



SMMC
Attachment
June 1, 2020
Agenda Item 11

May 12, 2020

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project

Dear Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project. California State Parks requests a grant in the sum of \$2,800,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), under the Conservancy's Urban Creeks Program.

The proposed grant will fund the water conservation, treatment and improvement project of the 18-acre Bowtie parcel for both permanent and interim improvements, focused on public access and habitat restoration elements. This application is complementary to the grant applications from the City of Los Angeles and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposed grant and how it fits the Conservancy's Evaluation Criteria. Please also find attached an executed Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by California State Parks, City of Los Angeles, and MRCA to formally enter into a Partnership called the "100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard" to formally work together. The Paseo del Río Project will be the opening activity to showcase working collaboratively together. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 441-9181.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Campbell
Program Director
Planning, Public Affairs, and Community Engagement

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION															
Project Name: Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project	Amount of Request: \$2,800,000 Total Project Cost:														
Applicant Name: California State Parks	Matching Funds: \$ 500,000 Lat/Long:														
Applicant Address: 1799 Baker Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	Project Address: N/A														
	County	Senate District	Assembly District												
	Los Angeles	24	51												
Phone: 323-441-9181 Email: Stephanie.Campbell@parks.ca.gov	Tax ID: APNs 5442-002-825, 5442-002-914														
Grantee's Authorized Representative:															
Stephanie Campbell, Program Director <i>Name and Title</i>			323-441-9181 <i>Phone</i>												
Overhead Allocation Notice:															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.															
Outreach and Advertising Requirement:															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals. <i>All check boxes must be checked</i>															
Brief Project Description:															
The objectives include water conservation, treatment and improvement of an 18-acre area from the City of Los Angeles (APNs 5442-002-825, 5442-002-914); planning and design for interim and permanent improvements for public access and habitat restoration; implementation of such improvements and community planning.															
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Tasks / Milestones:</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Budget:</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Completion Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Planning and Design</td> <td>\$ 300,000</td> <td>12/31/2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Engagement</td> <td>\$ 200,000</td> <td>12/31/2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction/Implementation</td> <td>\$ 2,300,000</td> <td>12/31/2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date	Planning and Design	\$ 300,000	12/31/2023	Community Engagement	\$ 200,000	12/31/2023	Construction/Implementation	\$ 2,300,000	12/31/2023
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Construction/Implementation	\$ 2,300,000	12/31/2023													
For Acquisition Projects: 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>			5/12/2020 _____ <i>Date</i>												
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY															

Grantee Data Sheet



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone: 310-589-3200
Fax: 310-589-3207
www.smmc.ca.gov

Date:

New Revised

Grantee Name:
Address:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
Tax ID Number:

Project Name:

Phone:
Fax:

Primary Contact Information

Name (1):
Address:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
Phone (1):
Phone (2):
Fax:
Email:

Information

Will administrative/overhead costs be included?

If yes, is the overhead policy attached to this sheet?

Will vehicle costs be included?

If yes, is the vehicle policy attached to this sheet?

Will cell phone costs be included?

If yes, is the phone policy attached to this sheet?

I have completed and submitted the STD 204 Payee Data Record form.

I have read and accepted the policies and procedures within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Administration Manual.

I am aware that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has urged a reduction of costs associated with overhead, cell phone, and vehicle charges.

*If a reduction in the above costs has been made, please document the reductions and attach to this data sheet.

Name (2):
Address:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
Phone (1):
Phone (2):
Fax:
Email:

Notes:

Signature Field

Stephanie E Campbell

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The Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project is an early activation project at the Taylor Yard G1, or “Bowtie,” and G2 Parcels which would develop the site into a nature-focused restorative habitat and recreational open space along the Los Angeles River. The integrated Project is planned to be approximately eight acres (approximately two acres on G1 and six acres on G2) to implement over one mile of contiguous River-front public access. Proposed improvements may include trails, native habitat, water quality improvement features, greenspaces, trail recreational opportunities, kayak launch and landing, gathering spaces or outdoor classrooms, restorative elements, amenities, such as parking, access points, restrooms, gates, lighting, and interpretive signage, and access to an adjacent water quality improvement project on the Bowtie.

The Project will be implemented in a joint partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), the City of Los Angeles (the City), and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) which will allow the development of a coordinated Project. The three landowners have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) (attached within application) to form the 100-Acre Partnership at Taylor Yard (Partnership) to formally work together, and this Project will be the opening activity to showcase working collaboratively together. State Parks, who acquired the 18-acre Bowtie Parcel in 2003, will continue to work with the City, who acquired the 42-acre G2 Parcel in fee title, and the MRCA, a permanent easement holder of 12.5-acres of the G2 Parcel, to develop a contiguous Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project (Project). The activities for which this grant application is for are as follows: State Parks will be conducting project planning, community engagement, and implementation of improvements at the Bowtie Parcel, while continuing to coordinate with the City and the MRCA to develop the integrated Project. The City will be conducting the environmental scopes for both Bowtie and G2 Parcels and project planning and implementation of improvements at the G2 site. The MRCA will manage and execute the community engagement component of the G2 site and actively participate with the City in the planning of the G2 Parcel. Both City and the MRCA have also submitted complimentary grant applications which will together supplement this grant application. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), the MRCA’s joint powers authority, and the MRCA have concerted efforts over nearly two decades to preserve Taylor Yard for use as a public open space park along the Los Angeles River. The Paseo del Río Project will be an essential part of these efforts in working toward the Long-Term Project.

State Parks acquired the Bowtie in 2003. The 18-acre Bowtie Parcel, a former rail yard and adjacent to the soft-bottomed portion of the Los Angeles River, is described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (ARBOR Study) as critical to fulfilling the ARBOR Study goals to restore ecosystem values in and along an 11-mile corridor of the river from the edge of Griffith Park into downtown Los Angeles, which overall calls for more than 700 acres of riparian restoration in the coming decades. The Bowtie currently serves the community by providing programming for various cultural and art projects and the Project will allow the development of a multi-purpose space for habitat restoration; to secure open space preservation; and to provide future wildlife-oriented, habitat restoration, public access, and recreation.

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In addition, in 2016 the Nature Conservancy (TNC) released the Water Supply and Habitat Resiliency for a Future Los Angeles River: Site-Specific Natural Enhancement Opportunities Informed by River Flow and Watershed-Wide Action Study which identified as one of the greatest opportunities for habitat restoration along with stormwater capture benefits and public access. TNC is currently developing a stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project at the Bowtie. The Paseo del Río Project will provide access to and incorporate this multi-benefit demonstration project into its design and community engagement.

Due to the project site's size, context, and potential, the Project will be the first implemented project on the Bowtie and G2 Parcels which will, in tandem, establish deeper roots, momentum, and potential advocates in the community as the State Parks, City, and MRCA continue to implement the "crown jewel" of the Partnership of the Los Angeles River revitalization effort. Its proximity to existing open space and recreational and interpretive resources, including Río de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian Park, riparian habitat in the River itself, numerous parks along the opposite bank of the River, and Sonia Sotomayor Center for Arts and Sciences, means that Taylor Yard is a singularly unique opportunity to create a regional multiple-benefit park, enhance habitat connectivity, develop wildlife habitat, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.

The Taylor Yard site was used for decades as a railroad maintenance and operations facility. Conversion of the site to public parkland and watershed restoration will be through the development of multiple projects to ensure that the public is allowed safe access to portions of the site, while safely remediating other areas of the site. The Project is the first phase to provide riverfront public access all along the Bowtie and G2 Parcels; therefore, community engagement will be vital to establish relationships with the neighboring community for both the Paseo del Río Project and long-term Project. The proposed grant will help accomplish the implementation of the Project, along with the City's and MRCA's proposed implementation grants, to spearhead new strategies in public engagement and outreach in a historic, culturally-rich, significant, and habitat-sensitive area in Los Angeles.

The goals of the Project align with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) Climate Change Policy, State Planning Priorities and AB 32. The interim Project looks to provide public and environmental benefit. Public health benefits will be promoted by access and use of a restored watershed space, including native habitat and access to the River. The health of the watershed and River should benefit from the planned restoration of native habitat, ultimately mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and addressing the impacts of climate change on the State's natural resources.

The Paseo del Río Project is an exceptional project with the ability to create a multi-use park, augment and connect to existing greenspace, contribute recreation and interpretation, and advocate access to the Los Angeles River. The specific needs addressed by this project include

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sustainable stormwater management, cleaner waterbodies and watersheds, and greater awareness and stewardship of coastal watershed resources. The project will lead to physical improvements which will increase public awareness of natural resources and contribute to future and additional environmental stewardship.

BUDGET

See attached budget.

TIMELINE

The proposed Project's design phase will be completed within approximately 18 months after grant approval, followed by the implementation of the Project, which is estimated to last approximately 12 months; however, the Long-Term Project will take place at the Bowtie Parcel over the next 5 years, with the majority of improvements being implemented following a community engagement process, environmental review, and planning and design of the project site.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project achieves the purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a).

The project will contribute to the protection and restoration of California rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds. The proposed grant achieves the following eight (8) Proposition 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and instream flow.

The protection and beautification of the Los Angeles River and its watershed will increase the economic benefits for the City. There has been a dramatic increase in the interest of the River and the activities surrounding it. Increased access and visitors to the River will benefit the local community by bringing additional revenue to local businesses. Additionally, the construction of the project itself will provide economic benefits by creating new jobs and profit for the companies providing project supplies and materials, sub-contractors and crews working on-site.

2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.

This project is in a highly urbanized area of Los Angeles that suffers from the effects of an Urban Heat Island. California has already seen the impacts of climate change, including droughts, wildfires, and flooding. It is likely that the climate change will continue to affect California in the form of more intense heat spells, droughts and fires. Inherent in the project design will be the restoration of native plants that will serve as improved habitat and open space for the area's wildlife species. This additional greenspace will serve as a means of sequestering carbon from the environment, thereby reducing the effects of climate change. Additionally, the Project will

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provide access to the TNC storm drain daylighting project, on the Bowtie parcel, which will demonstrate stormwater capture, stormwater treatment, and habitat enhancement along the Los Angeles River. Access to the TNC project as well as the incorporation of water treatment features will improve the quality of water flowing into the River, and thereby benefit the watershed and related ecosystems as a whole.

3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkways 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.

A main objective of the Project is to publicly activate the River's edge with walking paths, native vegetation, look-outs, outdoor classrooms, and other possible recreational uses. The site is directly adjacent to the Río de Los Angeles State Park and the Los Angeles River itself in the highly urbanized Los Angeles River watershed. The Los Angeles River is both a River Parkway and an Urban Stream. Southern California contains a network of open space and trails throughout the local mountains and coastline however, it is not readily accessible to urban residents. Improved connectivity is needed for existing public parks. The Project will provide new access to the River at the Bowtie Parcel and G2 sites, providing over one mile of River-front access and tying nature into the urban community.

4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

As an open waterway, the River functions as an important aquatic and migratory bird habitat corridor. A higher number of species exist along the soft-bottom portion of the River making it an ideal location for restoration efforts. Its proximity to Elysian Park and Griffith Park make it a critical habitat link and node. The water quality of the River and in turn, the Pacific Ocean will be improved through treatment of stormwater through daylighting and capture methods at the site. Increased greenspace and habitat through restoration efforts will enhance and protect the ecosystems used by multiple aquatic, wetland and migratory bird species.

9) 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.

Through stormwater capture and treatment features, the quality of water flowing into the River will be enhanced significantly by the Long-Term Project. Because the site is known to be contaminated from previous use as a rail yard, the Project will begin what will be a lengthy remediation process. By capping and/or removing existing contaminants adjacent to the River's edge, the River and the surrounding community will be healthier and more resilient. The Project will be the first phase of site cleanup, which will be followed by more comprehensive remediation efforts as the site is further planned and developed.

Through the installation of native vegetation, multiple benefits will be achieved including additional wildlife habitat, shade for visitors, and reduction in the Urban Heat Island effect. The

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Project promotes the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which will help with the adverse impacts of global warming.

10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

The Project will benefit the Los Angeles River and in turn, benefit the larger coastal watershed. Its implementation will have immediate and long-term effects on the water quality flowing into the River.

11) 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.

The Project scope includes site characterization, which the City will conduct on behalf of State Parks in conjunction with their already initiated efforts at the G2 Parcel, and will provide a guide for the implementation of clean-up activities. Also, stormwater capture and treatment features, in both the short-term and Long-Term Project, will reduce the pollutants on-site, thereby improving quality of water entering the River and eventually flowing into the coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean. As already mentioned, TNC is currently developing a stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project at the Bowtie which will immediately reduce contamination flowing into the River, but also be incorporated to provide long-term benefits.

12) 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.

The Project will improve watershed health and help the recovery of endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard. Watershed health will improve from soil analysis and the subsequent steps taken to address the contamination. By improving the quality of water flowing into the River and the reestablishment of native plant species, fish, bird, and small mammals will benefit from the improved habitat. The enhanced habitat will serve as a valuable wildlife corridor and linkage to adjacent G2 Parcel, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and nearby Elysian and Griffith Parks.

The project will provide multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply, and/or watershed protection and restoration.

Upon completion, the Project will feature many uses and benefits including: stormwater capture and treatment resulting in improved watershed health and water quality in the Los Angeles River; increased vegetation will reduce concentration of greenhouse gases (slowing the rate of global warming) and reduce the heat-island effect; recycled water use for irrigation which will promote a sustainable landscape model; nature education and habitat restoration which will benefit the area's animal and plant species; reduced impervious surfaces and promotion of infiltration projects following contaminant remediation; and aesthetic enhancement to the public and River area. The Long-Term Project will require further site

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clean-up, which will provide multiple benefits related to water quality and watershed health. The early activation Project, Paseo del Río, will initiate a first phase of site clean-up and is an important step to restoration within the Los Angeles River watershed. Additionally, the Project will provide access to an existing storm drain daylighting project, conducted by TNC, on the Bowtie parcel, which will demonstrate stormwater capture, stormwater treatment, and habitat enhancement along the Los Angeles River

The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

This project will use recycled water, thereby limiting its use of potable water and reducing the need for additional imported water to California.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

The project's design and implementation will provide benefits to the River and its watershed, thereby, improving the migratory route and habitat of both sensitive and endangered species.

The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

The project will provide a cleaner source of water flowing into the water by using stormwater capture and treatment mechanisms.

The project employs new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.

In collaboration with TNC, whose principal purpose is to preserve and restore natural habitats, State Parks is implementing a multi-benefit stormwater management demonstration project on-site that improves water quality and enhances biodiversity and habitat.

In addition, an innovative approach is being taken for the Project's planning and implementation by the three agencies with land control to jointly work together. State Parks, the City, and the MRCA have jointly signed a Letter of Intent to work together across the full 100-acres of publicly-owned open space and this early activation project is the first step in this effort – this Project is truly a partnership between jurisdictions.

Since the Project will provide a connection to the adjacent G2 site (currently undeveloped) by way of a MRCA easement, a historical Partnership - one that has been of utmost importance to the neighboring communities and stakeholders - will be first utilized in the development of the Paseo de Rio Project between State Parks, the City, and MRCA will allow both Bowtie and G2 parcels to be developed in tandem and pave the way for further future efforts at Taylor Yard to be planned and implemented together. Working together will simplify for the community the complexity of work to occur at Taylor Yard by reducing the volume of meetings and bringing together the project team(s) to better answer questions and collectively receive feedback.

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Another innovative approach will be taken for the Project's operations and maintenance through a partnership between many City of Los Angeles agencies and likely the County Flood Control District. By the time the Project design is complete, the plans will have been vetted by the Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the MRCA, the County, and the USACE.

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

Recycled water and captured stormwater will be implemented into the design of the Project.

The project is located in or adjacent to communities defined no less than 81 percent disadvantaged as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.

The project is located in and adjacent to communities listed as 90-100% disadvantaged on the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.

The project has demonstrated capability of collecting and treating runoff from off-site sources.

As mentioned above, State Parks and TNC are collaboratively implementing a multi-benefit stormwater management demonstration project on-site that improves water quality and enhances biodiversity and habitat. One specific intent of this project is to capture and treat runoff from both off-site and on-site sources.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

State Parks has years of experience planning, designing, permitting and implementing similar projects. In partnership with the City and MRCA, the support and experience of multiple agencies will be combined to ensure success of the Project. Many local, state and federal elected officials and community members have invested in this high-profile project to ensure its completion.

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

State Parks has completed multiple projects of similar size and scope, including the nearby Río de Los Angeles State Park and the Los Angeles State Historic Park. Both of these projects went through a multistep development process that began with project planning and design and included all aspects of construction, including soil analysis and remediation. The Bowtie, G2 Parcel, and Río de Los Angeles State Park are part of the original Taylor Yard, a site that operated as a rail yard for decades and are likely to present similar contamination issues. Both of the above-mentioned parks are now operational and open to the public.

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

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As discussed earlier, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and MRCA, the Bowtie and G2 Parcels will be designed as a cohesive riverfront area that will bring a myriad of benefits to the watershed of the River. The cooperating association for the Bowtie Parcel, the Los Angeles River State Park Partners (LARSPP), will be actively involved in the community engagement process and play an important role in the implementation of this project. Coordination amongst the Partnership will be instrumental to this and subsequent project success, as it is extremely important to the community that the efforts are integrated and community feedback is shared. State Parks plans to collaborate with organizations that have the ability to reach constituencies that have a varying cultural lens, such as local NGOs and CBOs that have ties to local surrounding communities.

Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection, watershed ecosystem restoration or multi-benefit river parkway plan.

The Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the County of Los Angeles Master Plan include the restoration of the Bowtie Parcel as a high priority.

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

State Parks, and specifically, the Los Angeles Sector, has over 20 years of experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope. Especially relevant are the projects in the immediate area, which are the Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) and Río de Los Angeles State Park. Both parks are operational and open to the public.

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

BMPs will be implemented to treat stormwater through all phases of the Project. A State Parks approved biologist will review and approve all aspects of the project. BMPs will include general environmental protection measures such as cleaning equipment prior to bringing onto site and requiring excess concrete and rinsate to be disposed offsite and not allowed to wash into the adjacent open spaces. During the rainy season, all soil stockpiles shall be covered and/or have wattles around their base.

The project substantially improves a park site by eliminating or significantly remediating water resource contamination or pollution, such as that from urban runoff or onsite conditions.

The Bowtie Parcel has significant contamination from decades of use as a railroad yard. Due to its location adjacent to the River, stormwater runoff, including contamination from the site flows directly into the River. The project will perform soil analysis to identify areas of contamination and implement a design that mediates contamination issues. The TNC proof-of-concept multi-benefit stormwater capture demonstration project will substantially improve the park site. Funding from other sources will be used for soil remediation.

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The project includes or restores an aquatic, wetland, riparian or migratory bird ecosystem in an otherwise natural resource-deficient urban area.

The project located in a natural resource-deficient urban area is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the River where more species survive, fly and swim than in other parts of the River. Open waterways, such as the River, function as habitat corridors for migratory birds and small mammals, and therefore provide an appropriate location for greening and restoration efforts. Through proposed stormwater daylighting and capture, the quality of water flowing into the River will be significantly improved benefiting the ecosystem of multiple species. Additionally, the installation of native plant landscaping will provide new habitat for area birds and other species.

The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational public use facility or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

Upon completion, the project implements a major component of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the County of Los Angeles Master Plan.

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

This Project will add to the network of parks and open space along the River, establishing a significant node, as well as gateway. By adjoining the G2 Parcel, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and the Taylor Yard Bikeway and Pedestrian Bridge, the project will create over 100 acres of contiguous parkland creating a major regional multi-modal Greenway along the River. Currently, there are no boat launches from the River's north bank within the River Recreational Zone (RRZ). This Project will create additional access points to the River.

The project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.

Native species of plants, shrubs and trees will be established throughout the project site, thereby reducing wildfire risk and promoting watershed health.

The site directly abuts and increases the size and ecosystem function of a protected habitat area for aquatic, wetland, or migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

The site is adjacent to and an extension of the River which serves as protected habitat for aquatic and migratory bird species. The additional greenspace created by the project will increase the area of useable land for use as a wildlife corridor and connecting to existing habitat at Río de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian and Griffith Parks.

The site contains substantial potential for restoration of rivers, lakes, streams or coastal waters ecosystems.

The River ecosystem will be enhanced by the removal of soil contamination at the project site. The addition of native vegetation will decrease erosion and sedimentation flowing into the River benefiting the River and coastal water ecosystems.

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The project includes improvements that would significantly reduce the amount of untreated runoff entering urban rivers, waterways, or coastal watersheds.

As already mentioned, the on-site stormwater management demonstration project seeks to improve water quality flowing into the River by capturing and treating runoff. State Parks plans to implement processes learned from this collaboration.

The project includes improvements that would improve or support regeneration of important native vegetative cover on slopes near a stream or river, which if substantially disturbed may contribute to flood, erosion, creek sedimentation, or reduced groundwater recharge.

The cohesive river parkway design that includes Bowtie and G2 parcels will establish native vegetative cover on slopes along the River. This native vegetation will prevent and eliminate soil erosion and the addition of sedimentation into the River.

The project includes substantial restoration, protection or enhancements of riparian or wetland habitat (>0.2 acres).

This features of this 18-acre parcel will contribute significant enhancements to riparian habitat along the soft-bottom portion of the River. Native trees and vegetation will create new habitat for wildlife and birds. As the land is owned by State Parks, the riparian habitat will be protected in perpetuity.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

For the last 5 years, State Parks has partnered with Clockshop, a non-profit organization located in Elysian Valley, to bring artistic and educational programming to the Bowtie. A set of interpretive panels and an audio tour created by Artist Rosten Woo are in use at the project site. State Parks and LARSPP plan to continue similar community engagement topics on the value of watershed resources. State Parks plans to collaborate with organizations that have the ability to reach constituencies that have a varying cultural lens, such as local NGOs and CBOs that have ties to local surrounding communities. An RFQ will be developed for a team to manage the community outreach process.

Community engagement efforts for the Project will be promoted through a combination of traditional grassroots engagement and innovative approaches, but also look to include additional technical strategic guidance from entities that focus on brownfields redevelopment and community health, and a variety of programs that facilitate participation and community trust. Community engagement activities will also include a series of brownfield and environmental education workshops or events to provide information about brownfields becoming parks. Central to this work will be empowering the local community to understand the environmental process and to advocate for resolutions that meet their goals.

The project adds a link to a local trail system

The Project will create contiguous trails across the Bowtie and G2 Parcels along the North bank of the Los Angeles River which will connect to the Río de Los Angeles State Park. The Taylor

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Yard Bikeway and Pedestrian Bridge (currently underway) will create a connection between the south bank of the River, where there is a network of parks and trails that are highly utilized. Upon ultimate Project completion, the Bowtie, the MRCA easement area, and the existing Río de Los Angeles State Park will be connected and create over 100 acres of contiguous parkland. The Project is necessary to connect the south bank of the River to the Río de Los Angeles State Park and will act as an extension of the existing trail system.

The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.

The Project plans to develop a network of multi-modal trails and viewing areas connecting G2, Río and the Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge. Native landscaping will provide shade for visitors and multiple ecosystem benefits for the watershed. Community engagement and interpretive programming on native habitat and river ecology will play a role in supporting the environment.

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

Interpretive elements will be incorporated in the project that encourage environmental stewardship of the River and its watershed. Signage, programming and audio tours may be used as tools to emphasize environmental issues, possible solutions and the valuable resources in the area.

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

Many features of the project, such as stormwater treatment and native landscaping, will improve the health of the watershed. This, in turn, will benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the California Gnatcatcher and the San Diego Horned Lizard.

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

State Parks is the applicant and landowner of the Bowtie Parcel.

EXTRA CONSIDERATION POINTS

QUANTIFIABLE CARBON REDUCTION POINTS

The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.

The project is in a highly desirable location for both commercial and residential development. As State Parks land, and through the restoration of this natural area, the site will be protected from future commercial and/or residential development. The Project will eliminate any emissions associated with development and enhance the goal of creating a more livable, walkable and healthy community. The newly created network of trails and connection to

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existing trails will encourage commuting in ways other than vehicular commuting, thereby reducing vehicle emissions.

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, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces and other forms of water capture and storage. Reclaimed water will be part of an irrigation system that supports drought tolerant native landscaping. Techniques will be implemented through the on-site stormwater capture and treatment project and subsequently, replicated through the entire site.

The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.

This Project will create substantial tree canopy cover and a greenway in an urban area that suffers from heat island effects. Multiple recreational opportunities, such as viewing areas, multi-modal trails and river access, will be incorporated into the project promoting public health and recreation.

The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.

By enhancing the Bowtie Parcel to natural habitat, its use as a wildlife corridor and linkage will be strengthened. Its location adjacent to the river provides connection to existing habitat in nearby Río de Los Angeles, Elysian and Griffith Parks.

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

The development of multi-use trails will provide recreation on-site and direct linkages to G2, Río and the south side of the River by way of the Taylor Yard pedestrian bridge. Several communities, including Cypress Park, Glassell Park and Elysian Valley, will be connected to each other and provided better access to amenities at the parks and the River. Bicycle commuting will be enhanced by the additional trails and connections, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled.

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

Through long-standing collaborative partnerships with local community organizations, outreach, education and interpretation will be achieved. A fundamental part of the design process will take into account the voices of nearby residents and park users through public meetings and workshops. Our cooperating association, LARSPP, will promote long-term stewardship through community engagement and an interpretive program that celebrates and promotes responsible management of our watershed.

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Key project partners are community-based organizations that represent a variety of disadvantaged populations and have the ability to reach constituencies that have a varying cultural lens, and the topics of stewardship and climate change awareness will be included. An innovative grass-roots engagement model will be adopted in which conversations and engagement will be ongoing and continue between community meetings.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Completion of the project would assist in fulfilling a Federal water resources protection or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

This project will help to execute the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan by reestablishing a hydrologic connection of the River into the Taylor Yard area.

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

State Parks has active relationships with community organizations that employ and provide training to community members, including at-risk youth. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps could feasibly complete some of the construction work. Community Nature Connection, a local environmental non-profit, could be engaged to provide interpretation and workshops.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The project area is located approximately 0.25 mile from Metro Bus 90/91 and 94 routes along San Fernando Road. The Metro Gold Line Avenue 26 Station is located 1.8 miles from the project site.

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

The establishment of this greenspace and its proximity to the River will create a vast array of activities that do not currently exist and accessible to users of a wide range of ability levels.

Budget		
Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project		
	Task	Grant Request:
1	Planning & Design	\$300,000
2	Community Engagement	\$200,000
3	Construction/Implementation	\$2,300,000
	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,800,000</i>

LA RIVER PARK AT TAYLOR YARD PARTNERSHIP: LETTER OF INTENT

A collection of publicly-owned properties along the Los Angeles River (LA River) -- pieces of the former "Taylor Yard" rail maintenance yard--form an approximately 100-acre area that is being transformed into a significantly-restored signature park. As envisioned by the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP), many relevant plans, numerous supporters including the Los Angeles River State Park Partners, those 100 acres will be home to restored habitats, engaging recreational activities, cultural and educational enrichments, and a full mile of access to the LA River.

The LA River properties included in the 100-acre unified open space are: (1) The Rio de Los Angeles (RdLA) State Park, an existing 40-acre park owned by California State Parks (State Parks) and managed cooperatively by State Parks and the City of Los Angeles (City) through its Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP); (2) The Taylor Yard G1 parcel, an 18-acre property also known as the "Bowtie" parcel for its distinctive boundary shape, which is owned and managed and in the process of design by State Parks; and (3) The Taylor Yard G2 parcel, a 42-acre property that is owned by the City. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) purchased and now holds the rights to a 12.5-acre easement within the Taylor Yard G2 parcel owned by the City. It is subject to use restrictions under grant funding agreements with the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as well as subject to appropriate design, implementation, and early activation integration. Together, these agencies--the City, State Parks, and the MRCA--shall be known as "The River Parties."

The purpose of this letter is to express The River Parties' mutual intent to cooperate to create a unified LA River Park at Taylor Yard (working title) in recognition of the significant mutual public benefits to be realized by cooperating on the design, construction, financing, operation, maintenance and management of the project. The LA River Park will be developed to a standard of global excellence. It will be unique in biological and social character and will be the single largest open space along the LA River to be created in 100 years. The Park will directly benefit the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City at large, it will be a signature feature of Southern California.

The River Parties recognize common goals:

- Create a world-class, physically-connected and unified public open space that advances revitalization of the Los Angeles River and supports urban ecology
- Engage local communities and stakeholders to guide development of the project
- Establish equity, ecology, River revitalization and flood management as the cornerstones for the Park's design, implementation, and programming
- Increase Park access by linking the interiors of the Park and the exteriors of the Parks and community to new transportation options

- Incorporate safety, sustainability and resilience into the remediation, design, construction, operation, and stewardship of the park
- Restore ecosystem values and native habitats along the LA River
- Integrate the Park and the LA River by rethinking the LA River's bank
- Include River activities in the short-term, mid-term and long-term vision
- Establish facilities to enable cultural, artistic, community, and educational experiences and skills
- Curate appropriate revenue-generating programming to provide rich user experiences, to help develop the project, and to sustain future operation and maintenance
- Create physical and programmatic connections between local educational centers and the project's outdoor learning environment
- Provide varied passive and active recreational opportunities and play spaces within the park
- Improve and enhance athletic fields at Rio de Los Angeles State Park
- Establish on-site stewardship staff, on-going daily programming and encourage neighborhood community care
- Include educational, artistic, and cultural/historical partners in the Park's development, programming, and operation
- Create safe and easy physical connections between all of the areas of the 100 acres and to the surrounding communities on both sides of the River

To fulfill these common goals, The River Parties intend to work together to:

- Establish a cooperative agreement within one (1) year to define a collaborative approach to the remediation, design, construction, financing, operation, and management of the project
- Articulate and implement a common vision for the 100-acre area that is ecologically focused and community-driven and delivers on goals outlined above
- Coordinate on marketing, communication and outreach of the common vision
- Seek other implementation and program partners through a wide-ranging engagement process and City-led contracting process

- Provide near-term public programming on each of the properties, as feasible.
- Cooperatively raise funds for design and implementation from multiple sources and using creative value capture techniques
- Engage regulatory and permitting agencies to secure necessary approvals for site remediation, water quality, flood control, and all other environmental reviews consistent with the CEQA and NEPA processes
- Secure necessary authorizations to execute various partnership agreements

The River Parties understand that this Letter of Intent is not a financial commitment to future expenditures and does not create any obligations, legal or otherwise, between them that do not already exist.

On behalf of California State Parks:



Craig Sap, Parks Superintendent

Date: 12/30/19

On behalf of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority:



Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer

Date: 12-11-19

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles:



Michael A. Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Date: 12/13/19

LA RIVER PARK PARTNERSHIP: LETTER OF INTENT

Gary Lee Moore
Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering

Date: 1-10-20