

DATE: March 9, 2017

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: Joseph Gonzalez, Associate Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 14: Consideration of a resolution to authorize an amendment to a professional services contract with BlueGreen Consulting for planning, design, and environmental services for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board authorize the Chair, or designee to amend a professional services contract with BlueGreen Consulting for planning, design, and environmental services for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project, to complete the additional services of a phase II cultural resources investigation (archeology study) and perpetration of a phase II report, for an amount up to \$33,300, and a new not to exceed contract value up to \$633,300.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (the “Cattle Canyon Project”), conducted in cooperation with the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and San Gabriel Mountain National Monument (SGMNM) seeks to address unsustainable recreation practices along a portion of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River (EFSGR), located within San Gabriel Canyon. A project location map is included as Exhibit A. Other goals of the project seek to improve safety, and to enhance the visitor experience. The stated purpose and need of the project is to:

- Provide recreation facilities and infrastructure that are high quality, well-maintained, safe, accessible, and consistent with visitors’ expectations.
- Shift and concentrate recreational use to certain areas in order to minimize adverse effects over a broader area.
- Promote stewardship of public land by providing quality and sustainable recreation opportunities that result in increased visitor satisfaction.
- Allow for greater management of the recreation resources of Forest lands.
- Improve riparian habitat conditions in certain areas and make progress toward enhancing stream habitat conditions by restoring vegetation, minimizing invasive plants and noxious weed presence, and developing management strategies to regulate access.

This project, to be completed over three phases, includes multiple components:

- 1) A comprehensive site assessment, planning, and design process;
- 2) Subsequent implementation of site improvements, including interpretive and directional signage and access improvements;
- 3) Development and implementation of an interpretive outreach program.

BACKGROUND: The project area encompasses a 2.5-mile-long segment of EFSGR. The environmental conditions along this portion of the stream and surrounding areas has been degraded by heavy recreational use combined with lack of facilities. The Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board has determined that the level of trash has exceeded the existing Water Quality Standard necessary

to protect the beneficial uses of the river. Stream alterations also impacts Critical Habitat designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the federally threatened Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*).

This project planning and design effort began in May of 2014 when WCA Governing Board authorized a professional services contract award to BlueGreen Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$281,000 as Resolution 14-19. BlueGreen Consulting was selected as the most qualified bidder through a Request for Proposal process. Since that time BlueGreen Consulting and its environmental sub-consultant, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), have worked closely with the WCA and ANF project team. In February 2015, they completed a 431 page Existing Condition Report. Three conceptual design options were then prepared and finalized by June 2015. WCA and ANF Staff, and engaged stakeholders evaluated and commented on these options. BlueGreen subsequently prepared and submitted an administrative final concept site plan and report in March of 2016. The WCA and ANF are still reviewing and providing comments, and a revised final concept plan and final programming report will be finalized in the coming months. The latest administrative draft of the final concept plan is included as Exhibit B.

On September 15th, 2016 (Resolution 16-35), the WCA governing board approved an amendment for add-services to BlueGreen's original scope to prepare an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in lieu of preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment (MND/EA) to assist the agencies with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. In addition to the move from an MND/EA to an EIR/EIS, the consultants were contracted to provide additional technical reports to support the environmental analysis. This work was funded using federal monies obligated to the Authority for this project, increasing the contract by \$319,000, for a total amended contract value of \$600,000 and extended the time of performance through 10/31/2017.

The first amended add services to the contract included a phase I cultural resources investigation and technical report (archeology study was based on initial archival research which identified nine (9) known cultural resources, seven archaeological sites and two built resources). During the course of ESA's work, involving pedestrian and other surveys, an additional five (5) sites were identified, for a total of fourteen (14) sites identified in the Project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). Nine (9) out of the fourteen (14) sites have some sort of effect on the Project. As a result of this unanticipated discovery, a Phase II investigation is required to determine how sensitive the sites are, and includes preparation of a work plan and ARPA permit, archival research, and limited subsurface testing at two archaeological sites. Preparation of Phase II report will include resource evaluations and recommendations to mitigate potential direct and/or indirect effects to eligible resources. A phase II cultural resource investigation and technical report were not included in the first amended contracted add services.

This action will authorize the Executive Officer to execute a second contract amendment to BlueGreen Consulting, to have their sub-consultant ESA complete an add service to perform a Phase II cultural resources investigation and technical report (Exhibit C: Add Services Scope of Work and Proposal). Results of the Phase II study will be included in the public draft EIR/EIS planned for a summer release. An ARPA permit and work plan will need to be submitted to the Forest Service for approval before conducting the field work.

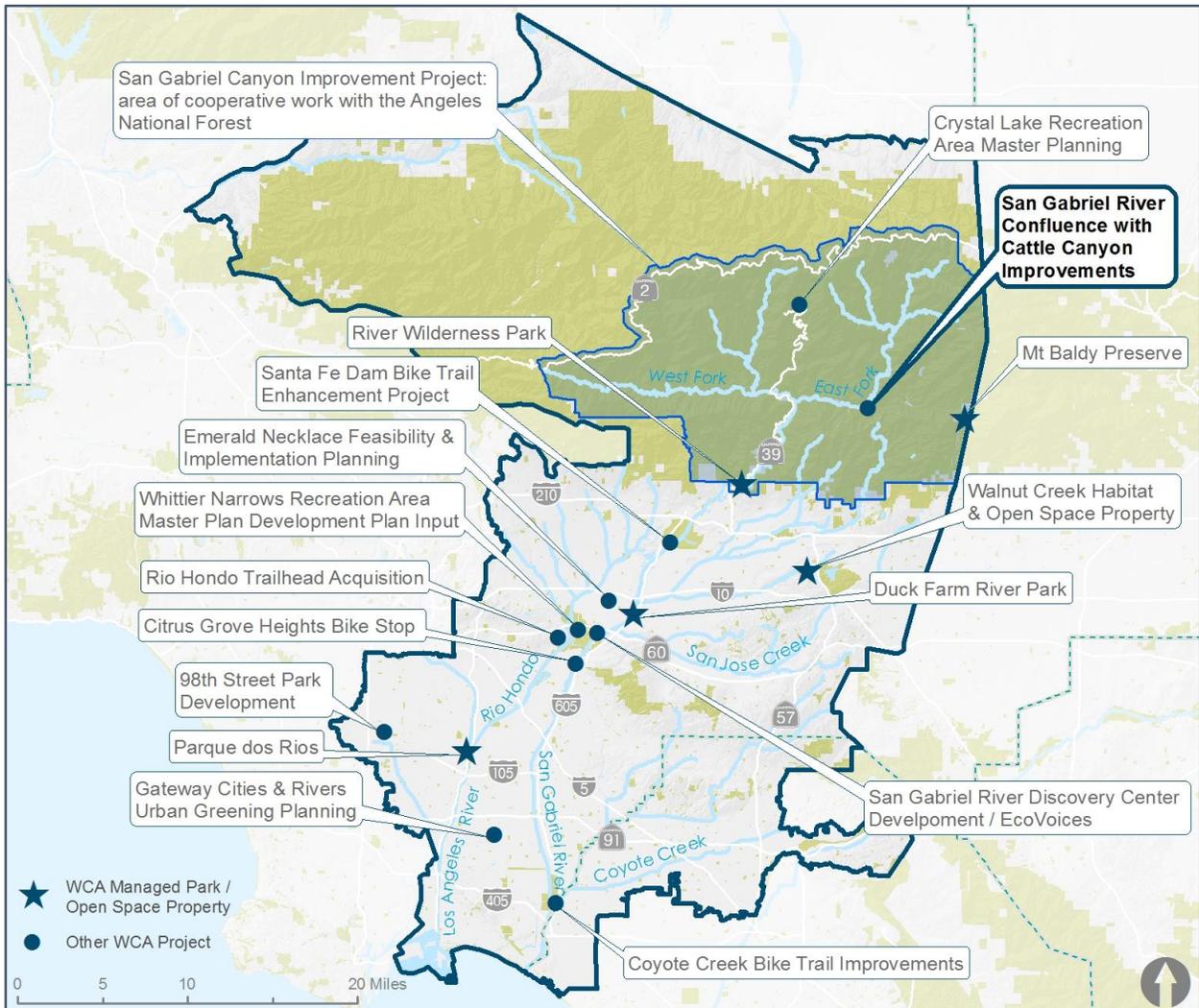
FISCAL INFORMATION: This action will increase the contract value for BlueGreen Consulting for this project by an amount up to \$33,300 for a total new amended contract value not to exceed \$633,300. This action will be funded, upon funder approval, from \$850, 000 in federal funds obligated by the Angeles National Forest in an existing supplemental project agreement for the project.

An update to the WCA adopted fiscal year 2016/2017 budget for capital expenditures and revenues from the Angeles National Forest will come before the Board at the next scheduled meeting following the ANF approval for use of obligated funding.



Exhibit A

Territory Map: San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project



SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN

AUGUST 2, 2016

DESCRIPTION:
Day-use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.7 mile "East Fork Scenic Trail". The trail is located adjacent to the road with views of the river and provides access to overlooks, river access trails and backcountry trailheads. Loading/shuttle stops are provided.

- River access - 6 locations with restrooms, dumpsters & signage
- Parking - Angled and perpendicular bays with curbs, limited roadside parking, parking lot in Former Fire Station area with bus parking
- ROW - Reduced speed, crosswalks, stop signs, footpath along top of slope on south/east side of road, trash grates on drain inlets
- Amenities - Picnic tables, East Fork Scenic Trail, interpretive sites including 2 interpretive trails, scenic overlooks, bilingual signage including wayfinding and trail signage, trailheads, designated loading/shuttle stop locations
- Toilets - 2 and 4-Unit facilities located near river access points and other popular areas
- Trash - Small trash receptacles to be located at all river access points and all picnic sites. Dumpsters to be set within rock barriers.
- Areas to bring back to natural condition or restore through native revegetation - Multiple informal trails to river, soil deposits along roadside, seeps/springs on east side of road, stream habitat in tributary behind Oaks Picnic Area, phase out non-native "plantation" plantings

PROJECT AREA TOTALS	
Trailheads	4
Restrooms	10
Crosswalks	7
Designated Picnic Areas	6
East Fork Scenic Trail (mi.)	2.5
Interpretive Elements	4
River Access Points	6
USFS Visitor Kiosk	3
Bus/Tram Stop	3
Parking	270

ADMINISTRATIVE FINAL DRAFT
For Discussion Purposes Only



- OAKS AREAS**
- 1 Beginning of East Fork Scenic Trail
 - 2 River access point with parking, native tree plantings, East Fork Scenic Trail, new restrooms, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
 - 3 Expansion of existing Oaks Picnic Area, including more sites, larger tables, native tree plantings, new restrooms, a group BBQ area, & botanical interpretive area. Existing parking configuration is retained.
 - 4 River access points with parking, native tree plantings, East Fork Scenic Trail, USFS Visitor Kiosk, picnic area, new restrooms and loading area/shuttle stop, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
 - 5 Botanical interpretive site

- CONFLUENCE AREA**
- 1 Scenic overlook with Eldoradoville interpretive element, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
 - 2 River access and new single restroom
 - 3 Pedestrian bridge (on west side of existing bridge) and shuttle stop
 - 4 Portions of road are realigned to accommodate East Fork Scenic Trail

- JUNCTION AREA**
- 1 Three way stop with emergency vehicle turnaround and lockable gate to close Camp Bonita Road
 - 2 Portions of road are realigned to accommodate East Fork Scenic Trail

- HEATON FLAT AREA**
- 1 Enhanced picnic area with improved trailhead, interpretive sign, new restroom & river access
- COYOTE FLAT, OVERLOOK, FIRESTATION & CANYON AREAS**
- 1 Developed picnic area & new restroom with maintenance access road
 - 2 Scenic overlook with planters, seatwalls, native tree plantings, monument sign, "Geology Hut" interpretive building, USFS visitor kiosk, and perimeter path, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
 - 3 Camp Bonita Road turnaround, loading area/shuttle stop, cross walk, Heaton Flat trailhead, new restroom
 - 4 Developed parking area with native tree plantings, parking kiosk, bus parking, new restroom & picnic area
 - 5 Stairs from parking area lead across boardwalk bridge to Botanical Interpretive Trail trailhead
 - 6 Stairway leading from East Fork Scenic Overlook to Coyote Flat

LEGEND

- River access points
- Interpretive areas
- Restrooms
- Designated picnic area
- Trailhead
- Crosswalk
- USFS visitor kiosk
- Loading area/shuttle stop
- Paved road
- Trail and/or Maintenance access road
- East Fork Scenic Trail
- Parking
- East Fork
- Existing Cattle Canyon Bridge with new pedestrian bridge

SCALE: 1" = 300'

0' 300' 600'



March 13, 2017

Mr. Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Watershed Conservation Authority
100 North Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, California 91702

Re: Added Services San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (WCA14504)

Dear Mr. Stanley,
BlueGreen Consulting and Environmental Science Associates (ESA) appreciate the opportunity to submit this Scope of Work and estimated cost to provide the Phase II Cultural Resource Study for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project.

The results of the Phase II study is to be included in the public draft (5/31), therefore, it is important to get started on the Phase II as soon as possible since an *Archaeological Resources Protection Act Permit* (ARPA) and work plan still need to be submitted to the Forest Service for approval before conducting the field work.

Attached you will find our Scope of Services and Cost Estimate for the additional work. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (323) 221-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LD", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp.

Lynne Dwyer, Principal

Scope of Work

Per the original ESA proposal dated July 24, 2014, and a scope of work and cost modification dated August 11, 2016, ESA was contracted to provide a Phase I cultural resources study for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (Project). The Phase I Cultural Resources Study included delineating the Area of Potential Effects (APE), records searches, informal Native American outreach, pedestrian survey, and preparation of a technical report. As a result of the Phase I Study, nine cultural resources were identified within the APE that could be directly or indirectly affected by the Project, including seven historic-period archaeological sites (P-19-003364, -003635, and -186973; 05-0152-00156; and ESA-CC-001H, -002M, and -003H); one historic-period linear feature (P-19-150367); and one historic-period built resource (P-19-187816).

The nine cultural resources identified have not been previously evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). As such, a Phase II evaluation is required for these nine resources in order to adequately address effects/impacts to cultural resources in the EIS/EIR.

Task 1: Cultural Resource Study, Phase II

Task 1.1 Preparation of a work plan and *Archaeological Resources Protection Act Permit* (ARPA) permit.

Task 1.2 Intensive archival research, such as review of land use databases, historic mining and engineering documentation, and local archives.

Task 1.3 Limited subsurface testing at two archaeological sites (P-19-003635 and 05-01-52-00156) to determine if intact archaeological deposits are present.

Task 1.4 Preparation of Phase II report with resource evaluations and recommendations to mitigate potential direct and/or indirect effects to eligible resources.

Task 2: Project Administration

ESA will conduct the Phase II Cultural Resource Study, and will provide project administration for ESA staff and coordination with the project team. As prime consultant BlueGreen Consulting will provide administrative services including executing subcontract, coordination with WCA and USFS and providing graphics and support as-needed to complete the Phase II report.

ADDED SERVICES - SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON PROJECT													
Fee Estimate: (3/13/2017)													
		BlueGreen (PRIME)			ESA (SUB)					TOTALS			
		Lynne Dwyer Principal	Kim Trimblew Landscape Designer	Fee per Task	FEE	T. Barnes Senior Director I	M. Lau A. Farrell C. Ehringer J. Gragg Managing Associate II	Project Technician I	Fee per Task	FEE	Total Hours per Task	Total Fee per Task	Total Fee per Item
Labor Rate (\$/hr)		165	110			240	180	80					
Item													
Task 1: Cultural Resource Study, Phase II													
					\$ -					\$ 25,440			\$ 25,440
1.1	PREPARATION OF A WORK PLAN AND ARPA PERMIT			\$ -		2	20		\$ 4,080		22	\$ 4,080	
1.2	INTENSIVE ARCHIVAL RESEARCH			\$ -			30	6	\$ 5,880		36	\$ 5,880	
1.3	SUBSURFACE TESTING AT TWO SITES						16		\$ 2,880			\$ 2,880	
1.4	PREPARATION OF PHASE II REPORT			\$ -		8	54	12	\$ 12,600		74	\$ 12,600	
Task 2: Project Administration													
					\$ 3,300					\$ 4,560			\$ 7,860
6.1	PROJECT ADMINISTRATION	16	6	\$ 3,300		4	20		\$ 4,560		46	\$ 7,860	
Labor Total Fee					\$ 3,300					\$ 30,000			\$ 33,300.00
Total Hours		16	6		22	14	140	18		172			
Total Fee Per Individual		\$ 2,640	\$ 660			\$ 3,360	\$ 25,200	\$ 1,440					
Direct Cost/Expenses					\$ -					\$ -			\$ -
Printing					\$ -					\$ -			\$ -
Grand Total:					\$ 3,300					\$ 30,000			\$ 33,300.00

March 16, 2016 - Item 14

RESOLUTION 2017-13

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH BLUEGREEN CONSULTING FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON 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 Executive Officer to amend a professional service contract with BlueGreen Consulting for planning, design, and environmental services for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project for add services to complete a phase II cultural resources investigation and technical report; 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 CEQA.
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated March 16, 2017.
4. **AUTHORIZES** the Executive Officer to amend a professional service contract with BlueGreen Consulting for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project for an amount up to \$33,300, for a new not to exceed contract value up to \$633,300.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On March 16, 2017

M. Janet Chin, Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General