DATE: **October 25, 2017**

TO: **Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board**

FROM: **Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager**

THROUGH: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Item 15: Consideration of 1) a resolution certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements project; and adopting Findings of Fact, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Report Program pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and, 2) a resolution adopting and approving the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements project.**

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA):

1. Consider a resolution to:
    a. Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements project; and
    b. Adopt Finding of Fact, and
    c. Adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Report Program (MMRP).
2. If the Final Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements project (therein referenced as "Final EIR") is certified, consider a resolution to adopt and approve the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project Final Concept Site Plan and Programming Report.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (the "East Fork 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.

The projects may be implemented in any order depending on funding, natural resources, and community needs. A final summary plan detailing the Concept Site Program developed for the East Fork Project is attached as Exhibit B. The Concept Site Program recommends the 165-acre project site be improved for public day-use with recreational trails, river access, interpretive areas, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, pedestrian bridge, habitat restoration, right of way improvements, loading area/shuttle stops, parking, refuse disposal, restrooms and USFS visitor kiosks and "Geology Hut". The improvements are planned to provide access to sustainable recreation and support the protection of natural and cultural resources.

BACKGROUND: The East Fork Project was developed to better manage recreational use and balance the needs for resource protection along a 2.5-mile reach of the East Fork San Gabriel River (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. This project is located approximately 14 miles north of the city of Azusa on federal lands managed by the ANF San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, within the boundaries of the WCA territory.

Recreational use is highly concentrated in areas of the ANF that are relatively flat, such as within the project area. This is due to steep topography and dense chaparral that dominates the mountainous landscape. The heavy use combined with a lack of facilities has resulted in degradation within the project site. Current conditions are not sustainable for long-term management. Impacts include: damage to vegetation, soil compaction and erosion, on-site litter, and stream alteration where visitors build rock dams in the river bed to create recreational bathing pools. The EFSGR has also experienced high levels of litter deposition both in and adjacent to the watercourse. The Regional Water Board determined that the level of trash has exceeded the existing Water Quality Standard necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the river. The water quality is impaired due to trash (section 303(d) listing).

Phase 1 of the East Fork Project includes the development of an outreach program focused on the prevention of specific harmful recreational behaviors. Two seasons of implementation were completed during the Summers of 2013 and 2014. Between 2014-2016, WCA, ANF Staff, and project consultants completed a Final Concept Site Plan and Programming report. The other Phase 1 project component includes the completion of the environmental assessments in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable laws. In 2016, based on the potential for significant impacts, it was mutually determined by ANF and WCA Staff that an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) must be prepared. These are the appropriate documents to disclose the potential environmental impacts that may not be avoided through the proposed action.

The Final EIR provides an assessment of the potential significant environmental effects of implementing the projects included in the Concept Site Program. The Final EIR provides information regarding the potential significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The certification of the EIR document and adoption of the Findings and MMRP completes the Phase 1 components of the project for WCA (Forest Service expects to sign the Record of Decision for the Final EIS in Spring 2019).

DISCUSSION: Two separate resolutions are recommended to be considered sequentially by the WCA Governing Board as part of this items. First, staff is recommending consideration of a resolution certifying the Final EIR; and adopting Findings of Fact and a MMRP pursuant to CEQA. WCA, as the CEQA Lead Agency, must prepare and certify a Final EIR before approving the Concept Site Program, thus staff is also recommending consideration of a secondary sequenced resolution to adopt and approve the Concept Site Program once the Final EIR is certified. Due to the length of the Concept Site Program Report (106 pages), it has not been attached as an exhibit to this staff report but is publicly available on the WCA-East Fork Project page: https://www.wca.ca.gov/cattle_canyon. The Concept Site Program Report is composed of the following elements:

- Executive Summary, inducing an introduction, project background, and description of the Proposed Project.
- Proposed Programming and Final Site Plan, providing more detailed descriptions of the projects, design elements, and restoration guidelines.
- Appendix 1 – an overview of the planning process.

FURTHER DISCUSSION / IDENTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF ENVRIONMENTAL IMPACTS: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), WCA issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR for the Improvements Project (Draft EIR) in October 17, 2016 and circulated the NOP for a period of 30 days. Additionally, WCA publicly noticed and held scoping meetings on November 16 and November 19, 2016, for the purpose of inviting comments from local, state, federal agencies, and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals on the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed in the EIR. Scoping comments were collected and considered in the preparation of the EIR.

The areas of potential significant impacts studied in the Final EIR include the following resources:

Resource Topics	
Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Public Safety, Hazardous Materials, Fire
Biological Resources	Recreation and Environmental Justice
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Scenic Resources
Hydrology and Water Quality	Transportation/Traffic
Noise	

The Draft EIR identified potential significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. The Draft EIR also identified the potential mitigation measures as well as impact determinations before and after implementation of proposed mitigation. As indicated by the Draft EIR, all environmental impacts are less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Due to the length of the Draft EIR document, it has not been attached as an exhibit to this staff report. The Draft EIR consist of the following sections and appendices:

- EIR Executive Summary
- Section 1.0 – Introduction

- Section 2.0 – Description of Alternatives
- Section 3.0 – Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
- Section 4.0 – Cumulative Effects
- Section 5.0 – Other Federal Requirements and CEQA Considerations
- Section 6.0 – Agencies and Persons Consulted
- Section 7.0 – List of Prepares
- Section 8.0 – Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Section 9.0 – References
- Appendix A –Scoping Comments Summary
- Appendix B – Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan Part 3
- Appendix C – Biological Reports (Botany Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment, Biological Resources Assessment Report, Wildlife Biological Assessment, Wildlife Biological Evaluation)
- Appendix D – Phase I Cultural Resources Study
- Appendix E – Air Quality Emissions Calculations
- Appendix F – Noise Calculations
- Appendix G – Hydrology and Soils Report

On November 7, 2017, WCA initiated the 45-day public review and comment period by issuing a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR to interested parties who requested such notice, the State Office of Planning and Research, and others; and on the same date, published the NOA in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and filed the NOA at the Los Angeles County Clerk. In addition, WCA placed paper copies of the Notice of Availability and Draft EIR at WCA's Main Office in the City of Azusa and at Angeles National Forest (ANF) headquarters in the City of Arcadia, and posted an electronic copy of the NOA and Draft EIR on the WCA website. Additionally, during the 45-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR, WCA publicly noticed and held a public meeting on November 18, 2017 at WCA's office and December 5, 2017 at ANF's office for purposes of providing an overview on the Improvements Project draft project and Draft EIR and information on how to submit comments on the Draft EIR. In addition, during the noticed comment period for the Draft EIR, WCA consulted with responsible and trustee agencies, regulatory agencies, and others.

The Draft EIR was circulated for public review for 45 days (November 9, 2017 through December 26, 2017) in accordance with the requirements of *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15105(a). An overview of the proposed project and a summary of the Draft EIS/EIR findings were provided during the meeting. Verbal comments received during the meeting were related to parking, traffic, range of alternatives, public access, day use, overnight camping and mining. Comment cards were made available at the meeting; 16 written comments were provided at the first meeting and 19 were provided at the second meeting. Distribution and public review of the Draft EIS/EIR is described in the *Executive Summary* and *Chapter 1, Introduction* of the Final EIR (Volume I). WCA received , which includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. WCA evaluated written comments received on the Draft EIR and provided a written response to each comment, which are included in the Final EIR.

Due to the length of the Final EIR, it has not been attached as an exhibit to this staff report, but can be publicly viewed on the WCA website at https://www.wca.ca.gov/cattle_canyon. The Final EIR added and/or changed the following appendices:

- Appendix D – Hydrology and Soils Report
- Appendix G – Mitigation Measures
- Appendix H – East Fork San Gabriel River Eligible Wild and Scenic River Report
- Appendix I – Comment Letters
- Appendix J – Responses to Comments
- Appendix K – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Appendix I of the Final EIR includes a list of public agencies, organizations, and individuals commenting on the Draft EIR and copies of comments on the Draft EIR and WCA's written responses to comments raised during the review and consultation process. Appendix J of the Final EIR includes clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR in response to comments received during the public review and comment period, and staff-initiated clarifications and revisions. The clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR in response to comments received and staff-initiated text revisions have not produced significant new information requiring recirculation or additional environmental review under CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(b).

As determined in the EIR, the changes or alternations have been made to the Proposed Project that avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of this Proposed Project and mitigate all of the significant environmental effects to a less than significant level. Environmental factors listed in the EIR as requiring mitigation to reduce residual impacts to a less than significant impact are listed below. The columns summarize impact significance determinations for the Proposed Action (Alt 1) and the No-Action Alternative (Alt 2). The proposed project incorporates project design measures (PDMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) to proactively protect sensitive resources and reduce environmental impacts associated with project activities; a full list of PDMs and MMs are included in Chapter 3 of the EIR and outlined in the MMRP (Appendix K) and attached as Exhibit C.

Impact Significance Summary	**Alt 1**	**Al 2**
Recreation and Environmental Justice		
REC-1: The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.	LTS	LTS
REC-2: The project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.	LTS	LTS
EJ-5: The project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects on a minority or low-income population.	N/A	N/A
Biological Resources		
BIO-1a: The project would, unless mitigated, have a substantial adverse effect on special-status plant species.	LSM	NI
BIO-1b: The project would, unless mitigated, have a substantial adverse effect on special-status wildlife species.	LSM	NI
BIO-2: The project would, unless mitigated, result in potential direct and indirect impacts to riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities.	LSM	NI
BIO-3: The project would, unless mitigated, result in a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands or waters as defined by Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), waters of the State regulated under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and	LSM	NI

streams regulated under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.		
BIO-4: The project would not result in the interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.	LTS	PS
BIO-5: The project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.	LTS	NI
BIO-6: The project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP.	NI	NI
Cultural Resources		
CR-1: Construction may diminish the integrity of properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)	LSM	NI
CR-2: Native American human remains could be uncovered, exposed, and /or damaged during construction	LSM	NI
CR-3: Paleontological resources could be damaged or destroyed during construction	NI	NI
CR-4: Tribal cultural resources could be impacted	NI	NI
Hydrology and Water Quality		
HYD-1: The project would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade water quality.	LSM	PS
HYD-2: The project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).	NI	NI
HYD-3: The project would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.	LSM	PS
HYD-4: The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site.	LSM	LTS
HYD-5: The project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.	LSM	NI
HYD-6: The project would place housing or structures within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map.	LTS	NI
HYD-7: The project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.	LSM	LTS
HYD-8: The project would not result in or be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.	LTS	NI
Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Climate Change		
AIR-1: The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.	LTS	NI
AIR-2: The project would not Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;	LTS	NI
AIR-3: The project would not Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors); (	LTS	NI
AIR-4: The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.	LTS	NI
AIR-5: The project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.	LTS	NI
AIR-6: The project would not conflict with ANF air quality strategies.	LTS	NI
GHG-1: The project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.	LTS	NI
GHG-2: The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.	LTS	NI
Noise		
NOI-1: The project would not cause exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.	LSM	NI
NOI-2: The project would not cause exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.	LSM	NI
NOI-3: The project would not cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the Project.	LTS	NI

NOI-4: The project would not cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.	LSM	NI
Public Safety, Hazardous Materials, and Fire		
HAZ-1: The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of, or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.	LTS	NI
HAZ-2: The project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.	NI	NI
HAZ-3: The project would not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.	LTS	NI
HAZ-4: The project would not be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, and could result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.	NI	NI
HAZ-5: The project would not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip and would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.	NI	NI
HAZ-6: The project activities would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.	LTS	NI
HAZ-7: The project would, unless mitigated, expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.	LSM	LTS
HAZ-8: The project would not create a fuel vegetation matrix with an increased ignition potential and rate of fire spread.	LTS	LTS
Transportation and Traffic		
TRAF-1: Project construction would temporarily generate increased traffic volumes on area roadways, but would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system.	LSM	NI
TRAF-2: Project construction would temporarily generate increased traffic volumes on area roadways, but would not conflict with an applicable congestion management program, or other standards established for Los Angeles County or state roads.	NI	NI
TRAF-3: Project construction would not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including neither an increase in traffic levels nor a change in location that would result in substantial safety risks.	NI	NI
TRAF-4: The project would not substantially increase traffic hazards.	LSM	NI
TRAF-5: The project would not result in inadequate emergency access.	LTS	NI
TRAF-6: The project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.	LTS	NI
Scenic Resources		
SCE-1: The project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.	LSM	LTS
SCE-2: The project would not substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.	LTS	LTS
SCE-3: The project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the affected area.	LSM	LTS
SCE-4: The project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.	LTS	NI
SCE-5: The project would not conflict with applicable plans, policies, regulations, or standards for the protection of visual resources.	LTS	NI

LTS	Less than Significant
LSM	Less than Significant with Mitigation
NI	No Impact
PS	Potentially Significant

On October 12, 2018, WCA posted on its website all comments and proposed, written responses to comments received during the 45-day review and comment period on the Draft EIR and the complete proposed Final EIR on its website. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088, WCA provided written responses to all public agencies that commented on the Draft EIR at least 10 days prior to certifying the EIR.

When making findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1), WCA must also adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures identified in the PEIR which avoid or substantially lessen significant effects, and which are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d). A MMRP is included as Appendix K of the Final EIR and is incorporate into this report as Exhibit C.

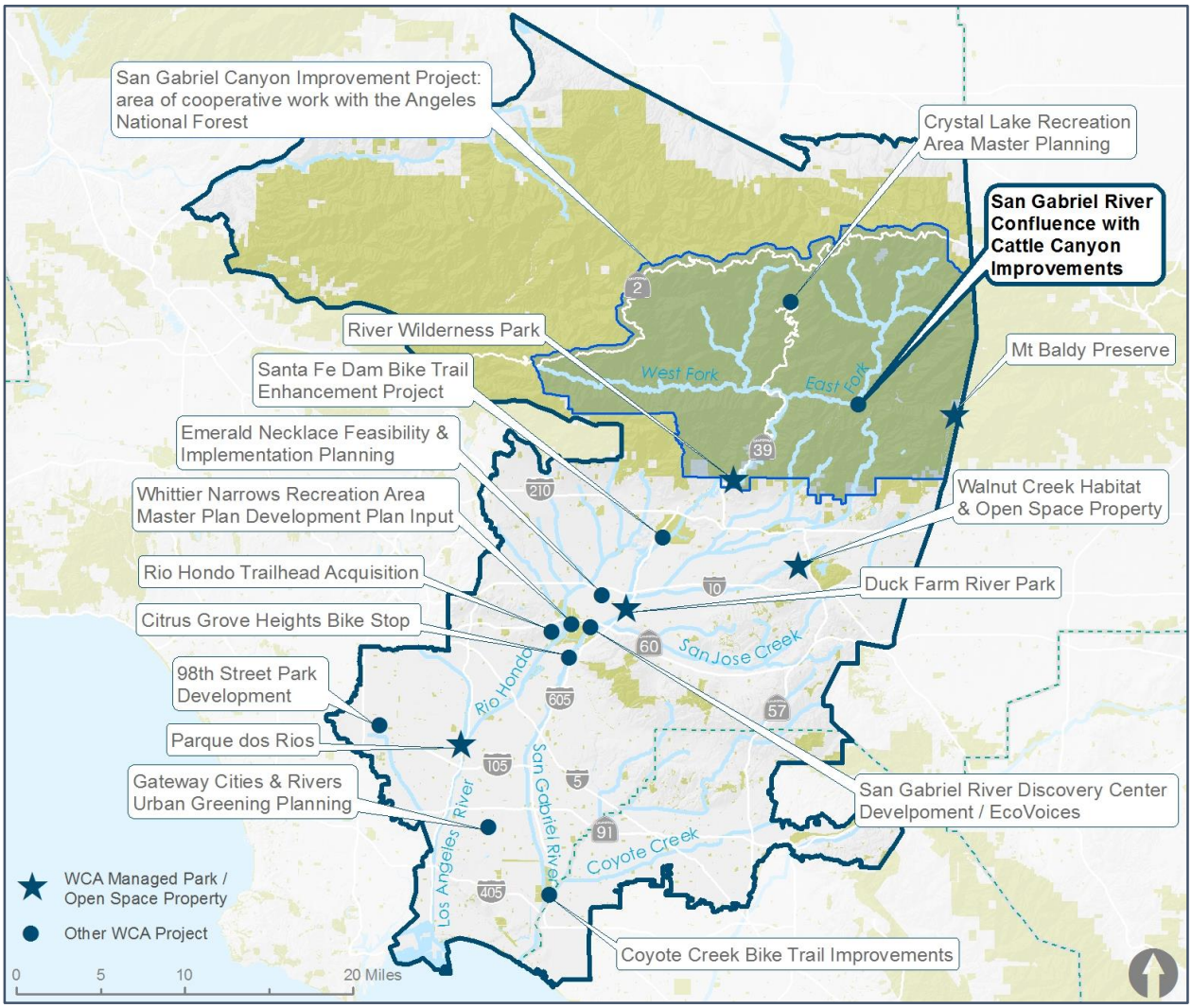
In complying with Public Resources Code Sections 21081 and 21081.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, CEQA Findings of Fact are required to be prepared for every significant impact of the Implementation Plan identified in the EIR and for each alternative evaluated in the EIR, including an explanation of the rationale for each finding. In accordance with CEQA requirements, WCA has prepared "CEQA Findings of Fact", included as Exhibit D.

FISCAL INFORMATION: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

Watershed Conservation Authority

Exhibit A

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



SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

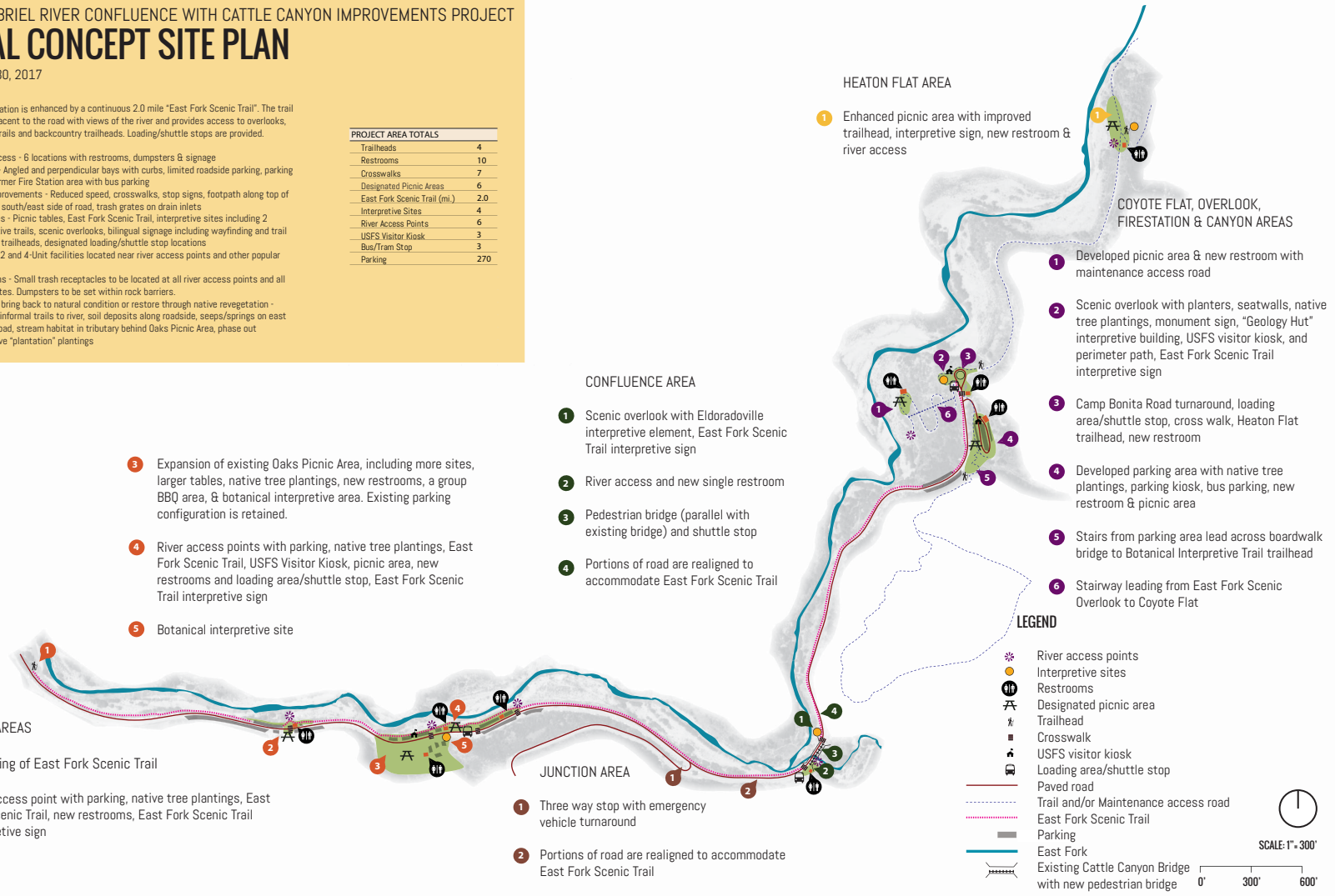
FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN

JANUARY 30, 2017

DESCRIPTION:
Day-use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.0 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 improvements - 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 bins - 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.)	2.0
Interpretive Sites	4
River Access Points	6
USFS Visitor Kiosk	3
Bus/Tram Stop	3
Parking	270



APPENDIX K
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

1.0 Introduction

Section 15091(d) and Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines require a public agency to adopt a program for monitoring or reporting on the changes it has required in the project or conditions of approval to substantially lessen significant environmental effects. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) summarizes the mitigation commitments identified in the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (proposed project) EIS/EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2016101039).

2.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The proposed project incorporates project design measures (PDMs) and mitigation measures (MMs) to proactively protect sensitive resources and reduce environmental impacts associated with project activities. PDMs are considered part of the proposed project, while MMs are additional actions that have been recommended during the environmental review process to address adverse impacts where feasible. Similar to mitigation, PDMs include mechanisms that would need to be tracked for compliance. As the NEPA and CEQA lead agencies, the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and/or the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), will be responsible for monitoring compliance with all PDMs and MMs presented within this Final EIS/EIR. The following defines the difference between a PDM and MM:

Project Design Measure: PDMs were developed by the ANF and WCA during project design, were incorporated into the project description, and were considered part of the proposed project during the environmental analysis. PDMs were developed as practical considerations to proactively protect sensitive resources and reduce environmental impacts associated with project activities. While considered part of the project, PDMs include requirements and activities assumed within this Final EIS/EIR to reduce or avoid environmental impacts. Therefore, PDMs are included within this MMRP to ensure their implementation.

Mitigation Measure: MMs have been proposed within this EIS/EIR to reduce or avoid a project-related environmental impact identified in the environmental analysis of the project. The MMs will become adopted as conditions of approval of the project when the WCA issues its decision subsequent to certification of the EIR. Once adopted, MMs become part of the project and are legally binding. For this project, the ANF will also adopt the MMs as part of the Record of Decision.

2.1 Project Design Measures

ANF and WCA have committed to the PDMs for environmental protection. All PDMs listed in Section 2.3.7 of the EIS/EIR are included below for ease of reference, and are also referenced within **Table K-1** where applicable.

Parking

PARK-1. The parking areas will be leveled in a way that dissipates rather than concentrates runoff. If runoff dissipation is not possible due to engineering limitations or structures adjacent to the parking areas, a catchment basin and sand-oil separator devices will be installed to capture runoff from the site and prevent sediment and other contaminants from entering the EFSGR or its receiving drainages. Drainage and erosion control structures will ensure protection of water quality in the adjacent riparian areas during construction.

Restoration and Planting

RES-1. Seed and cutting collection must follow Seed Collecting Guidelines to be prepared by the ANF Botanist for the Project.

RES-2. Habitat disturbance to sensitive natural communities will be avoided to the extent feasible. If construction results in temporary and/or permanent habitat loss, this loss will be mitigated (replaced at the same or a different location). Temporary impacts to upland habitats will be mitigated at a 1 acre: 1 acre (1:1) ratio and riparian impacts at a 3:1 ratio. Permanent impacts to upland habitat will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio and riparian impacts at a 5:1 ratio. Habitat restoration areas will be protected using materials that will not harm the environment or the stream habitat but will aid in limiting access to restoration areas by the public.

RES-3. If trees will be cut or damaged as a result of trail construction, impacts to all oaks (including scrub oaks) and native trees will be recorded regardless of size. Prior to cutting or damaging the trees the following data must be collected: the species and number of individuals cut, their diameter at breast height (DBH) (1.3 meters from ground), location and potential impact type. Construction within the driplines of all native trees and oak trees/shrubs, and incidental trimming or damage to trees shall not occur until the trees are evaluated by an ANF botanist.

RES-4. Depending on the impacted tree and as determined by a qualified biologist, measures to minimize tree loss may include placement of a fence around the dripline, tree padding, minimizing soil removal or addition around driplines, or the placement of matting under the existing dripline during construction activities. If a tree/oak must have any construction-related activities [such as equipment or soil staging within the drip zone, root pruning, or excessive branch pruning (greater than 25 percent in 1 year)], then the tree/oak shall be mitigated for.

RES-5. If trees are cut or damaged, they will be replaced. Smaller trees will have a fewer trees replaced (a lower ratio) than larger trees cut or damaged. The replacement ratios (using container plants) for native trees or any oaks which are to have more than 25 percent of the canopy cover removed shall be as follows:

a. DBHs less than 3 inches will be replaced at 2:1 (two replaced for every one cut or damaged)

b. 3- to 5-inch DBH shall be replaced at 3:1

c. 5 to 12 inches shall be replaced at 5:1

d. 12 to 24 inches shall be replaced at 10:1

e. 24 to 36 inches shall be replaced at 15:1

f. greater than 36 inches shall be replanted at a ratio of 20:1

The DBHs for scrub oaks will be measured following California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines. Trees shall be planted at locations acceptable to the ANF.

RES-6. For upland planting the following species will be used: yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), birch leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp caerulea*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), chaparral needlegrass (*Acnatherum coronatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Tree species are as follows: Interior live oak (*Quercus wizlizeni*).

RES-7. For riparian planting, the following shrubs will be planted: willow (*Salix lasiandra, S. exigua* and *S. lasiolepis*) and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Tree species planted will include white alder (*Alnus rhombifolius*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

RES-8. If container plants are used as part of the restoration project, all nurseries that grow out plants must use BMPs developed and approved by the Working Group for Phytophthoras in Native Habitats.

RES-9. If container plants are used, a random sampling of the container plants must be tested for diseases including Phytophthoras. Container plants should also be inspected for any Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) infestation.

RES-10. Success criteria for restoration sites will be based on the following: For upland vegetation, 80% or better of native cover with no target invasive plant species. For all other vegetation found in the project, success will be the same, as a healthy and fully functional sample population up stream of the East Fork or the West Fork of the San Gabriel Rivers. This will be used as a reference site. Sites will be monitored monthly with site visits for the first year after planting (both to check on plant success and new invasive species), every other month in year 2 to 3, and every 3 months from year 4 until the success criteria is met. Maintenance for invasive weed control will be monthly to quarterly depending on weed infestation. Invasive weed removal and site visits can be combined into one visit. Monitoring will continue for 5 years or until success criteria is met.

RES-11. Areas where user created trails are closed and planted, yucca will be heavily planted to deter unwanted foot traffic. Additionally, vegetation cut from another area of the project site (i.e., trail creation) will be used to aid restoration and deter unwanted foot traffic.

RES-12. Planting and seeding will be completed between September and January to benefit from winter rains and be mature enough to withstand summer heat.

Botany

BOT-1. Prior to implementation, Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, Candidate and Forest Service Sensitive (TESPC) species and invasive plant surveys must be completed. TESPC surveys will follow protocol surveys. If rare plants are found, design features such as flag and avoid or limited operating period may be implemented, as determined by the biologist. If invasive species are found, design features such as pre-project removal, weed wash station on site, post implementation weed monitoring and removal may be needed, as determined by the biologist. Surveys of all work areas must be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities. This includes all areas potentially impacted by project activities including the actual work site, debris disposal, access roads, staging areas and recreation areas such as those for new trails and dispersed recreation. The surveys must be conducted in the correct floristic season which will likely be mid-May to mid-June and they must be conducted by a qualified botanist approved by the ANF (resumes will need to be submitted). Survey results must include a list and map of all invasive and ANF sensitive plants found in the project site. Immediately upon completion, results of botanical surveys including mapped occurrences must be provided to the ANF botanist. If construction deviates from the final approved plans during construction, Forest Botanist and Forest Wildlife Biologist must be informed. This is to ensure unexpected construction changes are cleared by existing surveys or that new surveys are conducted as needed.

BOT-2. To limit the spread and establishment of invasive plant species, all hand tools, work vehicles and heavy equipment used during project implementation will be free of noxious and/or invasive exotic weeds and seeds before entering the project site. Vehicle washing guidelines will be implemented for equipment associated with vegetation modification or ground disturbing activities (see Appendix A in Appendix C1 Botany BE/BA).

BOT-3. All plant material (e.g., straw, mulch, seeds, etc.) used for erosion control and/or road maintenance must be certified weed-free. Only weed-free rice straw or rice mulch shall be allowed. All erosion control material must be biodegradable. Wattles wrapped in "photodegradable" plastic are not acceptable.

BOT-4. All fill material (soil, sand, gravel, rock) used for project activities must be from an ANF approved material site. This will ensure the source is from a weed free location.

BOT-5. Project activities will generate a small amount of soil debris. The material removed from these sites can be used as fill at other sites only if it is free of target invasive species. If the site from which the debris is removed has target invasive species, it cannot be used as fill from an area other than where it was generated. If soil and debris collected from a location containing target invasive species are moved and deposited for storage it must be an ANF-designated location.

BOT-6. The ANF botanist will determine the appropriate disposal method for invasive plant removal. This may include placement of plants in 3mm garbage bags and disposal off Forest at a site approved to accept such material.

BOT-7. Post-project monitoring will occur for a minimum of 5 years after project completion in order to detect new or recurring invasive plant populations, and appropriate treatments will be implemented if they are found within the disturbance areas. This monitoring includes roadsides, and all project-impacted areas. The ANF botanist will

determine the appropriate level of treatment based on multiple factors including the species, size of infested area, proximity to sensitive resources.

BOT-8. All equipment must contain appropriate spill containment kits to respond to leaks and spills. Personnel must have training on proper response to any type of hazmat situation. All hazmat situations must be reported to the Forest Hazmat Coordinator according to the Angeles National Forest San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Hazard Communication Plan (2016).

BOT-9. All equipment staging areas will be located away from known areas of target invasive species occurrences.

Fisheries and Wildlife

FISH-1. In Santa Ana sucker (SAS)-occupied or critical habitat**:**

a. No project activities will occur within the buffer described below during the Santa Ana sucker spawning season (typically March 1 to August 1). The buffer is defined as 100 feet from the streambank, except in areas that are flat and directly adjacent to the road and project generated sediment and runoff have no potential to enter the stream. See the required BMPs for methods to eliminate project generated sediment runoff. The spawning season restriction period may vary if spawning is observed earlier or later in the season for this species.

b. If any construction activities may result in equipment, infrastructure or project-generated material to fall into or be placed into the active stream channel, the following measures may be required to effectively minimize the potential for take of special status fish species. Prior to any in-stream work including water diversions, installation of rock vanes or other structures, and fish removal or electro fishing, approval will be obtained from USFWS and in-stream activities will be supervised by a USFWS-approved biologist.

    i. Prior to any construction work proceeding, temporary installation of rock vanes, block nets and in-stream water diversion will occur. This will take approximately 1 week. If needed, as determined by the ANF engineer, and depending on water volumes, one or two rock vanes may need to be installed upstream of the water diversion and work area. These are small rock dams that are angled downstream and intended to dissipate energy and move water towards the northern bank of the stream and away from the water diversion and block nets. These will not span the entire creek or create a barrier to upstream or downstream aquatic organism passage. They will be constructed of existing rocks, imported rock, or sand bags, or a combination of these materials. They will be removed upon completion of the project and native materials placed back where they were found prior to the project. All imported materials will be removed and disposed of appropriately. Block nets will be installed along the entire perimeter of the project in an effort to prevent any fish from entering the work area. The block nets will be installed by starting at the middle of the work area and moving outward to encourage fish to move out of the work area prior to the installation of the water diversion. The mesh size of the nets will be no larger than 3/16 of an inch in order to ensure that the smallest fish likely to be present will be unable to get through the mesh. The bottom of the nets will be securely placed on the bottom of the stream channel and if necessary rocks or sand bags will be placed on the net in order to hold the net in place. The block nets will be left in place for the duration of the project.

ii. Once the block nets are securely in place, all remaining fish will be removed from the work area. This will be accomplished by having one or two USFWS-approved biologists flushing fish into a seine being dragged through the work area by two people. Dip nets will be used to capture any fish not flushed by this method. If it proves unsuccessful to remove all the fish from the work area using these methods, the remaining fish may require electro shocking in order to capture and relocate them. If electro shocking is needed the lowest voltage necessary will be used in order to minimize potential long-term negative effects of shocking on native fish. All fish captured will be immediately placed into buckets filled with stream water from the capture area. They will be held no longer than necessary in the buckets. All native fish, including rainbow trout, will be identified to species, counted and relocated to the nearest suitable habitat outside the work area. When possible, fish should be relocated downstream of the work area to minimize potential of being washed into the upstream block net or well upstream of the work area to avoid impacts to fish from any increased turbidity downstream of the work area. All non-native fish will be euthanized and disposed of and will not be released back into the EFSGR.

iii. Recreational dam removal (though not a part of this San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project) will occur along at least 3 miles of sucker occupied habitat annually. Areas for dam removal will be selected to maximize the benefit to the sucker. Recreational dam removal will be conducted using the same measures as described in the October 4, 2012 Biological Opinion for this activity (USFWS 2012).

c. Fish relocation, water diversions, and relocation site selection will be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) and any required permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

d. Nonnative plants will be removed from within or adjacent to at least 1 mile of sucker occupied habitat annually. Areas for nonnative plant removal will be selected to maximize the benefit to the sucker. Nonnative plant removals will be conducted using the same measures as described in the San Gabriel River Plant Treatment Project letter from the Service provided on September 30, 2011.

e. To ensure the overall health of the SAS population, project staff and volunteers will be trained to educate the public on importance of Santa Ana Sucker (and its critical habitat), on not building rock dams, staying on designated trails and picking up trash.

FISH-2. General and Forest Service Sensitive (FSS) wildlife species encountered during the course of project implementation should be given the opportunity to evacuate the site, prior to construction activities resuming, including venomous species such as rattlesnakes. If needed, reptile species, including rattlesnakes, can be moved from the project site using nonlethal means such as sticks, shovel handles, buckets, or similar containers. Should any FSS wildlife species be found within the project site, a FS Biologist will be notified and they should be relocated or otherwise avoided (according to FS Biologist recommendations) and allowed to vacate the area of potential affect.

FISH-3. Trash and food shall be stored in closed containers and removed daily to reduce attractiveness to opportunistic predators such as coyotes, domestic and feral dogs, cats, opossums, skunks, and raccoons. Littering of trash and food waste is prohibited.

FISH-4. All trash generated from the project will be collected and properly disposed of in roll-off bins located in designated staging areas and then disposed of as needed or as requested by the ANF.

FISH-5. Vehicles and staging areas will be limited to existing roads and parking areas, at sites approved by the ANF and as identified in the Erosion Control Plan.

FISH-6. When feasible, activities will be conducted outside bird nesting season (February 15 through September 15) to avoid the accidental take of nesting birds, in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If work must take place during this time, a qualified biologist should perform a pre-construction nesting bird survey at the project site. If verifiable active nests are found and are potentially affected by the project, then a buffer, as determined by a qualified biologist, should be put in place or the work should not proceed until after the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise deemed inactive.

FISH-7. If excavations are to be left open and unattended for more than 12 hours, an escape ramp will be constructed to the bottom of the pit with less than a 2:1 slope, to provide an escape route to prevent lizards and other wildlife in the area from getting trapped in the excavation. Prior to commencement of work activity each day, staff will check any excavated pits to make sure that no animals are trapped. Before backfilling any excavation, it must be checked to make sure that no wildlife is present within the excavated pit.

FISH-8. Fueling of equipment and vehicles on ANF lands shall be conducted at designated locations as identified in the Erosion Control Plan. These locations shall utilize protective sheeting to cover open ground and contain a bermed edge (or bumper) to ensure containment in the event of a spill.

FISH-9. Pre-construction Bat Surveys: A qualified biologist will survey the bridge prior to implementation of construction activities, to determine if roosting bats are present. Survey methods shall include, but are not limited to, electronic detection surveys, by the use of AnaBat or SonoBat detector; daytime surveys for the detection of guano, staining, and/or daytime roosting individuals; and nighttime surveys using night vision goggles to determine entrance/exit counts and night roosting individuals.

a. Surveys are to be conducted during both the fall/winter and spring/summer roosting periods. If the appropriate seasonal surveys have not been conducted, surveys must be conducted within the 2-week period prior to project implementation. Survey results and raw data must be provided to the ANF District Biologist.

b. If it is determined by a qualified biologist that Cattle Canyon Bridge is currently occupied by roosting bats, seasonal restrictions may be appropriate and would be based on the species present and the type of use occurring (winter roost, maternity roost, bachelor roost, night roost, etc.). Exclusion devices may be utilized during the appropriate season.

FISH-10. Project personnel will be prohibited from bringing domestic pets to construction sites to ensure that domestic pets do not disturb or depredate wildlife in adjacent native habitats.

FISH-11. Monitoring of impacts to the physical environment will consist of two different methods. One will include establishing two Stream Condition Inventory sites, one within the Oaks area, and one outside the project site. The Region 5 Stream Condition Inventory protocol will be used to monitor these two sites. The other method of monitoring will include the SAS habitat monitoring data and compare sites from within the project site to those outside the project site.

Soil and Water

SOIL-1. All appropriate USFS BMPs shall be implemented to minimize damage to surface soil structure and to reduce potential for erosion and sediment transport to drainages due to project activities. All ground disturbing activities with the potential for erosion must be consistent with FSH 2509.22 – Soil and Water Conservation Practices Handbook and Best Management Practices and FS-990a–National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands.

SOIL-2. An Erosion Control Plan will be developed prior to any ground disturbing activities and provided to the contractors with applicable BMPs and site specific mitigations prior to implementation of the project. The Erosion Control Plan will be on-site during any ground disturbing activities.

SOIL-3. Other than the pedestrian bridge, to the extent feasible, project activities should not occur in ephemeral, intermittent and permanent streams. To avoid impacts, the following Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) buffer widths are required:

a. Perennial streams – 328 feet (100 meters) on each side of the stream, measured from bankful edge of the stream. Perennial streams (including springs and seeps) flow continuously throughout most of the year. The bankful edge of the stream is the incipient point of flooding, often between a 1.5 and 2 year return interval flood.

b. Seasonally flowing/intermittent streams – 98 feet (30 meters) on each side of the stream, measured from the bank full edge of the stream. Seasonally flowing/intermittent streams flow only at certain times of the year when they receive water from springs, rainstorms, or melting snow.

c. Ephemeral streams 98 feet (30 meters) during periods of active flow– in channel. Ephemeral streams flow only in direct response to precipitation.

SOIL-4. During trail maintenance, the RCA will be measured and flagged at points of ingress/egress along trails.

SOIL-5. Ground disturbance will be limited to the minimum necessary for trail repair activities. All project activities including vehicle traffic, pedestrian traffic and staging will be confined to the smallest area possible. All vehicles, tools and equipment will be restricted to existing access roads, trails, trailheads, or disturbed areas to the maximum extent feasible.

SOIL-6. Living native woody riparian vegetation will not be cut or removed, except as necessary and where riparian management objectives can be met. Consultation with ANF resource staff will occur to determine if activity is necessary.

SOIL-7. If vegetation must be cut, employ directional falling away from the watercourse and off stream banks where possible to prevent damage to stream morphological structure.

SOIL-8. Existing downed trees and Large Woody Debris (LWD) will be left in place within the inner bank of the watercourse unless they are identified as a threat to life, property, or sustainability of the RCA, defined above. Consult with the ANF Hydrologist prior to removal of any LWD from the RCA.

SOIL-9. Brush, loose soil, construction material, or similar debris will not be stockpiled within the stream channel or on its banks where it may impact aquatic species or be washed into the stream.

SOIL-10. No new access points or routes will be created for the purpose of project implementation. Self-propelled ground equipment is allowed within an RCA only along the trail route to reduce compaction unless otherwise cleared with ANF staff.

SOIL-11. Efforts will be made to avoid trampling native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation outside of the trail tread or supporting infrastructure (crib walls, sutter walls, etc.)

SOIL-12. If a rain event greater than 30% chance is forecast within 24 hours, self-propelled equipment will be removed from the RCA and disturbed areas will be covered to prevent erosion.

SOIL-13. To prevent compaction, equipment operation will occur on dry or slightly moist soil.

SOIL-14. During active precipitation events, all operations will cease.

SOIL-15. If stream water levels begin to rise visibly due to precipitation upstream of the project location, all debris/equipment/tools will be removed from the RCAs until flooding recedes and it is determined that soils are sufficiently dry so equipment will not cause rutting.

SOIL-16. Project generated material will not be allowed to roll downslope. No sidecasting is permitted.

SOIL-17. Fuel will be stored outside the RCA and equipment will not be fueled within the RCA.

SOIL-18. Crews must have appropriate spill containment kits to respond to leaks and spills. Personnel must have training on proper response to any type of hazmat situation. All hazmat situations must be reported to the Forest Hazmat Coordinator according to the Forest guidelines.

SOIL-19. Design maintenance of trail to include water bars, rolling dips, or other tools to break up hydrologic connectivity along slopes and prior to stream crossings.

SOIL-20. Clean equipment expected to pass through the stream or used for instream work prior to entering the stream/creek. Check equipment daily for leaks or accumulations of grease and correct identified problems prior to entering RCAs.

SOIL-21. Upon completion of the project, disturbed areas will have adequate ground cover of at least 60 percent to stabilize soils. Refuse, flagging, and contaminated soil will be removed and properly disposed of. The surface of the trail shall be reshaped (fix berms, ruts, piles, etc.). Block/barrier projects areas as needed to prevent unauthorized public access and use. Barrier plans will be discussed with forest personnel prior to implementation and will be approved by forest personnel post implementation.

Recreation

REC-1. Avoid construction implementation during weekends and major holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day) to reduce the likelihood displacement of the recreating public.

REC-2. Prior to implementation, a public notification plan should be developed in English and Spanish to inform the recreating public of possible area closures and other available recreation opportunities.

REC-3. Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) and Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG) must be used for the design, construction, alteration, purchase, or replacement of recreation sites, facilities, constructed features, and trails on the National Forest System. The complete FSORAG and FSTAG are available at http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/.

REC-4. In accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act, the Rehabilitation Act Section 504, and the Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails, all facilities designed, built, altered, bought, rented, or leased by, for, or on behalf of a federal agency must be accessible, and all programs and activities that are conducted by federal agencies and by entities that receive funding from, or operate under a permit from federal agencies, must provide an equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate in an integrated setting, as independently as possible. The only exceptions to the requirement are when the program would be fundamentally altered if changes were made solely for the purpose of accessibility or if it meets any of the 4 conditions for an exception identified in the FSORAG.

REC-5. Record and retain documentation of determinations of the basis for exceptions for any outdoor recreation feature. These records are important accounts of decisions and rationale for when future changes are required or there are public inquiries about conditions.

Scenic Resources

SCE-1. All proposed design and implementation of exposed materials, structures, amenities, and site improvements for this project should comply with the “Built Environment Image Guide” (BEIG) to harmonize with the local landscape and advance environmentally sustainable design solutions, and must be approved by the ANF and the Forest Landscape Architect prior to installation.

Heritage Resources

HER-1. Any associated activities that could adversely affect historic properties will be reviewed and assessed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.

HER-2. These activities will be managed under the 2013 R5 Programmatic Agreement among the ANF, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Processes for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Management of Historic Properties by the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region.

HER-3. All cultural resources within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be treated as assumed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), unless formally evaluated and determined by consensus, that the resource is not eligible for the NRHP. Those cultural resources within the undertakings APE treated as assumed eligible will be avoided, protected by various measures, and/or, specific activities will be modified or redesigned to avoid impacts to assumed eligible cultural resources. In the case of unavoidable impacts or affects to cultural resource as a result of the project, management will follow the appropriate regulations, at 36 CFR 800.6 for resolution.

2.2 MMRP Organization

The columns in Table K-1 provide the following information:

Mitigation Measure: Each MM is taken from *Chapter 3* of this EIS/EIR (Volume I), in the same order they appear in the document. They are categorized by environmental resource area based on the primary types of impacts mitigated by the measure. However, MMs may reduce or avoid potential impacts to multiple resource areas.

Applicable PDMs for Each Resource: Each PDM refers to the applicable PDM identified in Section 2.1, above.[1] They are categorized by environmental resource area based on the primary types of impacts mitigated by the measure. For example, all the PDMs applicable to Section 3.3, Biological Resources, are listed under that heading. However, PDMs may reduce or avoid potential impacts to multiple resource areas.

Duration: The general schedule for conducting each task, either prior to construction, during construction, and/or after construction. "Ongoing" would represent those MMs and PDMs that require implementation during all stages of the project.

Frequency: Identifies how often the MM or PDM must be completed.

Coordination: Identifies agencies or persons that must be coordinated with, either directly or through applicable regulations, when developing or implementing the MM or PDM.

Responsibility: The agency or private entity responsible for ensuring implementation of the PDM or MM. However, until the PDMs and MMs are completed, ANF and WCA, as the NEPA

[1] PDMs are listed within this appendix, but originally located within Section 2.3.7 of this Final EIS/EIR (Volume I).

and CEQA lead agencies, remain responsible for ensuring that implementation of the PDMs and MMs occur in accordance with the MMRP (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15097(a)).

Verification (Date and Initials): Provides information about who reviewed the PDM or MM implementation, and the date the PDM or MM was determined complete. This column would be initialed and dated by the reviewer upon completion of the PDM or MM.

TABLE K-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.2 Recreation and Environmental Justice						
No MMs are required for Recreation and Environmental Justice.	**All PDMs**[2]	Ongoing	N/A	All Applicable Agencies; All Qualified Personnel; Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel	ANF and/or WCA	
3.3 Biological Resources						
MM BIO-1: The locations of any TESPC plant species identified during the botanical survey (PDM BOT-1) and other special-status plant species including those with a California Rare Plant Ranks of 1, 2, or 4 by the California Native Plant Society shall be flagged (or otherwise delineated) by a biologist and shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. To ensure avoidance during construction, a qualified biologist shall be onsite during any ground disturbing activities within 10 feet of a special-status plant species.	**PDM RES-2** **PDM RES-3** **PDM RES-4** **PDM RES-5** **PDM RES-7** **PDM BOT-1** **PDM BOT-2** **PDM BOT-3**	Prior to and During Construction	Survey: Twice to capture the appropriate blooming periods; Monitor: Daily	ANF Botanist	ANF and/or WCA	
MM BIO-2: If avoidance of TESPC plant species or other special-status plants are not feasible, coordination with USFWS, USFS, and/or CDFW will be required to determine suitable mitigation. The mitigation strategy may include avoidance, on-site or off-site restoration, translocation, and/or seed collection, and shall be outlined in a restoration/revegetation plan to be approved by USFWS, USFS, and/or CDFW. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the existing conditions, site selection criteria, site preparation and planting methods, maintenance and monitoring schedule, performance standards, adaptive management strategies, and identification of responsible parties.	**PDM BOT-6** **PDM SOIL-1** **PDM SOIL-2** **PDM SOIL-3** **PDM SOIL-4** **PDM SOIL-5** **PDM SOIL-6** **PDM SOIL-7** **PDM SOIL-8** **PDM SOIL-9**	Prior to and During Construction	Plan: Once; Implementation of Plan: 5 years	ANF Botanist; USFWS and/or CDFW	ANF and/or WCA	

[2] Impact REC-1 requires the implementation of **PDM REC-1** and **REC-2**; Impact REC-2 requires the implementation of all **PDM**s; Impact EJ-1 requires the implementation of **PDM REC-1** and **REC-2**.

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM BIO-3: Protection of Special-Status Aquatic Species. Prior to any in-stream work including water diversions, installation of rock vanes or other structures, a snorkel survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to remove southwestern pond turtle, two striped garter snake, coast range newt, and any other special-status aquatic wildlife from the work area and relocated to suitable habitat away from the work area. Approval to perform the snorkel survey and relocate wildlife will be obtained from CDFW prior to in-stream activities, and all in-stream work will be supervised by a CDFW-approved biologist.	**PDM SOIL-10** **PDM SOIL-11** **PDM FISH-1** **PDM FISH-2** **PDM FISH-3** **PDM FISH-4** **PDM FISH-5** **PDM FISH-6** **PDM FISH-7** **PDM FISH-8** **PDM FISH-9** **PDM FISH-10** **PDM FISH-11**	Prior to Construction	Survey: Once; Species Relocation: Once	ANF Fisheries Biologist; CDFW	ANF and/or WCA	
MM BIO-4: The jurisdictional delineation report shall be verified by the appropriate federal and state agencies during the permitting process. Based on the findings of the jurisdictional delineation report and agency verification of the extent of jurisdictional wetlands and waters, wetlands and waters shall be avoided to the extent feasible, and 100-foot setbacks shall be marked from the edge of jurisdictional waters or riparian vegetation (whichever is wider) to maintain riparian and aquatic functions and values. In areas where avoidance of stream channels is infeasible, the site slopes and hydrology of remediated areas shall be restored to pre-construction conditions to the extent possible. If impacts to wetlands are unavoidable, compensatory mitigation shall ensure no net loss of wetlands, in accordance with permit conditions. A compensatory mitigation plan addressing temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters shall be prepared prior to disturbance. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the USACE, LARWQCB, and/or CDFW during the permitting process. It shall include a plan view graphic showing the target mitigation activities, a seeding and planting plan (species palette and application techniques), and a monitoring and reporting plan with performance standards and success criteria. The plan shall include a recommended timeline for mitigation activities and the establishment of seeded native species.		Prior to and During Construction	JD Report: Once; Mitigation Plan: Once; Implementation of Mitigation Plan: 5 years	USACE, LARWQCB, and/or CDFW	ANF and/or WCA	

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.4 Cultural and Paleontological Resources						
MM CR-1: Prior to earth moving activities, a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (U.S. Department of the Interior 2008) shall conduct cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel. Construction personnel shall be informed of the types of cultural resources that may be encountered, avoidance of any designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), and of the proper procedures to be enacted in the event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources or human remains. The onsite contractor or designated representative shall ensure that construction personnel are made available for and attend the training and retain documentation demonstrating attendance.	**PDM HER-1** **PDM HER-2** **PDM HER-3**	Prior to Construction	Once, and as required when new personnel start work	ANF Archaeologist	ANF and/or WCA	
MM CR-2: In the event of the unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials, all work activities in the area (within approximately 100 feet) of the discovery shall immediately cease and the ANF and WCA shall be contacted. Construction shall not resume until a qualified archaeologist has conferred with ANF on the significance of the resource and treatment options (i.e., avoidance and preservation in place, testing, data recovery). In the case of unavoidable impacts or affects to cultural resources, management shall follow the appropriate regulations, at 36 CFR 800.6 for resolution. ANF shall consult with appropriate Native American representatives in evaluating and determining treatment for prehistoric or Native American resources to ensure cultural values ascribed to the resource, beyond those that are scientifically important, are considered, and would follow the regulations of the NAGPRA at 43 CFR 10.4 (see MM CR-3).		During Construction	Daily	ANF Archaeologist	ANF and/or WCA	

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM CR-3: In the event that human remains are encountered, all work activities in the area (within approximately 100 feet) of the remains shall immediately cease and the ANF and WCA shall be contacted. The Los Angeles County Corner shall be notified immediately (California Health and Safety Code 7050.5(b)). If the remains are determined to be Native American, the provisions of NAGPRA and its regulations at 43 CFR 10 and ARPA at 43 CFR 7 shall be followed. Work shall not resume in the area until the ANF has provided written authorization to continue.		During Construction	Daily	ANF Archaeologist; Los Angeles County Corner; Native American Representative	ANF and/or WCA	
3.5 Hydrology and Water Quality						
MM HYD-1: Biofiltration basins sized according to the LA County LID Manual (County of Los Angeles DPW 2014) would be developed and implemented for each parking area over 5,000 square feet and each overlook greater than 10,000 square feet. The Confluence Overlook, which is under 10,000 square feet, would include at minimum two of the three following BMPs: • Porous pavement: Install porous pavement to allow stormwater runoff to infiltrate through it. Porous pavement includes, but is not limited to porous asphalt, porous concrete, ungrouted paving blocks, and gravel. At least 50 percent of the pavement at the site shall be porous. • Disconnect impervious surfaces: Slope impervious surfaces to drain toward pervious surfaces. If possible, stormwater runoff should be directed toward vegetated areas or stormwater quality control measures. • Landscaping: Plant trees near impervious surfaces to intercept precipitation in their leaves. Trees planted adjacent to impervious surfaces can intercept water that would otherwise become stormwater runoff. A minimum of two 15-gallon trees shall be planted a maximum of 10 feet from impervious surfaces.	**PDM FISH-4** **PDM PARK-1** **PDM SOIL-1** **PDM SOIL-2** **PDM SOIL-3** **PDM SOIL-5** **PDM SOIL-7** **PDM SOIL-9** **PDM SOIL-10** **PDM SOIL-12** **PDM SOIL-14** **PDM SOIL-15** **PDM SOIL-17** **PDM SOIL-20** **PDM SOIL-21**	Prior to and During Construction	Biofiltration Design: Once; Construction: Daily	ANF Hydrologist	ANF and/or WCA	

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
MM HYD-2: Increase public and agency awareness of flood risk and escape routes by implementing signage to adequately convey the existence of flood hazards and identifying designated shelter areas and evacuation routes that allow visitors to seek refuge from flooding.		Prior to, During, and After Construction	Daily	Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel; Public	ANF and/or WCA	
3.6 Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change						
No Mitigation Measures are required for Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change.	No PDMs are required for Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.7 Noise						
MM NOI-1: The construction contractor(s) shall provide and maintain a minimum buffer distance of 60 feet between active construction equipment and on-site recreation users. The buffer distance shall be maintained by an on-site construction monitor, notification signs, or other appropriate site-specific measures to restrict access by on-site recreation users.	No PDMs are required for Noise.	Prior to and During Construction	Daily	Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel; Qualified Construction Monitor	ANF and/or WCA	
MM NOI-2: Construction activities will be prohibited on weekends and holidays for the duration of project construction. The exception would be minimal watering activities as necessary to comply with Air District Rule 403.		During Construction	Daily	Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel	ANF and/or WCA	
3.8 Public Safety, Hazardous Materials, and Fire						
MM HAZ-1: Prior to ground-disturbing activities, ANF shall provide the contractor with a copy of the Angeles National Forest Fire Management Plan, and identify responsibilities in regards to fire prevention and inspection of work areas. During construction, ANF and/or the contractor shall be responsible for implementing fire prevention and management measures appropriate for the project site and type of construction activity.	**PDM BOT-8** **PDM RES-2** **PDM RES-10** **PDM SOIL-2** **PDM SOIL-5** **PDM SOIL-17** **PDM SOIL-18**	Prior to Construction	Forest Fire Management Plan: Once; Fire Prevention Management Measures: Daily	Qualified ANF Personnel; Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel	ANF and/or WCA	

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
3.9 Transportation and Traffic						
MM TRAF-1: Traffic Control Plan. The construction contractor(s) shall obtain any necessary road encroachment permits prior to the start of construction and shall comply with the conditions of approval attached to all project permits and approvals. As part of the road encroachment permit process, a qualified traffic engineer shall prepare a traffic control and safety assurance plan in accordance with professional engineering standards and submit the plan to the agencies with jurisdiction over the affected roads, for review and approval. For all project construction activities that could affect the public right-of-way (e.g., roadways and walkways), the plan shall include measures that would provide for continuity of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic; reduce the potential for traffic accidents; and ensure worker safety in construction zones. Where project construction activities could disrupt mobility and access for bicyclists and pedestrians, the plan shall include measures to ensure safe and convenient access would be maintained. The traffic control and safety assurance plan shall be developed on the basis of detailed design plans for the approved project. The plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the elements listed below: • Schedule truck trips outside of peak traffic hours to minimize adverse impacts on traffic flow (i.e., if agencies with jurisdiction over the affected roads identify highly-congested roadway segments during their review of the encroachment permit applications). • Control and monitor construction vehicle movements by enforcing standard construction specifications through periodic onsite inspections. • Install traffic control devices where traffic conditions warrant, as specified in the applicable jurisdiction's standards (e.g.,the *California Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones*). • Schedule construction activities to minimize impacts during heavy recreational use periods (e.g., weekends and holidays).	No PDMs are required for Transportation and Traffic.	Prior to and During Construction	Road Encroachment Permits: As-needed; Traffic Control and Safety Assurance Plan: Once per affected road	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Qualified Traffic Engineer; Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel	ANF and/or WCA	

Mitigation Measures (MM)	Applicable Project Design Measures (PDM) for Each Resource	Duration	Frequency	Coordination	Responsibility	Verification (Date and Initials)
• Implement a public information program to notify interested parties of the impending construction activities (e.g., media coverage, email notices, websites, etc.). • Store all equipment and materials in designated contractor staging areas. • Comply with roadside safety protocols to reduce the risk of accidents. Provide "Road Work Ahead" warning signs and speed control to achieve required speed reductions for safe traffic flow through the work zone. Train construction personnel to apply appropriate safety measures as described in the traffic control and safety assurance plan. • Maintain access for emergency vehicles at all times. Provide advance notification to local police, fire, and emergency service providers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities that could affect the movement of emergency vehicles on area roadways.						
3.10 Scenic Resources						
MM SCE-1: Construction contracts will specify that staging areas and construction shall be located where opportunities for screening with existing topography and vegetation will be maximized. Security fencing placed around staging and construction areas would include slats or other screening sufficient to minimize scenic intrusions to recreators. Screens used for this purpose shall be of earth tone or other appropriate neutral color, where appropriate. Construction work areas will be maintained and kept clean of all debris, waste, and excess storage of materials to reduce scenic impacts.	**PDM SCE-1**	Prior to and During Construction	Daily	Construction Contractor; Construction Personnel	ANF and/or WCA	

SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FINDINGS

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The East Fork San Gabriel River (EFSGR) and Cattle Canyon Creek within the Angeles National Forest (ANF) are amongst the most popular recreation areas for weekend use. The heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in the degradation of the area. Impacts include damage to vegetation, soil compaction and erosion, and stream alteration where illegal mining occurs and visitors build rock dams in the river bed to create recreational bathing pools. The EFSGR has also experienced high levels of litter deposition both in and adjacent to the watercourse. The Regional Water Board determined that the level of trash has exceeded the existing Water Quality Standard necessary to protect the beneficial uses of the river. The water quality is impaired due to excessive trash (Section 303(d) listing).

Current conditions are not sustainable for long-term management. To respond to increasing public demand, the ANF partnered with the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), a joint powers authority between the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), to develop this project. Through several years of collaboration, the project was developed. The intent is to provide recreational improvements and ecological restoration to address resource management challenges with a focus on reducing impacts along the most heavily used section of the river.

The project is being proposed to better manage the heavy recreation use while balancing the need for long-term resource protection. The ANF has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The WCA as the lead California local agency takes into account the environmental impacts by preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A joint EIS/EIR has been prepared under the direction of both lead agencies to satisfy the permitting and decision-making requirements of each agency.

The proposed project or proposed action (Alternative 1) includes the development of new management strategies and improvements to protect and restore the multi-use areas for future public enjoyment. The project site is broken down into five project areas (Oaks Area; Junction Area; Cattle Canyon Confluence; Coyote Flat, East Fork Scenic Overlook, Fire Station, and Canyon Areas; and Heaton Flat Area) that each contains various project enhancements. Proposed enhancements include the development of new picnic areas, pedestrian trails, river access points and upgrades to existing facilities, improvements to paved and unpaved roadways, parking improvements, restrooms and refuse disposal improvements, restoration of riparian and upland vegetation communities of the EFSGR and Cattle Canyon Creek, and implementation of a Forest Closure Order to prohibit overnight camping.

Located approximately 14 miles north of the City of Azusa, the project site is within federal lands managed by the ANF San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and within the upper San Gabriel River watershed. The total project site comprises 198 acres along a 2.5-mile stretch of the river and encompasses the riverbed, public roads (East Fork Road and Camp Bonita Prairie Forks Road), and all existing recreational facilities within the project site.

B. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines require that the environmental impacts of a project be examined before a project is approved. Specifically, regarding findings, Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

a) No public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified which identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding. The possible findings are:

   1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

   2. Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
   3. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.

b) The findings required by subsection (a) shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

c) The finding in subsection (a)(2) shall not be made if the agency making the finding has concurrent jurisdiction with another agency to deal with identified feasible mitigation measures or alternatives. The finding in subsection (a)(3) shall describe the specific reasons for rejecting identified mitigation measures and project alternatives.

d) When making the findings required in subsection (a)(1), the agency shall also adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes which it has either required in the project or made a condition of approval to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental effects. These measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures.

e) The public agency shall specify the location and custodian of the documents or other material which constitute the record of the proceedings upon which its decision is based.

f) A statement made pursuant to Section 15093 does not substitute for the findings required by this section.

The "changes or alterations" referred to in CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1) above, which are required in, or incorporated into, the project and that mitigate or avoid the significant environmental effects of the project, may include a wide variety of measures or actions as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15370, including:

a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.

d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Regarding a Statement of Overriding Considerations, Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

a) CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable".

b) When the lead agency approves a project which will result in the occurrence of significant effects which are identified in the final EIR but are not avoided or substantially lessened, the agency shall state in writing the specific reasons to support its action based on the final EIR and/or other information in the record. The statement of overriding considerations shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

c) If an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the notice of determination. This statement does not substitute for, and shall be in addition to, findings required pursuant to Section 15091. The WCA has prepared a Final Project Environmental Impact Report (Final Project EIR) for the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of both CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. Because the Final Project EIR identified significant effects that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project, and in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines, the WCA Board of Directors hereby adopts these findings as part of the approval of the proposed project.

C. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

For purposes of CEQA and these Findings of Fact, the Record of Proceedings for the proposed project consists of the following documents and other evidence, at a minimum:

a. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) and all other public notices issued by the WCA in conjunction with the proposed project;

b. The Draft Project EIR and all appendices and technical reports;

c. The Comments received during the public review comment period, including a list of all persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting;

d. The Response to Comments and all appendices;

e. All written and verbal public testimony presented during the noticed public hearing on October 25, 2018, for the proposed project at which such testimony was taken;

f. Information provided in submissions of testimony from the public and other municipalities and agencies;

g. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Project (MMRP);

h. Transmittal packages relating to the proposed project and the Project EIR to the WCA;

i. All attachments and documents incorporated by reference identified in the above-listed items; and

j. Any other relevant materials required to be in the record or proceedings by Section 21167.6(e) of the *California Public Resources Code.*

D. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

At a regular public hearing on October 25, 2018, the WCA Board determined that, based on all evidence presented, including, but not limited to the Final Project EIR; written and oral testimony given at meetings and hearings; and submission of comments from the public, organizations, and regulatory agencies; and the responses prepared for the public comments the following environmental impacts associated with the proposed project are:

1) Issues that are projected to have a less than significant impact or no impact and that do not require mitigation:

- Agriculture and Forest Resources;
- Geology and Soils;
- Land Use and Planning;
- Mineral Resources;
- Population, Housing and Employment;
- Public Services; and
- Utilities and Service Systems

2) Issues that are projected to have potentially significant impacts that can be avoided or reduced to a level considered less than significant through the identified mitigation measures:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources;
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- Hydrology and Water Quality;

- Noise;
- Recreation;
- Scenic Resources; and
- Transportation and Traffic.

3) No issues were identified as significant impacts that could not be avoided or reduced to a level considered less than significant:

No comments made in the public hearings conducted by the WCA Board or any additional information submitted to the WCA has produced any substantial new information requiring recirculation or additional environmental review of the Final Project EIR under CEQA because no new significant environmental impacts were identified; no substantial increase in the severity of any environmental impacts would occur; and no feasible mitigation measures or project alternatives, as defined in Section 15088.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, were rejected. Additionally, no substantial evidence exists which indicates that any of the circumstances described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines would require preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR.

SECTION II
IMPACTS THAT ARE LESS THAN SIGNFICANT AND THEREFORE DO NOT REQUIRE MITIGATION

Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines does not require specific findings to address environmental effects that an EIR identifies as "less than significant". These findings will nevertheless fully account for all such effects identified in the Final Project EIR. The WCA Board hereby finds that the following potential environmental impacts and those issues with no significant impacts as they relate to the implementation of the proposed project improvements are less than significant, with the implementation of the project design measures (PDMs) and with compliance with existing regulations and standard conditions.

A. AIR QUALITY

Potential Impact

Proposed facilities and improvements under the proposed project would generate air pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB), adding to existing violations of ambient air quality standards.

Finding

The proposed project would have less than significant impacts on air quality.

Facts in Support of Finding

Proposed facilities and improvements under the proposed project would lead to construction-related, traffic-related, and operational-related pollutant emissions. Construction-related emissions of criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions would contribute to existing or projected air quality violations in Los Angeles County and the SoCAB. Compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regulations and implementation of mitigation would be needed. Emissions would be below the SCAQMD's thresholds of significance for construction and operation. Operation of the proposed project would be consistent with local congestion management plans and Air Quality Management Plan. No carbon monoxide (CO) hotspots would be created and not new Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) would be generated by the proposed project. Impacts would be less than significant.

The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors. The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. The project would not conflict with ANF air quality strategies.

A. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Potential Impact

There is no Prime or Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, forestland, or timberland in or near the proposed project site. The project is located within the ANF, which is considered forest land.

Finding

The proposed project would have no impact on agriculture and forest resources.

Facts in Support of Finding

Even though the project is within ANF, there is no land in the vicinity of the project site that is zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for timberland production. Therefore, there would be no impacts regarding the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for timberland production. As a result, no land within the project site would be converted to non-forest or nonagricultural use and no changes in suitable land use activities would occur. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the suitability of land for the designated land use zones and no direct or cumulative impact would occur.

B. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Potential Impact

The proposed project would not increase risk of geologic impacts.

Finding

The proposed project would have no impact related to geology and soils.

Facts in Support of Finding

The project is not located within or near an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone on a seismic zone hazard map, or near any associated faults. The nearest active fault as mapped by the California Department of Conservation (CDC) is the Sierra Madre fault, located approximately seven miles southwest of the project. The project does not include any structures that would put individuals at significant increased risks related to ground shaking. The project site is located within an area that the CDC has not evaluated for conditions susceptible to liquefaction. No structures built as part of the project would put people at a significant risk for liquefaction.

The pedestrian bridge and visitor kiosks would be constructed according to the most recent California Building Code standards, and would not result in a significant risk for liquefaction. An active or historic landslide area is defined as a landslide area that shows evidence of very recent movement (at the time of the aerial photograph was taken or field observation occurred) or a landslide area whose records have shown movement within historic time. According to the CDC, landslides are not common within the northern portion of the Glendora Quadrangle. While the project would include construction of several structures it would not result in a significant impact with regard to landslide. Therefore, the project is not expected to be at risk of potential adverse impacts from seismic events.

The construction activities associated with the recreational improvements and ecological restoration would not be expected to cause substantial erosion or loss of topsoil. The project would increase vegetation through restoration and would result in improved conditions as it relates to soil erosion by minimizing wear and tear from pedestrian use. Furthermore, according to the CDC, there are two areas which have been identified as dormant, with regard to landslide activity. Dormant areas are defined as the observed landforms related to the landslide that are generally subdued by erosion and covered by vegetation, and there is no evidence of historic movement. A small area of the project site, southwest of Heaton Flat, has been identified as an active or historic landslide area. No unstable geologic units or expansive (subject to shrink-swell) soils have been identified that would impact the project activities. The project does not include construction of septic tanks or alternative waste-water disposal systems. Based on the above-cited information, there would be no impact related to geology and soils.

B. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Potential Impact

The construction of the proposed project would generate a minimal amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Finding

The proposed project would have less than significant impacts related to GHG emissions and climate change.

Facts in Support of Finding

GHG emissions from proposed facilities and improvements under the proposed project would be short-term. Thus, GHG emissions from construction activities would comply with CARB requirements and would be considered less than significant. The proposed recreational facilities would not increase long term GHG emissions. Long-term GHG emissions would be considered less than significant. Proposed facilities would not conflict with the GHG reduction goals set forth in AB 32. Therefore, the proposed project does not conflict with GHG plans and regulations.

C. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Potential Impact

No conflict with existing or planned land uses or policies would occur with the implementation of the proposed project.

Finding

The proposed project would have no impact related to land use and planning.

Facts in Support of Finding

The ANF Land Management Plan (LMP) specified the land-use zones and the activities allowed with each zone also referred to as the suitability of specific uses by land use zones. The project is located within developed area interface (DAI), recommended wilderness (RW), and back county motorized use restricted (BCMUR) land-use zones and is adjacent to Sheep Mountain Wilderness land-use zone.

The project is not located within a residential community nor is it immediately surrounded by residential communities. As a result, impacts related to physical division of an established community would not occur. Additionally, the project is not located within an area that falls under the jurisdiction of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved or proposed local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable habitat or natural community conservation plan and no impact would occur.

Construction activities that occur within the Coyote Flat area are located at the interface of DAI and BCMUR land-use zones. Operational activities of the shuttle area would remain similar to its existing suitable land use as buses currently travel to and from the project site. As a result, the uses remains the same and is consistent with the suitability of use for these land use zones.

In 2014 President Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument within the Angeles The planning effort with the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project is

concurrent with the Monument Plan and is consistent with both the existing ANF LMP, and the Monument Plan direction.

E. MINERAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact

Mineral resources in the project area would not be adversely affected.

Finding

The proposed project would have no impact on mineral resources.

Facts in Support of Finding

The project is not located within any designated MRZs (CDC, 1982). The closest MRZ to the project site is within the City of Glendora located approximately 6.5 miles southwest of the project site. The project would have no impact on mineral resources. In the Monument Management plan, the suitability of land across different land use zones within the monument is proposed to be "not suitable" for oil and gas exploration and development areas, minerals resources exploration and development area. This project does not propose mining activities therefore, there is no change and no effect from the project activities.

F. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Potential Impact

No increase in population or housing would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

Finding

The proposed project would have no impacts related to population and housing.

Facts in Support of Finding

There is no housing or commercial development that would directly affect the number of residents or employees in the project site. During construction of the project, it is anticipated that the project would require a peak of up to 50 workers. Any additional employees needed for the construction of the project would be temporary and would not require any new housing. The project would not directly contribute to the creation of additional housing or jobs within Los Angeles County. The temporary increase in construction workers would result in minimal adverse employment-related economic effect to the project site. Therefore, there would be no anticipated impact to the affordability or availability of housing, and existing housing and residents would not be displaced.

To determine indirect growth inducement potential, the project was reviewed to ascertain whether an expansion of infrastructure would cause population growth. The project is a recreational improvement project but it also includes improvement of public roadways on both Camp Bonita Road and East Fork

Road. These improvements and trail enhancements are aimed to accommodate the existing trail users and visitors. There is no potential for the project to directly or indirectly induce population growth and no impact would occur to population and housing.

G. PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Potential Impact

Increases in demand for police and fire protection services would not increase as a result of the proposed project.

Finding

The proposed project would have less than significant impacts on public services.

Facts in Support of Finding

There would be no change to the amount of staff in the ANF during construction or operation of the project. During construction activities, the project site would continue to utilize existing services for fire and police protection. Construction of the project would generate solid waste, including excavated soil. Soils removed during construction of the trail and bridge would be stockpiled and reused onsite to the extent feasible to minimize the need for disposal.

Restroom facilities would be constructed as Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST) vault style toilets. The project would not require additional water or wastewater treatment facilities of any kind. No impact would occur regarding the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Further, the project would not result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or require the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur regarding the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities. The amount of water supply needed to operate this component remains the same. Thus, impacts would be less than significant with regard to sufficient water supply.

The project would not require wastewater service to the project site. As the project consists of habitat restoration and recreational improvements that will serve the existing visitor base, wastewater supplies are not needed. Therefore, there would be no impact with regard to additional wastewater treatment capacity.

H. RECREATION

Potential Impact

The proposed project would not increase the use of recreational facilities, but would improve existing recreational facilities to protect the environment and maintain access.

Finding

The proposed project would have less than significant impacts on recreation.

Facts in Support of Finding

The proposed project would improve recreation facilities to better serve the recreational demand in the region. The proposed project would not contribute to the cumulative demand for parks and recreation.

SECTION III
POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS THAT HAVE BEEN MITIGATIED BELOW A LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE WITH THE ADOPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The WCA Board hereby finds that the following environmental impacts identified in the Final Project EIR are potentially significant but can be mitigated to a less than significant level. The potentially significant impacts and the mitigation measures which will reduce them to a less than significant level are summarized below.

B. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact

Proposed facilities and improvements under the proposed project would lead to the disturbance of sensitive plant and animal species and habitats.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the proposed project that mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

The implementation of proposed facilities and improvements may lead to the disturbance or destruction of sensitive plant and animal species during construction. The project would impact riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities. The project would result in a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands or waters as defined by Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), waters of the State regulated under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and streams regulated under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Compliance with resource agency requirements for the protection of sensitive species would be necessary. Mitigation would be needed to reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

The project would not result in the interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife

corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP. No cumulative impacts to biological resources would occur.

Mitigation Measure:

MM BIO-1: The locations of any TESPC plant species identified during the botanical survey (PDM BOT-1) and other special-status plant species including those with a California Rare Plant Ranks of 1, 2, or 4 by the California Native Plant Society shall be flagged (or otherwise delineated) by a biologist and shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. To ensure avoidance during construction, a qualified biologist shall be onsite during any ground disturbing activities within 10 feet of a special-status plant species.

MM BIO-2: If avoidance of TESPC plant species or other special-status plants are not feasible, coordination with USFWS, USFS, and/or CDFW will be required to determine suitable mitigation. The mitigation strategy may include avoidance, on-site or off-site restoration, translocation, and/or seed collection, and shall be outlined in a restoration/revegetation plan to be approved by USFWS, USFS, and/or CDFW. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the existing conditions, site selection criteria, site preparation and planting methods, maintenance and monitoring schedule, performance standards, adaptive management strategies, and identification of responsible parties.

MM BIO-3: Protection of Special-Status Aquatic Species. Prior to any in-stream work including water diversions, installation of rock vanes or other structures, a snorkel survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to remove southwestern pond turtle, two striped garter snake, coast range newt, and any other special-status aquatic wildlife from the work area and relocated to suitable habitat away from the work area. Approval to perform the snorkel survey and relocate wildlife will be obtained from CDFW prior to in-stream activities, and all in-stream work will be supervised by a CDFW-approved biologist.

MM BIO-4: Based on the findings of the jurisdictional delineation report and agency verification of the extent of jurisdictional wetlands and waters, wetlands and waters shall be avoided to the extent feasible, and 100-foot setbacks shall be marked from the edge of jurisdictional waters or riparian vegetation (whichever is wider) to maintain riparian and aquatic functions and values. In areas where avoidance of stream channels is infeasible, the site slopes and hydrology of remediated areas shall be restored to pre-construction conditions to the extent possible. If impacts to wetlands are unavoidable, compensatory mitigation shall ensure no net loss of wetlands, in accordance with permit conditions.

A compensatory mitigation plan addressing temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters shall be prepared prior to disturbance. The plan shall be developed in consultation with the USACE, LARWQCB, and/or CDFW during the permitting process. It shall include a plan view graphic showing the target mitigation activities, a seeding and planting plan (species palette and application techniques), and a monitoring and reporting plan with performance standards and success criteria. The plan shall include a recommended timeline for mitigation activities and the establishment of seeded native species.

C. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact

The proposed project would lead to ground disturbance that could affect cultural resources.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project that mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

A number of other cultural resources are known to have been present in the project area. Since not all resources can be found during subsequent surveys, potentially significant adverse impacts on cultural resources may occur with ground disturbing activities under the proposed project. Those cultural resources within the APE treated as assumed eligible will be avoided, protected by various measures, and/or, specific activities will be modified or redesigned to avoid impacts to assumed eligible cultural resources. Also the appropriate Approved Standard Protection Measures listed in Appendix E of the 2013 R5 Programmatic Agreement would be implemented, which could include but would not be limited to designating buffer zones, flagging, and monitoring. In the case of unavoidable impacts or affects to cultural resources as a result of the project, management will follow the appropriate regulations, at 36 CFR 800.6 for resolution. Impacts would be less than significant after mitigation.

The discovery of human remains is expected to comply with the California Health and Safety Code and the California Public Resources Code. Since cultural resources are site-specific, no cumulative significant adverse impacts are expected.

Mitigation Measures:

> **MM CR-1:** Prior to earth moving activities, a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (U.S. Department of the Interior 2008) shall conduct cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction personnel. Construction personnel shall be informed of the types of cultural resources that may be encountered, avoidance of any designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), and of the proper procedures to be enacted in the event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources or human remains. The onsite contractor or designated representative shall ensure that construction personnel are made available for and attend the training and retain documentation demonstrating attendance.
>
> **MM CR-2:** In the event of the unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials, all work activities in the area (within approximately 100 feet) of the discovery shall immediately cease and the ANF and WCA shall be contacted. Construction shall not resume until a qualified archaeologist has conferred with ANF on the significance of the resource and treatment options (i.e., avoidance and preservation in place, testing, data recovery). In the case of unavoidable

impacts or affects to cultural resources, management shall follow the appropriate regulations, at 36 CFR 800.6 for resolution. ANF shall consult with appropriate Native American representatives in evaluating and determining treatment for prehistoric or Native American resources to ensure cultural values ascribed to the resource, beyond those that are scientifically important, are considered, and would follow the regulations of the NAGPRA at 43 CFR 10.4 (see MM CR-3).

MM CR-3: In the event that human remains are encountered, all work activities in the area (within approximately 100 feet) of the remains shall immediately cease and the ANF and WCA shall be contacted. The Los Angeles County Corner shall be notified immediately (California Health and Safety Code 7050.5(b)). If the remains are determined to be Native American, the provisions of NAGPRA and its regulations at 43 CFR 10 and ARPA at 43 CFR 7 shall be followed. Work shall not resume in the area until the ANF has provided written authorization to continue.

E. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Potential Impact

The proposed project would alter a local drainage and may affect water quality and generate storm water pollutants.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project that mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

Construction, use, and maintenance of the proposed facilities and improvements under the project could increase erosion that could adversely affect water quality. Implementation of mitigation would be required to ensure run off does not adversely affect water quality.

Impact on groundwater resources would be less than significant. The improvements would be located within the 100-year floodplain but would not introduce habitable structures to the flood plain. Compliance with standards and guidelines for development within each flood elevation and with the development standards to prevent flood hazards to proposed facilities would not prevent flooding but would reduce impacts to less than significant levels. With the existing and proposed facilities and improvements designed and constructed in accordance with the USACE flood guidance, the structures would be flood-proof and inundation and seiche impacts would be less than significant. Tsunami or mudflow hazards would not affect proposed facilities and improvements. Cumulative impacts on hydrology and water quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

MM HYD-1: Biofiltration basins sized according to the LA County LID Manual (County of Los Angeles DPW 2014) would be developed and implemented for each parking area over 5,000 square feet and each overlook greater than 10,000 square feet. The Confluence Overlook, which is under 10,000 square feet, would include at minimum two of the three following BMPs:

- Porous pavement: Install porous pavement to allow stormwater runoff to infiltrate through it. Porous pavement includes, but is not limited to porous asphalt, porous concrete, ungrouted paving blocks, and gravel. At least 50 percent of the pavement at the site shall be porous.
- Disconnect impervious surfaces: Slope impervious surfaces to drain toward pervious surfaces. If possible, stormwater runoff should be directed toward vegetated areas or stormwater quality control measures.
- Landscaping: Plant trees near impervious surfaces to intercept precipitation in their leaves. Trees planted adjacent to impervious surfaces can intercept water that would otherwise become stormwater runoff. A minimum of two 15-gallon trees shall be planted a maximum of 10 feet from impervious surfaces.

MM HYD-2: Increase public and agency awareness of flood risk and escape routes by implementing signage to adequately convey the existence of flood hazards and encouraging visitors to seek higher ground for refuge from flooding.

F. NOISE

Potential Impact

The proposed project would generate noise impacts during construction that could affect noise-sensitive users.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project that mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

Construction activities would generate temporary noise impacts. Mitigation would be required to minimize the impacts to local sensitive receptors. Compliance with the mitigation would reduce noise and vibration impacts to less than significant levels.

No impacts to airport or aircraft operations would occur with the proposed project. The project would not increase the cumulative operational impacts from recreational uses and traffic.

Mitigation Measures:

MM NOI-1: The construction contractor(s) shall provide and maintain a minimum buffer distance of 60 feet between active construction equipment and on-site recreation users. The buffer

distance shall be maintained by an on-site construction monitor, notification signs, or other appropriate site-specific measures to restrict access by on-site recreation users.

MM NOI-2: Construction activities will be prohibited on weekends and holidays for the duration of project construction. The exception would be minimal watering activities as necessary to comply with Air District Rule 403.

G. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Potential Impact

The proposed project would impact traffic patterns during construction.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project which mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

Construction would generate minor additional traffic to the local roadways. No new traffic would be generated by the operation of the proposed project. The construction of the facilities would temporarily affect traffic flow patterns and congestion. Mitigation would be required to prepare a traffic control plan that would minimize the effects of the construction. Impacts would be less than significant following implementation of mitigation.

No impact related to airport or aircraft hazards would occur. Compliance with local regulations would avoid hazards during construction and would retain emergency access. Estimated increases in transit use would be relatively low and project-related impacts on the regional transit system would not be significant. Cumulative traffic impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

MM TRAF-1: Traffic Control Plan.
The construction contractor(s) shall obtain any necessary road encroachment permits prior to the start of construction and shall comply with the conditions of approval attached to all project permits and approvals. As part of the road encroachment permit process, a qualified traffic engineer shall prepare a traffic control and safety assurance plan in accordance with professional engineering standards and submit the plan to the agencies with jurisdiction over the affected roads, for review and approval. For all project construction activities that could affect the public right-of-way (e.g., roadways and walkways), the plan shall include measures that would provide for continuity of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic; reduce the potential for traffic accidents; and ensure worker safety in construction zones. Where project construction activities could disrupt mobility and access for bicyclists and pedestrians, the plan shall include measures to ensure safe and convenient access would be maintained.

The traffic control and safety assurance plan shall be developed on the basis of detailed design plans for the approved project. The plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the elements listed below:

- Schedule truck trips outside of peak traffic hours to minimize adverse impacts on traffic flow (i.e., if agencies with jurisdiction over the affected roads identify highly-congested roadway segments during their review of the encroachment permit applications).
- Control and monitor construction vehicle movements by enforcing standard construction specifications through periodic onsite inspections.
- Install traffic control devices where traffic conditions warrant, as specified in the applicable jurisdiction's standards (e.g., the *California Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones*).
- Schedule construction activities to minimize impacts during heavy recreational use periods (e.g., weekends and holidays).
- Implement a public information program to notify interested parties of the impending construction activities (e.g., media coverage, email notices, websites, etc.).
- Store all equipment and materials in designated contractor staging areas.
- Comply with roadside safety protocols to reduce the risk of accidents. Provide "Road Work Ahead" warning signs and speed control to achieve required speed reductions for safe traffic flow through the work zone. Train construction personnel to apply appropriate safety measures as described in the traffic control and safety assurance plan.
- Maintain access for emergency vehicles at all times. Provide advance notification to local police, fire, and emergency service providers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities that could affect the movement of emergency vehicles on area roadways.

A. SCENIC RESOURCES

Potential Impact

The proposed project would be visible within a scenic view and would alter the landscape.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project which mitigate this effect to scenic resources below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

Proposed facilities would be visible from scenic overlooks and public access points. Construction activities would affect the views temporarily. Mitigation would minimize the temporary effect. Impacts would be less than significant following implementation of mitigation.

Once constructed, the proposed project would improve the visual quality of the area. Impacts would be less than significant. Changes to the visual quality of the project area are not expected to be cumulatively significant.

Mitigation Measure

> **MM SCE-1:** Construction contracts will specify that staging areas and construction shall be located where opportunities for screening with existing topography and vegetation will be maximized. Security fencing placed around staging and construction areas would include slats or other screening sufficient to minimize scenic intrusions to recreators. Screens used for this purpose shall be of earth tone or other appropriate neutral color, where appropriate. Construction work areas will be maintained and kept clean of all debris, waste, and excess storage of materials to reduce scenic impacts.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND FIRE

Potential Impact

The proposed project could increase fire hazard that could affect public safety.

Finding

Pursuant to Section 21081(a)(1) of CEQA, changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the proposed project which mitigate this effect below a level of significance.

Facts in Support of Finding

The proposed project would increase fire hazards during construction due to the use of equipment in undeveloped areas. Mitigation would minimize the temporary effect. Impacts would be less than significant following implementation of mitigation.

Mitigation Measure

> **MM HAZ-1**: Prior to ground-disturbing activities, ANF shall provide the contractor with a copy of the Angeles National Forest Fire Management Plan, and identify responsibilities in regards to fire prevention and inspection of work areas. During construction, ANF and/or the contractor shall be responsible for implementing fire prevention and management measures appropriate for the project site and type of construction activity.

SECTION IV
RESOLUTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS NOT FULLY MITIGATED TO A LEVEL CONSIDERED LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

The WCA Board hereby finds that there are no impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to a less than significant level. A Statement of Overriding Considerations is therefore not necessary herein.

SECTION V
RESOLUTION REGARDING ALTERNATIVES

A. NO PROJECT/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Project/No Action Alternative would not result in environmental changes or impacts to existing conditions.

Finding

The WCA hereby finds that the No Project Alternative would not meet any of the project objectives and would not improve conditions of the project area that are affected by local recreational users under existing conditions.

B. CONCLUSION

These considerations make the No Project Alternative identified in the EIR less desirable than the proposed project.

SECTION VI
RESOLUTION REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF EIR

The WCA Board finds that it has reviewed and considered the Final Project EIR in evaluating the proposed project, that the Final Project EIR is an accurate and objective statement that fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and that the Final Project EIR reflects the independent judgment of the Board.

The WCA Board certifies the Final Project EIR for the proposed project based on the following findings and conclusions:

A. Findings

1. All significant environmental impacts from the implementation of the proposed project have been identified in the Final Project EIR and, with implementation of the identified mitigation measures impacts, will be substantially lessened to a less than significant level on all issue areas.

2. Other reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that could feasibly achieve some or all of the basic goals and objectives of the project have been considered and rejected in favor of the proposed project.

SECTION VII
RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code, the WCA Board hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A. In the event of any inconsistencies between the mitigation measures as set forth herein and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program shall prevail.

SECTION VIII
STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The WCA Board hereby finds that there are no impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to a less than significant level. A Statement of Overriding Considerations is therefore not necessary herein.

October 25, 2018 - Item 15

RESOLUTION 2018-24

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PREPARED FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AND ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT, AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVRIOMENTAL QUALITY ACT

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project ("East Fork Project") promotes stewardship of public land by providing quality and sustainable recreation opportunities that result in increased visitor satisfaction of Forest lands;

WHEREAS, the East Fork Project consists of a final site plan and programming reports consisting of project descriptions, design elements, restoration guidelines, signage strategies, and environmental analyses;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 14, §15000 et seq.), WCA is the Lead Agency responsible for preparing the Final Environmental Impact Report for the East Fork Project;

WHEREAS, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a public document used by governmental agencies to analyze the significant environmental impacts of a project for the primary purpose to inform decisionmakers and the public about a project's significant environmental effects and ways to reduce them, to demonstrate to the public that the environment is being protected, and to ensure political accountability by disclosing to citizens the environmental values;

WHEREAS, the EIR for the East Fork Project (EIR) is a detailed informational document that provides an assessment of the project's potential significant environmental effects of implementing the project and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to avoid or reduce those significant effects;

WHEREAS, the EIR provides information regarding the potential significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the proposed East Fork Project;

WHEREAS, the EIR describes feasible mitigation measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts, and a reasonable range of alternatives capable of avoiding or reducing these effects in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126.4 and 15126.6;

WHEREAS, WCA issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR for the East Fork Project ("Draft EIR") on October 17, 2016, and circulated the NOP for a period of 30 days pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(a), 15103 and 15375;

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 and Government Code Section 65080(b) et seq., WCA publicly noticed and held a scoping meetings on November 16 and 19, 2016 at Julia McNeill Senior Center in Baldwin Hills and at the Angeles National Forest Headquarters in Arcadia, respectively, for the purpose of inviting comments from local, state, federal agencies, and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals ("Interested Parties") on the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed in the EIR;

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2017, WCA filed a Notice of Completion with the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in the manner prescribed by CEQA Guidelines Section 15085;

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, WCA initiated the 45-day public review and comment period by issuing a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR to Interested Parties who requested such notice, OPR, and others; and on the same date, published the NOA in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and filed the NOA at the Los Angeles County Clerk. In addition, WCA placed paper copies of the Notice of Availability and Draft EIR at WCA's Main Office in the City of Azusa, and at ANF Headquarters in Arcadia, and posted an electronic copy of the NOA and Draft EIR on the WCA website pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 (a)(2);

WHEREAS, during the 45-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR, WCA publicly noticed and held a public meeting on November 18 and December 5, 2017 at WCA's Main Office in the City of Azusa and at ANF Headquarters in Arcadia respectively for purposes of providing an overview on the East Fork Project's draft conceptual site plan and programming reports and Draft EIR and information on how to submit comments on the Draft EIR. In addition, during the noticed comment period for the Draft EIR, WCA consulted with responsible and trustee agencies, regulatory agencies, and others, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15086;

WHEREAS, the 45-day public review and comment period on the Draft PEIR ended on December 26, 2017, in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15105;

WHEREAS, five (5) comments from agencies, six (6) comments from organizations, eighty-three (83) comments from individuals, and four hundred and eighteen (418) form letters during the public review period on the Draft EIR were received by WCA during the 45-day public comment period;

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(a), WCA evaluated written comments received on the Draft EIR and provided a written response to each comment, which are included in the Final EIR, Appendix J;

WHEREAS, the Final EIR for the East Fork Project ("Final PEIR") consists of: the Draft EIR, including an Executive Summary, Sections 1.0 through 9.0, and Appendices A-G; Additions/Revisions to the Draft EIR, Appendices H-K, which includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program;

WHEREAS, Appendix I of the Final EIR includes a list and the comments of public agencies, organizations, and individuals commenting on the Draft EIR; and Appendix J with WCA's written responses to comments raised during the review and consultation process, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15132;

WHEREAS, Chapter 1 of the Final EIR includes clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR in response to comments received during the public review and comment period, and staff-initiated clarifications and revisions;

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2018, WCA posted on its website all comments and proposed, written responses to comments received during the 45-day review and comment period on the Draft EIR; and on the same date posted the proposed Final EIR on its website. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088, WCA provided written responses to all public agencies that commented on the Draft EIR at least 10 days prior to certifying the EIR;

WHEREAS, the clarifications and revisions to the Draft EIR in response to comments received and staff-initiated text revisions, included in the East Fork Project and Final EIR, have not produced significant new information requiring recirculation or additional environmental review under CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(b);

WHEREAS, when making findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1), WCA must also adopt a mitigation monitoring program to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures identified in the EIR which avoid or substantially lessen significant effects, and which are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d);

WHEREAS, in compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 21081 and 21081.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, CEQA Findings of Fact are required to be prepared for every significant impact of the East Fork Project identified in the EIR and for each alternative evaluated in the EIR, including an explanation of the rationale for each finding. Implementation of the East Fork Project will not result in significant and unavoidable environmental impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to less than significant;

WHEREAS, in accordance with CEQA requirements set forth herein, WCA has prepared "CEQA Findings of Fact", incorporated into this Resolution by this reference as if fully set forth herein;

WHEREAS, WCA has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, incorporated into this Resolution by this reference as if fully set forth herein and as Section 5.0 of the Final EIR, in compliance with Public Resources Code §21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines §15097;

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15089(a), WCA, as the Lead Agency, must prepare and certify a Final EIR before approving the East Fork Project;

WHEREAS, the WCA Governing Board has had the opportunity to review the Final EIR as well as the staff report related to the Final EIR, and consideration of the certification of the Final EIR was made by the WCA Governing Board as part of a public meeting held on October 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, all legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred, NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:

1. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated October 25, 2018.

2. **FINDS** that the Final EIR prepared for the East Fork Project was completed in compliance with CEQA.

3. **FINDS** that the Final EIR was presented to WCA Governing Board, and the WCA Governing Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR prior to approving the East Fork Project.

4. **FINDS** that the Final EIR reflects WCA Governing Board's independent judgment and analysis.

FINDS that the Final EIR incorporates in full the Draft EIR, including an Executive Summary, Sections 1.0 through 9.0, and Appendices A-G; in addition to Final , and Appendices A-G; Additions/Revisions to the Draft EIR, Appendices H-K, which includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program;

5. **ADOPTS** Findings of Fact, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit D.

6. **ADOPTS** the Mitigation and Monitoring Program, incorporated by reference as Appendix K of the Final EIR.

7. **CERTIFIES** the Final EIR for the East Fork Project.

8. **DIRECTS** the Executive Officer, or designee, to file a Notice of Determination within five (5) working days after approval of the Project.

9. **DIRECTS** the Executive Officer, or designee, to make the East Fork Project and other related materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which its decision is based available at the WCA's main office, 100 North Old San Gabriel Canyon Road, Azusa, California to facilitate public access to these documents.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On October 25, 2018

_____
M. Janet Chin, Board Chair

ATTEST:_____
David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General

October 25, 2018 - Item 15

RESOLUTION 2018-25

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONCEPT SITE PROGRAM REPORT, FOR WHICH A ENVRIOMENTAL IMPACT REPORT WAS PREPARED AND CERTIFED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the description of the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project Concept Site Program Report ("East Fork Project") is, by this reference, incorporated into this Resolution as if fully set forth herein;

WHEREAS, a Environmental Impact Report for the East Fork Project (EIR) was prepared and certified by the WCA Governing Board, as the Lead Agency, prior to approving the East Fork Project;

WHEREAS, the EIR describes feasible mitigation measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts, and a reasonable range of alternatives capable of avoiding or reducing these effects in accordance with Californian Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15126.4 and 15126.6;

WHEREAS, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a public document used by governmental agencies to analyze the significant environmental impacts of a project for the primary purpose to inform decisionmakers and the public about a project's significant environmental effects and ways to reduce them, to demonstrate to the public that the environment is being protected, and to ensure political accountability by disclosing to citizens the environmental values;

WHEREAS, the EIR for the East Fork Project (EIR) is a detailed informational document that provides an assessment of the project's potential significant environmental effects of implementing the project and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to avoid or reduce those significant effects;

WHEREAS, in connection with the approval of a project involving an Environmental Impact Report that identifies one or more potentially significant environmental effects, CEQA, as amended, requires the decision making body of the lead agency to incorporate feasible mitigation measures that would reduce those significant environment effects to a less-than-significant level;

WHEREAS, whenever a lead agency approves a project requiring the implementation of measures to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment, CEQA also requires a lead agency to adopt a

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; and

WHEREAS, the WCA is the Lead Agency on the Implementation Plan, and the WCA Governing Board is the decision-making body responsible for approving the East Fork Project;

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of this Resolution, the WCA reviewed, considered, and certified a EIR, and adopted CEQA Findings of Fact and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the East Fork Project in accordance with the requirements of the CEQA and state and local guidelines implementing CEQA;

WHEREAS, the EIR, the CEQA Findings of Fact, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project are, by this reference, incorporated into this Resolution as if fully set forth herein;

WHEREAS, the Project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources, as defined in Section 711.2 of the California Department of Fish and Game Code; and

WHEREAS, the actions contemplated by this resolution approve the Implementation Plan. Approval of projects contained within the East Fork Project require separate approval actions by lead agencies with purview over project implementation; NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:

1. **FINDS** all actions required to be taken by applicable laws in connection with the approval of the East Fork Project have been taken.

2. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated October 25, 2018.

3. **ADOPTS AND APPROVES** the the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project Concept Site Program Report.

4. **FINDS** that the CEQA Findings of Fact and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program have been prepared in accordance with CEQA and CEQA Guidelines.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2018-25

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On October 25, 2018

_____
M. Janet Chin, Board Chair

ATTEST:_____
David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General