DATE: **January 21, 2016**

TO: **Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board**

FROM: **Robert Romanek, Project Manager**

THROUGH: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Item 17: Consideration of a resolution to authorize the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract for geotechnical consulting services for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project.**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) authorize the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract for geotechnical consulting services for the River Wilderness Park (RWP) Entry Improvements Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Improvements proposed by the RWP Entry Improvements Project include a pavilion structure, a park restroom, grading that will include a buttressed slope, as well as an overlook walkway along the south bank of the San Gabriel River. The project also includes the conceptual design and site placement of a future single-story café and concessioner building. In addition, a roundabout will be constructed in front of the park along State Route 39 (SR-39). Focused geotechnical consulting services are required for these elements to evaluate potential hazards, and provide geotechnical recommendations for the final design and construction of the park improvements. Exhibit A identifies the location of the RWP while Exhibit B provides a site plan, identifying the location of park elements requiring further geotechnical services.

BACKGROUND: With a fund award from a RMC Proposition 84 grant for planning and design of the RWP Entry Improvements, the WCA applied funds to the production of construction documents and the permitting for an initial package of park features. The Park Master Plan elements call out the following features of the RWP Entry Improvements:

- Constructing the following park amenities within the Canyon Inn Property:
    - Entry Gateway;
    - Park Signage;
    - Café/Concessioner Building;
    - Restrooms;
    - Pavilion;
    - Loop Nature Trail;
    - Bicycle Rest Stop;
    - River Overlooks;
    - Shady Grove Picnic/Camping Facility; and
    - Adventure Play Area.
- Constructing a roundabout to slow down vehicular travel along SR-39 at the entry to the Park at Old San Gabriel Canyon Road.

- Extending the San Gabriel River Bike Trail from its northern terminus along the west side of SR-39, across SR-39, and into the Park (originally planned as an alternative to extend to and under the SR-39 bridge).
- Installing water and sewer utility lines from the connection point at Mountain Laurel Way, along SR-39 to the realigned and improved Old San Gabriel Canyon Road.
- Undergrounding existing overhead electric utility lines and communication lines within the realigned and improved Old San Gabriel Canyon Road and within the project area.
- Grading drainage improvements and vegetated swales.
- Landscape planting and irrigation system.
- Realignment and improvement of approximately 900 feet of Old San Gabriel Canyon Road from SR-39 at the RWP entry to the property boundary between Canyon Inn and El Encanto.
- Reconfiguring existing parking to accommodate park improvements.

With efforts initiated in August of 2015, construction plans and specifications are currently at 60% development, however, geotechnical services are required to complete design development. This need has arisen based on preliminary geotechnical investigations within the River Wilderness Park area. Further geotechnical services will evaluate potential site hazards, and specifically with regards to possible slope failure, evaluate the proximity of proposed elements to the river bank as well as a proposed buttressed slope.

The required services include subsurface exploration consisting of drilling, logging and sampling of borings at various locations. Borings will be followed by laboratory testing and geotechnical analysis, culminating in the development of reports with recommendations for the final design, permitting, and construction of the park improvements. WCA also requires the geotechnical consultant to review background data, conduct a primary site reconnaissance, and acquire permits and conduct traffic control for a required boring within Caltrans right of way. As an optional service, subject to the budgeting considerations, a percolation test will be completed, including an additional boring, to improve the design of on-site stormwater management.

Funding is available within the design and planning contingency of the RMC grant, RMC14001. In an effort to maintain the project schedule staff recommends providing the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract for these services with a not-to-exceed amount of $21,000. WCA staff is preparing to acquiring a minimum of three proposal letters from qualified geotechnical consulting firms. Proposal will be evaluated based on services and fees, and a recommendation will be made to the Chair, or designee.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The proposed action would authorize the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract for geotechnical consulting services for the RWP Entry Project in an amount not to exceed $21,000, including the optional task for percolation testing. Award of this contract is consistent with the adopted FY15/16 budget.

The proposed contract will be funded by RMC14001. As the scope of the proposal geotechnical services were not originally budgeted within the grant scope of work, a portion of the grant-budged contingency will be used. If the full $21,000 is awarded the contingency amount of $45,000 will be subsequently reduced to less than $1,000. Other contingency expenses have included added architectural design services, and added environmental (CEQA) analysis and document preparation costs.

Watershed Conservation Authority

River Wilderness Park

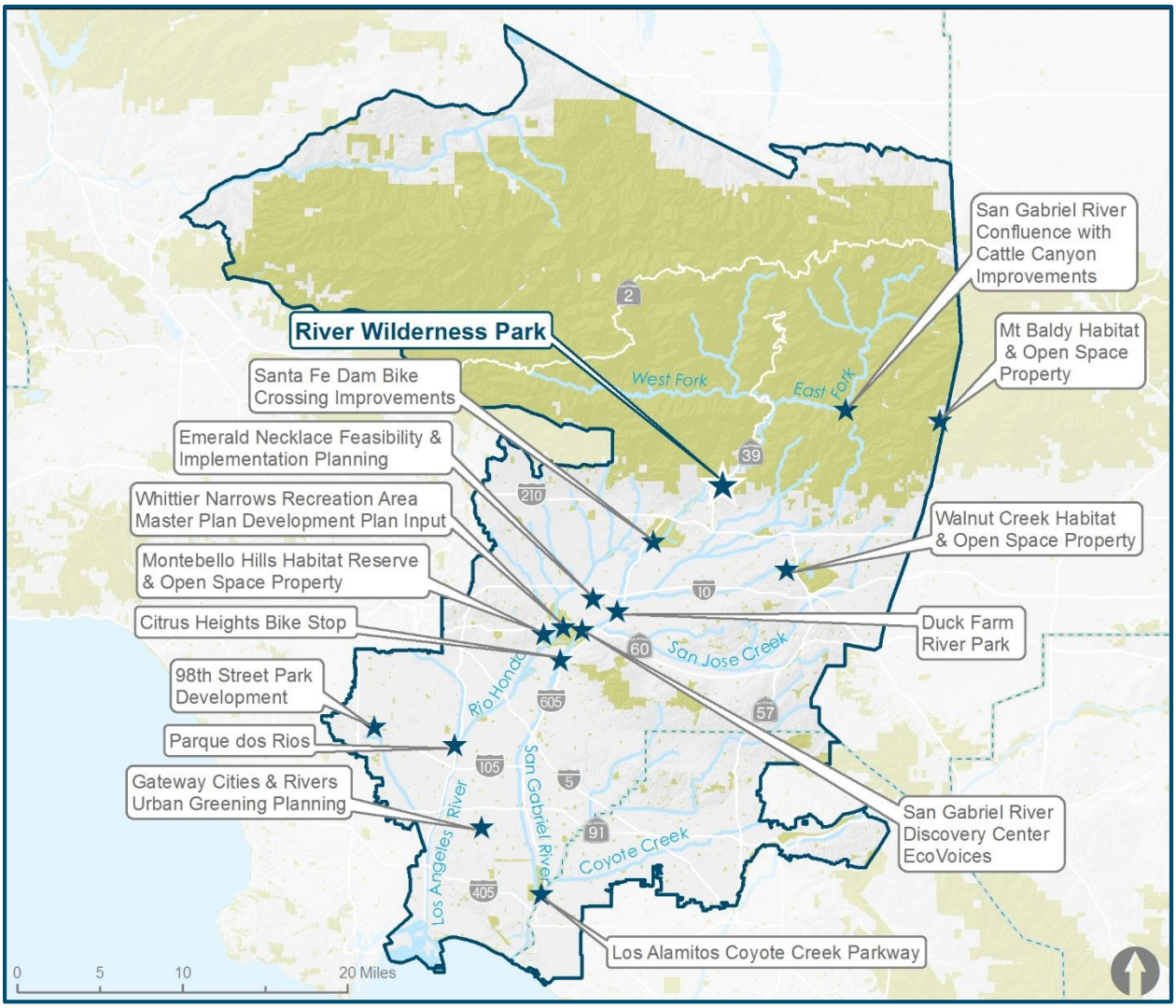
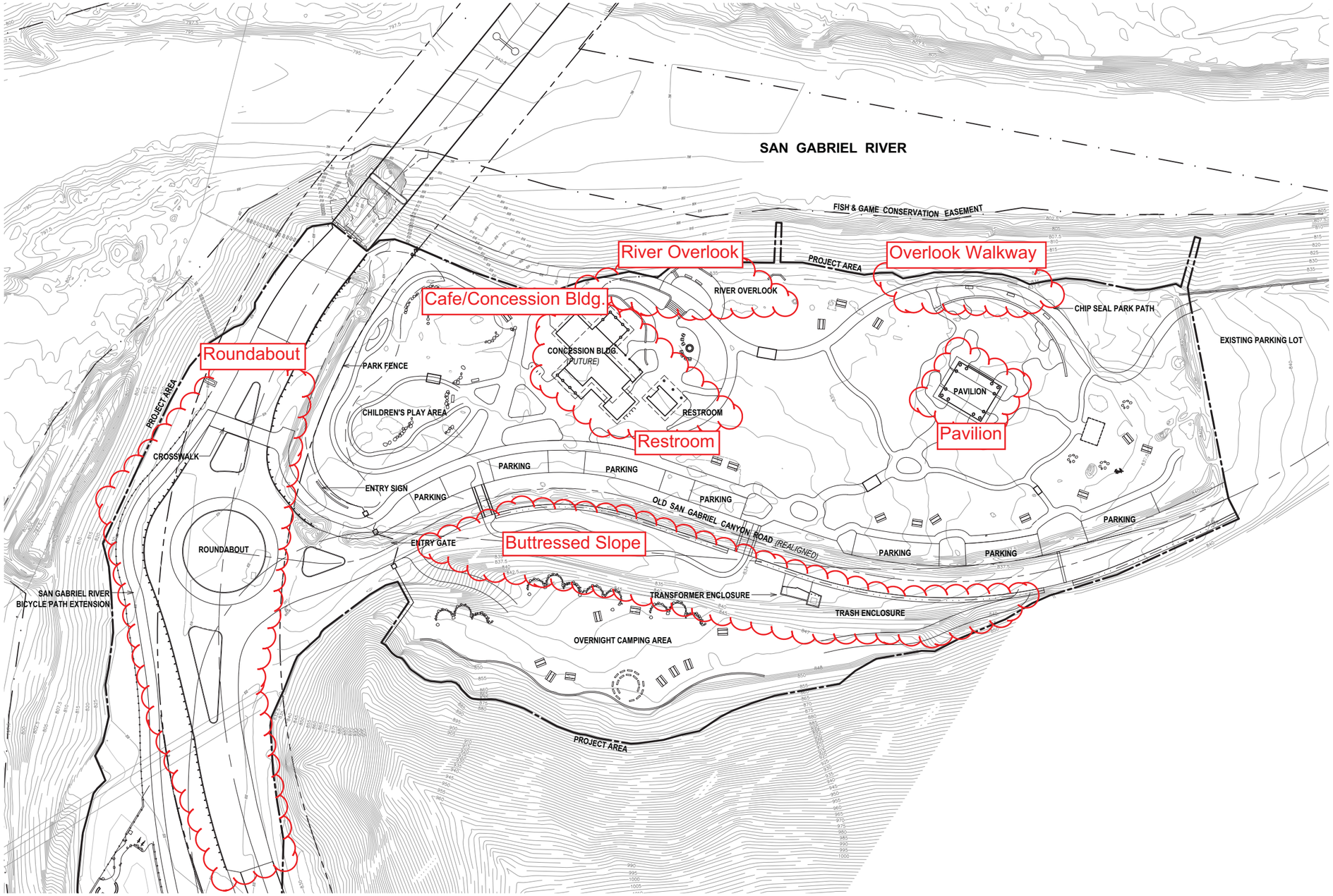
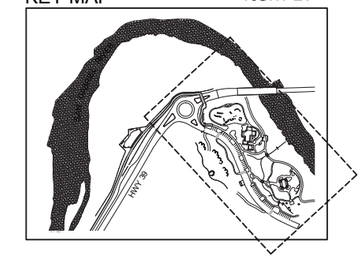


Exhibit B

Item 17



KEY MAP



0 20 40 80

1" = 40'

OWNER	PRIME CONSULTANT		PROJECT TITLE	SHEET TITLE			
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD. AZUSA, CA 91702	WITHERS & SANDGREN, LTD. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING PO BOX 276 MONTROSE, CA 91021 *Deliveries:* 20948 TULSA STREET CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 818-291-0200 mail@withersandsandgren.com	NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	**RIVER WILDERNESS PARK** 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD. AZUSA, CA 91702	**SITE PLAN**	DATE: 17 AUGUST 2015 PROJECT NO. CHECKED BY: DRAWN BY:	REVISIONS / DATE 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	**SP-1.01** SHEET 00 OF 00

January 21, 2016 - Item 17

RESOLUTION 2016-11

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR, OR DESIGNEE, THE DISCRETION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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, this action authorizes the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract for geotechnical consulting services for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project; 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 January 21, 2016.

4. **AUTHORIZES** the Chair, or designee, the discretion to award a contract in an amount not to exceed $21,000 for geotechnical consulting services for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2016-11

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On January 21, 2016

_____
Brian Mejia, Chairperson

ATTEST:_____
Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General