DATE: **January 27, 2022**

TO: **WCA Governing Board**

FROM: **Jeremy Munns, Project Manager**

THROUGH: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Item 13: Consideration of a resolution to ratify the application for California State Park Proposition 68 Regional Park Program Grant Funds**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board ratify the application for California State Park Proposition 68 Regional Park Program Grant Funds for the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk project and accept state required resolution language.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The San Gabriel River Center and River Walk project is a key component of the River Park (formerly the Duck Farm River Park). These planned, but only partially funded, park elements will open new areas for public access within the River Park's 30+ acres of new river parkway and native habitat along the San Gabriel River and within the regional 17-mile Emerald Necklace Park Network. A location map is included as Exhibit A. The project would include the following components:

1. San Gabriel River Center – *facility Improvements and public space amenities including new or remodeled building, sound attenuation, restrooms, parking area, seating areas, utilities, outdoor classroom, and interpretation.*
2. San Gabriel River Walk – *½ mile of new river trail, separated equestrian trail, paving, fencing, river overlooks, interpretive panels, shade structures, landscaping, and seating areas.*

A concept level site plan is included as Exhibit B.

By ratifying the application, the WCA also agrees to accept state required resolution language that states that the WCA "will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8A-G)". A copy of Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8A-G) is included as Exhibit C.

BACKGROUND: The California Department of Parks and Recreation released a call for projects for its Regional Park grant program with applications due by January 20, 2022. Funds authorized for the program total $23,125,000. Grant requests must range between $200,000 and $3,000,000.

The River Park, currently under construction, will feature several public amenities, including a pocket park along San Fidel Avenue in Avocado Heights, a large bioswale / riparian area, demonstration garden, restroom, and picnic area, river overlook, multi-use paths, and native habitat plantings.

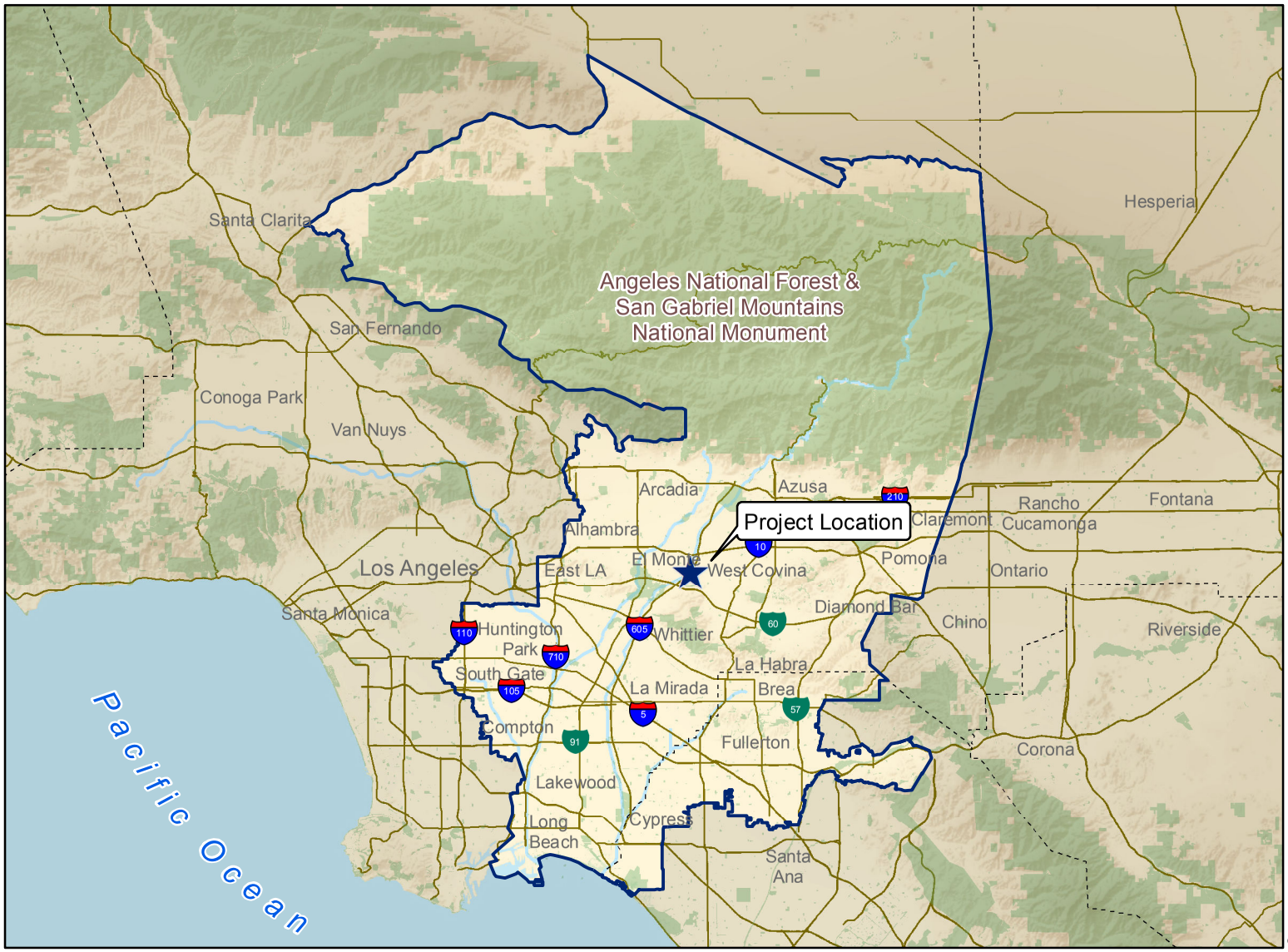
The San Gabriel River Center and River Walk project is an expansion of the River Park to include the renovation of the old farm house location as a community water conservation resource center and an expanded river trail along the east bank of the San Gabriel River. Currently, this project is partially funded by RMC Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grants as well as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)

for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The funding secured to date primarily covers the water conservation gardens and limited facility modifications, leaving a funding gap to complete additional facility work and non-water related public amenities. Additionally, this grant request includes ½ mile of new river trail along the east bank of the San Gabriel River. An extension of the already funded River Overlook, this trail would include public amenities associated with walking and jogging, as well as a separated trail for equestrians.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The total amount of grant requested funding is $3,000,000. If awarded, the WCA's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Capital Budget would be updated to reflect the funds accepted by the Governing Board.

San Gabriel River Center and River Walk

Project Location Map



Legend

- RMC Territory
- Protected Open Space
- Rivers and Water Bodies
- County Boundary
- Freeways

EXHIBIT A

Item 13

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Section 11 | Concept Level Site Plan

1 San Gabriel River Center and Gardens

- **Interetive Center Building**
  Roughly 4,500 Sq. Ft.
  Recreation Space: 3,375 ft (75%)
- Outdoor classrooms
- Learning courtyards
- Visitor amenities
- ADA electric carts (transport from Parking)

2 San Gabriel River Walk

- 1/2 mile of new river trail
- Paving
- Fencing
- River overlooks
- Interpretive panels
- Shade structures
- Landscaping & seating areas

EXHIBIT B

Item 13

Watershed Conservation Authority

Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8A-G)

(8) To the extent practicable, as identified in the "Presidential Memorandum—Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters," dated January 12, 2017, the public agencies that receive funds pursuant to this division will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.

(B) Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.

(C) Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.

(D) Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

(E) Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

(F) Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

(G) Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

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RESOLUTION 2022-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY RATIFYING THE APPLICATION FOR REGIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS

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

WHEREAS, the 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 ratifies the application to the State Department of Parks and Recreation's Proposition 68 Regional Park Grant Program for the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk Project; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Regional Park Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project; 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 approved by the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated January 27, 2021.

4. **RATIFIES** the filing of an Application for the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk; and

5. **CERTIFIES** that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project.

6. **CERTIFIES** that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project.

7. **CERTIFIES** that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide.

8. **DELEGATES** the authority to Mark Stanley, Executive Officer, to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope.

9. **AGREES** to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

10. **Will** consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8A-G).

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Approved and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On January 27, 2022

_____
Herlinda Chico
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST:_____
Elizabeth St. John
Deputy Attorney General