

**DATE:** November 21, 2019

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** WCA Staff

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 07: Liaison and Activities Report

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## Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>

State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

**Current as of 10/29/19**

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

### PARKS AND WATER

**AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Outdoor Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/14/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder, this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve pupils who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes, the program envisioned in this bill may underwrite these positions.

**AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/14/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,920,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a wildlife

prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. The bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. The bill would provide that its provisions are severable. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Speaker Rendon has greenlighted members of Assembly leadership to draft and propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 352 represents such a vehicle and AB 1298 (Mullin) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond still remains in the mix as well and Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated this as a personal priority.

**AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/30/2019, **Status:** Vetoed

**Summary:** This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources community education programs, or recreational amenities. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

**AB 926 (O'Donnell D) Oil Revenue: Oil Trust Fund**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense File

**Summary:** Current law requires the Controller to transfer certain oil-revenue-related moneys to the Oil Trust Fund. Current law requires the State Lands Commission to expend the money in the fund to finance the costs of well abandonment, pipeline removal, facility removal, remediation, and other costs associated with removal of oil and gas facilities from the Long Beach tidelands. Current law prohibits the total amount deposited in the fund from exceeding \$300,000,000 and requires all interest earned on money in the fund after the balance in the fund totals \$300,000,000 to be transferred to the General Fund. This bill would delete the provisions relating to the limit on the total amount deposited in the fund. By increasing the amount of money that may be deposited into a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

**AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal to develop and implement watershed improvement plans, and other plans to enhance the natural functions of a watershed, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill

would require the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes of all watershed coordinator grants. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, the department to report those outcomes to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

**AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025. This bill has become a two-year bill.

**AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Outdoor Recreation: California Outdoor Recreation Account**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** This bill replicates most of the language contained in last year’s vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Office of the Governor until January 1, 2025. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy and working toward equitable access to outdoor areas of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office. Also authorizes the office to receive assistance and funds from the public and private sources. Given that outdoor participation rates in California pale in comparison to those in neighboring states, this bill among other things, heightens the focus of exploring practices and policies that generate greater outdoor use.

**AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Senate Governance and Finance Committee hearing postponed

**Summary:** Would authorize the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property acquired or developed with grant moneys per the Roberti-Z’berg-Harris Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program Act, the Community Parklands Act of 1986, the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act, and subject to the acquisition of property of equal or greater value, as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation, at no cost to the state.

**AB 1298 (Mullin D) Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/22/2019, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee and Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Would enact the Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a climate resiliency, fire risk reduction, recycling, groundwater and drinking water supply, clean beaches, and jobs infrastructure program. The bill would require the bond act to be submitted to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Speaker Rendon has greenlighted members of Assembly leadership to draft and propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 1298 represents such a vehicle and AB 352 (Garcia) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond still remains in the mix as well and Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated this as a personal priority.

**AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Deer: Santa Catalina Island: Report**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/21/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to biennially report to the Legislature and Fish and Game Commission on the progress made toward restoration and maintenance of California's deer herds. This bill would require the department to develop by 1/2/2022, a report, in consultation with state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, NGO's, landowners, and scientific agencies to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding deer on Santa Catalina Island, including historic, current and future deer population on the island and assessment of their overall health.

**AB 1578 (Rivas, Luz D) School Pavement to Parks Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/30/2019, **Status:** Vetoed

**Summary:** Would establish the School Pavement to Parks Grant Program under the administration of the Natural Resources Agency for purposes of providing grants to applicant school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools maintaining schools in disadvantaged communities, as defined, or low-income communities, as defined, to convert portions of existing pavement at those schools to green space. The bill would require the agency to establish processes and procedures for administering the grant program, as specified. The bill would require a school district or county office of education that receives a request from a school in the school district or county office of education to participate in the grant program to inform the school that it has received the request in a timely manner.

**AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** This bill would add the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island to the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bill would require the conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use within the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

**ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month**

**Introduced:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"<sup>®</sup> Month.

**SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Wildfires: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/3/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop guidelines for the grant program. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit an annual report to the agency regarding projects funded by the grant program.

**SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofits for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose. This bill would authorize the conservancy to undertake educational projects and programs for adults and for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 and to award grants to nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, etc. for educational projects and programs related to the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, enjoyment of coastal resources and for onsite and distance learning facilities, activities, and instruction programs that support the delivery of science, history and social science. Would authorize conservancy to award grants for the construction and improvement of structures and facilities used for those projects and programs.

**SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion****Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of four specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. Would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Parks, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired.

**SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Urban and Rural Forest and Woodlands Restoration and Fire Resiliency Workforce Program****Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to develop a forest and woodlands restoration workforce model curriculum and vocational program to be offered by community college districts commencing on or before July 31, 2021. Bill would require the curriculum to reflect regional needs, and to be developed by the Chancellor's Office in consultation with experts from designated governmental, academic, and nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated expertise in forest and woodland restoration and fire management.

**SB 474 (Stern D) The California Wildfire Protection Act of 1990: Habitat Conservation Fund****Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Would establish the Wildlife Protection Subaccount in the Habitat Conservation Fund and would require the Controller, if an appropriation is made for this purpose in any fiscal year, to transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the subaccount, less any amount transferred from specified accounts and funds, to be expended by the board for the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat.

**CLIMATE CHANGE****AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization: Natural****Infrastructure: Local General Plans****Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 9/6/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaption to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, prioritize projects and project implementation that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy,

projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation. This bill also includes a new, more robust, definition of “natural infrastructure.”

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

**AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health**

**Introduced:** 2/5/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group’s plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group’s plan.

**AB 552 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**AB 839 (Mullin D) Climate Adaptation Strategy: Strategic Resiliency Framework: Resiliency through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Account**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/26/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to update every 3 years the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2021, to review the plan and develop a strategic resiliency framework, as specified. The bill would require updates to the plan to include, among other things, a review of the progress made implementing past plans and an evaluation of each lead agency's lead adaptation efforts, as well as a detailed description of the framework developed by the secretary.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Prevention, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 9/10/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,189,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. Would also restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

**SB 576 (Umberg D) Coastal Resources: Climate Ready Program and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 9/6/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, this includes undertaking projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. Current law also authorizes the conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these activities. This bill would recast these provisions as the Climate Ready Program to be administered by the conservancy as described above. Existing law also establishes the Ocean Protection Council. This bill would require the council, subject to the availability of funding, develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat and collaborate with certain entities and scientists to facilitate information sharing regarding coastal climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness, including providing information to the Office of Planning and Research to be considered for inclusion into a certain clearinghouse for climate adaptation information.

## BUDGET

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the state budget on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Below is the 2019-20 GGRF Expenditure Plan from Assembly Budget Committee.

### 2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Air Toxic and Criteria Air Pollutants	Air Resources Board	AB 617 Community Air Protection & Local Programs to Reduce Air Pollution	\$245
		AB 617 - Local Air District Implementation	\$20
		AB 617 - Technical Assistance to Community Groups	\$10
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$275</b>
Low Carbon Transportation	Air Resources Board	Clean Vehicle Rebate Project	\$238
		Clean Trucks, Buses, & Off-Road Freight Equipment	\$182
		Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, School Buses & Transportation Equity Projects	\$65
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$485</b>
Climate Smart Agriculture	Air Resources Board	Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement & Upgrades	\$65
	Department of Food and Ag	Healthy Soils	\$28
		Methane Reduction	\$34
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$127</b>
Healthy Forests	CAL FIRE	Healthy & Resilient Forests	\$165
		Forest Carbon Plan: Prescribed Fire & Fuel Reduction	\$35
		Wildland-Urban Interface and Other Fire Prevention Activities	\$10
		Urban Forestry	\$10
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$220</b>
Short-Lived Climate Pollutants	CalRecycle	Waste Diversion	\$25
	Air Resources Board	Fluorinated Refrigerants	\$1
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$26</b>
Integrated Climate Action: Mitigation & Resilience	SGC	Transformative Climate Communities	\$60
	Natural Resources Agency	Urban Greening	\$30
	Coastal Commission & BCDC	Coastal Resilience	\$3
	CSD	Low-Income Weatherization	\$10
	CA Conservation Corps	Energy Corps	\$6
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$109</b>
Climate and Clean Energy Research	SGC	Climate Change Research	\$5
	CalEPA & CARB	Transition to a Carbon-Neutral Economy & Zero-Emission Vehicle Strategy	\$3
Technical Assistance	SGC	Technical Assistance to Disadvantaged Communities	\$2
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10</b>
Workforce Training	WDB	Preparing Workers for a Carbon-Neutral Economy	\$35
Safe Drinking Water	State Water Board	Safe Drinking Water	\$100
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,387</b>

### 2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

Notes for table:

BCDC= San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

CSD= Community Services and Development

SGC= Strategic Growth Council

WDB= Workforce Development Board

In addition, the Cap and Trade Expenditure Package includes the following.

Trailer bill language that codifies the AB 617 provisions previously in budget bill language and requires the Air Resources Board to report annually on the projects funded.

Trailer bill language specifying that 5 percent of the GGRF continuous appropriation beginning in 2020-21 is for safe drinking water with a cap of \$130 million and provides a General Fund backstop for the Safe Drinking Water Fund should the 5 percent of GGRF be lower than \$130 million beginning in 2023-24 and sunsets in 2030.

Provisional language that

- states that the funding for Low Carbon Transportation would fund pilot projects, demonstration projects, and commercial projects and ports would be eligible for this funding;
- states that \$1.5 million of the funding is for a study to identify strategies to significantly reduce emissions from vehicles and to achieve carbon neutrality in the sector;
- states that \$1.5 million is for a study to identify strategies to decrease demand and supply of fossil fuels, while managing the decline of fossil fuel use in a way that is economically responsible and sustainable;
- states that certain funding shall not be allocated for the purchase of fully automated cargo handling equipment; and
- gives the Department of Finance the authority to reduce allocations for certain programs, while maintaining budgeted funding levels for other programs to ensure that funding for certain programs is prioritized and would be cut last in a shortfall scenario.

## PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** Staff attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument last month and continues to work closely with USFS staff to forward a list of improvements to be made within the National Monument by June 30, 2020. Staff toured Coldbrook and Crystal Lake campgrounds with USFS staff to document facilities to be considered for demolition, as well as, to capture the scope of work to design and construct two new camp host sites. In addition, on today's board agenda for consideration is a contract award to San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps to complete a variety

of maintenance, public outreach and leave no trace training activities and an amendment to design consultant contract to design a second public access point and amenities at East Fork near Oaks Picnic area. This work is funded through the existing Participating Agreement between the USFS and the WCA. The workplan for this and additional work is being developed cooperatively with USFS. Further details will be shared as these joint projects are developed and finalized with USFS.



**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) held its last meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. The meeting objectives were to review members' roles and explore how best to pursue projects and initiatives within the Angeles National Forest. New Steering Committee members were also elected at the meeting. The November 21<sup>st</sup> Collaborative meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

*The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meeting occur every other month.*

## **WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES**

**Duck Farm Project:** Construction work continues with the timeline to complete extended through January 2020 for the General Contractor. Conservation Corps work will extend through Spring 2020 for the installation of 4" potted plants along the walkways and mulch. The General contractor has largely complete grading operations and has been forming and pouring concrete headers and mow curbs. Installation of low walls for sitting areas and outdoor classroom is close to complete. The installation of restroom kit is in progress as well as preparations to install overhead shade structures. Decorative and Structural metal work is in fabrication. Work on the riparian area and dry streambed to begin this month. Undergrounding of water lines to Farm House and electrical line to Caltrans light is complete. SCE to begin their work to remove distribution poles and pull wires is in the process of being scheduled. Irrigation work and soil prep for planted areas is in process. Parking lot and entry drive has been partially constructed with final paving to be laid in January at the end of the project to ensure it is not damaged during the remaining construction work.



**Top:** Outdoor classroom's low walls and paving courtyard begin to take shape.

**Middle Left:** View of West Courtyard, and walls of restroom kit being installed.

**Middle Right:** Footings for the shade structures at the River Overlook.

**Bottom:** Mounding of soil to create landscape mounds and the beginning of the riparian/dry streambed grading begins.



San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps conducted a door to door survey in the neighborhood around the project to gauge the community's feedback on three potential names for the Park that were collected from prior outreach events.

*The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.*

**Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project:** WCA was notified of a site visit from State Parks scheduled for November 20th. If awarded, the State Parks Prop 68 grant would provide funding for construction of the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk. WCA is also moving forward with its application for Supplementary Environmental Funds in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board.

In October, WCA participated in the 626 Golden Streets – ‘Streets and Treats’ event put on by Active SGV and Metro. At its table, WCA again solicited feedback from the community about future programming at the San Gabriel River Center.



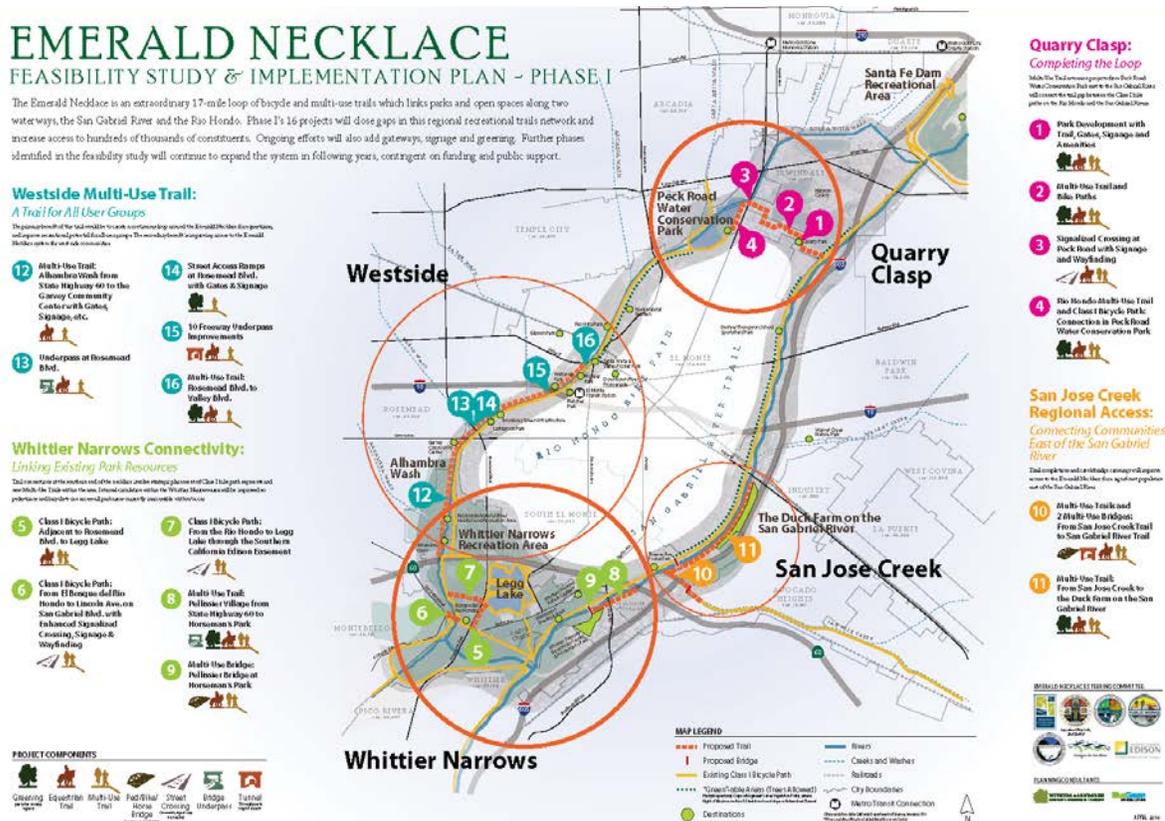
*Staff members engage with the community at the 626 Golden Streets Event*



*Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes. The Farmhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community resource / visitor center to compliment these conservation gardens and provide additional programming opportunities.*

**San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network:** LACFCD has engaged Brown and Caldwell as the prime consultant to prepare the plan with WCA to participate in project planning and strategic planning/technical advisory meetings over the next two years. No additional work orders have been requested at this time; however, WCA expects at a minimum to participate in reviews of technical documents prepared by the consultants and to perform up to four additional community engagement meetings during the development of the plan. The next anticipated meeting will occur in January 2020.

**Emerald Necklace:** WCA continues to attend the every-other-month Emerald Necklace Meetings hosted by Los Angeles County District 1 Supervisor Hilda Solis as they happen. The meetings are attended by staff from the Supervisor’s office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. The November meeting was cancelled, and as such, the next meeting will be January 2, 2020. A status of the meeting will be provided verbally and/or at the next WCA Governing Board Meeting.



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.

The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

**San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan:** At the conclusion of the performance period of Trust for Public Land (TPL)'s prioritization study, it was mutually determined that due to TPL's staffing challenges which have impacted the consultant's ability to fulfill the contract scope that WCA will finish the remaining content for the Master Plan. WCA submitted a request to RMC to extend the grant performance period so that additional consultants may be engaged to supplement TPL's work with analysis on focused topics: 1) a field perspective on the biological resources and role of foothills lands; 2) the potential for partnership with foothills municipalities and other conservancies; 3) expected operations and management costs, and 4) user challenges and opportunities related to access and low-impact recreational uses of open space lands.

Dr. Lee-Anne Milburn, Professor of Landscape Architecture, at Cal Poly Pomona, was engaged to research the latter three topics. Dr. Milburn's experience as a practitioner as well as researcher enables her insight into human factors that affect conservation. Most recently, Dr. Milburn collaborated with the USFS on a study of user behavior patterns at Cattle Canyon.

In September, the WCA Board approved the negotiation of a consultant contract for a regional biological report. An RFP for a regional biological report RFP was posted on the WCA website and distributed to biological consultants with extensive field experience in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. Four proposals are expected to be received. The proposals will be evaluated by WCA staff along with a volunteer jury of three biologists.

A Prop 68 competitive program grant proposal was submitted to RMC to acquire "Vasquez Overlook" and "Rainbow Ranch," which would augment a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA's River Wilderness Park, WCA is exploring other funding venues to start due diligence on Rainbow Ranch and other San Gabriel River Canyon floodplain properties that particular significance to wildlife habitat.

WCA continues to wait to receive Conservation Easement documents from San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) for review to complete the transfer of Easley Canyon to WCA.

*San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve habitat and open space, improve watershed health, and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.*

**Roberts Canyon Acquisition:** A Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant funded WCA's due diligence for the potential acquisition of the parcels collectively known as Roberts Canyon, which Lennar Homes is offering as a donation. The property consists of steep undeveloped slopes surrounding the Mountain Cove development in the City of Azusa.

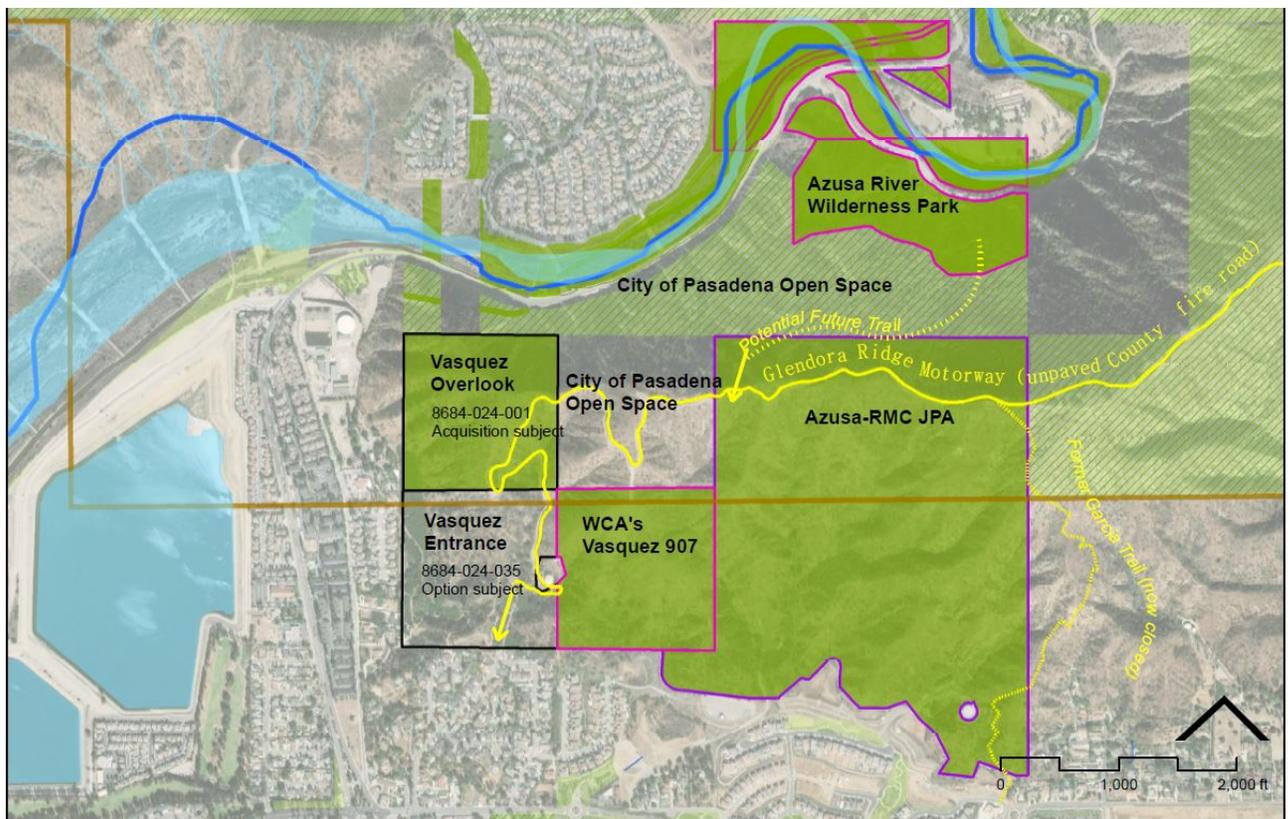
Lennar Homes has offered to provide an upfront payment to WCA to compensate for the cost of insuring the property. However, WCA's efforts to seek an estimate for general liability insurance to present for Lennar's consideration suggest that the property may be uninsurable, due to the proximity of steep slopes to the housing development, as well as the additional challenges that fires present to the insurance industry at this time.

Acquisition of an uninsurable property would put WCA at risk. At the same, the properties appear to be at low risk of development. In light of other parcels being considered for the acquisition through the San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan, the property may not currently be considered high priority for acquisition. If an opportunity to insure the property presents itself in the future, negotiations with Lennar Homes about compensation may be renewed.

**Vasquez Acquisition:** Due to a time sensitive opportunity to acquire an additional parcel from the same seller that will multiply the benefits of the original Vasquez acquisition [AIN 8684-024-907] in the Azusa foothills, WCA requested an augmented scope change to use the remaining funds from this grant toward pre-acquisition for the new opportunity parcel, “Vasquez Overlook” [AIN 8684-024-001].

Amending the scope of work within the remaining budget to conduct due diligence to augment the size of the acquisition is within the spirit of the scope and goals of the original grant. If Proposition 68 funds are awarded for the acquisition of “Vasquez Overlook”, and accepted by the Governing Board at today’s meeting, the property will be acquired and the deliverable of the science-based and stakeholder-driven land management plan, currently in progress for the original Vasquez acquisition, will be expanded to cover both parcels.

Additionally, if RMC awards a Prop 68 grant to its Azusa-RMC JPA for a similar long-term management plan for Azusa-RMC JPA Open Space lands, coordination of biological surveying and management among these contiguous conservation lands would demonstrate WCA’s intent to establish a cohesive approach to planning and management of San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills conservation lands.



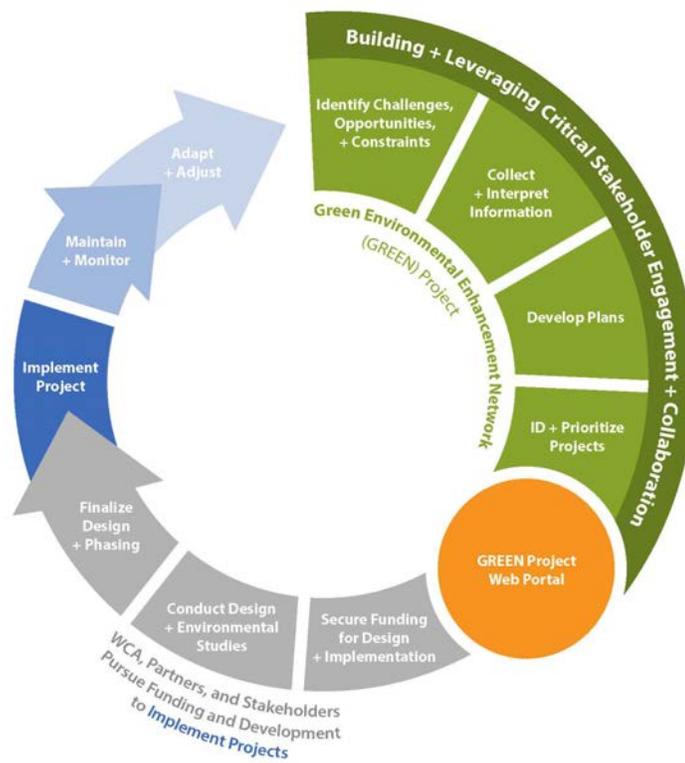
**Vasquez Overlook and public conservation lands**

Transfer of Vasquez Overlook into public ownership will augment a series of public land holdings in the Azusa foothills which are part of a multi-jurisdictional vision to preserve the biological and hydrological assets of foothills lands while focusing public use on areas where such use is may be the most manageable, rewarding, and sustainable.



**GREEN Project:** WCA staff has been developing the functionality and structure of the GREEN project portal in conjunction with the content of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. WCA has begun discussions around development of a pilot Portal focused on the WCA/RMC territory or taking a County-wide approach for a regional depository of plans and projects, as well as funding opportunities.

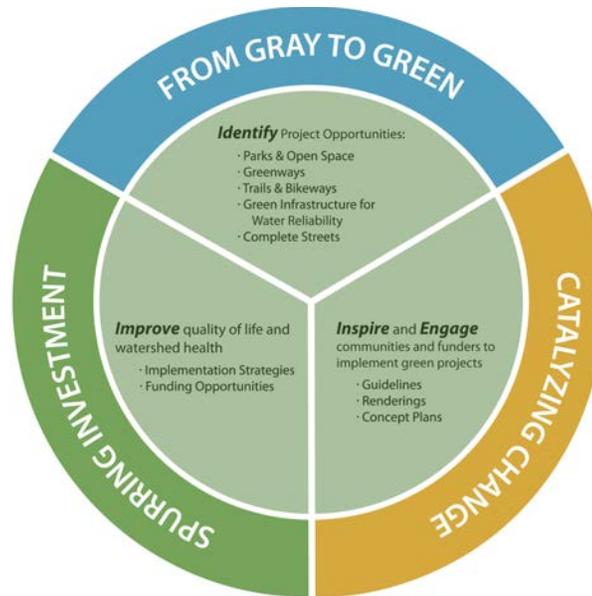
To gauge city interest in the GREEN Project, WCA staff has been having ongoing conversations with organizations and city staff throughout the Gateway Cities. The first city to receive focus has been the City of Cudahy, as they are actively looking for tools and avenues for urban greening. These conversations with Cudahy and other cities are ongoing.



*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.*

**Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan:** Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. A kickoff meeting with Lyric Consulting to prepare the City profile content and integrated mapping was held November 5<sup>th</sup>. WCA received a 4-month extension from the RMC to complete the Gateway Greening Plan and website update by end of April 2020.

WCA, in collaboration with the Gateway Cities COG and GWMA, is awaiting results of the joint RMC Prop 68 grant application to continue planning and implementation of urban greening in the Gateway Cities.



*With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the work of the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.*

**Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis:** The WCA Governing Board authorized the WCA to apply and receive funding from RMC’s Proposition 1 program for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (Supplemental Analysis) at the March 21, 2019 WCA Governing Board Meeting. On April 19, 2019, the RMC Governing Board authorized the grant to the WCA. To date, the WCA has attended stakeholder meetings as necessary for the study. The most recent of which was on October 18, 2019, WCA and project partners convened to discuss the potential reaches for the Los Angeles River, Rio Hondo, and Compton Creek, as well as the finalization of the methodology for the study.

WCA expects the RMC and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to finalize their agency agreement for the project by the end of 2019, which will allow WCA to enter into a contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to expand the study to include water quality indicators and potential for the Rio Hondo and Compton Creek to serve as mitigation areas.

*The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows. Including the WCA as part of the Stakeholder group and adding a third-party review of the analysis itself.*

**Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** Los Angeles County Supervisorial District Five (5) is currently considering WCA’s Prop/Measure A grant request for both Mt Baldy and Walnut Creek properties to complete much needed site upgrades and public amenities including new and updated signage, as well as, trail and trailhead improvements such as additional bear-proof trash enclosures, seating areas and interpretive signage. The

completion of a small Prop A/Measure A grant will also allow WCA access to Annual Operations and Maintenance funding to maintain the properties and amenities for the benefit of the community.

*Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.*

**Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning:** The USFS, WCA, and consultant project team are evaluating completed and unfinished elements of this planning project to make best use of USFS Master Agreement funds before they revert in July 2020. Complete and in-progress reports are being completed to facilitate feasible amenity and site improvements within this timeframe and budget. Demolition projects, camp host sites, and various other amenities are under consideration for implementation.

*Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning, authorized by U.S. Forest Service under a Supplemental Project Agreement with WCA, to implement a redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources.*

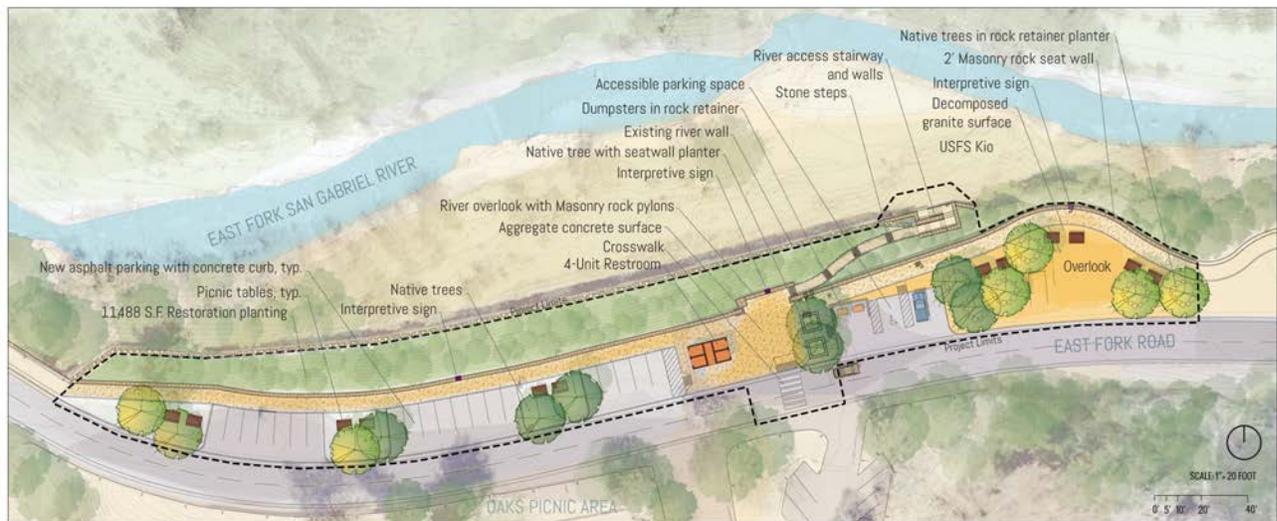
**River Wilderness Park:** Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4<sup>th</sup> application for ATP funds was not successful. WCA will continue to advocate for Caltrans to develop the roundabout but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays. Staff submitted an application in August 2019 to support the Entry Project, including road realignment, utility work within the park, restrooms, trails, and courtyards.



*The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.*

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** WCA consultant, BlueGreen, is currently updating the site design based on recent feedback from WCA staff and Angeles National Forest staff. At RMC's June 2019 Board Meeting, the RMC Board approved a partial Prop 1 grant to fund the permitting and bid/award process for the project. In July, WCA applied to the RMC for Prop 68 funding for the construction of the project.

U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project by January of 2020.



*Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project. An updated design is currently in process.*

*Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.*

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** The Construction has begun on the Parque Dos Rios project with site clearing and grubbing complete, main line irrigation, and laterals complete. The Verdura wall and fill for the bump-out is complete and footings for the shade structure are in progress. Demolition of existing gates and pilasters is complete. Fabrication of decorative metal work has been contracted for and the team is in the process of reviewing shop drawings. Interpretive graphic design is 90% complete and has been provided to fabricator for pricing and artwork buy-off. Project is on track to complete major construction by end of December. Conservation Corps of Long Beach work will continue through first quarter 2020.



*Parque site cleared and irrigation being installed.*



*Parque overlook walls constructed.*



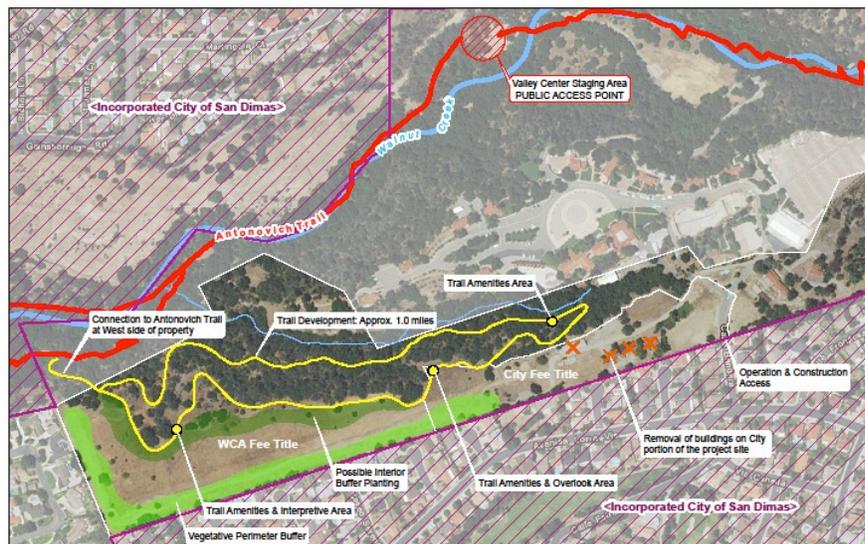
*Parque overlook under construction.*



*Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.*

**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** Landscape designers BlueGreen have submitted stamped 100% landscape design documents. The City of San Dimas has finished with trail construction. A construction bid was selected and construction of the landscape interpretive areas is scheduled to kick off in the second week of November. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year.

**WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY**



*Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.*

*City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.*

**River Ranger Program Implementation Project:** For WCA Board consideration on the agenda today is a resolution to accept an award of \$250,000 from RMC for the River Ranger Pilot Program Development Project, which will develop up to two pilots of the river ranger program for implementation starting this summer to be executed under separate State funding. WCA staff will facilitate the development of agency agreements to forward the pilot project and will engage in on-going community outreach.

*The River Ranger Program will foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities. The Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was finalized in June 2019 and the program is moving toward a pilot project this summer.*