

DATE: October 25, 2018

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Alex Linz, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 17: Consideration of resolution to accept a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board accept a grant for up to \$135,000 from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan (GGP) will develop a greening guide and online toolkit identifying opportunities for green streets, open space, parks greenways and overall water and air quality improvements within the 27 cities known as the Gateway Cities of Southeast Los Angeles County. This Plan will help meet environmental goals and the creation of healthy communities by identifying opportunities for access connections to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers and tributaries, green streets, and multi-benefit projects within the Gateway Cities.

BACKGROUND: In 2013, the Board authorized staff to apply, in a joint application with North East Trees (NET), for a \$500,000 grant from the Urban Greening Planning Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 to fund the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan. Matching commitments were made by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the form of a \$250,000 grant made to North East Trees. During the summer of 2014, WCA, Strategic Growth Council, and RMC grants were awarded.

Project scope includes:

- Initiate stakeholder development and community outreach through the creation of the Gateway Cities Greening Advisory committee and creating frameworks for public participation, data collection, and data storage and management
- Conduct needs assessment and constraints analysis through input from community meetings, and data integration into a GIS model
- Perform a resource inventory and opportunities analysis, collecting and compiling information in a similar way to the needs assessment
- Build a green solution palette by identifying, integrating, and mapping green infrastructure elements in a way that can be applied locally within the region
- Create, launch, and update an online Greening Plan complete with final GIS maps and models, solution palette, framework, design concepts, and final planning report by integrating needs, resources, and solutions, and both collecting and integrating input for the platform

The Plan deliverables completed to date include: Stakeholder Development and Community Outreach Planning (Task 1), the Creation of a Resource and Site Inventory (Task 2), and the Community and Neighborhood Needs Assessment (Task3). The planning team is currently developing the draft report including visuals, written content, and thematic maps that will be presented to technical advisory committee for comment before being incorporated into the final Plan.

Currently, the project is developing and finalizing the plan's web portal—the selected format for the final document as opposed to a more traditional book form. This format was selected based on input from the community and agency outreach to make the Plan more accessible by the expected audience of community and agency stakeholders. NET is well-known for analysis and developing and implementing urban greening projects, which the Plan highlights while the remainder of the work is related primarily to developing website interfaces, programs, and online narratives. WCA as the lead on the GGP and is the recipient of the project's matching funds (\$500,000) from SGC, is best positioned to complete the project deliverables by grant end date of December 31, 2019.

With the concurrence of North East Trees, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy will disencumber the remaining grant funds from NET and has authorized award at their October 15, 2018 Board Meeting to the WCA to complete the plan. This includes development of website content, the continued development of website interactivity and functionality, and ensuring that additional outreach as part of a programmatic rollout of the planning portal is possible (see Exhibit A Timeline).

FISCAL INFORMATION: The acceptance of additional grant funding from RMC in the amount up to \$135,000 would constitute additional funding to the WCA to complete tasks associated with the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan through the performance period ending December 31, 2019. The FY2018/19 Capital budget will be updated to reflect the additional funding.

ITEM 17 EXHIBIT A: TIMELINE**Estimated Payment Schedule based on Completion of Benchmarks/Deliverables*:**

Task	Plan Element/Deliverable/ Benchmark	Prop 84 Grant	RMC Grant	Total	Target Completion Date
0.0	Project management	\$75,500	\$27,000	\$102,500	
0.1	Grant administration				December 2019
0.2	PM task coordination/field recon				December 2019
0.3	Reimbursables (mileage, printing, other)				December 2019
1.0	Stakeholder development and community outreach planning	\$27,128		\$27,128	
1.1	Establish greening advisory committee				September 2016
1.2	Establish framework of public participation				September 2015
1.3	Establish framework for data collection				September 2016
1.4	Establish Framework for Data Storage and Management				September 2016
2.0	Creation of a resource and site inventory	\$24,000		\$24,000	
2.1	Create inventory of resources				September 2016
2.2	Develop opportunities and constraints matrix				March 2017
2.3	Create GIS maps integrating resource data & needs				November 2016
2.4	Data management and Storage				December 2016
3.0	Community and neighborhood needs assessment	\$43,100		\$43,100	
3.1	Gather community needs inventory access to parks and open space, health, air and water quality, DAC, density, etc.				September 2016
3.2	Collect & report community input on needs (Workshops 1-4)				March 2017
3.3	Collect & report community input on needs (Public Outreach)				June 2019
3.4	Create GIS maps integrating regional/local data				June 2018
4.0	Creation of a greening option palette	\$122,000	\$30,000	\$152,000	
4.1	Conduct feasibility & outcome assessments				December 2018
4.2	Develop design options				December 2018
4.3	Public outreach				March 2019
5.0	Develop greening plan web portal	\$194,350	\$70,000	\$264,350	
5.1	Contract web host/plan organization				March 2018
5.2	Draft plan content – including page layouts, text, and content additions/revisions				December 2018
5.3	Web portal soft launch				September 2018
5.4	Public outreach				June 2019
5.5	Complete Plan				September 2019
6.0	Contingency for Tasks 1 thru 5	\$13,922	\$8,000	\$21,922	
	Total:	\$500,000	\$135,000	\$635,000	December 2019

**Project timeline inclusive of grant close-out period*

October 25, 2018 - Item 17

RESOLUTION 2018-27

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN GREENING PLAN

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

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has further been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed; and

WHEREAS, this action authorizes the acceptance of up to \$135,000 in grant funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to implement the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:

1. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.
2. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated October 25, 2018.
4. **AUTHORIZES** the acceptance of \$135,000 in grant funds from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Plan.

~ 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, Chairperson

ATTEST: _____

David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General