Master Plan, and Common Ground. No permits or entitlements are needed at this time. During the planning and design phase, consultants help identify the permits and entitlements needed for projects and opportunity areas recommended.

**PV4. Project achieves 80001(b)(9) - advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project is an increase in the cost of housing.**

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Although this criterion is not applicable for the pre-improvement planning itself, given how critical these issues are, the Working Group has tasked MRCA and consultants to develop anti-displacement strategies that integrate best practices already employed or existent including but not limited to, land trusts/land banks; which is part of this grant request for further study. Findings may be applied toward implementation that comes out of the effort.

**PV5. Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).**

By nature of the Project, it will accomplish the purpose of promoting diversity and inclusion in our public lands as recommended by Proposition 68. A primary purpose of the Project is to improve open space access to the public through our equally dire needs for more green space, natural habitat, and outdoor passive recreation. The removal of barriers throughout the Upper Los Angeles River and its tributaries' watershed will benefit all visitors and increase opportunities for visitors with disabilities. Active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations, is an integral part of the MRCA's goals. All communications about the Project will and have used multilingual materials that are culturally inclusive of all.

**PV6. Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.**

The proposed project furthers many of the following Conservancy Strategic Objectives:

- 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 Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan*.
- Create fifty-one miles of continuous river parkway and greenbelt
- Develop recreation, park, trail, and habitat restoration opportunities
- Restore balance between natural and human systems in the watersheds
- Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries, encourage multi-objective planning and projects, use science as a basis for planning
- Further cooperation with local governments in the region to secure open space and parkland.
- Expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment.
- Expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities.
- Develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans

A primary purpose of the Project has been to study and create project recommendations that are not duplicative of previous Plans, but compliment those planning efforts to achieve the highest level of restoration possible with public access that provide new and increased opportunities for visitation, educational information, recreation, programs, services, and activities for a variety of users and to contribute to more enjoyable user experiences along the waterways.

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**PV7. Project achieves more than one Common Ground guiding principle.**

The proposed project furthers the following Common Ground guiding principles:

- Improve access to open space and recreation for all communities.
- Promote stewardship of the landscape.
- Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters, and extend open space
- Encourage multiple-objective planning and projects.

The Project seeks to provide recommendations that implement the ULART goals and objectives through identifying projects and opportunity areas that improve public access and provide new and increased opportunities for recreation, enhance wildlife connectivity and create habitat, improve water quality, and coordinate planning across the region, which are all in line with Common Ground's guiding principles.

**Category Value**

**CV1. The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.**

Upon its completion, ULART Plan will identify opportunities for multipurpose projects that directly address and will have benefits to water, recreation, and habitat, and for the interpretation of natural resources. Projects will be able to enhance habitat, recreational opportunities, storm water management and best practices- water capture and infiltration elements, while providing a unique river experience. Habitat enhancement in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed enhances the movement of large and small mammals.

**CV2. The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan.**

In addition to the *Common Ground* Plan, the proposed improvements are consistent with other applicable plans, including the following:

- *Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (ARBOR)*
- *Greater Los Angeles Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan*
- *City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan*
- *County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles River Master Plan*
- *Revitalization Plan for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (under development)*
- *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*
- *County of Los Angeles General Plan*

**CV3. The project provides a plan or feasibility study to advance cooperative watershed health protection activities or recreation goals important to two or more organizations.**

As noted above, MRCA has over a dozen partners for this project that value cooperative watershed health protection and are interested in the subject plan and recommendations.

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Partners include the 23 Working Group Members including but not limited to representatives from the State; County of Los Angeles; City of San Fernando, Los Angeles, Burbank and Glendale; as well as community leaders and nonprofit organization representatives; in addition to the 6 NGOs leading outreach efforts. All of which have contributed to the development of the ULART Plan.

**CV4. Applicant has a realistic plan for serving disadvantaged communities upon completion of the improvements.**

Done to date and in accordance with AB 466, the Plan being developed requires prioritization by the Working Group members which elevate planning efforts that represent disadvantaged communities, community engagement and outreach to disadvantaged communities, pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

**CV5. The project uses renewable or non-potable water sources of water, such as reclaimed water, captured stormwater, or other method.**

The types of projects recommended within the Plan will include water conservation measures, leading to more reliable water supplies for the State. Developing open space in the urbanized environment could create new opportunities to re-use stormwater.

**CV6. Project implements Best Management Practices (BMP) to treat stormwater.**

Project opportunities identified within the ULART Plan are multipurpose by nature and will have BMP principles, as aligned with the Working Group goals and objectives. Upon completion, the ULART Plan will identify projects that feature many benefits including: nature based watershed management; multiple benefits; nature and habitat education; stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the LA River and watershed; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming) and reduce the heat-island effect; reduced impervious surfaces and promotion of infiltration projects following contaminant remediation; and aesthetic enhancement to the public and River area.

**CV7. Project provides safe and reliable drinking water supplies to park and open space visitors.**

The types of projects studied within ULART at intended to promote sustainable uses of water at a regional level and will include water conservation measures, leading to more reliable water supplies for the State. Developing open space in conjunction with other developments, such as affordable housing, could create new opportunities to use stormwater and gray water from the developments to support the parklands. The project's regional context will contribute to meeting TMDL levels and the IRWM regional planning goals, objectives, and targets for watershed health, which will help to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

**CV8. The project provides a high-quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.**

One of the primary purposes of the ULART Plan is to identify and recommend safe access and connectivity projects for the study area's waterways. The provision of open



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space, parkland, regional trails and water-based recreation are not adequately addressed in existent efforts for the river and its tributaries. Therefore, the intent of the ULART Plan is to address such gaps in the upper LA River watershed. Although no physical improvements are included in the subject grant, the outcome of the research will assist in future development of new access points.

**CV9. The project completes a new, significant link in a regional trail system.**

Many of the potential projects that will be recommended and identified as part of this Plan are located near a river parkway, bike path, or multi-use trail. The LA River is both a River Parkway and an Urban Stream that is used for recreation and wildlife habitat. The Plan focuses on waterways extending outward to opportunities for continuous linked Greenways that can be developed and reach throughout a highly urbanized watershed. Opportunities surrounding the River and Proposition 68 projects will be connected to the bike paths and multi-use trails that are (or will be) adjacent to the river, contributing to a regional trail and greenway network.

**CV10. Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5-mile radius.**

The proposed project will contain recommendations and regional watershed planning documents in development: such as new greenway trails and resources for passive recreation. Communities surrounding the ULART study area, within a half mile of the east and west banks, vary between residential and industrial land uses. This study area is so densely populated that that nearly half of residents in the perimeter are not within walking distance of a park. This is far below the accepted national standard of 10-acres per 1,000 residents and is low even compared to other areas of Los Angeles County. Southern California contains a wonderful network of open space and trails throughout local mountains and the coastline, but it is not readily accessible to all urban residents and this will study important opportunities to further develop a regional trail and greenway network.

**CV11. The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists and equestrians.**

As mentioned above, the project will result in new project recommendations that will benefit multi-modal users, such as hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

**CV12. The project results in new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.**

The proposed Project would enhance public use of the River, to promote use of the River and tributaries as an amenity and natural resource, while addressing water quality concerns. This will educate the public about environmental issues and how they can help improve water quality in the River.

**CV13. The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a natural resource.**

Recommendations for non-personal interpretive elements will be incorporated into the pre-improvement plan. The project itself does not provide programming or personal

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interpretation, but the opportunities are intended to reach a wide community audience, and will introduce the goals of conservation and restoration of the Los Angeles River's resources to them. Interpretative elements can include: recreational opportunities within and around the River, stormwater treatment, and water resources. These elements promote environmental stewardship by teaching the public about environmental issues, potential solutions, and about the areas' precious natural resources and how they can play a role in improving the environment and supporting a healthy watershed.

**CV14. The project creates a new venue, or enhances an existing venue, for education and/or interpretation activities that promote natural resources stewardship.**

The need and feasibility for new or enhanced venue(s) will be studied and recommended as part of the pre-improvement Project in the ULART planning process.

**CV15. The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5-mile radius.**

The proposed Project has the potential to relieve stress on overburdened recreational resources along the River and tributaries, particularly existing parks, seeing as the river and tributaries will offer a new venue for recreation.

**CV16. The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic view shed.**

Several opportunities for new vista points and/or overlooks will be studied and recommended as part of the ULART planning process.

**CV17. The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to existing parkland.**

Although no physical improvements or amenities are being directly proposed for this grant, a major element of this project is the identification for development of new green recreational open spaces and visitor amenities. These improvements will increase opportunities for recreation, activities, and programs to a wide variety of people

**CV18. Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.**

Established early on by the Working Group, MRCA received direction to include and consider recreational opportunities and uses for a range of ability levels that could be integrated into projects for project Plan implementation. Improvement projects will use current codes and standards to create spaces for a wide range of users' abilities.

**CV19. The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.**

As mentioned, the purpose of the project Plan is to create recommendations that improve access for visitation, recreation, activities, and programs to the public, including people from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, who live throughout Upper Los Angeles Watershed. These amenities are, and will continue to be, free of charge. As a

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result of the project, the watershed wide network of open space will be able to serve more and diverse populations.

**CV20. The project directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area including fish and wildlife corridors.**

Open waterways, such as the River and tributaries, function as habitat corridors, while being recognized as being a hotspot for migratory birds and small mammals, aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems and therefore provide an appropriate location for analysis. The ULART study area is located from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest and includes the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, which provide a habitat stepping stone to facilitate movement of wildlife. By completing a Plan for the Upper LA River and Tributaries, regional river planning efforts are being developed, and will impact greater wildlife connectivity with the significant ecological areas that currently exist. Further, enhancing water quality will reduce the amount of pollutants in the river, potentially through dilution and thus improve the habitat potential and water quality within the river and Pacific Ocean. By improving water quality in the upper reaches of the River can help to protect aquatic and migratory bird ecosystems. Additionally, new vegetation can continue to thrive with cleaner water which will provide new habitat for birds and other species.

**CV21. The project includes restoration, protection or enhancements of a native ecosystem appropriate to the site.**

Healthy ecosystems are a product of their environment. Indicators of a healthy urban watershed include healthy waters and presence of instream flow, thriving vegetation and wildlife. The ULART Plan will have a direct beneficial impact to the watershed health of urban Los Angeles, through its focus on the environmental benefit impacts of conservation and open space projects surrounding the Los Angeles River and tributaries. These projects are critical to improving watershed health in urban areas. The health benefits of park and open space projects are magnified in disadvantaged communities and ensuring that projects can succeed there is critical to improving not only public health but wildlife habitats.

The project Plan intends to recommend areas for restoration, systems that capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater to improve water quality, increase watershed storage capacity, and reduce the volume of water and amount of pollutants expelled into the Los Angeles River untreated, thus protecting and restoring the health of the watershed.

**CV22. Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.**

In June of 1990 voters of California approved Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, prohibiting the sport hunting of the California Mountain Lion and declaring them to be a specially protected species. The local population of mountain lions requires large areas of undisturbed habitat to thrive. The consideration of these needs will be incorporated into the ULART Plan.

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**CV23. The project employs new or innovative technology or practices.**

The primary innovation for the proposed project is the acknowledgement of the social and economic impacts under study, as well as the diverse group of stakeholders that is already involved. The project also seeks to use current technology and practices into local stormwater treatment into projects throughout the watershed, as well as to further develop partnerships with many local agencies that will carry out the projects.

**Implementation Value**

**IV1. Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.**

The project partners have already committed to its implementation and logistics are already underway. The Working Group has defined additions to the Plan and directed MRCA to incorporate additional elements while including feasibility analysis studies. MRCA has years of experience in planning, designing, permitting and implementing complex improvement projects.

**IV2. Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.**

The MRCA has the financial capacity to perform this project on a reimbursable basis. MRCA has been implementing capital projects on a reimbursable basis for many years, and anticipates reimbursable payments in our budgets. MRCA also maintains a line of credit that can be drawn upon in the event of an extended delay.

**IV3. Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.**

The MRCA has successfully planned, designed, and implemented many studies, plans and multiple benefit recreational projects throughout the Los Angeles region. Several completed MRCA projects are similar in size, budget, scope and duration to the proposed project including the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan; Ballona Creek Milton Park, Marsh Park, Pacoima Wash Natural Park, and the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration, all exemplary urban projects with innovative water quality components. All of the projects listed above are multi-million dollar projects that bear similarities to the proposed Project and also serve park-poor neighborhoods.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. MRCA's mission is to complement the work of these and other agencies in protecting land and public access to natural lands in southern California mountains. Since its inception, the MRCA has designed, planned and constructed scores of small and large projects throughout Los Angeles. The MRCA currently manages over 75,000 acres of parkland and holds fee title to approximately 10,000 acres. The overall goal for MRCA's urban parklands program is to "integrate nature into the urban environment". The completion of this project will represent one additional step toward that goal.

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**IV4. The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.**

MRCA is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation & Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District pursuant to Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code. These three entities each have a voting member on MRCA's Governing Board, which approved the grant application. The MRCA has already begun to work with local agency and non-profit partners to ensure that ULART projects are multipurpose throughout the watershed.

**IV5. Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.**

The MRCA has been undergoing outreach within the ULART study area with partners, along with a team of consultants and stakeholders to ensure community involvement and will continue to do so. MRCA has already partnered with five local non-profit organizations for outreach: Pacoima Beautiful; Sacred Places for Indigenous People; The River Project; River LA and the William C. Velasquez Institute.

**IV6. Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years' experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.**

MRCA has more than 30 years of experience implementing pre-improvement projects similar to the proposed Project.

**IV7. Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.**

The long-term operation and maintenance of project improvements will be defined at the time that projects are implemented.

**IV8. Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.**

This is a pre-improvement planning study that aims to identify potential sites suitable for development that support the ULART goals and objectives. The Project will identify willing landowners and partners during the course of the study.

**Climate Change Value**

**CC1. The project demonstrates a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration or other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills.**

The project will have a direct beneficial impact on greenhouse gas emission reduction and watershed health of urban Los Angeles, through its focus on the impacts of conservation and park projects on the communities surrounding the Los Angeles River and tributaries. Furthermore, the proposed project expects to analyze and quantify such climate metrics. For instance, the addition of open space opportunities will result in a calculated number of tons of carbon over a fixed amount of years upon the addition of habitat and open space. The health benefits of park and open space projects are

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magnified in disadvantaged communities, particularly those abut to freeways and transit corridors that are nearby and along waterways.

**CC2. 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, including climate resilient and native landscaping whenever possible, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage.**

Such measures will be incorporated into recommendation projects within the ULART Plan and are required in accordance with the Working Group's goals and objectives.

**CC3. 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 is a pre-improvement plan that will include recommendation of areas to implement native plants and habitat creation in urban areas that will mitigate heat island effects. The development of open space and river projects in conjunction with other developments, such as affordable housing, could create new opportunities to use native plants in traditional developments, as well as to use a coordinated plant/habitat palette across a larger geographic area where ornamental species are typically used. By designing to infiltrate and filter stormwater, the water entering the infrastructure of the River will be both reduced and cleaner, promoting public health.

**CC4. The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.**

This project will support the protection of natural resources and facilitate the further development livable, walkable, and healthy communities, which is a principal of the Working Group. The project has and will continue to analyze recreational opportunities within the ULART study area. This will eventually enable visitors to better access and utilize all of the area's amenities and will encourage more outdoor activity. These proposed new improvements are expected to create safer and better user experiences with watershed benefits. The recommended greenways as a result of this project are adjacent to the river and tributaries and will encourage people to bicycle or walk to nearby open spaces for exercise or simply enjoy the outdoors instead of commuting to a similar amenity, thereby reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources.

**CC5. The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.**

Yes, local communities have and will continue to be engaged during the project. Key project partners are community-based organizations that represent a variety of disadvantaged populations, and the topics of stewardship and climate change awareness have and will continue to be included. During such meetings, the importance of natural resource protection and open space, habitat restorative elements linked to climate change are discussed. This will increase public awareness and eventually provide an outdoor learning tool for nearby students, which will contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship.

Prop 68 Grant Application - Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Project  
**Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design**  
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**CC6. The project implements water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions.**

Nature based and watershed management practices are a primary principal of the Working Group which are integrated into identified projects and opportunities within the Plan. This scale of design will be more detailed for proposed Project implementation.

**Additional Considerations**

**AC1. The site is subject to an imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.**

Southern California is in an extreme housing shortage and there is significant pressure to develop housing across the region. This could lead to development of housing on sites that are critical to keep undeveloped to serve as regional greenways, wildlife corridors, green infrastructure, open space. The Project seeks to identify sites critical for implementing the ULART goals and objectives where future implementation is significantly important.

**AC2. Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.**

MRCA intends to employ a local hire program for implementation, wherever feasible, and may partner with the LA Conservation Corps, a local environmental non-profit that trains and employs youth. MRCA is currently utilizing a method of local hire through NGOs for community engagement and outreach services related to the plan.

**AC3. Project is within 0.25 miles of public transportation.**

Several portions of the study area are within 0.25 miles from a public transportation site. Multiple Metro bus stops are located on major street crossings along the main transit corridors along the River. Also, Metrolink has several stops and runs parallel to the River.

**AC4. Project serves a disadvantaged community.**

The Upper Los Angeles River Watershed contains several disadvantaged communities, which CalEnviroScreen 3.0 categorizes in the most affected 96-100 percentile. The purpose of the project is to help create more green open space, natural habitat and outdoor passive recreation opportunities that will help influence environmental stewardship and give direct access to these disadvantage communities.

**AC5. Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.**

The Upper Los Angeles River Watershed contains several disadvantaged communities, which CalEnviroScreen 3.0 categorizes in the most affected 96-100 percentile.

<b>Budget Amendment for SMMC Grant No. SMM-3810-P01-1775 Upper Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (AB 466)</b>			
<b>Approved Grant Amount: \$ 1,700,000</b> <b>New Request Amount: \$ 1,500,000</b> <b>Total Requested Amount: \$ 3,200,000</b>			
Budget Item	Approved Amount	Change Amount	New Total Budget
<b>A. MRCA Staff</b>			
various Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 140,000	\$ 480,000	\$ 620,000
9998, 9999 Administrative Cost	\$ 60,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 220,000
<b>SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 640,000</b>	<b>\$ 840,000</b>
<b>B. Materials and Supplies</b>			
TBD Non-Capital Grant Expenses	\$ 26,000	\$ (26,000)	\$ -
3165 Travel & Per Diem	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,000)	\$ 1,000
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
7777 Equipment Allocation	\$ 2,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 13,000
<b>SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>	<b>\$ 59,000</b>	<b>\$ 89,000</b>
<b>C. Consultants and Contractors</b>			
2051 Contract Services - Technical	\$ 170,000	\$ (164,000)	\$ 6,000
4001 Grants	\$ 100,000	\$ (100,000)	\$ -
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,065,000	\$ 2,265,000
<b>SUBTOTAL C, Consultants and Contractors:</b>	<b>\$ 470,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,801,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,271,000</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B+C+D):</b>	<b>\$ 698,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,200,000</b>