

**DATE:** January 16, 2019

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** WCA Staff

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

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

---

## 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 1/8/2020**

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 217 (Burke D was Garcia, E D) Safe Drinking Water for All Act (NOW INCOME TAXATION)**

**Introduced:** 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading on the Assembly Floor.

**Update:** *This bill was gut and amended on 6/13/19 to address income tax law. No longer a natural resources bill.*

**Summary:** Would enact the Safe Drinking Water for All Act and would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board to provide a source of funding to secure access to

safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. The bill would authorize the board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, bequests, and settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies, and to contribute funding available from other sources related to water quality. This bill and a companion measure, SB 200, reflect a priority articulated by Governor Newsom in his 2019-20 Budget and in his state of the state, implementing a sustainable funding source to address deficient water systems.

**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 wildfire 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) Community Colleges: Naturalist Workforce Model Curriculum**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 1/6/2020, **Status:** Passed Assembly Higher Education Committee and re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** Would, on or before July 31, 2022, for the start of the 2022–23 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish a naturalist workforce model curriculum and related vocational programs that is especially aimed at disadvantaged communities. Curriculum would provide a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The model curriculum would reflect regional needs and be developed in consultation with local experts.

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

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Dead

**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:** Re-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 adaptation 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>

## PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** The Forest Service is strategizing and prioritizing projects with the 2028 Olympics in mind. Planning and project efforts should be considered within the context of the question “How do we want the world to experience the Angeles National Forest and National Monument when they come to LA for the Olympics?” This may provide opportunities for fundraising.



**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) is putting together the SGMCC Action Plan which will bring together their goals and intentions, as well as, outline action steps that will help each Ad Hoc Committee achieve its goals. The Action Plan is expected to be finalized by March 2020 and implementation will be a primary objective for the Collaborative throughout the remainder of 2020. SGMCC is working closely with Forest Service to identify the appropriate pathways for successful partnership that will ensure SGMCC goals are met. The next meeting will be held on 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 expected to be extended through March 2020 for the General Contractor. The extended timeline is primarily due to SCE having not yet completed the undergrounding of their existing above ground facilities and their removal of the above ground facilities. This work is necessary to allow for final grading and planting in the upper riparian and meadows areas to be completed. SCE’s has indicated that they will finish their work this month, which is critical in order to allow the project to finish final soil prep, irrigation and planting in the upper riparian bioswale and meadow areas in February and March. In the interim, work on the construction of the dry streambed is scheduled to continue and be completed by end of January 2020.

Concrete curbs, seat walls (including the east entry park, west side plaza and outdoor classroom areas), and walkways have been constructed in both the east entry park area, west plaza, and overlook areas. Other work scheduled to be completed by the end of this month includes the seat walls at the overlook, installation of restroom facility finish surfaces, electrical and plumbing fixtures and tree plantings.

Decorative and Structural metal work is in fabrication and should be targeted for installation in February 2020. Conservation Corps work to plant 4" potted natives along the pathways and installation of mulch will complete later this Spring. However, completion of this work is also dependent on SCE removal of their poles and overhead wires. Parking lot and entry drive has been partially constructed with final paving to be laid at the end of the project in March to ensure it is not damaged during the remaining construction work.



*Entry pocket park path and seat walls*



*East entry trail from pocket park heading to tunnel*



*New concrete path placed at west-side park plaza*



*Seating at outdoor classroom*



*New restroom 'kit' facility takes shape*

**Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project:** WCA hosted a site visit with State Parks grants staff in late November 2019 to discuss a Prop 68 Grant which, if awarded, would fund construction of the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk. State Parks anticipates announcing awards by February 2020.



*WCA meets with State Parks on site at the Duck Farm to discuss potential grant funding.*

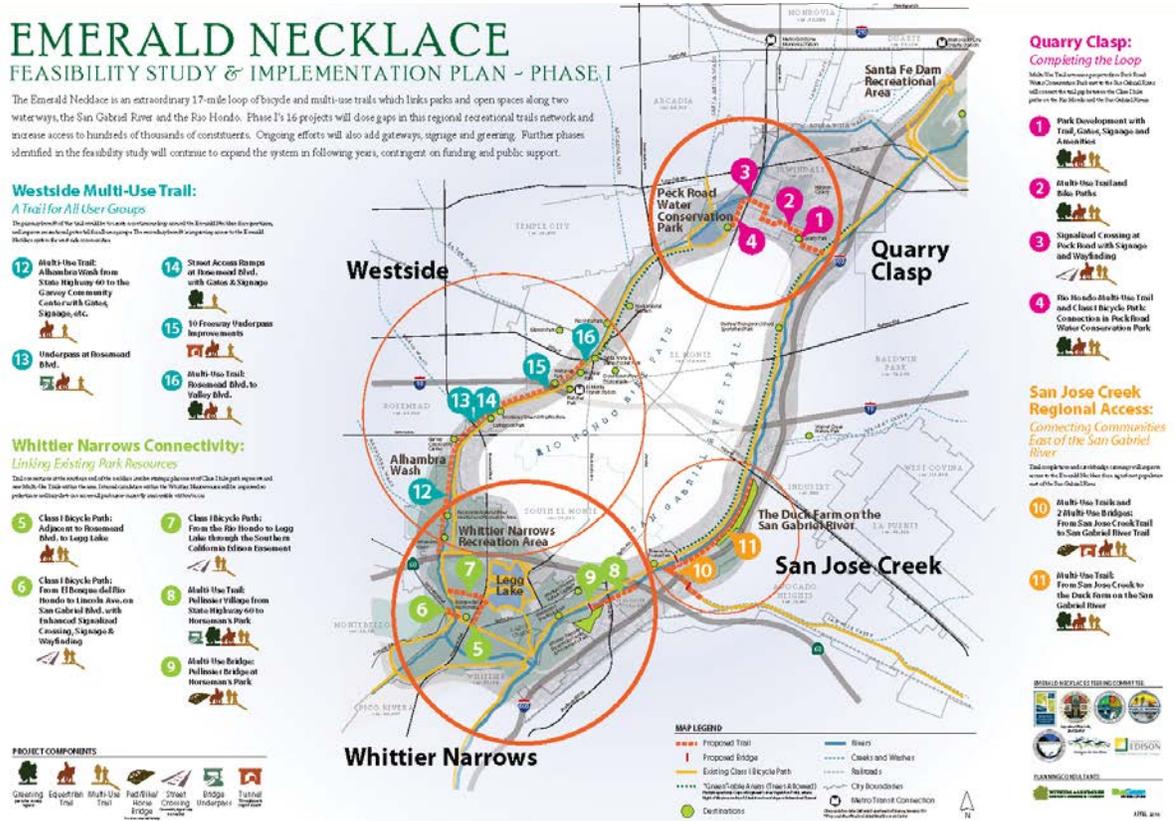
WCA is also moving forward with its application for Supplementary Environmental Funds in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board.



*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 consultant is on track to complete their initial study and existing conditions report by the end of January. WCA anticipates attending a review meeting to receive the data and study results in February or March.

**Emerald Necklace:** WCA attended the January Emerald Necklace Meetings hosted by Los Angeles County District 1 Supervisor Hilda Solis to provide an update on the Duck Farm River Park and Community Center and River walk projects. The meeting brings together staff from the Supervisor's office, various Los Angeles County departments and non-profit partners to collaborate on projects to forward the greenway plan. LA County Department of Public Works is forwarding both the San Jose Bridge and River Trail that will connect San Jose Creek trail to the San Gabriel River's eastern bank up to the Duck Farm River Park and Rosemead Blvd complete street project between Legg Lake and Durfee within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Early implementation projects from the San Gabriel Valley Greenway plan being spearheaded by LA County Flood Control District includes planning and community outreach for the proposed Puente Creek greenway. There will be a special Emerald Necklace Strategic Planning Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> sponsored by LA County Parks and Recreation.



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:** On September 12, 2019, the WCA Board approved the negotiation of a consultant contract for a regional biological report. On October 15, 2019, an RFP for a regional biological report RFP was posted to the WCA website and distributed to biological consultants with extensive field experience in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. Four submissions were received.

The proposals were evaluated by a jury that included WCA staff and two biologists. Evaluation criteria included: understanding of overall concepts and objectives, technical approach for providing requested and optional services, qualifications of personnel assigned to the project, record of field work and insight based on references and submitted work samples, and insight into specific opportunities in WCA territory.

Total Score (maximum value=300)	
Psomas	256
ESA	245
Cooper	215
Wood	202

The proposal submitted by Psomas received the highest score. Psomas' work sample demonstrated solid field experience in the project area, and application of this knowledge at the scale of regional analysis as well as in local management recommendations.

Jurors emphasized that WCA should seek to engage biologists to field truth parcels recommended by the selected consultant before a final prioritization.

A study on human factors currently in progress. Dr. Milburn was engaged to interview municipalities and conservancies in WCA territory about open space maintenance issues, and opportunities related to access and low-impact recreational uses of open space lands. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this study has been delayed.

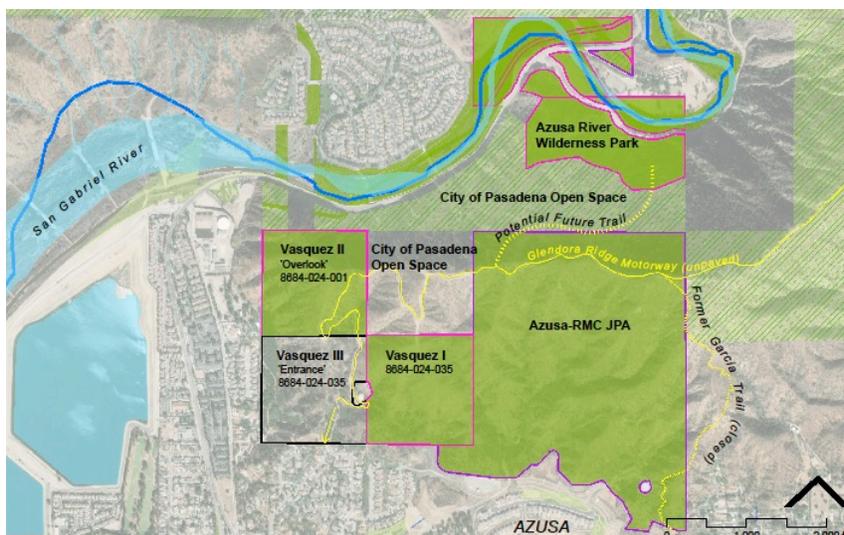
San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan included funds for acquisition activities. WCA has begun due diligence and strategizing for the acquisition of several San Gabriel River Canyon floodplain properties of significance to wildlife habitat.

WCA awaits 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.*

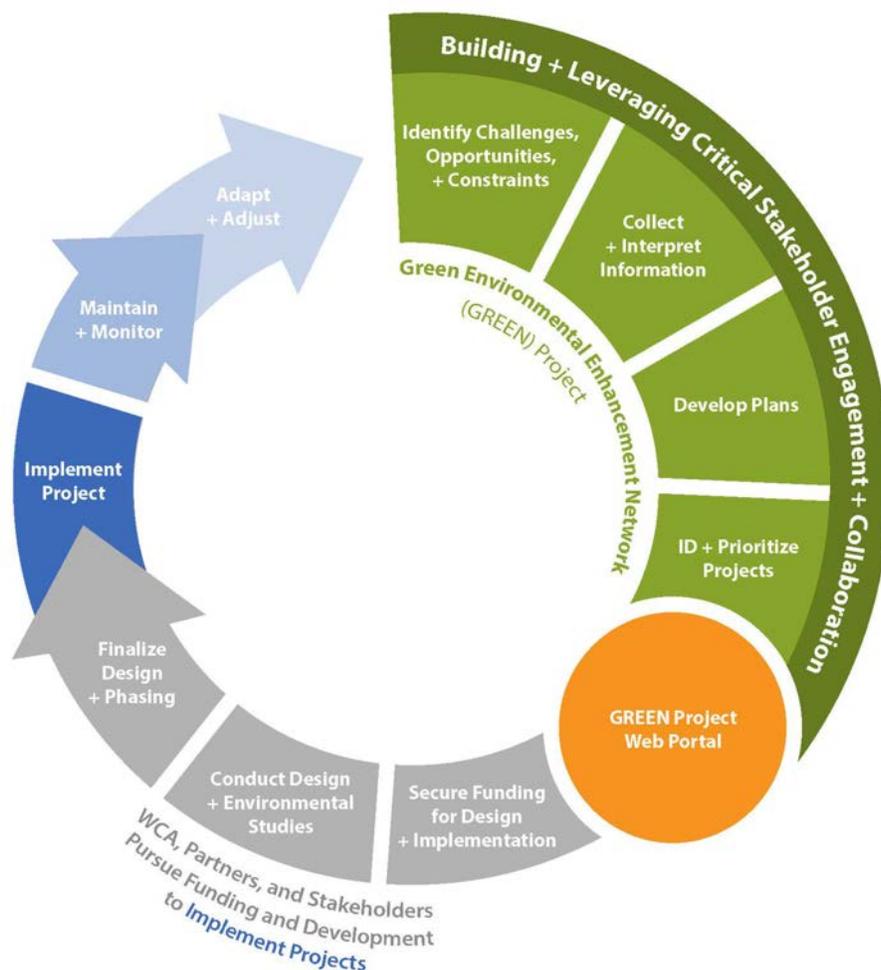
**Vasquez Habitat and Open Space:** The WCA received a grant award from the RMC's Proposition 68 program in November to acquire the parcel known as Vasquez Overlook (Vasquez II). Staff completed all due diligence activities in December and as a result the Vasquez Overlook property is currently in escrow with expected closing date before the end of this month. The purchase and sales agreement for Vasquez Overlook includes an 18-month Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) for the purchase of the Vasquez Access parcel [AIN 8684-024-035] (Vasquez III).

A Memorandum of Understanding/Management Agreement is on today's agenda for consideration to ratify. The agreement allows the Vasquez family, as caretakers, to continue their tradition of maintaining a U.S. Flag on the property in honor of our veterans, as well as maintain the overlook called Art and Chema's landing.



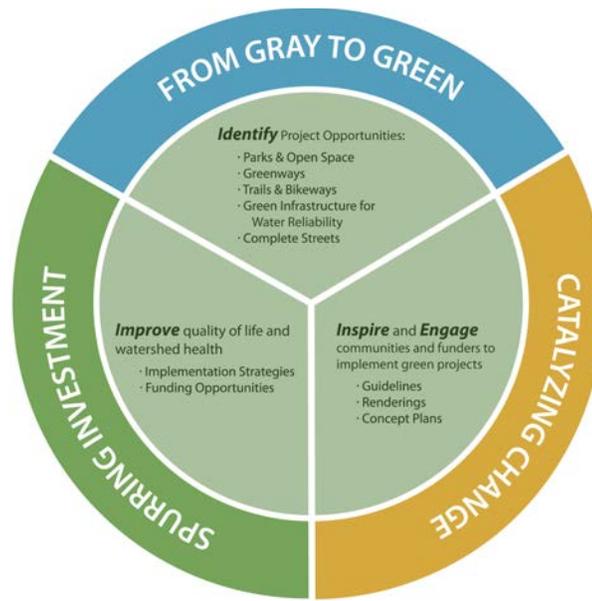
**GREEN Project:** The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. WCA has begun discussions around development of a pilot Portal focused on the WCA/RMC territory or taking a County-wide approach for a regional depository of plans and projects, as well as, a project and funding match tool. The grant requires administrative extension for time to assemble a software development team capable of completing the desired functionality for the website and online tools.

The software development tasks will be part of a Phase II grant amendment or separate funding depending on the investment needed to complete the work.



*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. Lyric Design & Planning are currently developing Greenscape maps and City Profile pages as WCA staff works to close out a grant from Strategic Growth Council. WCA staff are continuing to develop the Gateway Greening website with a grant from RMC through April 2020.



*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:** Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy returned the joint agreement with Rivers and Mountains Conservancy this month. Once this conservancy agreement is fully executed, WCA can begin to forward the study. Staff will finalize the consultant contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project and begin the study which will 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:** Unsuccessful in securing a Prop A Excess Funds grant for small property improvements, staff is collaborating with the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps staff to develop a Youth training program in natural resource maintenance and stewardship for the property. The competitive grant application will be submitted by SGVCC to Regional Parks and Open Space Districts call for Measure A projects

which are due in February. The program will utilize the site as a satellite training location for the corps to be trained and have hands on experience in trail maintenance, arborist, small structure repair, exotic plant removal and native plant restoration and maintenance. Additionally, nature-based solutions and community engagement/stewardship will be integrated into the training content of the program. Partnership with the Forest Service may also be a component with those discussions to follow.

The utilization of Mt Baldy property as a Corps training site will benefit the property by providing both an active onsite presence and regular maintenance which will help to reduce negative activities such as graffiti and vandalism of trail amenities. Upon close-out of the Measure A grant, if awarded, the property will be eligible to receive Operations and Maintenance funding that will provide much needed operational cost relief to the Authority.

*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 U.S. Forest Service Master Agreement has a finite life of 5 years with an end date of June 30, 2020. Funds deposited by USFS for work must be expended by that deadline or they are lost. WCA staff, working with USFS and Consultant, have identified priority projects to complete over the next 6 months while closing out the planning side of the effort in favor of design and implementation.

These priority implementation projects include the design and construction of all new camp host sites, kiosks and iron rangers at both Crystal Lake and Coldbrook campgrounds. As well as, planned improvements to the Crystal Lake Visitor Center and installation of a trash transfer station at Rincon Fire Station site. Pending approval of Federal clearances, USFS has identified the demolition of several old, unused restrooms and dilapidated ancillary buildings. These improvements will be a noticeable and welcome enhancement to the visitor experience.

All 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.

*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.*

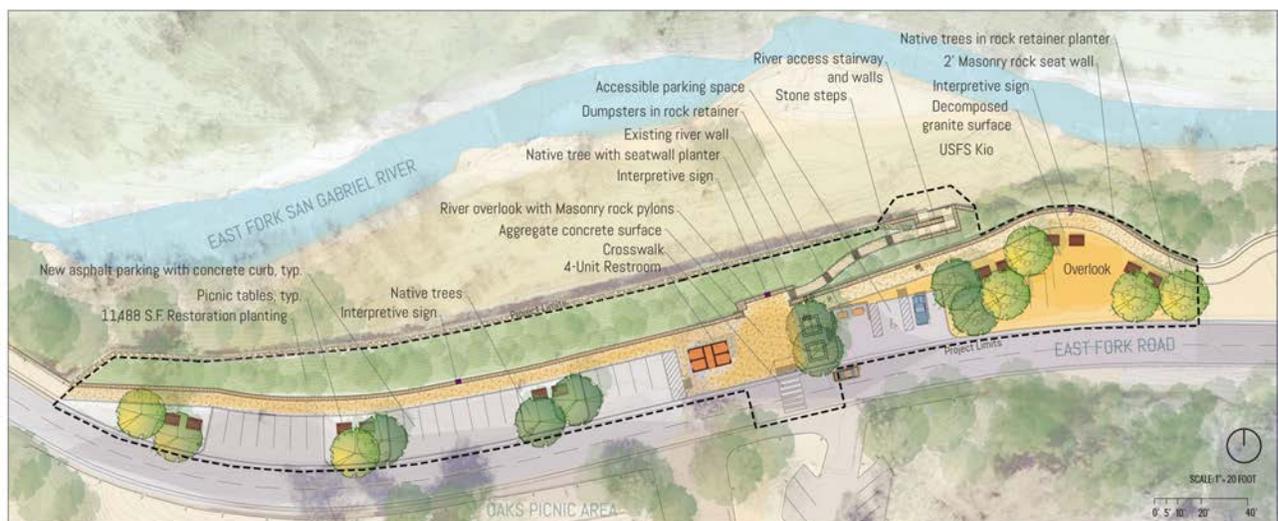
**River Wilderness Park:** In anticipation of filling funding gaps with Prop 68 grants, WCA extended the performance period of several existing grants to align with a new target of project completion by 2021. Staff continues to work with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA also continues to advocate for Caltrans to develop the roundabout but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays.



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, has completed its work on the site design for the Oaks River Access Project. At the November 2019 Board Meeting, the WCA Board authorized an amendment to BlueGreen’s contract to extend the footprint of the design with funding through WCA’s Master Participating Agreement with the Forest Service. 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. WCA is currently awaiting a decision Prop 68 funding from the RMC for the construction of the project.

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



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.

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 continues on the Parque Dos Rios project with completion of the overlook and entry gate rockwork columns completed. Decorative metalwork railings, shade structure and gates are in fabrication. Interpretive signage and dedication sign artwork is complete. A second overlook location to view cliff swallows under the Imperial Highway bridge was identified and a drawing to construct is being readied to submit to LA County Flood Control District for approval to construct within their Right of Way. Both the overlooks will feature seating, interpretive panels and viewscopes as amenities. A grant extension from Regional Parks and Open Space District is being processed to allow for the addition of this additional overlook and to align the Prop A grant completion date with the work being completed under the Conservation Corps of Long Beach's Prop 68 grant. The structural work is anticipated to be completed by the end of January and the CCLB landscaping work by April pending timely amended approval by LACFCD for the second overlook location. WCA staff applied for the Measure W program's December call for projects to perform a feasibility to redesign the Caltrans drainage V-ditch to a nature based riparian bioswale and has been asked to present the project to the Watershed Study Area Committee this month.

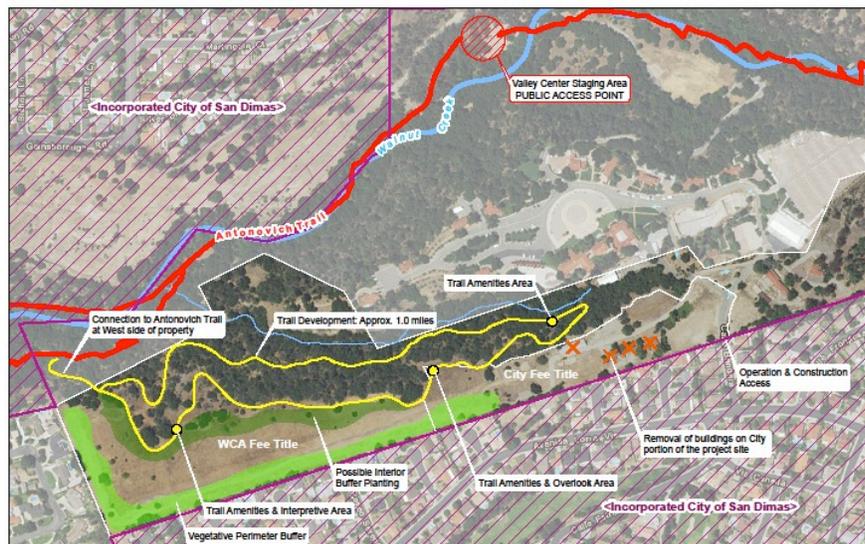




*Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted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

**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** WCA staff, the City of San Dimas, BlueGreen landscape design and the City’s selected construction contractor met at the end of 2019 for a construction kickoff meeting. Construction is expected to be complete by mid-February 2020.

**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:** WCA received the executed grant agreement from RMC. Due to current staffing limitations and timeliness of delivering a pilot program by Summary 2020, there may be the need to supplement staff with consultants to deliver the program, complete agreement and perform 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.*