

**DATE:** 6/21/18

**TO:** WCA Governing Board

**FROM:** Deborah Enos, Deputy Executive Office

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** **Item 12: Consideration of a resolution to approve a Letter of Intent with CalTrans to expand Right of Way and for the maintenance and operation of trail extension and landscaped areas of a roundabout at River Wilderness Park.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board approve a Letter of Intent from the WCA to CalTrans to convey willingness to grant a road easement to expand the right of way for construction of a roundabout with the intent of WCA to assume responsibility for trail and landscaped maintenance around the roundabout, project improvements along Highway 39, and safety improvements to the entry of River Wilderness Park property.

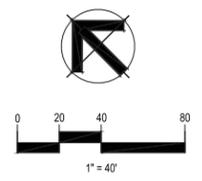
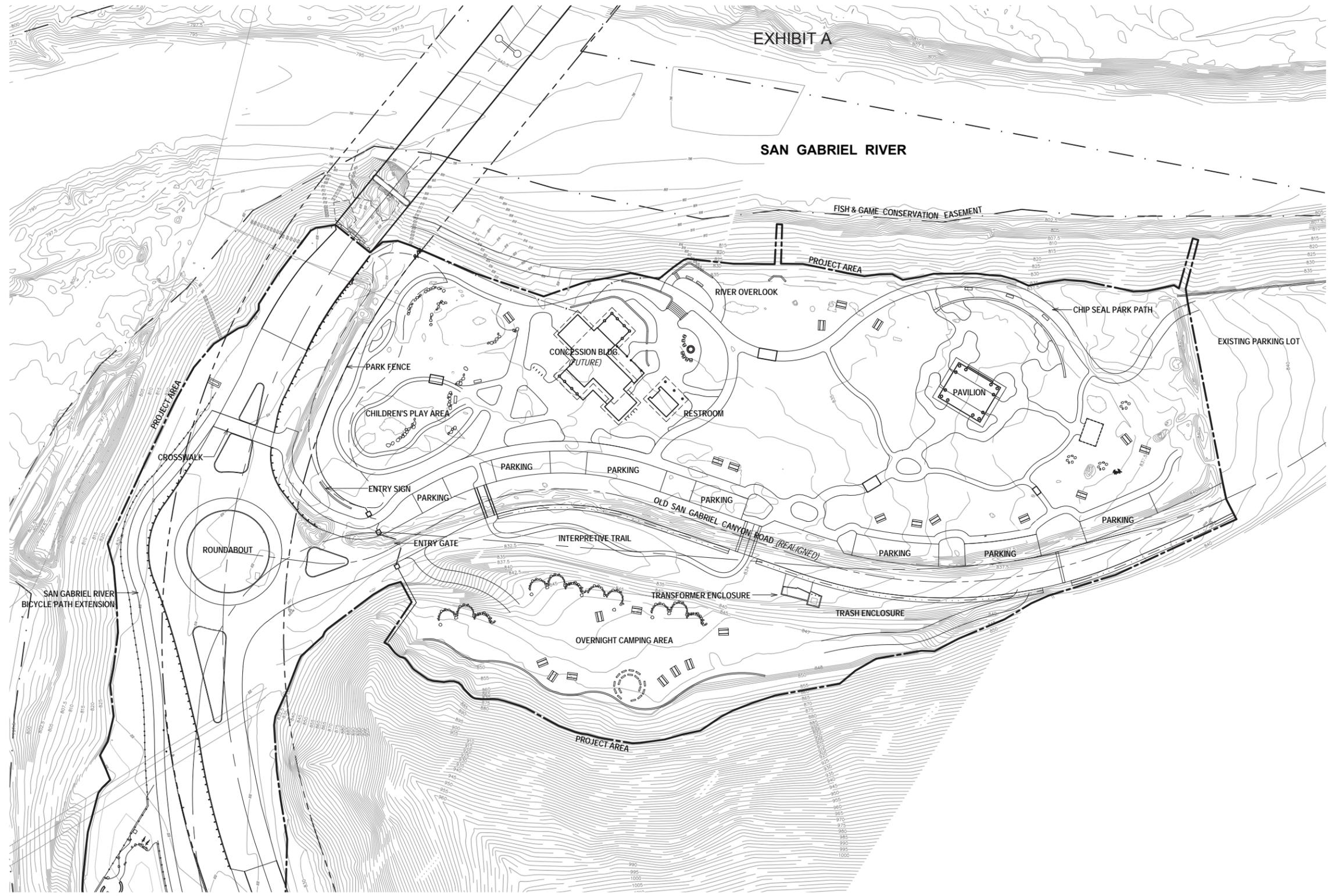
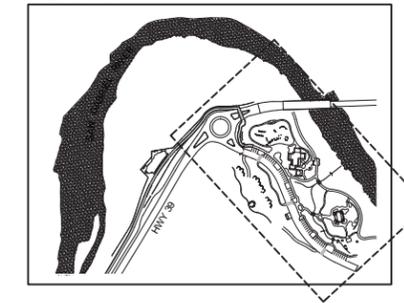
**BACKGROUND:** LA County Department of Public Works, as an entity with an existing Master Agreement with the State, intends to submit an application for State Active Transportation Project (ATP) grant funds to construct access and safety improvements (Highway 39 roundabout and trail extension) for the benefit of the Watershed Conservation Authority's River Wilderness Park. (Exhibit A)

In order to assure safe ingress and egress planned entry improvements includes a roundabout and a trail extension. The paved portion of Highway 39 would be widened to accommodate the roundabout and would require additional Right of Way through a grant of an easement or similar to Caltrans. Costs to construct the roundabout and trail extension would be borne by the project proponents including LA County Department of Public Work and/or WCA through anticipated grant funding opportunities.

It is the WCA's intent to grant an easement or similar to Caltrans for highway purposes to widen Highway 39 to accommodate the construction of the roundabout by LA County Department of Public Works. As a condition of the ATP grant a letter of intent to operate and/or maintain a facility that is not owned by the project proponent is required to be submitted at time of the application. As such, WCA intends upon completion of construction of the roundabout and the trail extension to at its cost maintain the landscaping and trail extension pursuant to a future operations and maintenance agreement to be provided by CalTrans as part of the project entitlement process. The construction of the roundabout, trail extension and all landscaping will comply with all grant conditions, CEQA/NEPA, and the requirements of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and City of Azusa.

In order to apply for the grant funds, LA County Department of Public Works and the WCA need evidence that Caltrans will cooperate with LA County Department of Public Works and the WCA in the planning and approval process for the roundabout, trail extension and landscaping including the legal steps required to convey the easement for highway purposes and documentation of the WCA's intent to maintain the landscaping and trail extension at its cost. (Exhibit B)

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** This action has no current financial impact on FY18/19 budget. Future cost to convey easement and provide O & M will be borne by project grant funds and future annual County Measure A for O & M revenue respectively.



**OWNER**



**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD.  
 AZUSA, CA 91702

**PRIME CONSULTANT**



**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



**PROJECT TITLE**

**RIVER WILDERNESS PARK**  
 100 N. OLD SAN GABRIEL CANYON RD.  
 AZUSA, CA 91702

**SHEET TITLE**

**SITE PLAN**

| REVISIONS | DATE |
|-----------|------|
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| 8.        |      |

**SP-1.01**

SHEET 00 OF 00

## Exhibit B – DRAFT LETTER of INTENT



June 18, 2018

Dale Bensen,  
Local Assistance District 7  
California Department of Transportation  
100 S. Main St, #12-420  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### GOVERNING BOARD

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Chair**

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Los Angeles County Board of  
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**Keith Lilley**

Designee for Mark Pestrella,  
Director  
Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Mark Stanley**

**RE: Letter of Intent with Offer to Convey Easement for Highway Purposes and Maintain Certain Improvements.**

**Project: River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements**

Dear Dale Bensen:

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) is a local public entity established in 2003 pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 et seq. It exercises the joint powers of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is a state agency, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. WCA is headquartered within parkland, known as River Wilderness Park, located at 100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Road in the city of Azusa. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road is accessed off California Highway 39.

LA County Department of Public Works, intends to apply for state Active Transportation Project grant funds to make access and safety improvements for the benefit of the River Wilderness Park.

The proposed park improvements are depicted on the attached River Wilderness Park Master Plan (Plan). Also, please find attached a depiction of the proposed River Wilderness Park entry improvements. WCA holds fee title to property located adjacent to the west and east sides of Highway 39 at the juncture of Old San Gabriel Canyon Road and Highway 39.

To assure safe ingress and egress the Plan includes a roundabout and a trail extension. The paved portion of Highway 39 would be widened to accommodate the roundabout. Costs to construct the roundabout and trail extension would be borne by the project proponents including LA County Department of Public Work and/or WCA through grants.

It is the WCA's intent in the planning and approval process for the roundabout, trail extension and landscaping to take the legal steps required to convey the easement for highway purposes and enter into documentation to maintain the landscaping associated with the roundabout and trail extension at its cost.

The construction of the roundabout, trail extension and all landscaping will comply with all grant conditions, CEQA/NEPA, and the requirements of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and City of Azusa.

The WCA appreciates willingness to cooperate with LA County Department of Public Works and the WCA in the planning and approval process for the roundabout, trail extension project, including the issuance of an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the WCA and taking legal steps necessary to convey additional Right of Way. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns. Our Agencies look forward to working closely with you as we implement this much needed project.

Regards,

Mark Stanley  
Executive Officer

cc: Debbie Enos

June 21, 2018 – Item 12

**RESOLUTION 2018-13**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE A LETTER OF INTENT WITH CALTRANS TO EXPAND RIGHT OF WAY AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF TRAIL EXTENSION AND LANDSCAPED AREAS OF A ROUNDABOUT AT RIVER WILDERNESS PARK.**

**WHEREAS**, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established to facilitate joint projects between the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County Flood Control District; and

**WHEREAS**, The Watershed Conservation Authority has 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 approves a Letter of Intent to CalTrans to convey wiliness to grant road easement to expand right of way for roundabout construction and intent to assume responsibility for the maintenance and operation of trail expansion and landscaped areas of a roundabout, Highway 39 improvement, to improve safety and entry to WCA owned River Wilderness Park property; and

**WHEREAS**, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

*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.
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated June 21, 2018.
4. **APPROVES** a Letter of Intent to CalTrans to convey wiliness to grant road easement to expand right of way for roundabout construction and intent to assume responsibility for the maintenance and operation of trail expansion and landscaped areas of a roundabout.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

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

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

Resolution 2018-13

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
On June 21, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Janet Chin, Governing Board Chair

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