

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 31, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation for the Trails LA County Expansion for Equity, Inclusion, and Watershed Education project, with matching funds from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy as determined through the agreement in Item 13, County of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$500,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation for expansion of the Trails LA County project for Equity, Inclusion, and Watershed Education, with matching funds from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(a) of the Public Resources Code and Section 79735(a) and Section 79508 of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation for a detailed description. The grant request is for a matching grant of \$500,000 to greatly expand the County's innovative Trails LA County platform, particularly for the Los Angeles River Watershed in the Conservancy's jurisdiction. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is expected to entertain a complementary matching grant proposal for their jurisdiction, per Agenda Item 13.

The County developed and inaugurated a highly useful and comprehensive site, www.trails.lacounty.gov, that provides trail and park information for facilities owned or managed not just by the County, but all park agencies and municipalities. This grant request proposes additional enhancements in order to create content for watershed education and clean water issues while strengthening utility for the diverse cultures and trail interests in the county, including trails and access issues along waterways. Of particular benefit to the project's goal of enhancing an integrated digital medium will be to provide equitable and inclusive access to countywide trails, parklands and rivers not just for existing trail users and groups, but especially for high need and underserved communities and groups.

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The proposal includes extensive outreach to underserved communities and to provide easily accessible information such as where and how to find trails or bikeways near neighborhoods. Also, the proposal includes workforce development and skills training for at-risk young adults, while also incorporating interested volunteers and community groups for data collection.

Scoring under the Conservancy's revised Proposition 1 Guidelines for All Other Improvement Projects results in the project receiving 89 points (out of a possible 94 (66 minimum required), plus 15 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 20 out of 20 possible points under Additional Criteria. Total points: 124 (out of a possible 132). Staff recommends award of \$500,000 for this project.