

DATE: September 12, 2019

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Bryan Moller, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15: Consideration of a resolution to 1) approve the determination of Categorical Exemption for the Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension; and 2) authorize the filing of a Notice of Exemption.

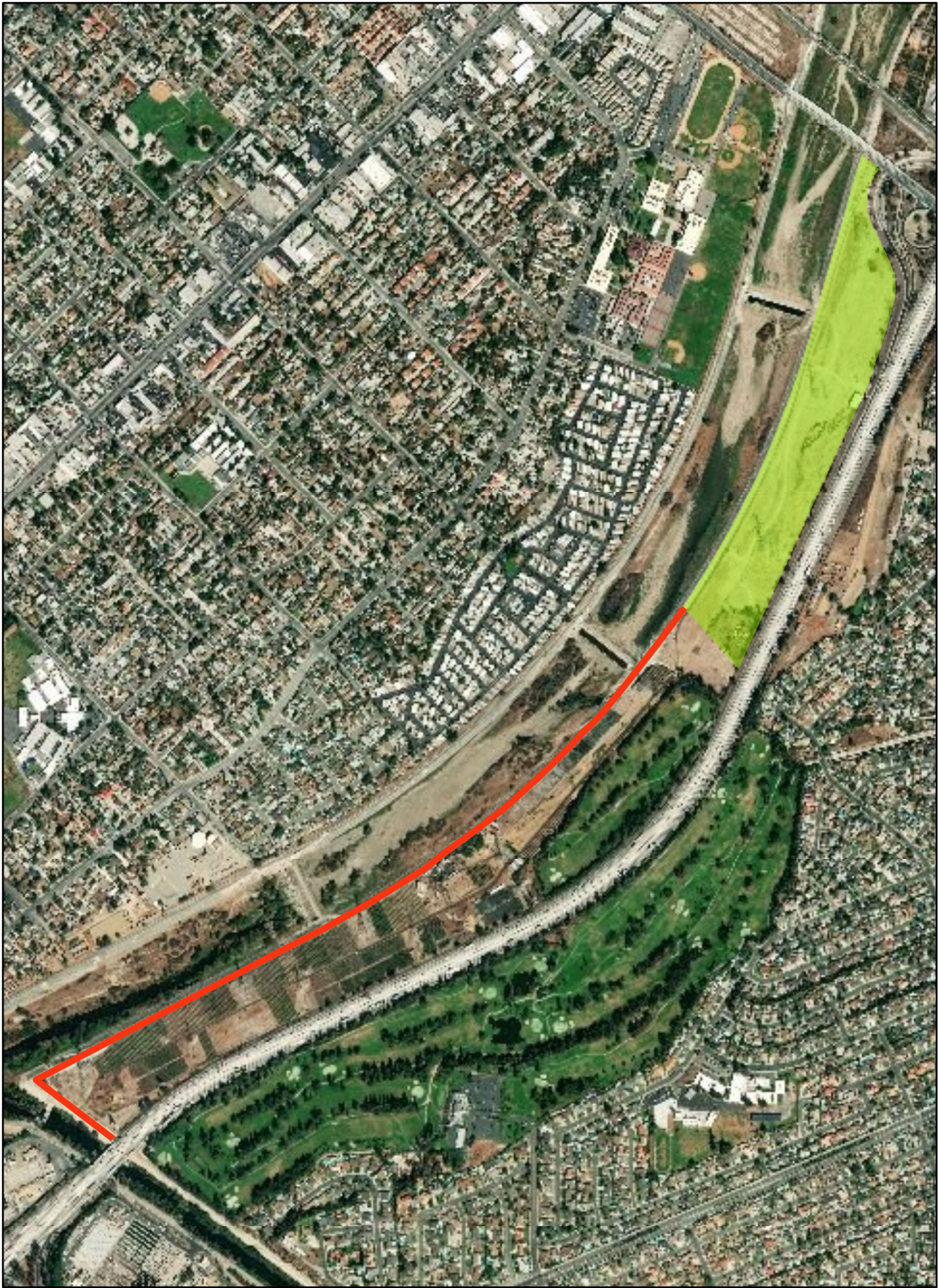
RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board 1) approve the determination of Categorical Exemption for the Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension; and 2) authorize the filing of a Notice of Exemption.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension (Riverwalk Extension) is an approximately 1.2-mile extension of the currently-in-construction Riverwalk that was analyzed in the Duck Farm River Park Mitigated Negative Declaration, both of which will function as multi-use paths and may potentially include: shade structures, fencing, landscaping, viewing areas, overlooks, and interpretive signs. The Riverwalk Extension will not only extend the current Riverwalk, but it will connect Duck Farm Phase I and Duck Farm Phase II, as well as to San Jose and Avocado Creeks. The Riverwalk Extension right-of-way is Los Angeles County property and is currently used for similar purposes as an access road for County vehicles. See Exhibit A- Vicinity Map for a detailed view.

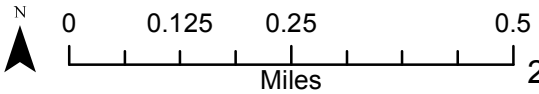
BACKGROUND: Through the ongoing conversations with County entities, the extension of the currently-in-construction Riverwalk southward to San Jose Creek has been discussed. The County and WCA view the Riverwalk Extension as a natural extension, as the current construction of Duck Farm Phase I includes the Riverwalk, and the Riverwalk Extension would connect to Duck Farm Phase II which includes the area immediately south of Duck Farm Phase I and is also adjacent to the County right-of-way that will become the Riverwalk. Given that the Riverwalk Extension right-of-way is Los Angeles County owned and maintained, it is expected that the WCA and Los Angeles County Public Works will sign an Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the Riverwalk Extension, similar to what is in place for the Riverwalk. The Operations and Maintenance Agreement would include WCA managing construction of the Riverwalk Extension, which necessitates this Categorical Exemption. WCA would also pursue all necessary permits before construction commences. As the proposed Riverwalk Extension would be a similar use with minor alterations, the recommended CEQA clearance is a Categorical Exemption pursuant to Section 15303 (Class 3: new construction or conversion of Small Structures) and Section 15304 (Class 4: Minor alterations) because the project involves the installation of small new structures (potential Overlooks) and minor alterations to land. To satisfy CEQA requirements for the project, a Notice of Exemption will be filed and posted for this project. See Exhibit B- Notice of Exemption.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The Categorical Exemption, including the posting and filing of the Notice, will be completed by WCA Staff and, as such, would only require the \$75 Los Angeles County Registrar Posting Fee.

Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension



-  Riverwalk Extension
-  Duck Farm River Park (Portion West of Freeway)



Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Western bank of the San Gabriel River and San Jose Creek, north of I-605 and south of Duck Farm River Park.

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project consists of approximately 1.2-linear mile multi-use paths along the Western bank of the San Gabriel River and San Jose Creek. On-site improvements include the path itself, potential shade structures, fencing, landscaping, viewing areas, overlooks, and interpretive signs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project would be Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303 (Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and Section 15304 (Class 4: Minor Alterations) because the project involves the installation of small new structures and minor alterations to land. On-site improvements include potential shade structures, viewing areas, and interpretive signage, as well as improvement of the current vehicle right-of-way for pedestrian access. These types of improvements are categorically exempt from CEQA review and there are not significant impacts resulting from them.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

☐ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

September 12, 2019 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2019-44

RESOLUTION TO RESOLUTION TO 1) APPROVE THE DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE DUCK FARM RIVER PARK RIVERWALK EXTENSION; AND 2) AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, The Watershed Conservation Authority 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 will 1) approve the determination of Categorical Exemption for the Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension; and 2) authorize the filing of a Notice of Exemption; 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; and
2. **FINDS** that these actions are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).; and
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated September 12, 2019.
4. **APPROVES** the determination of Categorical Exemption for the Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk Extension; and
5. **AUTHORIZES** the filing of a Notice of Exemption.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2019-44

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On September 12, 2019

Herlinda Chico
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General