

**DATE:** July 23, 2015

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 14: Consideration of a resolution to authorize the Executive Officer, or Designee, to negotiate and enter into an Encroachment Agreement with the City of Irwindale for the installation of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project at Santa Fe Dam.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That the WCA Governing Board authorize the Governing Board Chair, or designee, to negotiate and enter into an Encroachment Agreement with the City of Irwindale for the installation of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project at the crossing of the San Gabriel River Bikeway over Arrow Highway at the Santa Fe Dam.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The WCA received Prop A funding through the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for a project known as The San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project to improve the visibility and safety of the San Gabriel River Bikeway crossing at the heavily trafficked Arrow Highway intersection. An Encroachment Agreement between the WCA and the City of Irwindale is needed to move forward with project production and installation in the Arrow Highway road easement under the City of Irwindale at the San Gabriel River Bikeway crossing.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 2010 a grant agreement for \$84,000 was executed between the WCA and Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the First Supervisorial District Excess Funding to implement a place-making art installation referred to as the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project. The project site is located adjacent to the Santa Fe Dam at the busy crossing of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail over the Arrow Highway (Exhibit A) to improve visibility and safety.

The project scope originally included landscaping and decorative monument signage within both the City of Irwindale street right-of-way and the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A multi-year long consultation with USACE and the City was unsuccessful in attaining the USACE's approval to permit the proposed improvements. However, the City has remained supportive of the proposed improvements. The project scope therefore evolved throughout 2014 to include sculptural art and interpretive signage solely within the City's jurisdiction (Exhibit B).

Staff subsequently completed a preliminary CEQA review and determined that the proposed project constituted a Categorical Exemption pursuant to Section 15303 (Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and Section 15304 (Class 4: Minor Alterations). The Santa Fe Dam Bike Trail Enhancement Project involves placement of interpretive signage, construction/installation of sculptures/artwork, and minor alteration to land. These types of improvements are categorically exempt from CEQA review and there are no significant impacts resulting from them. Following WCA Board

approval in January 2015 staff filed a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk that was unchallenged.

The artist Brett Goldstone, who has developed art concepts for this project with the WCA, has confirmed availability to complete the sculptural elements and the WCA is prepared to oversee production and installation of the project. The City of Irwindale has consulted on design components and limitations throughout the project development process, and now requires that the WCA enter into an Encroachment Agreement (Exhibit C – Draft) to install and maintain the project. Following execution of an Encroachment Agreement the shovel-ready concept will be ready for production.

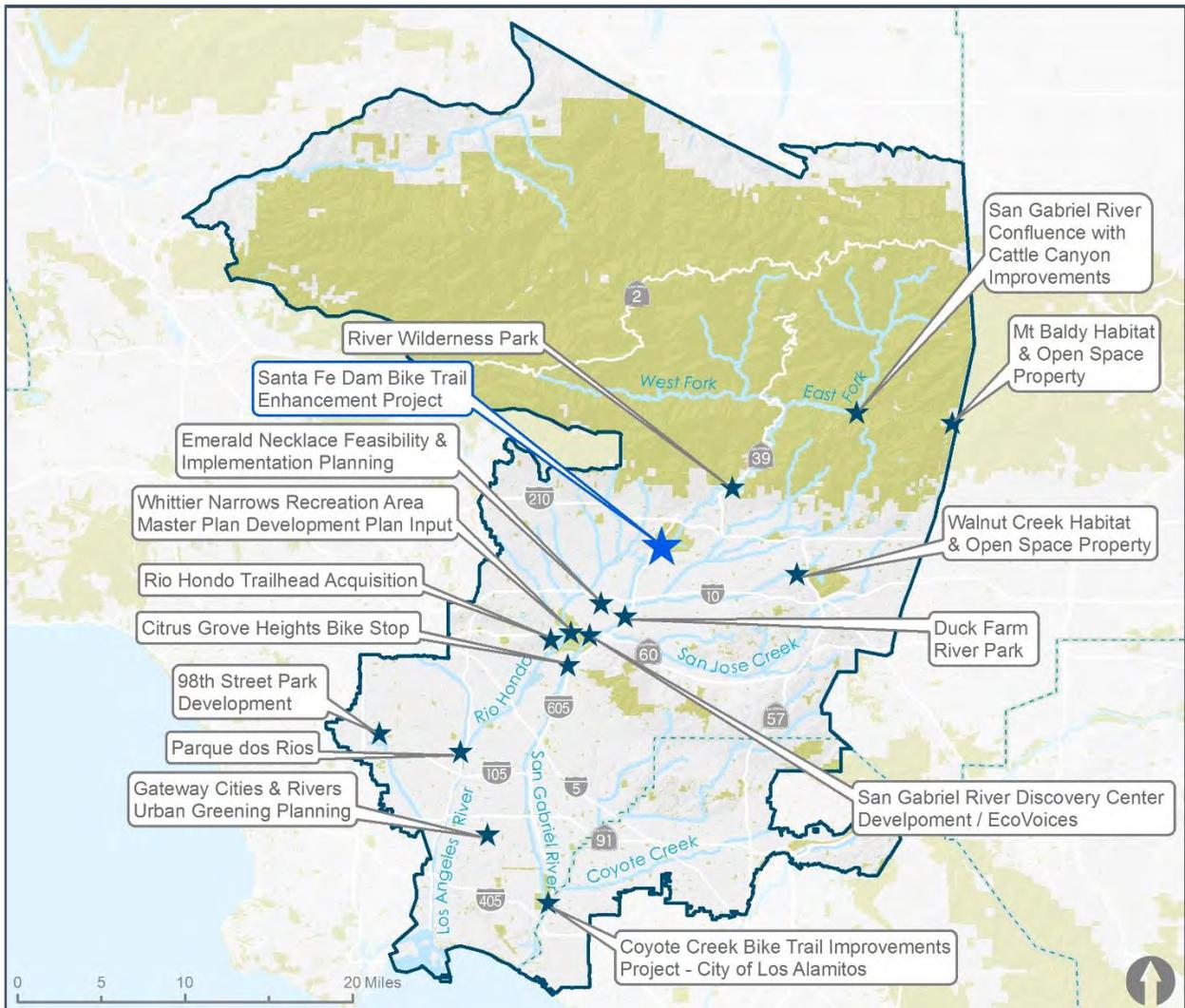
**FISCAL INFORMATION:** Entering into an Encroachment Agreement with the City of Irwindale has no impact on the project budget. This action will allow the WCA to complete the project within the current grant timeline and \$84,000 budget outlined in the original grant award.

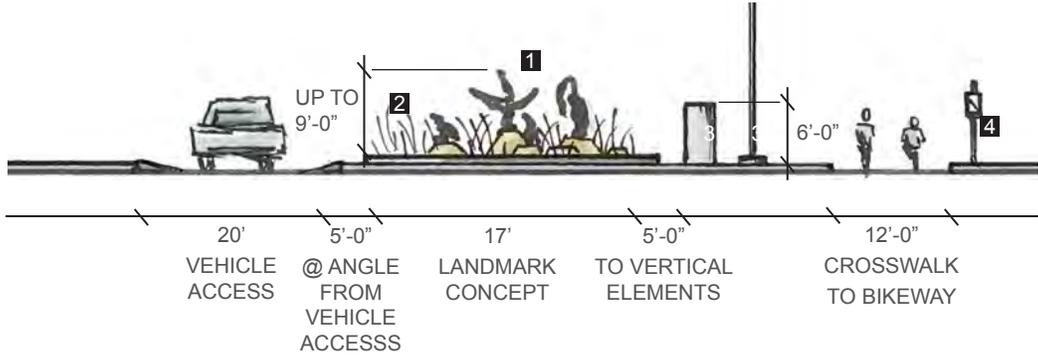


## Exhibit A

### Territory Map

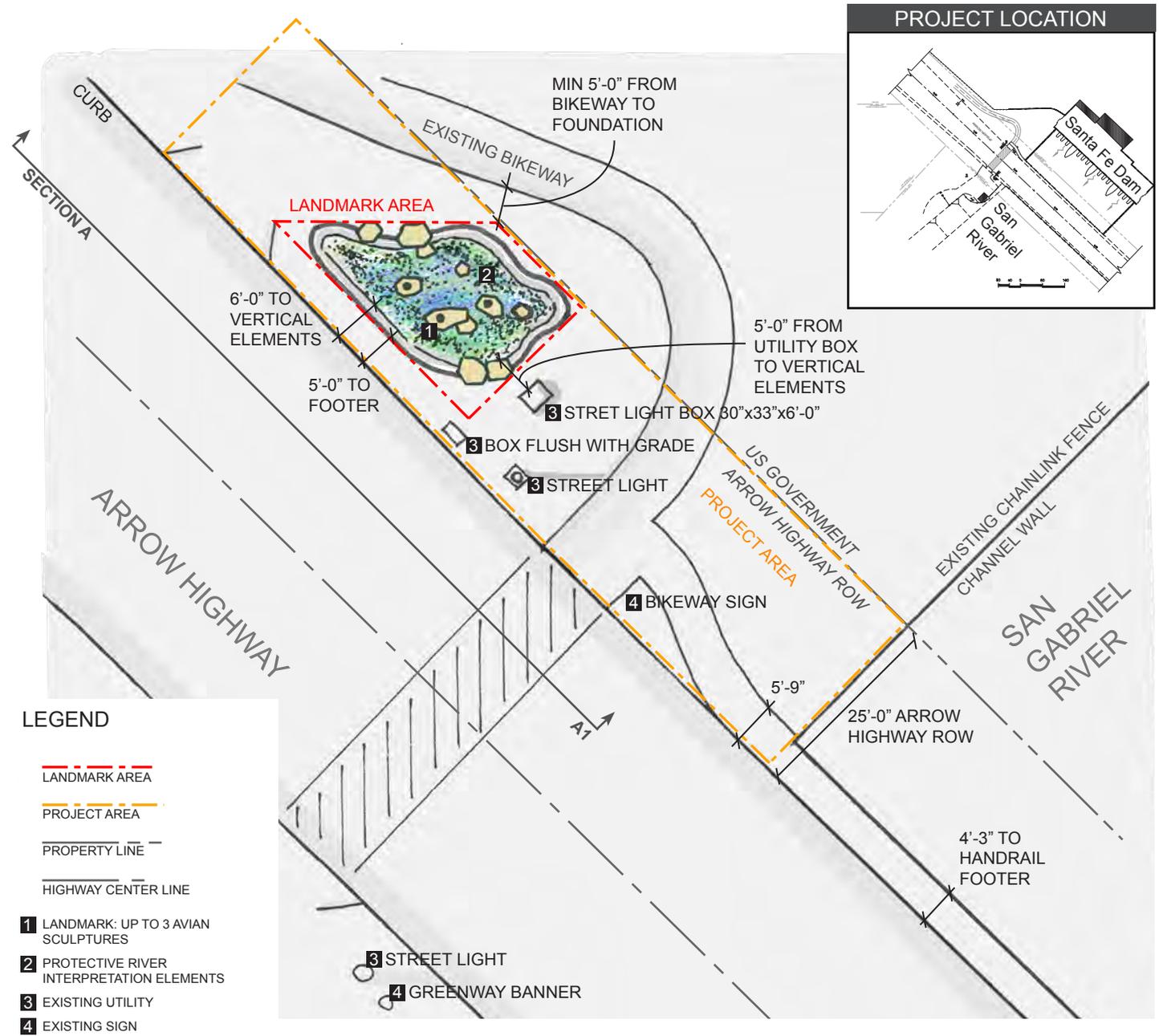
### Santa Fe Dam Bike Trail Enhancement Project





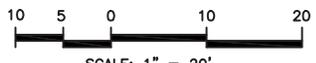
SECTION A: VIEW FROM STREET

A1



**SANTA FE DAM TRAIL ENHANCEMENT**

DRAFT CONCEPT 1/9/2015



July 23, 2015 - Item 14

**RESOLUTION 2015-30**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF IRWINDALE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER BIKE TRAIL GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AT SANTA FE DAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established as a joint powers agency between the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District); and

**WHEREAS**, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has further been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, this action will authorize the Executive Officer, or Designee, to negotiate and enter into an Encroachment Agreement with the City of Irwindale for the installation of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project at Santa Fe Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; NOW

*Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:*

1. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.
2. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated July 23, 2015.
4. **AUTHORIZES** the Executive Officer, or Designee, to negotiate and enter into an Encroachment Agreement with the City of Irwindale to install the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project at Santa Fe Dam.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

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Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution 2015-30

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
On July 23, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Mejia, Chairperson

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Fujimoto  
Deputy Attorney General