

DATE: January 16, 2020

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 14: Consideration of a resolution to 1. approve the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District for Fifth Supervisorial District Proposition A funding for Walnut Creek Site Improvements; and, 2. approve the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board (WCA) approve the application for \$85,000 in grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District for Fifth Supervisorial District Proposition A funding for Walnut Creek Site Improvements and approves the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space site improvements shall enhance the 1-mile trail spur nature loop, as well as, elements spread throughout the entire 60.9-acre property, including wayfinding, interpretive panels and boundary signage, lot-line adjustments, general overall site preparation, facility and area development improvements. Below is the estimated cost breakdown and project summary.

Mini Grant Request – Walnut Creek	
Site Development/Preparation/Demo	\$35,000
Signage	\$18,000
Lot Line Adjustment/Other/ Contingency	\$24,000
PM/Grant Administration	\$8,000
Total	\$85,000

The Walnut Creek Habitat and Opens Space project area is large, jurisdictionally complex and ecologically diverse. Operational signs are necessary to delineate property boundaries between WCA, the City of San Dimas, the Tzu Chi Foundation and adjacent residences, see proposed signage plan below. These signs also note the rules for opening, closing trail use and expected behavior inside the park property. Wayfinding is important for safety and enjoyment of the open space. It will be beneficial to point out where the spur trail connects to the larger regional trail. It is also necessary to help users navigate the long and wooded loop which features dense vegetation, elevation changes and a few shortcuts and alternative routes. Additionally, the demolition of a damaged structure, removal of fallen trees and replacement of fencing will improve site security and ensure safe enjoyment of the site.



On December 30, 2019, WCA staff received email notification that available funding for one of the two properties, Walnut Creek, was identified within SD5 Excess Funds. Regional Parks and Open Space District subsequently requested an application be submitted for consideration at a future the Board of Supervisor meeting for approval. The application includes the submittal of a youth employment plan, see attached Exhibit B: Application and C: Youth Employment Plan.

BACKGROUND: In May 2019, WCA staff identified funding and operational and maintenance needs for two properties, Mt Baldy and Walnut Creek, located within Supervisorial District 5 and submitted a request for Prop A Funds (Exhibit A). Together the properties represent approximately 300 acres of open space, habitat and recreational lands. The Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve (237+ Acres) including a stretch of san Antonio Creek below Mt Baldy Village and Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space (61 acres) in San Dimas in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Both projects would benefit from small capital improvements to enhance user experience and protect natural resources. Through the investment of Proposition/Measure A funds into WCA's properties upon the closeout of the improvement grants become eligible for Maintenance and Servicing (M&S) funds. Access to M & S funds would reduce the financial drain of these otherwise non-revenue generating properties on the WCA's annual operations budget while improving the visitor experience. Mini-grant requests for Mt Baldy (\$64,200) and for Walnut Creek (\$85,000) were identified to SD5.

Mt Baldy Preserve is visited annually by large numbers of people seeking snow play in the winter and water play during the Spring and Summer months. During these peak times the parking areas become full and visitors resort to parking in no-parking areas and using non-designated trails which results in resource degradation and increased need for ranger patrols. The site would greatly benefit from increased visitor amenities such as trash enclosures, sitting areas, shade, trail head signage and trail designations to discourage hiking off trail and littering. A mini grant would aid in the protection of natural resources and avail the WCA to future maintenance funds to manage the site and its resources. Cost elements include the following:

Mini Grant Request – Mt Baldy	
Trail Improvements at Dedication sign and trail head amenities	\$35,000
Signage	\$14,000
Native Plants re-establishment	\$10,000
PM/Grant Administration	\$5,200
Total	\$64,200

FISCAL INFORMATION: The FY19/20 capital budget will be updated to reflect any award of Proposition A SD5 Excess grant funding for the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space property.

January 16, 2020 – Item 14

RESOLUTION 2020-05

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LOS
ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR
FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT PROPOSITION A FUNDING FOR
WALNUT CREEK SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND APPROVES THE ADOPTION
OF A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN.**

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

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

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Los Angeles on November 3, 1992, and on November 5, 1996 enacted Los Angeles County Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beach and Wildlife Protection (the Propositions), which among other uses, provides funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the County for the purpose of acquiring and/or development facilities and open space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Propositions also created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) to administer said funds; and

WHEREAS, the District has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Propositions; and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the WCA to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the District; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that the WCA must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the WCA certifies, through this resolution, that the application is approved for submission to the District; and

WHEREAS, the WCA will enter into an Agreement with the District to provide funds for acquisition and development projects.

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for development projects by the governing body of the agency; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:

1. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.

- 2. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- 3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated January 16, 2020.
- 4. **APPROVES** the filing of an application with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Funds for the above project.
- 5. **CERTIFIES** that the WCA understands the assurances and certification in the application form.
- 6. **CERTIFIES** that the WCA has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity.
- 7. **CERTIFIES** that the WCA will sign and return, within 30 days, both copies of the project agreement sent by the District for authorizing signature.
- 8. **APPROVES** the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for the project.
- 9. **APPOINTS** the Executive Officer, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2020-05

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On January 16, 2020

Herlinda Chico, Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General