

DATE: September 24, 2015

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: Robert Romanek, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 12: Consideration of a resolution to ratify the application for grant funds for the California River Parkways Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) ratify the filing of an application for grant funds for the Californian River Parkways Grant Program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: On September 1, 2015 staff submitted an application to the 2015 Californian River Parkways Grant Program for the River Wilderness Park (RWP) Entry: River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project. This request was for an amount of \$299,862. This project is the proposed creation of an overlook and river ecology interpretive site along the San Gabriel River, included as a component of the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements and the adopted Park Master Plan.

A project location map is included as Exhibit A, site plan information is included as Exhibit B, a one-page summary of the grant application is included as Exhibit C, and current project cost estimates and timeline information is attached as Exhibits D and E, respectively.

BACKGROUND: The Californian River Parkways Grant Program, administered by the Natural Resources Agency, is a competitive program funded with remaining allocations from several water and park bonds that predate the passage of Proposition 1. For the 2015 call-for-projects approximately \$7.6 million will be awarded to public agencies and nonprofit organization statewide, with individual funding requests capped at \$500,000. Unlike past River Parkways Programs, the guidelines for 2015 cycle only allow one application per applicant. Funding decisions will be announced in the following months – an exact announcement date is not available at this time. Staff anticipates awards in Spring of 2016.

As a requirement for local government agencies, an authorizing (ratifying) resolution is required to complete the application. The action before the WCA, if passed, will meet the grant requirement. If the WCA does not provide a resolution in a timely manner the application will be considered incomplete, and ineligible for funding.

Eligible projects must involve natural creeks, streams and/or rivers, even if they flow only during the rainy season, or channelized or culverted creeks, streams and /or rivers. Projects must also meet at least two of the following five statutory conditions: Recreation; Habitat; Flood Management; Conversion to River Parkways; Conservation and Interpretive Enhancement. The prepared application focused on Recreation and Conservation and Interpretive Enhancement. The stated benefits are summarized as follows:

Recreational benefits: Transforming rural vegetation on a previously disturbed largely denuded site, the development of this trailside overlook, with an incredible vista through the San Gabriel

Canyon walls to the Downtown LA Skyline. Views are also provided of the San Gabriel River, which has undergone restoration prior to WCA acquisition in 2008. Components of the Overlook include locally stone seat walls and landscape boulders reflective of the riparian nature of the river below, decorative wood safety fencing, bicycle racks, bear-proof dual purpose trash and recycling receptacles, native landscaping representative of the natural flora of the canyon, and decomposed granite paths and communal gathering spaces that will connect the proposed San Gabriel River Bike Path extension and the other portions of the RWP.

Conservation and Interpretive Enhancement benefits: Interpretive displays will include two interpretive panels, as well as, native plant identification plaques in the landscaping, and boulder etching with inlays of animal images and tracks highlighting the endemic species found on or near the site. Interpretive planes will focus on 1) the river ecology located below the overlook and its ability to adapt to periodically changing river flows artificially managed by the upstream Morris Dam, and 2) the interconnected relationship between human behaviors and the ecological function of the river and impacts to the overall watershed health.

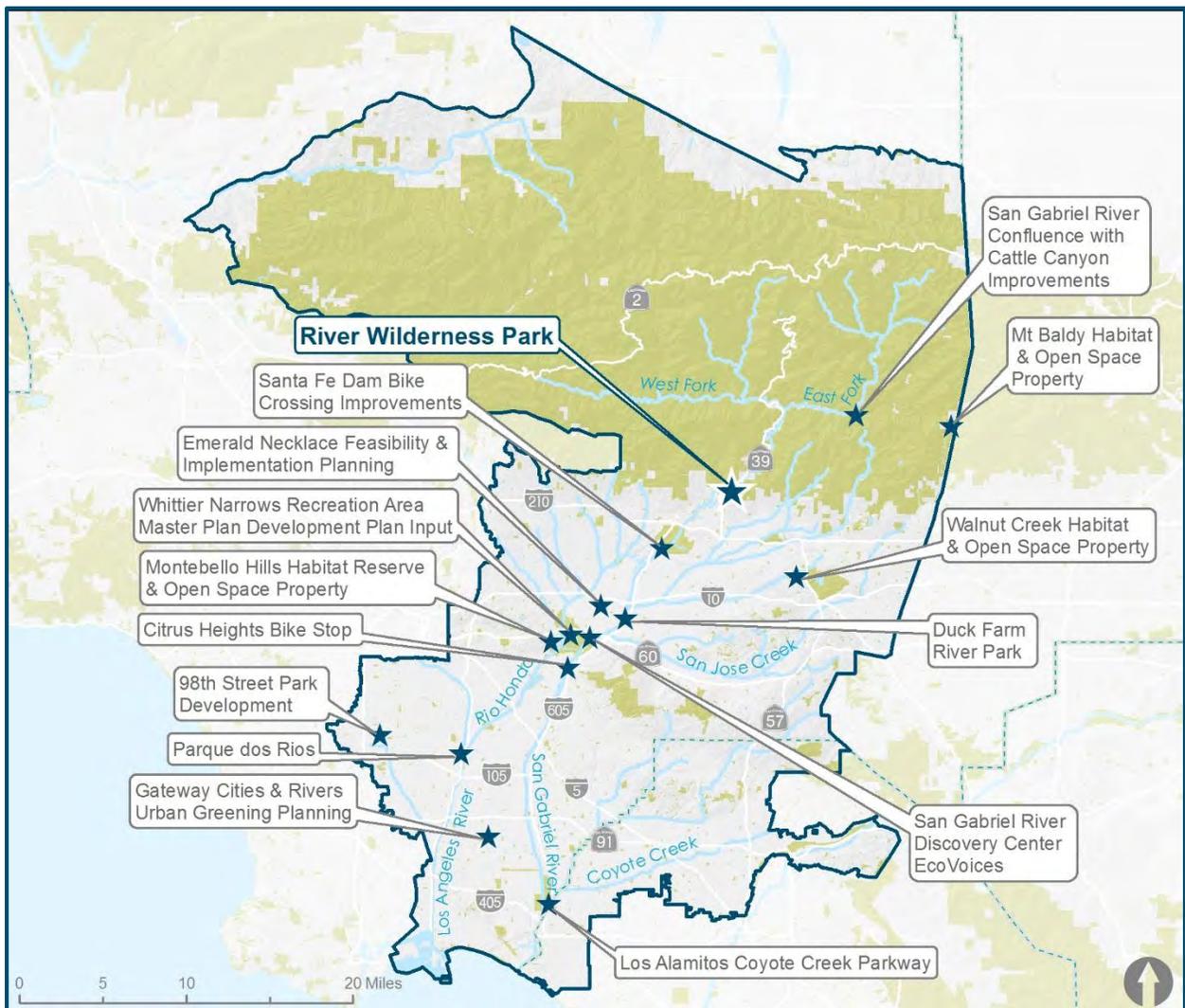
The total estimated cost to implement the RWP Entry Improvements is estimated at approximately \$8 million. Planning and design development work was initiated with a RMC grant \$455,998, awarded in 2014. To fund construction, the Rivers Parkways Application is one of three grant proposals submitted by the WCA between June 1st, 2015 and September 1st, 2015. The other two funding program included the Californian Active Transpiration Program (ATP), with a funding request of \$1.76 million, and the 2015 Competitive Los Angeles Countywide Competitive Proposition A Grant Program with a request of \$997,000. The Proposition A application has been recommended for funding.

For the Proposition A Program the WCA application was recommended for award by staff from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. A letter confirming the standing of this critical funding award is included as Exhibit F. Award recommendations for State ATP is anticipated in mid-December. Staff continues to seek out other funding opportunities.

FISCAL INFORMATION: With a maximum grant award amount of \$500,000, the RWP Entry: River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project request was for \$299,862 in capital funding. As shown in Exhibit D the requested funding amount, together with the pending award description from the California Active Transportation grant, provides the funding for the Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project. An unfunded balance of approximately \$4.5 million remains for other portions of the RWP Entry Improvements. Unfunded aspects include grading, park driveway realignment, and utilities.



River Wilderness Park





River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project Area

- | | |
|---|---|
| WESTERN BANK
■ NATURE TRAIL
■ RIVER OVERLOOK
■ HABITAT RESTORATION
■ INTERPRETIVE SIGN | AZUSA SPRINGS
■ TENT CAMPING (BY PERMIT)
■ NATURE TRAIL
■ HABITAT RESTORATION
■ INTERPRETIVE INSTALLATIONS |
| POINT BAR
■ NATURE TRAIL
■ HABITAT RESTORATION
■ RIVER VIEW BENCH | THE TRIANGLE
■ HABITAT RESTORATION |

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| HIGHWAY 39
■ ROUNDABOUT
■ BICYCLE PATH CROSSES UNDER BRIDGE
■ TRAFFIC CALMING
■ INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
■ PARK ENTRY SIGN
■ RIVER OVERLOOK

SHADY GROVE
■ GROUP PICNIC (BY FEE)
■ TENT CAMPING (BY PERMIT)
■ ADVENTURE DAY CAMP | CANYON INN
■ CAFE/BAKERY WITH RESTROOMS & CATERING VEHICLE HOOK-UP
■ PAVILION (BY FEE)
■ LOOP NATURE TRAIL
■ BICYCLE REST STOP
■ PICNIC AREA
■ ADVENTURE PLAY | EL ENCANTO
■ RIVER VIEW TERRACE
■ PUBLIC COURTYARD
■ OFFICES & CONFERENCE ROOM

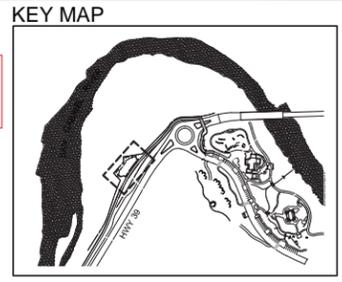
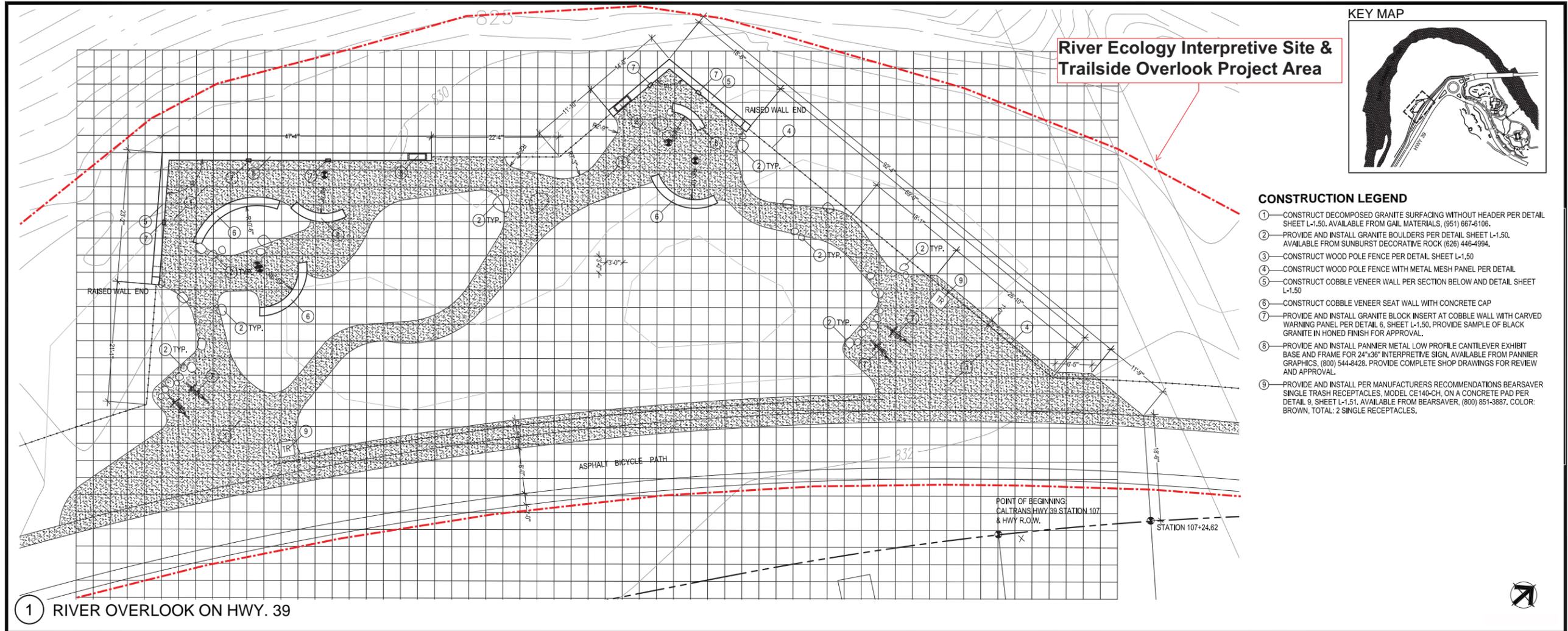
NEWMAN'S ROOST (SPECIAL-USE AREA)
■ HILLSIDE THEATER
■ LOW-FLOW BROOK & HIGH-FLOW STREAM
■ PARK SHELTER
■ PICNIC AREAS
■ ADA-ACCESSIBLE PATH
■ RESTROOM
■ INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS
■ TRAIL TO GAGING STATION |
|---|--|--|

RIVER WILDERNESS PARK MASTER PLAN

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



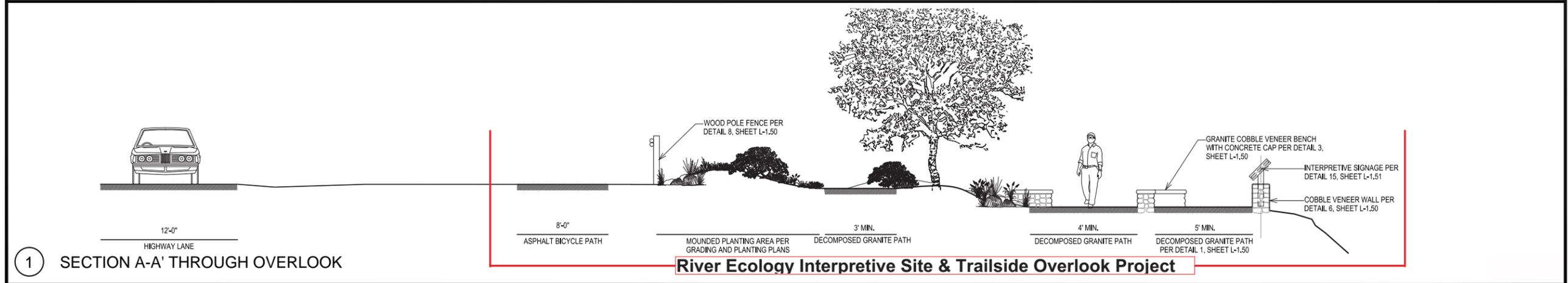
NEWMAN'S ROOST (SPECIAL-USE AREA)



River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project Area

- CONSTRUCTION LEGEND**
- ① CONSTRUCT DECOMPOSED GRANITE SURFACING WITHOUT HEADER PER DETAIL SHEET L-1.50. AVAILABLE FROM GAIL MATERIALS, (951) 667-6106.
 - ② PROVIDE AND INSTALL GRANITE BOULDERS PER DETAIL SHEET L-1.50. AVAILABLE FROM SUNBURST DECORATIVE ROCK (626) 446-4994.
 - ③ CONSTRUCT WOOD POLE FENCE PER DETAIL SHEET L-1.50
 - ④ CONSTRUCT WOOD POLE FENCE WITH METAL MESH PANEL PER DETAIL
 - ⑤ CONSTRUCT COBBLE VENEER WALL PER SECTION BELOW AND DETAIL SHEET L-1.50
 - ⑥ CONSTRUCT COBBLE VENEER SEAT WALL WITH CONCRETE CAP
 - ⑦ PROVIDE AND INSTALL GRANITE BLOCK INSERT AT COBBLE WALL WITH CARVED WARNING PANEL PER DETAIL 8, SHEET L-1.50. PROVIDE SAMPLE OF BLACK GRANITE IN HONED FINISH FOR APPROVAL.
 - ⑧ PROVIDE AND INSTALL PANNER METAL LOW PROFILE CANTILEVER EXHIBIT BASE AND FRAME FOR 24"x36" INTERPRETIVE SIGN, AVAILABLE FROM PANNER GRAPHICS, (800) 544-8428. PROVIDE COMPLETE SHOP DRAWINGS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.
 - ⑨ PROVIDE AND INSTALL PER MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS BEARSAVER SINGLE TRASH RECEPTACLES, MODEL CE140-CH, ON A CONCRETE PAD PER DETAIL 9, SHEET L-1.51. AVAILABLE FROM BEARSAVER, (800) 851-3887. COLOR: BROWN, TOTAL: 2 SINGLE RECEPTACLES.

1 RIVER OVERLOOK ON HWY. 39



1 SECTION A-A' THROUGH OVERLOOK

River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook Project

<p>OWNER</p> <p>WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD. AZUSA, CA 91702</p>	<p>PRIME CONSULTANT</p> <p>WITHERS & SANDGREN, LTD. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING PO BOX 278 MONTROSE, CA 91021 Deliveries: 20948 TULSA STREET CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 818-291-0200 mail@withersandsandgren.com</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION</p>	<p>PROJECT TITLE</p> <p>RIVER WILDERNESS PARK 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD. AZUSA, CA 91702</p>	<p>SHEET TITLE</p> <p>RIVER ECOLOGY INTERPRETIVE SITE & TRAILSIDE OVERLOOK PLAN & SECTION</p>	<p>DATE: 17 AUGUST 2015</p> <p>CHECKED BY:</p> <p>PROJECT NO.</p> <p>REVISIONS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>REVISIONS</th> <th>DATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>8.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	NO.	REVISIONS	DATE	1.			2.			3.			4.			5.			6.			7.			8.			<p>L-1.20</p> <p>SHEET 00 OF 00</p>
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SECTION B: ONE-PAGE PROJECT SUMMARY

A. Summarize how the project meets the program goals.

The **River Ecology Interpretive Site and Trailside Overlook**, alongside the River Wilderness Park (RWP) and multi-use San Gabriel River trail extension project, will introduce a new regional recreational destination at the gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) in the canyon above the City of Azusa along CA Highway 39 and adjacent to a natural segment of the San Gabriel River.

The trailside overlook will provide an opportunity for visitors to experience the riparian habitat of the San Gabriel River, the canyon’s ecologically significant chaparral landscape and spectacular sunset views of the downtown skyline framed by the opening of the canyon. Programmed as both a standalone wilderness experience and a SGMNM gateway, the trailside overlook, will provide information and way-finding that will engage visitors to stop and experience, understand, and learn about the unique and rich natural resources of the San Gabriel Mountains through interpretational elements, as well as, enjoy passive recreational amenities.

Working together with a variety of partners, including the United States Forest Service, San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition, City of Azusa, San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Coalition (Bike SGV), and Amigos de los Rios, the WCA seeks to realize this important project and the RWP which was first envisioned by local community dreamers and is now being championed by a diverse coalition of supporters.

B. Summarize major components of the project.

Project Categories	Requested Grant Funds	Other Funding (Sources)	TBD Funding Sources	Total Cost
Administration/PM/CM \$60,000		\$13,300		\$73,300
Design, CEQA & Permitting		\$65,241		\$65,241
Construction \$117,600		\$147,170		\$264,770
Landscaping \$100,450		\$26,300		\$126,750
Contingency \$21,812		\$14,717		\$36,529
Total	\$299,862	\$266,728		\$566,590

C. Summarize any public access components of the project.

At the gateway to the SGMNM, the **River Ecology Interpretive Site and Trailside Overlook** is expected to service visitors from the far reaches of the Greater Los Angeles region. Today, the canyon is frequented by urban communities that lack access to outdoor recreational opportunities and natural open space in their environmentally impacted neighborhoods. On a daily basis, perspective visitor’s come to our project area to inquire about the river and recreational opportunities of our park and within the SGMNM. With transit options and the proposed extension of the river trail to the trailside overlook, recreational cyclists, pedestrians and transit users will have access to this uniquely situated wilderness interface, interpretation and overlook destination 24/7 to enjoy views, learn about the watershed, rest, view native plants. During RWP operating hours, visitors will have access to engage in hiking and picnicking along the river. The **River Ecology Interpretive Site and Trailside Overlook** will entice visitors to explore nature, engage in healthier lifestyles and promote watershed friendly activities that will lead to better stewardship of our shared natural resources both in nature and at home.

COST ESTIMATE

River Wilderness Park Entry: River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook														
ITEM	NON-CONSTRUCTION COST	UNIT PRICE	UNITS	QUANT.	TOTAL COST	River Parkways Program		Rivers & Mountains Conservancy		WCA Ranger Services/ Operations		State Active Transportation Program		
1	Direct Project Management	\$ 51,300	LS	LS	\$ 51,300		45,000		6,300					
2	Planning, Design & Permitting	\$ 56,886	LS	LS	\$ 56,886				43,886				15,000	
3	CEQA	\$ 6,455	LS	LS	\$ 6,455				6,455					
4	Direct Construction Management / Engineering	\$ 22,000	LS	LS	\$ 22,000		15,000						7,000	
NON-CONSTRUCTION COST TOTAL					\$ 138,641	\$ 60,000	\$ 56,641	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,000	
ITEM CONSTRUCTION COST					UNIT PRICE	UNITS	QUANT.	TOTAL COST						
5	Demolition	\$ 1.00	SF	54750	\$ 54,750								54,750	
6	Grading & Erosion Control	\$ 0.40	SF	54750	\$ 21,900								21,900	
7	Construction													
7.01	Deceptive Wood Fence	\$ 78.72	LF	940	\$ 74,000		117,600						70,520	
7.02	Stone Seat Wall (Bench)	\$ 420	LF	65	\$ 27,300		74,000						27,300	
7.03	Interpretive Panels	\$ 4,250	EA	2	\$ 8,500				8,500					
7.04	Boulders	\$ 15,000	LS	LS	\$ 15,000				15,000					
7.05	Boulders Etching	\$ 7,000	LS	LS	\$ 7,000				7,000					
7.06	Plant Identification Plaques	\$ 3,500	LS	LS	\$ 3,500				3,500					
7.07	Bear-proof Trash/Recycling Receptacles	\$ 1,800	EA	2	\$ 3,600				3,600					
7.08	Bicycle Rack	\$ 960	EA	2	\$ 1,920								1,920	
7.09	Low Stone Wall	\$ 273	LF	100	\$ 27,300								27,300	
7.10	Decomposed Granite Paving	\$ 4.83	SF	2900	\$ 14,000								14,000	
7.11	Regulatory Signage	\$ 2,000	LS	LS	\$ 2,000				2,000					
7.12	Dedication Signage	\$ 4,000	EA	1	\$ 4,000				4,000					
8	Landscaping													
8.01	Final Clearing, Fine Grading, Soil Preparation	\$ 0.22	SF	51850	\$ 100,450		100,450							
8.02	Trees (24" box)	\$ 400	EA	2	\$ 800				800					
8.03	Trees (15 gal)	\$ 100	EA	3	\$ 300				300					
8.04	Landscape understory planting	\$ 3.91	SF	18000	\$ 70,350				70,350					
8.05	Hydroseed	\$ 0.52	SF	33850	\$ 17,500				17,500					
9	Irrigation													
9.01	Hand Watering (3Yr Establishment Period)	\$ 69	Hrs	381	\$ 26,300								26,300	
CONSTRUCTION COST TOTAL					\$ 391,520	\$ 218,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,300	\$ -	\$ 147,170	
CONTINGENCY					\$ 36,529	\$ 21,812	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,717	
PROJECT TOTAL					\$ 566,690	\$ 299,862	\$ 56,641	\$ 26,300	\$ 183,887	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

RECEIVED Item 12

1N15-874

AUG 19 2015



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

WATERSHED CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY lacounty.gov

ParksProjects.lacounty.org

twitter.com/RPOSD

510 South Vermont Avenue • Room 230 • Los Angeles • CA 90020-1975 (213) 738-2981

August 13, 2015

Mr. Rob Romanek
Project Manager
Watershed Conservation Authority
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

Dear Mr. Romanek:

**THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
2015 COUNTYWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

Congratulations! Your application for the River Wilderness Park Entry Project in the Rivers and Streams category has been recommended for funding for the grant requested amount of \$997,000. The Board of Supervisors acting as the Board of the Regional Park and Open Space District (District) is expected to receive the funding recommendation by October 2015. Approval from the Board is required to finalize the funding recommendation.

The list of all applications, evaluations, and results of the 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program are posted on the District's website at: <http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/osd>. Please do not incur any project costs until after the funding recommendation has been approved by the board and your agency has entered into a Project Agreement with the District.

2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program
August 13, 2015
Page 2

A program manager from the District will be assigned to manage the grant once the funding recommendation is approved and will contact you to ensure that the application is updated, if necessary, and to begin the Project Agreement execution process. We wish you great success in completing this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact, Jane I. Beesley, Administrator for the District at (213) 738-2981 or at jbeesley@parks.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Russ Guiney
Director

RG:JIB:AJ:lb

c: County Counsel (C. Salseda)
First Supervisorial District (T. Villegas)
Regional Park and Open Space District (J. Beesley)

September 24, 2015 - Item 12

RESOLUTION 2015-36

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO RATIFY THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established as a joint powers agency between the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles County Flood Control 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, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Californian Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Californian Natural Resources Agency allow for submittal of a authorizing resolution later than the application filing deadline of the Applicants governing board meeting schedule prohibits the applicant from obtaining a signed resolution at application filing; and

WHEREAS, this action approves the application for grant funds for the Californian River Parkways Grant Program for the River Wilderness Park Entry: River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook through ratification; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); 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 September 24, 2015.

- 4. **RATIFIES** the filing of an application for the River Wilderness Park Entry: River Ecology Interpretive Site & Trailside Overlook.
- 5. **CERTIFIES** that the Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application.
- 6. **CERTIFIES** that the Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so.
- 7. **CERTIFIES** that the project will comply with any laws and regulation, including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained.
- 8. **CERTIFIES** that Applicant will work towards the State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Codes Section 65041.1.
- 9. **APPOINTS** the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

~ End of Resolution ~

//

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On September 24, 2015

Brian Mejia, Chairperson

ATTEST: _____

Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General