

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 1, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 10: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the City of Los Angeles for capital improvements for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 and Bowtie Project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the City of Los Angeles for capital improvements for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 and Bowtie Project adjacent to the Los Angeles River, in the amount of \$5,840,000, Glassell Park neighborhood, City of Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: The City of Los Angeles (City) has submitted an application for Proposition 1 funding to implement capital improvements for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río G2 and Bowtie Project. Please refer to Agenda Item 9 for a detailed background of the Taylor Yard parcels, the Paseo del Río project, the “100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard”, and an overview of the three related Paseo del Río Project (Project) applications on this agenda. The Project will be implemented in a joint partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), who have also submitted grant applications to the Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding, in order to allow the development of a coordinated early access river edge Project.

The City scope includes: project planning and design, environmental review and documentation, and construction for the G2 Parcel. Construction of the Project within the MRCA’s easement is included within the City’s Construction budget line item. Additionally, funding for an environmental site assessment and environmental planning at the Bowtie parcel, to be led by the City, is included within the City’s grant application on behalf of State Parks, and evidence of the Partnership’s coordinated planning efforts.

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 the City of Los Angeles proposes to fund with this grant constitute planning and design of a land improvement project 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

Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the City of Los Angeles for a detailed description and maps. Scoring under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Guidelines, Project Planning and Design category results in the Project receiving 86 points (out of a possible 86; 61 minimum required), plus 4 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 25 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 115** (out of possible 115).

Consideration: The application from the City of Los Angeles is for \$5,840,000 of Proposition 1 funds.