

DATE: July 21, 2022

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Jeremy Munns, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 11: Consideration of a resolution to ratify application to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Climate Resilience Grant Program for the San Gabriel River Center and Gardens project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board ratify the application to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Climate Resilience Grant Program for the San Gabriel River Center and Gardens project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The San Gabriel River Center and Gardens is a key component of the River Park project in the unincorporated community of Avocado Heights. The project, currently funded by RMC and a Special Environmental Project (SEP) agreement with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, will open new areas for public access and interaction within the River Park's 30+ acres of new river parkway and native habitat along the San Gabriel River and within the regional 17-mile Emerald Necklace Park Network.

A concept level site plan for the project is included as Exhibit A.

Based on recent cost estimates, the project design team determined that existing grant funding will be insufficient to construct all project elements. Funding from RMC's Climate Resilience Grant Program would fill a crucial construction funding gap. Elements to be funded include facility improvements and public space amenities including a remodeled building, sound attenuation walls, water conservation demonstration gardens, restrooms, parking area, seating areas, utilities, outdoor classroom spaces, and interpretation.

A project description from the grant application is included as Exhibit B. The grant budget funding request is included as Exhibit C.

BACKGROUND: The RMC released a call for projects for its non-bond Climate Resilience Grant Program with applications due by August 31, 2022. Funds authorized for the program total \$11.1 million through the state general fund in the Climate Resilience package of the Budget Act of 2021. Grant funds are intended to build community resilience and capacity where resources are most needed through projects with multi-benefit and nature-based solutions.

The San Gabriel River Center and Gardens project is an expansion of the River Park (in Avocado Heights) which will transform the old farm house location into a community water conservation resource center and demonstration facility. The following table shows all secured funding to date for the project:

San Gabriel River Center and Gardens Funding Summary		
Source	Agency	Secured Funding
Prop 1	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	\$891,200

Prop 68	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy	\$2,024,020
SEP	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	\$2,000,132
TOTAL:		\$4,915,352

FISCAL INFORMATION: The total amount of grant requested funding is \$2,500,000. If awarded, the WCA's Fiscal Year Capital Budget would be updated to reflect the funds accepted by the Governing Board.

SITE PLAN

- 1 ENTRY
- 2 VISITOR CENTER
- 3 CENTRAL PLAZA / WALKWAY
INTEGRAL COLORED CONCRETE W/
EXPOSED AGGREGATE
- 4 PERIMETER WALKING PATHS
10" STABILIZED DECOMPOSED
GRANITE
- 5 INTERNAL WALKING PATHS
STABILIZED DECOMPOSED GRANITE
- 6 VEHICULAR DRIVE
STABILIZED DECOMPOSED GRANITE
- 7 EXISTING PERGOLA / TOOL SHED
- 8 WEST PLAZA
DECOMPOSED GRANITE
- 9 EAST PLAZA
DECOMPOSED GRANITE
- 10 EDIBLE GARDEN
DECOMPOSED GRANITE
- 11 NATURE PLAY
WOOD MULCH
- 12 OPEN SIDE PERGOLA
- 13 DECK W/ ENCLOSED PERGOLA
- 14 PATIO DEMONSTRATION
RECYCLED CONCRETE
- 15 PATIO DEMONSTRATION
RECYCLED CONCRETE
- 16 DECK BALCONY
- 17 SHADED PATIO
WOOD PLANKS
- 18 SCE TOWER



1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A – COMPLETE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The San Gabriel River Center and Gardens project would realize a new 2+ acre demonstration facility and visitor resource center at the new regional River Park (former Duck Farm) located in unincorporated Avocado Heights/La Puente/Basset.

The project, currently in the permitting phase, would transform a 1929 Spanish colonial revival farmhouse into a waterwise educational resource and community center for the public. The Center will include interpretive elements that explore the agrarian roots of the community and the watershed history of the San Gabriel River, its ecology and the role the river still plays today as an infiltration site providing potable drinking water to the region's communities. The indoor space will include opportunities to feature local art, celebrate local water resources, and have interpretation, displays and programming that will demonstrate and highlight practical strategies for water security and climate resilience. The project will incorporate universal design features including ADA-compliant restrooms, shade structures, and landscape features to mitigate sound and environmental impacts of the nearby freeway, rail and industrial areas in this largely underserved, environmentally impacted equestrian district.

The Center exterior gardens will provide additional outdoor learning spaces for visitors and organized school groups. The site's design, stormwater bmps, and planting will encourage residents to retrofit high resource consumptive landscapes into functional sites that capture and conserve water using simple and aesthetically pleasing strategies. It will provide a clear example for residential landscapes to transition towards more resilient models showcasing water capture strategies such as rain gardens, bioswales, and cisterns, as well as presenting patterns of drought resistance built upon a foundation of native trees and shrubs.

The Center will be an expansion of the adjacent River Park's 32 acres of new river parkway and native habitat along the San Gabriel River and within the regional river-adjacent Emerald Necklace Park Network, making it an ideal environment to educate and provide information to visitors exploring this regional recreational and ecological resource. The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile loop of parks and greenways connecting 10 cities in the San Gabriel Valley and 500,000 residents along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers. This system, when fully realized, will unify more than 1,500 acres of parks and open spaces along an interconnected greenway around these two major urban rivers. This project will service both a severely park-poor community as well as enhance the riparian and upland floodplain habitat of this critical regional wildlife and Pacific Flyaway corridor.

This project is consistent with the Greater LA County (GLAC) IRWM which "is intended to improve water supply and water quality, enhance open space, recreation and habitat, and improve flood management in the GLAC Region." The project exemplifies the following GLAC IRWM's objectives: improve local water supply (by restoration of floodplain habitat which enhances infiltration); improve surface water quality (by removing sources of nutrient, pathogen and sediment contamination); enhance Habitat (by restoring rare floodplain and riparian vegetation), enhance Open Space and Recreation (by providing passive recreation in a high-need area); reduce flood risk (by revegetation); and address climate change (restoration vegetation will increase carbon stores in biomass and soil).

The project will demonstrate the benefits of sustainable, low impact development in parks and open space. The project will . . .

- Incorporate climate resilient improvements into the structures and site to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems by incorporating roof rainwater capture and greywater systems, rain gardens; permeable paving; native vegetation and habitat, and a water-conserving irrigation system.
- Improve urban watershed health by providing stormwater resource management and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Promote the protection and restoration of natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management by harvesting rainwater, recapturing and reusing irrigation water, and infiltrating stormwater runoff to recharge aquifers.

- Increase wildlife habitat diversity and health by re-establishing native plant communities.
- Promote home retrofits and new design strategies to capture, cleanse and store rainwater for later use and/or infiltrate stormwater onsite which will greatly reduce untreated rainfall runoff from entering our rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal water.

Overall, the goal of the project's educational components is to change public perceptions toward climate adaptive residential landscapes, create larger public awareness of the vital natural resource that is the San Gabriel River, and better understand and value conservation and watershed health.

B - STATEMENT OF NEED

According to the California State Parks Community Factfinder report, the project site is located in an area that has a mere 0.15 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. According to the California Healthy Places Index (HPI), the project's most adjacent neighborhood scores in the 34th percentile, indicating overall unhealthy conditions. Studies consistently demonstrate that access to open space and natural environments greatly improves physical and mental health. Currently, the only green space located in and available to the immediate community is San Angelo Park, approximately 2 acres in size and serving a population of nearly 16,000 residents. While San Angelo Park offers opportunities for active recreation, with its playgrounds and sports fields, it is a traditional "turf and trees" park, with ornamental, non-native landscaping. The proposed project is an extension of a new River Park along the San Gabriel River — opening up 32 acres of natural open space that will serve a population with significant health challenges with passive recreation opportunities in an environment that supports and nourishes local wildlife and human physical and mental health.

There is a need for nature-based solutions to address the region's leading challenges, including meeting and eventually exceeding Clean Water and Clean Air Act standards at a time when water security is increasingly critical and 1 on 5 deaths is understood to be associated with air quality; providing outdoor recreation access to diverse users across some of the region's recognized disadvantaged and underserved communities; to address climate impacts including urban cooling, carbon sequestration, and localized flooding; and providing habitat and supporting native species in an internationally-recognized ecological hotspot in the face of a biodiversity crisis with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recognizing the impacts of a 60% loss in overall species populations over the last 50 years.

Biodiversity loss has been significant throughout LA County, but particularly in dense urban areas. Historically residents of this area of the San Gabriel Valley recreated in the river and had access to natural open spaces that were important culturally and for general health and wellbeing. Today the nearest natural spaces are miles away, and many children never have an opportunity to experience nature.

This project will support locally native vegetation and species along the San Gabriel River, providing critical habitat for birds and pollinators. These will also serve as opportunities for exploration and the experience of natural space that is too often unknown in the communities that would be served by this project.

Additionally, the project will include a platform for educational outreach and community activities with research materials, interactive features, and multilingual interpretive signage designed with themes of conservation and the natural history of the river corridor. Interpretive signage and features will also highlight permeable hardscape and home water conservation techniques including rain garden grading, cisterns, low water plantings, and incorporating environmental oriented art installations that can both beautify homes while harvesting and/or conserving water resources. A conservation library within the River Center will be available with information and support materials to inspire and aid residents to make meaningful retrofits within their own home landscapes.

Based on a community planning process, the River Center project will feature opportunities for programming including fitness classes, gardening classes, walking clubs, volunteer programs, guided nature walks, music

performances, health classes, and youth job training. Universal design features and trails will facilitate users of all ages from children, adults, families, as well as seniors who are seeking passive recreation opportunities such as picnicking and walking trails in a natural setting.

With construction near completion at the main River Park, and a limited timeline for the existing grant funding for the Center, the need to secure this gap funding is both urgent and critical for the overall success of the project to meet the recreational and open space needs of this park poor community. A community that has waited patiently for almost two decades for this new river park to be open for them to enjoy to its fullest.

C - DESCRIPTION OF AUDIENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED

The Center will benefit the immediate and surrounding communities that are both economically disadvantaged and underserved, including El Monte and South El Monte. It's location along the Emerald Necklace Park Network, a 17- mile river greenway trail loop in the upper San Gabriel River Watershed, will benefit disadvantaged and park poor communities throughout the region. The Center is also a connection within the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan associated with the existing 28-mile San Gabriel River Trail. Together, the River Center, River Park, and adjacent system of trails connect park poor, disadvantaged communities between the recreational and regionally significant San Gabriel Mountains National Monument all the way down to the ecologically significant Los Cerritos Wetlands which leads towards the coasts of Seal Beach and Long Beach.

The project site is highly vulnerable to adverse environmental impacts. The CalEnviroScreen 2.0 assessment shows that the census tract within the site region and adjacent areas fall under the highest 10 CalEnviroScreen range. The project will address these adverse environmental impacts through both on-site water and open space management, enhancing water and air quality, water security, and opportunities for the public to access a safe outdoor space that promotes healthy physical activity. Further, the site will open up two additional acres of park and open space to provide additional relief this disadvantaged community that is both park poor and home to households with children under the age of 18.

The Center has the advantage of close proximity, 1/4-mile walking distance, to residential areas allowing a sense of community to take root. Through its positioning, The Center will successfully serve as a demonstration to surrounding communities to advance the operating strategies that provide the benefits of stormwater capture and water conservation, as well as, restore access to this degraded and underutilized asset of the equestrian district and historically agrarian community. The project will extend River Park's existing 1.5 mile loop into a currently inaccessible area and significantly improve the overall appeal and draw of this unique riverfront recreational area. This extension also provides the project area with internal walking pathways as they weave through the water management and interpretive features for visitors to participate in an active learning experience.

D - DESCRIPTION OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals:

- Incorporate climate resilient improvements into the structures and site to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems by incorporating roof rainwater capture and greywater systems, rain gardens; permeable paving; native vegetation and water conserving irrigation system.
- Improve urban watershed health by providing stormwater resource management and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Promote home retrofits and new design strategies to capture, cleanse and store rainwater for later use and/or infiltrate stormwater onsite which will greatly reduce untreated rainfall runoff from entering our rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal water.
- Promote the protection and restoration of natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management by harvesting rainwater, recapturing and reusing irrigation water,

and infiltrating stormwater runoff to recharge aquifers.

- Increase wildlife habitat diversity and health by re-establishing native plant communities.
- Provide public education on: watershed health, water conservation mechanisms, natural habitats and ecosystems and history of the region.
- Seek to change public perceptions toward climate adaptive residential landscapes through Interpretive signage and features that highlight permeable hardscape and home water conservation techniques including rain garden grading, cisterns, low water plantings, and incorporating environmental oriented art installations that can both beautify homes while harvesting and/or conserving water resources (e.g. rain chains, bird baths, low water loss water features, repurposing fountains).

Objectives:

- Collect and cleanse the first flush from rain events and then capture, filter and store rainwater via a system capable of managing a 34-inch rain event.
- Recharge the underground aquifer when rain capture systems have reached full capacity by diverting any excess flows to permeable landscape features to infiltrate onsite and through natural process of soil filtration improve the quality of ground water.
- Provide a greywater system for localized irrigation needs.
- Track the annual usage of potable water.
- Provide a resource center and access to 2 additional acres of open space for the park poor and disadvantaged communities bordering the project site.
- Sequester carbon through the addition of onsite trees and shrubs and use of onsite generated resources such as solar power collection, as feasible.
- Increase access to water, habitat, nesting and food supply for native wildlife species attracted to the area via the San Gabriel River and Pacific Flyaway corridor.
- Provide additional canopy shade cover to reduce the urban heat island effect.

The WCA will secure the necessary permits and approvals, oversee project implementation, track performance, report progress quarterly, and manage contracts for project implementation and construction to professional bids that offer the greatest valued benefits.

E - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Many community meetings for the River Park (formerly Duck Farm) project have been held in years past as part of the planning and development of the larger vision for the River Parkway of which the River Center is a component. These included workshops, planning sessions, attendance and presentations to community and service organization meetings and a site open house.

In 2019, several Community engagement activities were conducted to ask residents for ideas for design and programming of the Center. This outreach was conducted using two methods.

Method #1: In-Person Meetings

These meetings were conducted on site, at the nearby San Angelo Park facilities, and at other locations where various organizations host their regular meetings. At these meetings, WCA conducted a presentation and residents were divided into small groups in order to participate in a brainstorming activity where they were asked to generate ideas for recreation features they want for the project. These were written down on a large white paper. Next, the groups came together to review and reach a consensus on which features they wanted. Groups were then shown a large map of the site. They were asked to identify where on the map features should be located, and then list their reason why. These were written down directly on the map. Next the groups came together to review and reach a consensus on which locations they wanted and why. Finally, groups participated in a brainstorming activity where they were asked to generate ideas for how the project could look more beautiful. They also were asked what park elements would increase their feeling of

safety. These were written down on a large white paper. The groups then came together to review and reach a consensus.

Resident ideas for recreation features:

- walking trails
- community garden
- sitting areas with tables
- shade structures
- interpretive areas
- family-friendly river overlooks
- native plant gardens
- shaded areas
- wayfinding and educational signage
- sound attenuation along freeway

Resident design ideas for these features:

- trees for shade
- 'natural looking': use of wood, boulders, native soils
- retain the look/feel of the current farmhouse for the River Center
- native plants with different heights, forms, and textures
- native plants that are good for wildlife and pollinators

Resident ideas for locations and reasons:

- walking paths throughout the park and gardens for exercise
- wayfinding signs at key locations along River and at the River Center so residents will know where in the park they can go
- interpretive signs throughout the River Center gardens so residents can understand what they are looking at
- restrooms that can be accessed from the exterior of the River Center so they can be more conveniently reached without going inside
- seating under shade structures and near trees for shade
- trees and/or walls near the freeway to keep out the sound

Resident ideas for safety:

- security cameras
- good visibility
- ranger patrols

- Resident ideas for beautification:
- as many trees as possible
- native plants with different bloom cycles
- colorful native plants
- decorative fencing
- public art
- rocks and boulders

Method #2: Tabling at Events.

At events where meeting facilities did not allow a focused discussion (such as tabling events), residents were asked to write down their preferred features/activities) on a paper at the table. They also used stickers to vote their preference on popular activities/features that had previously been identified at earlier community meetings.

Resident ideas / preferences for activities:

- Outdoor fitness classes
- Community art gallery
- Nutrition / Health classes
- Gardening demonstrations
- Walking Clubs / Guided nature walks
- Youth job training / Volunteer programs
- Bird watching
- Nature craft activities
- Music performances

RMC Environmental Justice Policy

This development project conforms to RMC Environmental Justice Policy (per Section 2.4 of the RMC Grant Guidelines) by considering people of all races, cultures and incomes during the planning, decision-making, development and implementation of all programs, policies, and activities. This project also conforms to the RMC Tribal Consultation Policy (per Section 2.4 and 2.5 of the RMC Grant Guidelines) by ensuring effective government-to-government consultation between agencies and California's Tribes so that meaningful input is incorporated into any project activities that may affect tribal communities.

F - MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PLAN

The effectiveness of the systems and native plant establishment and long term maintenance will be evaluated, monitored and the success of the natural systems incorporated into the site to provide both water conservation and habitat enhancement that will be measured seasonally and annually with adaptations made to improve performance and sustainability of the project.

As the project will be a living demonstration site for homeowners to replicate, project deliverables will include home improvements and water conservation mechanisms, landscape planting and maintenance materials, invasive plant control techniques and habitat establishment monitoring with an observational rating system that measures certain habitat functions such as the attraction of pollinators, butterflies, birds and small mammals. The overall monitoring program is expected to use visual assessments and transects at select locations to track plant growth over time. A water management monitoring system will follow the as-built stormwater capture efficiency and tracks water bills over time. The WCA currently contracts with Conservation Corps and LA County Department of Agriculture to provide onsite management and stewardship activities of its properties.

The River Center and the larger River Park will be leased to the County of Los Angeles for operations and maintenance and thus will be managed on par and to the high-quality standards of County park and flood control facilities.

SECTION 2G - ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Watershed Conservation Authority was established in 2003 as a joint powers agency of the Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Since its inception the WCA has acquired over 376-acres of open space for future passive parks, trails, and/or watershed and habitat protection. During the past 18 years, the Authority has forwarded projects of various scales from regional to local. These efforts have included acquisition of open space in the mountains, foothills and along our urban rivers.

Major key implementation projects include the River Wilderness Park in Azusa, River Park in Avocado Heights, Parque Dos Rios in South Gate, Walnut Creek Habitat and Trail in San Dimas and East Fork at Oaks Picnic Area in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Each of these regionally important properties have completed planning, community engagement, CEQA and NEPA, and to varying degrees of design and navigated respective complex jurisdictional and permitting processes. Due to the complexities of their location, multiple jurisdictions and easements and the need to secure millions of dollars in grants to forward each project, many WCA signature projects are just now entering their construction phases. It should be noted that many large, multi-jurisdictional new regional park projects along and near urban rivers often take between 15 and 20 years to realize from inception of the idea to completion.

The following representative implementation/construction projects that are currently in, recently completed, or quickly moving into their respective construction phases:

1. **River Park** is a 30-acre riparian passive park along the San Gabriel River located in the unincorporated Los Angeles County in an equestrian district known as Avocado Heights. The project address is 255 San Fidel Ave, La Puente Ca 91746. The Scope of the project includes a neighborhood entry park, parking lot, pedestrian passageway, riparian and upland habitat, a dry streambed, bioswales, picnic area, restroom facilities, demonstration gardens of native and low water plants, water conservation gardens and home water capture features, river walk, river overlooks, interpretive features and graphics and visitor center. The total projected cost of this project is approximately \$18.5 Million. Secured funding sources include Federal (SEP), State (Prop 12, 40, 50, 84, 1 and 68), and Local (LA County Prop A and Flood Control, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County). The project started in 2007 and is currently under construction with an anticipated completion for Phase 1a by the end of 2022. This application is to fund GAP elements of this new Regional Park which includes the San Gabriel River Center and Gardens.
2. **Parque Dos Rios** is a 7-acre habitat enhancement open space project with an overlook along the Lower Los Angeles River Bike Trail in the City of South Gate. The habitat enhancement and overlook bike stop will provide cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians with a shaded viewing area along the trail with vista's into the habitat areas and the river confluence. Site amenities include benches, shade structure, interpretive graphics, bike racks, trash cans and decorative river trail entry gates, as well

as, raptor perches and habitat enhancement features in the landscape to support local fauna and flora. The project is located on Imperial Ave (33.930792, -118.176773), South Gate, CA. The total project cost was \$1.6 Million funded by a \$1.4 Million grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District Prop A and a \$200K Conservation Corps of Long Beach Prop 68 direct labor funding allocation. The project was constructed by the Conservation Corps of Long Beach and completed in August 2021. Additional site improvements and site hardening will be completed in 2022.

3. **Azusa River Wilderness Park** is an 80-acre urban wildlands interface nature park in Azusa Canyon located along a natural reach of the San Gabriel River at the Gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in the City of Azusa. The project address is 100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road, Azusa, CA 91702. The park improvements include a children's nature play area, walking paths, a bike trail overlook with vistas through the foothills to downtown Los Angeles, river overlooks of the natural river reach and riparian habitat and steep canyon walls, seating areas, picnicking, a pavilion, interpretation features and graphics, decorative fencing, parking improvements, a restroom facility, native plants and bioswales/dry streambeds. Funding for the project has been partially secured from the following entities: RMC Prop 84 and 1 grants; River Parkway Grant (Prop 84); Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District (Prop A) grant.

Grantee: Watershed Conservation Authority

Project Name: San Gabriel River Center and Gardens Project

Total Budget Request: \$2.5M

	Work Plan Task Number and Name	Cost Per Task	RMC Climate Resilience Grant Program	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (SEP)	RMC Prop 1 (RMC 17023)	RMC Prop 68 (RMC 19013)
1	Farm House Renovation, Building Demo & Site Preparation, Exterior Restrooms	\$ 2,519,720.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,519,720.00
2	Water Conservation Gardens, Stormwater LIDs, Habitat Enhancement, Exterior Site Amenities	\$ 3,221,754.00	\$ 1,080,000.00	\$ 1,620,132.00	\$ 412,322.00	\$ 109,300.00
3	Admin / PM / CM	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
4	A&E / Field A&E / Consultants	\$ 575,200.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 275,200.00	\$ 110,000.00
5	Permitting / Insurance / Labor Compliance / Inspections	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
6	Indirect	\$ 478,678.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 88,678.00	\$ 190,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 7,415,352.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,000,132.00	\$ 891,200.00	\$ 2,024,020.00

July 21, 2022 - Item 11

RESOLUTION 2022-27

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO
RATIFY APPLICATION TO THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE
GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CENTER AND GARDENS
PROJECT**

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

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

WHEREAS, this action will ratify application to RMC Climate Resilience funds for the San Gabriel River Center and Gardens Project; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of General Funds by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the Climate Resilience Grant Program in Section 69 of the Budget Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the RMC has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program in its jurisdiction, setting up necessary procedures, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the RMC require the WCA's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of the Application before submission of said Application to the State, and

WHEREAS, the WCA, as Applicant, will enter into a contract with the State of California for the 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 July 21, 2022.
4. **RATIFIES** the application to the RMC Climate Resilience Grant Program.
5. **CERTIFIES** that the San Gabriel River Center and Gardens project is consistent with local or regional land use plans or Programs; and
6. **CERTIFIES** that the Project is consistent with the goals of the Climate Resilience Grant Program including multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and
7. **CERTIFIES** that the WCA has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project that is being submitted for funding consideration; and
8. **CERTIFIES** that the WCA has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Grant Program Guidelines; and
9. **APPOINTS** the WCA governing board chair, 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 2022-27

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On July 21, 2022

Herlinda Chico
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Elizabeth St. John
Deputy Attorney General