

January 27, 2020; Agenda Item No. 13

Resolution No. 20-03

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT  
OF PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS TO THE RIVER PROJECT FOR PROJECT PLANNING AND DESIGN  
FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE  
LOS ANGELES RIVER IN SEPULVEDA BASIN PROJECT,  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to joint powers authorities pursuant to Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a). 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 River Project has requested a grant from Proposition 1, Section 79735(a) of the Water Code in the amount of \$161,750;

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, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkway Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways;

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 remove barriers to fish passage;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health;

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 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 more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, and more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure;

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 *Los Angeles County River Master Plan*, implement the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers 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, expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities, and develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, and the *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 *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 action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
6. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated January 27, 2020 for this item;
7. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses;
8. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 1 funds for project planning and design to The River Project in the amount of \$161,750 for a Feasibility Study for the Restoration of the Los Angeles River in Sepulveda Basin Project, City of Los Angeles; and
9. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Executive Director 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 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated:

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Executive Director