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AND PARKS

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CATHIE SANTO DOMINGO
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
(213) 202-2633 FAX (213) 202-2614

May 14, 2020

Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

**RE: SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 68 GRANT – LA RIVER
GREENWAY – HABITAT RESTORATION – GRANT APPLICATION PACKET**

Dear Ms. Skei:

In accordance with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks is submitting a grant application packet for the La River Greenway – Habitat Restoration project.

If you have any questions, please call Kai Wong at (213) 202-5650 or Bill Jones at (213) 202-5657.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A SHULL
General Manager

MAS/NW/BJ:kw

Enclosure



**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: LA River Greenway - Habitat Restoration Project		Amount of Request: \$150,000.00	
Applicant Name: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks		Total Project Cost: \$683,015.84	
		Matching Funds: \$533,015.84	
		Lat/Long: 34° 8'36.19"N, 118°24'18.21"W	
Applicant Address: 221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90012		Project Address: 4000 Whitsett Ave., Studio City, CA 91604	
		County	Senate District
		Los Angeles	18
		Assembly District	46
Phone: (213) 202-5657		Tax ID: 95-6000735	
Email: bill.jones@lacity.org			
Grantee's Authorized Representative:			
Michael Shull, General Manager		(213) 202-2633	
<i>Name and Title</i>		<i>Phone</i>	
Overhead Allocation Notice:			
Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.			
The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.			
The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.			
Outreach and Advertising Requirement:			
Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies.			
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 scope of this project includes removal of existing plants, as-needed irrigation repairs, slope stabilization and installation of new plant material that will be designed to promote a natural California riparian habitat. Habitat restoration will ensure that all new plant material will be California Native species.			
The sloped areas within this project scope occur along the southern bank of the Los Angeles River Greenway in Studio City between Whitsett Ave. and Laurel Canyon Blvd., which totals to approximately 73,304 square feet.			
*attach additional pages with project detail			
Tasks / Milestones:		Budget:	Completion Date
Design		\$52,039.00	November 2020
Demolition/Earthwork		\$73,304.00	August 2021
Irrigation		\$160,000.00	August 2021
Planting		\$262,308.40	November 2021
Project/Construction Management		\$78,058.95	December 2021
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.			
			5/14/2020
<i>Signature of Authorized Representative</i>			<i>Date</i>
STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY			

Grantee Data Sheet

Print Form



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:

Phone:
Fax:

Project Name:

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.

Primary Contact Information

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

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

Notes:

Signature Field

LA RIVER GREENWAY – HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Los Angeles River was once the backbone of a vast system of riparian habitat that supported diverse plant and wildlife species. Stretching from Canoga Park in the west San Fernando Valley to Long Beach, the 51 mile long Los Angeles River covers an approximately 870 square mile watershed before flowing into the Pacific Ocean via the San Pedro/ Long Beach Harbor. However, the natural Los Angeles River system was channelized as part of a formal flood risk management program conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the early to mid-twentieth century. Concrete channelization degraded the natural habitat of the Los Angeles River, diminishing plant and wildlife diversity, disconnecting it from the floodplain and other significant ecological zones, and changing its appearance and function. Over the years, commercial, industrial and residential development have further impacted the remaining natural habitat along the Los Angeles River.¹

Given the impact urbanization has had on the Los Angeles River and its surrounding habitat, it is imperative to restore and maintain existing green spaces such as the Los Angeles River Greenway. The 73,304 sq. ft. segment of the Los Angeles River Greenway between Whitsett Ave. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. in Studio City is currently in a state of disarray. Vegetation is overgrown resulting in low visibility, infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation has suffered damage, and refuse has accumulated due to an increase in the number of residents experiencing homelessness. These conditions have not only damaged the greenway's natural habitat, they have deterred local residents from utilizing the greenway space to its full recreational potential.

The LA River Greenway - Habitat Restoration project will re-establish a natural California habitat along this neglected segment of the Los Angeles River Greenway. Thriving riparian habitats provide multiple benefits including the conveyance and delivery of water supply, maintenance of water quality, wildlife habitat and regional migration corridors, and recreational opportunities for the surrounding community.² Current conditions at this site prevent both residents and wildlife from realizing the many benefits of this portion of the Los Angeles River Greenway. Transforming even a small portion of the riverfront greenway can go a long way to restoring the ecological function of the Los Angeles River and reconnecting communities to a valuable public resource.³

¹ "Los Angeles River Revitalization." LA River Ecosystem Restoration | Los Angeles River Revitalization, <https://www.lariver.org/blog/la-river-ecosystem-restoration>.

² Griggs, F. Thomas. "California Riparian Habitat Restoration Handbook," June 2009. https://water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/urbanstreams/docs/ca_riparian_handbook.pdf.

³ "The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan," April 2007. http://boe.lacity.org/lariver/mp/CommunityOutreach/pdf/LARRMP_Final_05_03_07.pdf.

The project will provide access to safe natural recreation areas for residents to experience the outdoors, improve their physical and emotional health, exercise, and connect with their communities, thereby achieving several of the purposes of Proposition 68.⁴ The restoration will provide residents with the opportunity for outdoor recreational activities in an otherwise urbanized setting. The restoration of the natural California landscape to this portion of the Los Angeles River Greenway will also preserve a vital habitat corridor for native wildlife.

In restoring a natural Californian habitat along this stretch of the Los Angeles River, the project will support healthy soil that will store carbon and help sequester and reduce greenhouse gases.⁵ Soil sequesters carbon through a process that begins with photosynthesis. Plants draw carbon out of the atmosphere and return what isn't harvested to the soil. The carbon is then stabilized and transformed by microbes into the building blocks of organic soil matter thereby sequestering it.⁶ By increasing the potential carbon sequestration of the soil, the LA River Greenway - Habitat Restoration project is in accordance with the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

The project promotes and implements other regional and state plans and policies such as the Los Angeles County River Master Plan. The original and updated Los Angeles County River Master Plan has the vision of a reimagined river with 51 miles of connected open space that includes among other things a thriving urban habitat, a place for communities to enjoy the outdoors, flood risk management. The improvements proposed by this project will not compromise the flood risk management infrastructure on this stretch of the river, but it will create a more inviting environment for both wildlife and surrounding communities.⁷

The project also compliments the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, which provides a framework for restoring the Los Angeles River's ecological function and for transforming it into an amenity for residents and visitors to the City of Los Angeles. The project meets the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan goals of revitalizing the river by enabling safe public access and greening the neighborhoods by creating a continuous river greenway, connecting neighborhoods to the river, and extending open space, recreation and water quality features into neighborhoods.⁸

The project is consistent with the Common Ground Plan guiding principle, Land: Grow a Greener Southern California. The LA River Greenway - Habitat Restoration project will

⁴ SB-5 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB5

⁵ California Department of Food and Agriculture. "Healthy Soils Program." CDFA.

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/HealthySoilsFactSheet.pdf>.

⁶ "A Climate Change Solution Beneath Our Feet." Science and Climate, March 27, 2018.

<https://climatechange.ucdavis.edu/news/climate-change-solution-beneath-feet/>.

⁷ LA River Master Plan. <http://larivermasterplan.org/>.

⁸ "The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan," April 2007.

http://boe.lacity.org/lariverrmp/CommunityOutreach/pdf/LARRMP_Final_05_03_07.pdf.

improve access to the Los Angeles River Greenway by removing overgrown plants and debris making the site a more accessible open space for the surrounding community. This project will also improve the habitat quality in the existing riverfront greenway by ensuring that all new plant material will be California Native species.⁹ Furthermore, improvements to this stretch of riverfront greenway will ensure the site's continued connectivity to the network of small parks, trails and restored natural lands along the Los Angeles River.

While the project will not directly benefit an economically disadvantaged community, it will however benefit residents by providing access to green space in an area with limited park acreage within a ½ mile walking distance. According to the Community FactFinder Report, residents living along this portion of the greenway have access to less than three acres of parks and open space per 1000 people. Additionally, given the interconnectivity of the Los Angeles River, the improvements along this segment of the Los Angeles River Greenway have the potential to benefit communities outside of the immediate vicinity of the project site.

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) will use matching funds to address the \$132,684.51 shortfall for this project. This will allow RAP staff to fund the entire landscaped area from Laurel Canyon Blvd. to Whitsett Ave. The services of the local or state conservation corps will not be used for this project. RAP staff will execute this project using industry standard practices appropriate to restoring a natural California habitat.

RAP maintenance staff will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness during and after project implementation. RAP has a lease agreement with the landowner, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), to maintain the Los Angeles River Greenway property after the project is completed. This project site will be incorporated into RAP staff's regular maintenance routes to guarantee successful native planting along this portion of the Los Angeles River Greenway.

The project's scope of work ultimately fulfills the Conservancy's strategic objectives of an interlinking network of parks, trails, and open space for public use and wildlife habitat, ensuring future open space and recreational lands in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. This portion of the Los Angeles River Greenway between Whitsett Ave. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. in Studio City is part of a broader network of natural spaces along the Los Angeles River. Maintenance and improvements to these greenways ensures that the urbanized Los Angeles River has the potential to be a thriving resource, as well as an accessible and welcoming space for surrounding communities.

⁹ The California Resources Agency, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. "Common Ground from the Mountains to the Sea: Watershed and Open Space Plan San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers," October 2001. <http://smmc.ca.gov/Common%20Ground%20Plan.pdf>.

PROJECT BUDGET SHEET

LA River Greenway - Habitat Restoration Project

Native planting project

Activity	Quantity	Unit	Costs/Unit	Budget
Project Management				
Project/Construction Mngmt. (15%)				\$ 78,058.95
Design				
RAP In-House (10%)				\$ 52,039.30
Construction				
Demolition/Earthwork				
Clear and grubbing	73,304	sf	\$ 1.00	\$ 73,304.00
			Subtotal =	\$ 73,304.00
Irrigation				
Modification to existing system	80,000	sf	\$ 2.00	\$ 160,000.00
			Subtotal =	\$ 160,000.00
Planting				
Shrubs (5 gal.)	4,000	each	\$ 50.00	\$ 200,000.00
Hydroseed slope stabilization	73,304	sf	\$ 0.85	\$ 62,308.40
			Subtotal =	\$ 262,308.40
			Construction Subtotal =	\$ 495,612.40
			Construction Contingency (5%) =	\$ 24,780.62
			Construction Total =	\$ 520,393.02
			Subtotal =	\$ 650,491.28
			Project Contingency (5%) =	\$ 32,524.56
TOTAL PROJECT COST				\$ 683,015.84
FUNDING SOURCES				
Santa Monia Mountains Conservancy				\$ 150,000.00
RAP General Fund				\$ 130,098.26
Quimby				\$ 402,917.58
TOTAL FUNDS				\$ 683,015.84


Los Angeles River Greenway – Habitat Restoration Project Schedule

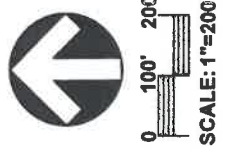
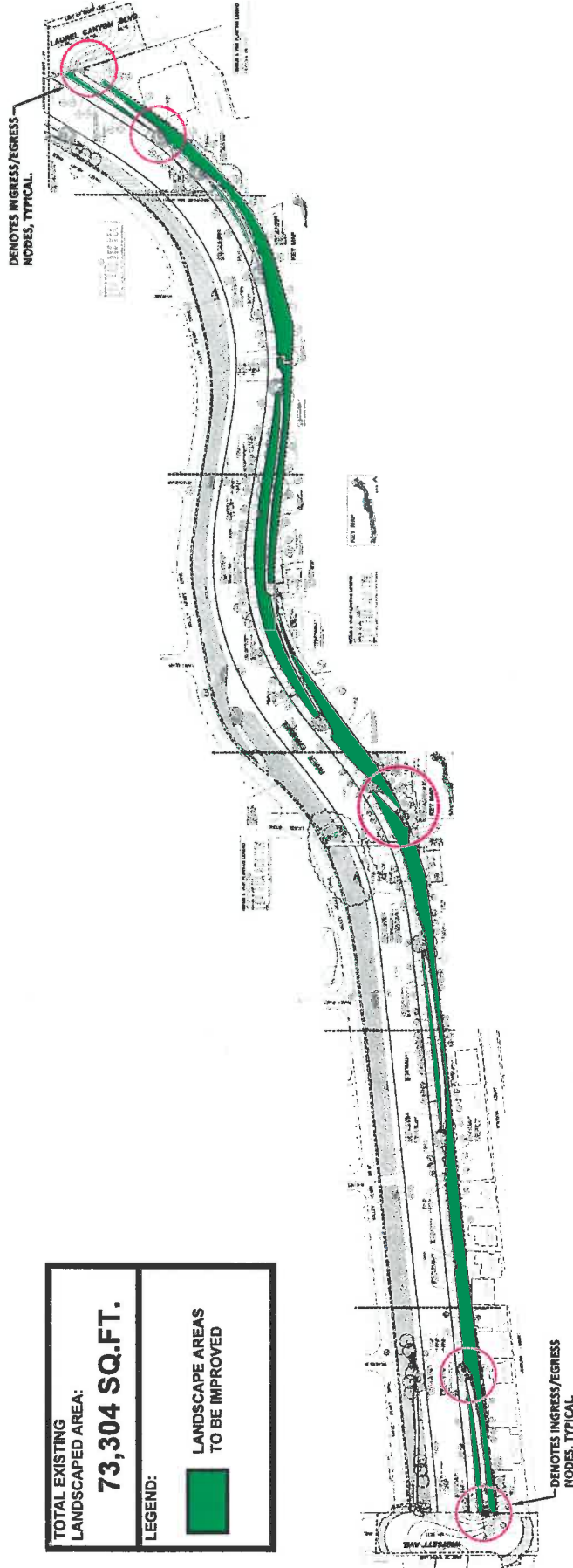
	2020					2021											
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Development of Construction Documents*																	
Bid and Award																	
Construction																	
Plant Establishment																	
Final acceptance by RAP Board																	

* Start date of timeline is tentative and based on date of grant award.

TOTAL EXISTING
LANDSCAPED AREA:
73,304 SQ.FT.

LEGEND:

 LANDSCAPE AREAS
TO BE IMPROVED



LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY - Laurel Canyon to Whitsett