

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 1, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for phase 3 of the Arroyo Simi Trail and Greenway, City of Simi Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$1,000,000 in Proposition 68 funds to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to extend and improve the Arroyo Simi Greenway trail project.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Proposition 68, Section 80000 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 68 grant application from the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for a detailed description and analysis. The grant request is for \$1,000,000 to be matched with approximately \$262,000 in District funds in order to extend and complete a next phase in the Arroyo Simi Greenway, a long-planned nearly 12-mile trail system to traverse the City of Simi Valley along the Arroyo Simi. This grant will provide an additional 1.6 miles of enhanced access and trailheads, renovated trails, interpretive elements, and rest areas in the eastern portion of the city and Arroyo. The trail improvements will also connect to four parks or recreation amenities. Native plant restoration is part of the project, to enhance habitat and water quality. This trail segment project area happens to run through one of the City of Simi Valley's most disadvantaged census tracts, and its completion will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and safer bicycle and pedestrian access to schools and parks.

The Arroyo Simi Greenway project began in 2007 as a vision and joint effort of the District, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and the City of Simi Valley. It complements local and regional trail systems, including the Rim of the Valley Trail which intersects near the Arroyo Simi Equestrian Center, which was the subject of an early Conservancy grant in the 1980's.

Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects received more than sufficient scoring under values for Prioritization, Category, Implementation, Climate Change, and Additional Consideration (totaling 133 out of a max of 145), plus points for matching funds.