

**DATE:** September 21, 2017

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 16: Consideration of a resolution to approve the application for grant funds from California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program for the River Wilderness Park Project.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The WCA Governing Board approve the application for grant funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program in the amount of \$463,196 for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements and Newman's Roost Special Use Area.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** River Wilderness Park is envisioned as a gateway for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument at the northernmost terminus of the San Gabriel River Bikeway along natural river flow in the Azusa Canyon off State Route 39. Outdoor education and stewardship are fundamental to the planned project, and essential to realizing the site's potential.

WCA staff has been working to finalize construction drawings and to secure funding and approvals for implementation of the first phases of completing the River Wilderness Park Master Plan: both River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements and the Newman's Roost Special Use Area. If awarded this grant would not only fund educational amenities critical for the park operation but will also leverage RMC funds currently allocated for the special use area to provide a project ready for construction.

**BACKGROUND:** The California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Program will provide approximately \$10 million for the development of public outdoor structures and exhibits that facilitate Outdoor Environmental Education learning across the state. Eligible applications are for capital projects (not programs) that will be funded from remaining funds that must be expended through the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40). Individual grant applications may be made up to \$500,000.

The WCA currently has no dedicated staff or ongoing programs to communicate information about River Wilderness Park (RWP) except when visitors walk into the WCA office to ask questions and an opportunity arises. Park use is most concentrated on weekends when the office is closed, further limiting these opportunities. Interpretation facilities will provide wayfinding even when no one is present to speak. At the same time, the improved facilities will also provide a foundation for improving planned programs and activities. Site developments include freestanding interpretive signs throughout the site, the Hillside Theater, stream channel bridge and water gauge, plant sign interpretation, and reliefs of animal footprints and plants addressing each environmental resource in an interactive way to engage the visitor's senses and connect them with natural environment.

Proposed outdoor educational facilities at River Wilderness Park will be a core part of access and interpretation for the wider San Gabriel Mountains and the Los Angeles Basin. The Angeles National Forest above the park was originally established to conserve water resources in a drought-prone region, a key part of the water cycle and an almost different world of steep terrain and dynamic woodlands, riparian wetlands, and chaparral. Occupying north-facing slopes, River Wilderness Park (RWP) experiences double the rainfall of the basin below and hosts seasonally wet, cool woodlands and riparian vegetation, while at the same time also a dynamic part of the extreme tectonic and fire-flood-erosion cycles that have formed the Los Angeles Basin. With less than 3% of wetland areas estimated to be remaining in all of Los Angeles County and an uncertain future of rivers and sediment movement across the metropolitan area these still-natural places present a captivating experience for essential lessons today.

RWP also carries a rich cultural history that starts with the ongoing use of the site by the Native Americans, and the era of prospecting and early Mexican and American settlers that made use of the Old San Gabriel Canyon Trail. With these funds, visitors will understand roots of the national forest and the name of a newly accessible part of the site due to its prominence as “Newman’s Roost”, home to one of the first Forest Rangers for the Angeles Forest, established in 1892. To this day, the original adobe homestead is still a part of the main office on-site, the former El Encanto restaurant.

The WCA has committed funding for detailed plans and construction drawings now nearing completion for the Entry Improvements, and for the Newman’s Roost Special Use Area completed and approved in 2011. A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination was made for the Front Entry June 21, 2016, and for the Special Use Area October 21, 2009. Areas for the outdoor education improvements are highlighted on the site plans included as Exhibit B and Exhibit C. Of key significance funds to reconstruct the ephemeral stream and revegetate the slopes in the special use area have already been dedicated by the RMC through Proposition 1. If awarded together with this grant the funds could realize the stream, bridge, and outdoor spaces as a complete project making the area open to the public.

At this time the WCA has secured approximately \$2.3 million for the Children’s Nature Play Area, Outdoor Pavilion, River Overlook off Highway 39, and for landscape features and ecological improvements addressing habitat, open space, and water management.

Essential components that still require funding include:

- Front Entry: bringing utilities into the site (sewer and water), restroom, the front entry roundabout and street crossing, and road realignment and parking. The complete Phase 1 park installation is estimated to require a total of approximately \$6.5 million in funding, including the \$2.3 million secured to date. Additionally, the main building serving as a welcome center and café space is planned for completion in a phase 2 estimated at approximately \$3.5 million for a total of approximately \$10 million to complete.
- Newman’s Roost Special Use Area: public restroom, paved trail and ADA ramp (interim ADA access to the amphitheater may be made by vehicle across the bridge), pavilion, and remaining picnic areas for a total of approximately \$880,000 to complete.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** The grant application requests \$463,196 in Proposition 40 funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation directly leveraging Proposition 1 funds from the RMC for a value of up to \$1,560,000. The itemized project estimates are included as Exhibit C.





TANKS TO BE REMOVED

WATER SUPPLY

CHLORINATION FACILITY

NEW WATER TANK

DIVERSION STRUCTURE

LOW-FLOW BROOK

HIGH-FLOW STREAM CHANNEL

PICNIC AREA

PICNIC AREA

PARK SHELTER

STAIRS, TYP.

TRAIL, 8' WIDE

PROJECT LIMIT OF WORK

HILLSIDE AMPHITHEATER

WILDLIFE PAWPRINTS

PLANT RELIEFS

CREEK FLOW GAUGE

ADA-ACCESS FROM BUILDING PATIO LEVEL

RESTROOM WITH DRINKING FOUNTAIN CONNECTS TO SEPTIC SYSTEM

PROJECT LIMIT OF WORK

ACCESSIBLE WALKWAY, 8' WIDE

PICNIC AREA

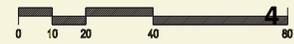
PICNIC TABLES

INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY

ARIZONA CROSSING, TYP.

BRIDGE

INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY



Item	Estimate
<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>\$ 68,500.00</b>
Interpretive Signage	
Overlook	
Entry Park	
Newman's Roost	
Interpretive Elements	
Creek Flow Gauge	
Paw Prints	
Wayfinding (Signs)	
Native Plant Walk (signs)	
Custom Tables	\$ 13,500.00
<b>Newman's Roost Trail and Bridge</b>	<b>\$ 199,530.00</b>
Retaining walls and safety railing around creek and slopes	\$ 54,315.00
Stone Curb (6")	\$ 4,995.00
Cobble Retaining Wall (12"-24")	\$ 22,320.00
Cobble Retaining Wall (24"-60")	\$ 18,900.00
Recycled Concrete Wall	\$ 8,100.00
Bridge (vehicular accessible for operations and ADA access)	\$ 145,215.00
Pipe Removal	\$ 3,000.00
Bridge Walls (14'x60')	\$ 57,600.00
Bridge Wing Walls (14' x 30')	\$ 36,000.00
Bridge Stream Floor	\$ 9,750.00
Bridge Decking	\$ 12,000.00
Stream Culverts	\$ 1,600.00
Diversion Wall and Headwall	\$ 7,065.00
Diversion Structure subdrains	\$ 2,000.00
Cut-off walls for scour protection	\$ 16,200.00
<b>Newman's Roost Amphitheatre</b>	<b>\$ 77,638.50</b>
Seating	\$ 72,888.50
Lighting	\$ 4,750.00
Feeder Conduit & Cable	\$ 750.00
Bollard Lights in Wall @amphitheatre	\$ 2,800.00
Light standards @ amphitheatre	\$ 1,200.00
<i>Capital Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 345,668.50</i>
Contingency (10%)	\$ 34,566.85
<b>Project Management (24%, less than 25%)</b>	<b>\$ 82,960.44</b>
Architectural/Engineering (7%)	
Construction Management Supervision (8%)	
WCA Services: PM Delivery, Approvals, etc. (9%)	
<b><i>Estimated Total</i></b>	<b>\$ 463,195.79</b>

September 21, 2017 - Item 17

**RESOLUTION 2017-33**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK 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 authorize the application for grant funds from California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program for the River Wilderness Park 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 Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities 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;

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

*Therefore be it resolved that* the WCA hereby approves the filing of an application for the River Wilderness Park, and

1. **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; and
2. **CERTIFIES** that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. **CERTIFIES** that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and

- 4. **DELEGATES** the authority to (designated position) 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; and
- 5. **AGREES** to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
- 6. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.
- 7. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- 8. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated September 21, 2017.
- 9. **APPOINTS** the Executive Officer, Mark Stanley, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.
- 10. **AUTHORIZES** an application the application for grant funds from California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program in the amount of \$463,196 for the River Wilderness Park Project.

~ End of Resolution ~

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

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

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
On September 21, 2017

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M. Janet Chin, Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General