

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 1, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for capital improvements for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for capital improvements for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Bowtie Project adjacent to the Los Angeles River, in the amount of \$2,800,000, 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 California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has submitted an application for Proposition 1 funding 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 City of Los Angeles (City) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), who have also submitted supplemental grant applications to the Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding, in order to allow the development of a coordinated early access river edge Project.

The State Parks scope includes: project planning and design, community engagement, and construction for the Bowtie Parcel. 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 Department of Parks and Recreation 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 Department of Parks and Recreation for a detailed description and maps. Scoring under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Guidelines, Water Conservation, Treatment, and Improvement category results in the Project receiving 143 points (out of a possible 149; 105 minimum required), plus 18 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 20 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 181** (out of possible 192).

Consideration: The application from the Department of Parks and Recreation is for \$2,800,000 of Proposition 1 funds.