

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 29, 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 Friends of the Los Angeles River to augment the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone Ecosystem Enhancement study, City of Los Angeles.

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 Urban Creek funds in the amount of \$77,500 to the Friends of the Los Angeles River in order to complete the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone Ecosystem Enhancement study.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204, 33204.2, 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) for a detailed description of the project. The Conservancy previously made a grant of \$172,000 to the organization on August 26, 2019, focused on the the Army Corps of Engineers ARBOR study in the Elysian Valley and G2 site and flood risk concerns. This proposed augmentation funding would address greater reduction of flood risk by proposing potential methods and upstream locations for reducing runoff flows into the river. This would also align with regional flood management and habitat enhancement embodied in the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Plan, recently adopted by the Conservancy. FOLAR indicates that this funding augmentation will also expand the study area upstream to Atwater Village, include regional water detention and localized channel modifications opportunities.

The activities to be funded with this grant constitute planning of projects 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 under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines results in the application receiving 86 points (out of a possible 86; 61 minimum required), plus 4 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. Total points: 105 (out of possible 115).