

DATE: June 25, 2015

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: Robert Romanek, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 13: Consideration of a resolution to ratify a grant application to the California Transportation Commission Alternative Transportation Program for the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout and Park Entry Improvements Project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the WCA Governing Board ratify a grant application to the California Transportation Commission Alternative Transportation Program (ATP) for the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout, and Park Entry Improvements Project in the amount of \$1,760,000.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout, and Park Entry Improvements Project are capital implementations of the River Wilderness Park (RWP) Master Plan, as adopted by the WCA Board in September 2012. These components are included in the design and production of construction documents for an initial phase of implementation—referred to as the RWP Entry Project—which are nearing completion. Specifically, these components are the development of a formal entryway with signage, an extension of the Azusa Bikeway into the park, a San Gabriel River overlook on State Route 39, and traffic calming measures along State Route 39 that will facilitate a safer at-grade bicycle crossing into the RWP. Staff has applied for ATP funds to install these elements of the RWP plan. The RWP is located in the City of Azusa, along State Route 39 at the mouth of the San Gabriel Canyon. A project location map is included as Exhibit A, and the final concept for the RWP Entry Improvements is included as Exhibit B.

BACKGROUND: The San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout, and Park Entry Improvements Project provide safe and highly visible access into RWP: a nature park experience on the San Gabriel River at the gateway to the newly dedicated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Implementation of these entry improvements is a core piece of the larger RWP Entry Project and will realize goals of the RWP Master Plan. The project will also establish a key link between the San Gabriel River Bike Trail, RWP, and further connections to the National Monument and Angeles National Forest. The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was created on September 26, 2013 under the purview of the California Transportation Commission (Senate Bill 99, Chapter 359 and Assembly Bill 101, Chapter 354). The ATP consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs into a single program to encourage active modes of transportation—such as biking and walking—including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S). The second cycle for ATP applications were due June 1st 2015, with \$360 million available over the funding years 16/17, 17/18, and 18/19. WCA staff applied for grant funds in the amount of \$1,760,000.

Staff is actively engaged in seeking and applying for a variety of grants and funding sources to complete RWP's Entry Project. The WCA is also currently completing construction documents, funded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Following both the completion of construction documents and the permit process the project will be ready for implementation pending the securing of construction funds.

FISCAL INFORMATION: Funds authorized for the ATP Cycle 2 total \$360 million. The minimum amount that can be requested is \$250,000, and there is no established maximum other than the total available funding within a grant cycle, which is the total \$360 million authorized for ATP Cycle 2. WCA has prepared and submitted a competitive scope of work and budget, valued up to \$1,760,000. These funds, if awarded, will be used for capital improvements over three (3) fiscal years: FY 16/17 through FY 18/19, with approximately \$1.6 million of the funding being received in FY 17/18.



Exhibit A

Territory Map: River Wilderness Park

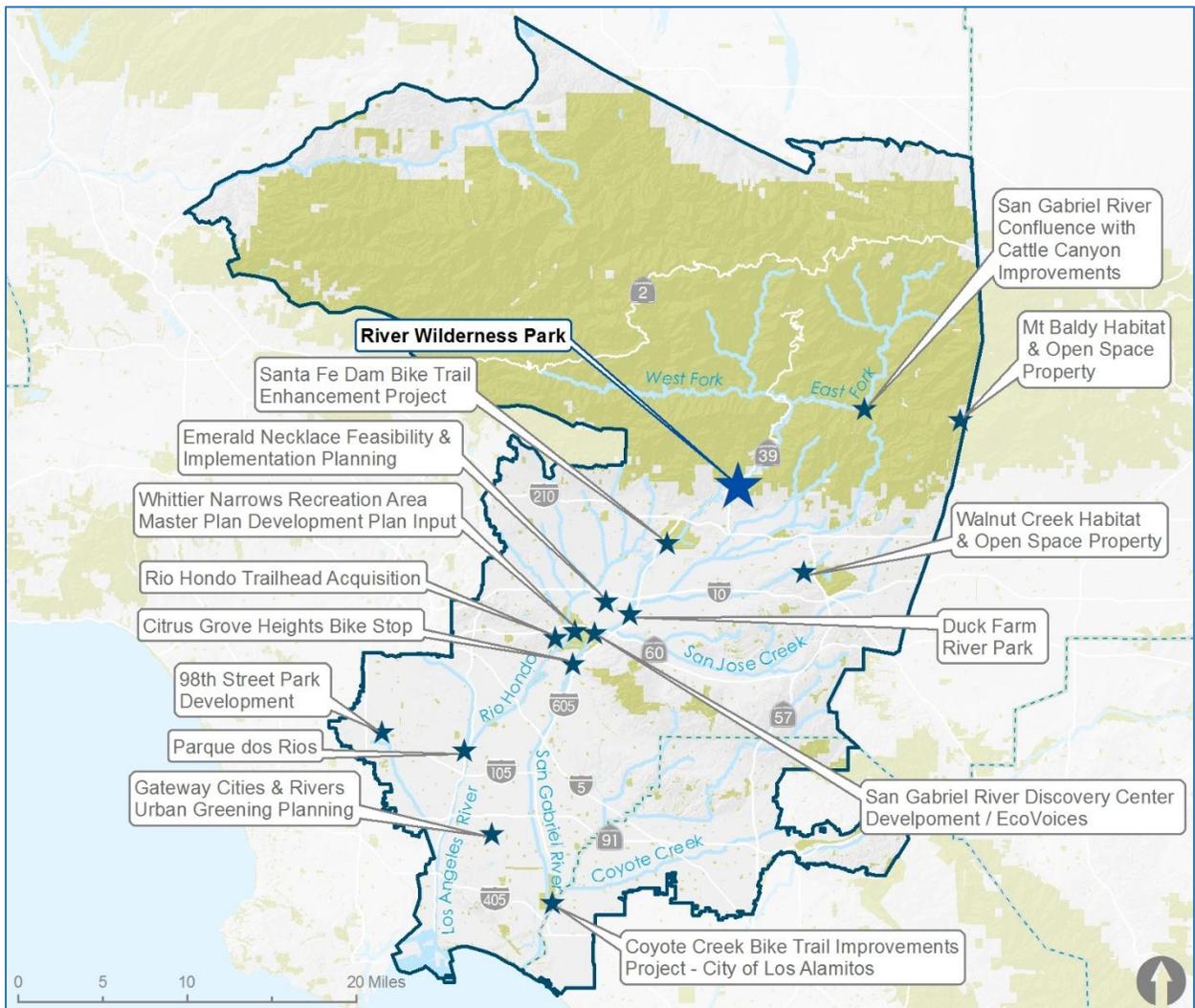


Exhibit B



WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS

WITHERS & SANDGREN
LANDSCAPES
ARCHITECTURE
+ PLANNING

0 15 30 60
1" = 30'

- EXTENDED BICYCLE PATH
- MONUMENT SIGN
- CLUSTERED PARKING
- INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
- GROUP PICNICKING & TENT CAMPING (BY PERMIT)
- ROUNDABOUT
- REALIGNED ROADWAY
- BEAR-RESISTANT TRASH CONTAINERS
- ENTRY GATE

June 25, 2015 – Item 13

RESOLUTION 2015-23

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO RATIFY A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER BIKE TRAIL GAP CLOSURE, ROUNDABOUT, AND PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

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

WHEREAS, this action will ratify acceptance of Alternative Transportation Program grant funding from the California Transportation Commission for the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout and Park Entry Improvements Project; 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 June 25, 2015.
4. **RATIFYS** the application for grant funds from the California Transportation Commission in the amount up to \$1,760,000 to fund the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout and Park Entry Improvements Project.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Resolution 2015-23

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On June 25, 2015

Brian Mejia, Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General