DATE: **September 15, 2022**

TO: **WCA Governing Board**

FROM: **Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager**

THROUGH: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Item 13: Consideration of a resolution to (1) approve grant application and (2) accept funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for San Gabriel River Technical Assistance and Planning.**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board (1) ratify grant application for Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars ($236,000) and (2) accept funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for San Gabriel River Technical Assistance and Planning.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The WCA staff prepared a grant application included as Exhibit A. Proposed initiatives will expand timely data collection and actionable knowledge of the San Gabriel River watershed to inform current and future study, plan work, restoration implementation, and site management across the study area. Results are to be publicly available and shared in meaningful dialog structured to identify project opportunities with a focus on restoring and daylighting riparian systems, supporting stronger river and stream-adjacent projects, and data-driven land management.

BACKGROUND: The LA Regional Water Quality Control Board has proposed a reinterpretation of the Basin Plan objective for temperature for warm freshwater habitat (WARM) beneficial use, requiring no more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit above natural temperature, and no more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit as a result of waste discharges. Accordingly the Regional Water Board has proposed to reduce temperature effluent and receiving water limits in surface water discharge permits for LA County Sanitation Districts Water Reclamation Plants.

In response the LA County Sanitation Districts have initiated a temperature study for surface water discharges into the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo watersheds. The study is to evaluate conditions and set plans for source control at the 5 water reclamation plants in these areas for actions spanning the next ten years. This study represents a significant opportunity to not only inform these efforts, but to serve as a reference for actions across the RMC territory.

Supplemental study has been discussed with the lead authors of the ongoing temperature study and would be intended to support findings and impact of work for the outcomes of the study as well as project developments across the RMC and WCA territory. There is readiness for project work with support from local organizations including the study lead. Engagement is planned to connect with communities across jurisdictions. For influence on ongoing study and subsequent actions a majority of project work must be completed within a year by Fall 2023 with an imperative to begin as soon as possible for approvals and data collection through the winter 2022/2023 rain season.

Less than 10% of historic wetlands areas are estimated to remain across LA County with resources significantly threatened by development, climate impacts, and resource and land management. At the same time, these systems represent the richest and most abundant ecology of all plant communities in the region with the greatest potential to provide natural services—services inextricably linked with the region's most pressing challenges—of ensuring water security, clean air and water, greenhouse gas sequestration, flood risk management, livable communities that are cool, safe, and thriving—and all of the living beings that are part of these functions, food production, and our collective natural heritage. Incredibly there is little documented understanding of species distribution in the riparian systems of the San Gabriel River watershed, with major gaps in understanding of impacts of plant material on water quality and where creeks and streams are located for possible project work.

Goals for the project include adding to knowledge of water temperature impacts, knowledge of species presence in the San Gabriel River and tributaries, and knowledge of geography in areas where there has not been systematic documentation. At the same time this knowledge will be compounded by targeted efforts to engage with local stakeholders and communities adjacent study areas to identify and develop specific project concepts that may be advanced pursuant to state priorities and initiatives including 30x30, the State Wildlife Action Plan, and local mitigation measures.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The proposed action would approve a grant application for a technical assistance grant from the RMC with a project budget of $236,000. The proposed performance period is from award through February 28, 2024 for the following scope:

#	Task	Value
1	Project Management	$ 18,000
2	Sensor Approvals, Purchase, Installation, and Data Collection	$ 30,000
3	Biological Survey	$ 50,000
4	Creek and Stream Comprehensive Spatial Dataset Development	$ 30,000
5	Stakeholder and Community Engagement	$ 20,000
6	Project Concept Development	$ 70,000
7	Indirect	$ 18,000
	Total	$ 236,000

RMC GRANT PROGRAM
Grant Application Form

1. **Grant Program:**

☐ **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Lower LA River ***
☐ **Prop 1** (Water Bond, 2014) **Lower LA River ***
**within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

☐ **Prop 68** (Park/Water Bond, 2018) **Regionwide**
☒ **Small Grants Program** (between$50,000-$300,000) **
***w/ Small Grants, also select a primary grant program*

2. **Applicant Information:**

Name of Applicant	Johnathan Perisho		
Title	Project Manager		
Name of Agency	Watershed Conservation Authority		
Address	100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Road		
Telephone No.		**Tele-Extension**	
Email			

3. **Project Name** (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)*(max. 50 characters):*

USGR Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning

4. **Project Description** (150 words or less)**:**

Local species distribution, impacts of local vegetation on water quality and cooling, geography of creeks and streams, and dialog with stakeholders and community are key in advancing multivalent solutions for climate resilience, habitat, and water security. The proposed initiatives will expand timely data collection and actionable knowledge of the San Gabriel River watershed to inform current and future study, plan work, restoration implementation, and site management across the study area. Results are to be publicly available and shared in meaningful dialog structured to identify project opportunities with a focus on restoring and daylighting riparian systems, supporting stronger river and stream-adjacent projects, and data-driven land management.

5. **Program Type:**

☐ Urban Lands ☒ Rivers/Tributary Parkways ☐ Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. **Project Type** (check all that apply)**:**

☒ Planning
☐ Acquisition
☐ Open Space
☐ Development
☒ Technical Assistance (Prop 68 only)
☐ Low Impact Recreation Wetland
☐ Habitat Restoration Upland
☒ Habitat Restoration
☒ Riparian Habitat Restoration
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation
☐ Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage

7. **Project Location:**

Address:		City:
County:	District:	County Sup. District:
Los Angeles		1, 4, 5
Senate Dist:	Assembly Dist.:	Congressional Dist.:
22, 25, 32	41, 48, 49, 56	27, 32, 38
Lat/Long:	Parcel No(s).:	

8. **Will this project result in areas of <u>restored or protected</u> habitat?** ☒ No (skip to question 9) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

☐ Upland Habitat Acres:_____ ☐ Riparian Restoration Acres:_____ ☐ Coastal Wetlands Acres:_____

☐ Land Protection Acres:_____ ☐ Oak Woodland Restoration Acres:_____ ☐ Freshwater Wetlands Acres: _____

9. **Will this project result in <u>new or improved</u> park/open space?** ☒ No (skip to question 10) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

☐ No. of Acres: _____ ☐ Trail Miles: _____ ☐ Urban Forestry, No. of trees: _____

10. **Does project serve a severely disadvantaged community?**

(includes projects located in or that serve a severely disadvantaged community, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average (Pub. Resources Code, §80002(n))

☒ Yes, Project serves an SDAC ☐ No, Project does not serve an SDAC

11. **Does your project involve an acquisition?** ☒ No (skip to question 12) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application

Status:	☐ Option ☐ Other (Describe): ☐ Willing Seller Letter	
Appraisal:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:
Current Title Report:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:
Environmental Assessment:	☐ Yes:	Company:
	☐ No:	Date of completion, if known:

12. **Does your project involve development/implementation?** ☒ No (skip to question 13) ☐ Yes (fill in following information)

Copies of substantiating documents must be submitted with your application

Land Tenure:

Do you have site control? ☐ No ☐ Yes (describe the type of site control [fee, lease, easement, etc.] or Agreement):

Land Use:

Is the proposed land use consistent with existing land use ordinances? ☐ Yes ☐ No *(Note: Project can only be considered for funding if there is proof of the local jurisdiction's support for a zone change or a conditional use permit)*.
Comments:

Permits:

Do you have permits? ☐ No ☐ Yes, answer questions below

Agency	Yes	No	N/A	Date	Comments
California Fish and Wildlife	☐	☐	☐		
State Water Control Resources Board	☐	☐	☐		
US Army Corp of Engineers	☐	☐	☐		
US Fish and Wildlife	☐	☐	☐		
Los Angeles County Flood Control District	☐	☐	☐		
City/County Construction Permits	☐	☐	☐		
Coastal Commission	☐	☐	☐		
Other:	☐	☐	☐		

Design:

What is the status of your project design (check the most appropriate box)?

☐ General project concept with no professional design work
☐ Professionally drafted concept design
☐ Professionally drafted design with defined tasks and budget line items
☐ 30% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
☐ 60% construction drawings with tasks and budget line items
☐ Approved construction drawings with all permits

What is the status of the environmental documentation for this project (check the most appropriate box)?

- ☐ No CEQA/NEPA work initiated
- ☐ Initial Study completed, date of completion: _____
- ☐ Negative Declaration, date of certification: _____
- ☐ Categorically Exempt, date of certification: _____
- ☐ CEQA/NEPA in process, expected date of completion: _____
- ☐ CEPA/NEPA completed, date of completion: _____

13. **Have you completed the California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation Process (Appendix E in guidelines). Required for Prop 1, recommended for Prop 68. Check only one:**

- ☒ Exempt, this project is a planning or acquisition (or Prop 68)
- ☐ Yes, state the CCC that your agency is proposing to hire to complete the project:
- ☐ No, explain why the CCC cannot provide the services for your project (summarize here, and explain in Section 3 of submittal): _____
- ☐ Other, explain the Youth Employment Program (summarize here, and explain in Section 3 of submittal): _____

14. **Funding information:**

Amount Requested: $ 236,000

Is your funding request for the full amount necessary to complete this project? ☐ No ☒ Yes

Matching Funds: If yes, total amounts, status, and funding agency (include additional lines if necessary):

Source	Status		Amount
		Total	

15. **Assuming that RMC grant funds may be awarded within next 6 months, what is the expected timeline for this project?**

Start Date	Completion Date
December 1, 2022	February 28, 2024

16. **Signatures**

Name of Person authorized to execute agreements, if different from applicant:

Name	Herlinda Chico		
Title	Board Chair		
Name of Agency	Watershed Conservation Authority		
Address	100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Road		
Telephone No.	626.815.1019	**Tel. Extension**	
Email			

DocuSigned by:
4316A3C9FF6048E...
Signature of Applicant:

Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager
Name/Title:

August 18, 2022
Date

DocuSigned by:
BF2ECE379336487...
Signature of Authorized Official

Herlinda Chico, Board Chair
Name/Title:

August 18, 2022
Date

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning
Project Description

A. Project Description

The proposed initiatives will expand timely data collection and actionable knowledge of the San Gabriel River watershed, geography, and influences on water quality and habitat. Scope includes (1) project management, (2) installation of additional water temperature sensors and (3) biological inventories which will be significant in addressing known gaps, (4) inventory and development of a geospatial inventory for creeks and streams, (5) Stakeholder and community engagement, (6) concept development for a minimum of two projects, and (7) indirect administrative costs.

The LA County Sanitation Districts have initiated a temperature study for surface water discharges into the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo watersheds. The study is to evaluate conditions and set plans for source control at the 5 water reclamation plants in these areas for actions spanning the next decade. This study represents a significant opportunity to not only inform these efforts, but to serve as a reference for actions across the RMC territory.

The LA Regional Water Quality Control Board has proposed a reinterpretation of the Basin Plan objective for temperature for warm freshwater habitat (WARM) beneficial use, requiring no more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit above natural temperature, and no more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit as a result of waste discharges. Accordingly the Regional Water Board has proposed to reduce temperature effluent and receiving water limits in surface water discharge permits for LA County Sanitation Districts Water Reclamation Plants.

Task 1 Project Management
WCA staff time to support administration, tracking, and reporting of grant and initiatives under the following tasks, including direct staff time to manage and deliver tasks.

Task 2 Sensor Approvals, Purchase, Installation, and Data Collection
This work will include securing approvals, purchase, installation, and data collection for up to 6 sensors at sites identified to serve as controls demonstrating conditions with different assemblages of vegetation. Findings from these sensors are to be compared against 22 sensors installed downstream of treatment plants as part of an ongoing temperature study.

Together with biological survey the findings are expected to make clear impacts of vegetation and morphology on temperature which may influence management recommendations for addressing water quality targets. A clearer association between riparian vegetation and temperature will be a significant demonstration for management methods in Southern California. As a case study this may further compound understanding of known associations of riparian vegetation with reduced pollutants in water and air, carbon sequestration, and the particular significance of increasingly rare riparian vegetation cover and associated species.

Approvals for installation and data collection of sensors will be completed through a specialized contractor able to facilitate work consistent with data collection of ongoing study.

Task 3 Biological Survey
Biological inventories would be focused around reaches including existing and proposed new sensors in the study to support a more robust inventory of fauna and flora throughout the upper San Gabriel River and tributary system in and adjacent urban areas. Species would specifically include inventory of vegetation, fish, and amphibians observed.

Task 4 Creek and Stream Comprehensive Spatial Dataset Development
There are creeks and streams throughout the San Gabriel River Watershed for which there is no current inventory, largely outside of the rights of way of the County Flood Control District and Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictions. This task would concern remote sensing, reference to historic records, and limited ground truthing to develop a comprehensive digital geospatial inventory of creeks and streams. This dataset being made publicly available would be instrumental for identifying sites where daylighting and restoration may be most feasible.

Task 5 Stakeholder and Community Engagement
Meaningful engagement and listening to learn are key in identifying demand for facilities and improvements, and for sharing information about implications of study and programs that may impact potential improvements in the near and long-term. This task will focus on engagement with stakeholders including local community members and government agency staff and representatives in communities where strong project potential has been identified from geospatial inventory of creeks and streams and associated digital tools and references.

Task 6 Project Concept Development
Engagement efforts will be essential in identifying and informing concepts for a minimum of two projects. Support for potential projects, demand for associated amenities, and interest in stewardship will be foundational for these efforts. Concept development will be structured to represent outcomes of project improvements including measures such as volume of potential water capture as well as graphic look and feel to prepare groundwork for next steps of seeking resources for construction drawing development and subsequent installation.

Task 7 Indirect
Line item of up to 10% in indirect as an eligible grant cost for administration and associated operational costs proportionate to WCA expenditures.

B. Statement of Need for the Proposed Project

Understanding natural systems is foundational to effectively support functions—this is the core of proposed scope, and with that understanding communicating with people to inform decision-making and identification of opportunities for improvements compatible with community interests. Developing references for impact is instrumental in building consensus and choosing actions that can promote more riparian cover. Local examples are most impactful with limited data collection in Southern California, and significant gaps in understanding of species distribution in the San Gabriel River watershed.

Less than 10% of wetlands areas are estimated to remain across LA County, with remaining resources significantly threatened by development, climate impacts, and resource and land management. At the same time, these systems represent the richest and most abundant ecology of all plant communities in the region with the greatest potential to provide natural services—services inextricably linked with the

region's most pressing challenges—of ensuring water security, clean air and water, greenhouse gas sequestration, flood risk management, livable communities that are cool, safe, and thriving—and all of the living beings that are part of these functions, food production, and our collective natural heritage. Incredibly there is little documented understanding of species distribution in the riparian systems of the San Gabriel River watershed, with major gaps in understanding of impacts of plant material on water quality and where creeks and streams are even located for possible project work.

Seeps, creeks, and streams are particularly significant for potential restoration and daylighting work in urban areas. The upper portions of watersheds are most appropriate to begin restoration work, from there working downstream—where there is less volume and velocity of stormwater and less concentrations of pollutants which concentrate with movement downstream, particularly through drains and channels that drain water quickly, increasing peak flow where most impacts occur. Natural systems are better able to manage lower concentrations of peak flow and pollutants. Upstream in our region there are also often closer connections to existing natural areas where species can move and support healthier populations.

Project work is consistent with regional and state plans, including the San Gabriel River Master Plan, LA County Bicycle Master Plan, California Water Action Plan, California's 30x30 conservation framework, and the State Wildlife Action Plan. Rivers and tributaries touch an extraordinary amount of land, making them particularly significant in addressing equitable access—a majority of the study area is within ¼ mile of residential areas and portions are within ¼ mile of transportation hubs further connected through integrated trail networks that are expanding. These provide opportunities to serve large and diverse populations with outcomes and demonstrations of regenerative land management. Nature-based solutions provide resilience with significant work being done without human inputs, contributing to resilience of existing and future facilities.

Results of this work have strong potential to inform direct decision making of materials and planning to support species known to be present and supported by local systems. Dependent on where creeks and streams are identified, there is recognized potential at existing parks as well as potential for different management choices and additional acquisitions of underused land. Bringing functioning nature into urban areas is key for environmental justice concerns, improving quality of places where people live and work. Vegetation in a river significantly increases biological functions, visibility, and use as demonstrated by the Glendale Narrows. As recently as 1997 vegetation in the LA River was removed as standard practice. Today the vegetated stretch at Glendale Narrows is often described as restored, as vegetation has grown back from changed management protocols. Demonstrating beneficial impacts of riparian vegetation can influence steps to manage lands across watersheds.

Supplemental study has been discussed with the lead authors of the ongoing temperature study and would be intended to support findings and impact of work for the outcomes of the study and project developments across the RMC territory. There is readiness for project work with support from local organizations and the lead on an associated study. Engagement is planned to connect with communities across jurisdictions. For influence on ongoing study and subsequent actions a majority of project work must be completed within a year by Fall 2023, and an imperative to begin as soon as possible for approvals and data collection through the winter 2022/2023 rain season.

C. Description of Audience and Geographic Area Served

Site locations are in and along the San Gabriel River and tributaries largely focused in the East San Gabriel Valley through diverse communities in cities and unincorporated communities including large areas historically underserved and recognized as disadvantaged and significantly disadvantaged through measures of income and environmental impacts including extensive areas with CalEnviroScreen values higher than 80%.

Through the existing San Gabriel River Bike Trail, San Jose Creek trails, Emerald Necklace, and San Gabriel Valley Greenway initiatives a significant growing population and demographic areas are along and connected to areas evaluated and potential improvements. Water quality and supply improvements impact nearly 2 million people served by this system as a primary water source, and all people that live across the study area share air and natural resources including habitats that may be better supported through proposed initiatives. Riparian vegetation is the most effective land cover at cleaning air and water, and would serve as a profound reintroduction of nature in communities that historically used and celebrated the San Gabriel River and streams. Proximity to the San Gabriel Mountains, San Jose Hills, and Puente Hills also supports movement and population resilience local plant and wildlife throughout.

D. Description of Goals and Objectives

Goals for the project include adding to knowledge of water temperature impacts, knowledge of species presence in the San Gabriel River and tributaries, and knowledge of geography in areas where there has not been systematic documentation. At the same time, this knowledge will be compounded by targeted efforts to engage with local stakeholders and communities adjacent study areas to identify and develop specific project concepts that may be advanced pursuant to state priorities and initiatives including 30x30, the State Wildlife Action Plan, and local mitigation measures.

Tasks 1 Project Management and 7 Indirect

- Goal: Deliver task objectives

Task 2 Sensor Approvals, Purchase, Installation, and Data Collection

- *Goal:* Inform San Gabriel River Temperature Study with control points of vegetated areas to demonstrate impact of plant assemblages on temperature
- *Objective:* Installation of up to 6 temperature sensors per lead author recommendations for compatibility
- *Objective:* Data findings from additional sensors considered with temperature sensors already installed for study

Task 3 Biological Survey

- *Goal:* Inform understanding of species assemblage and abundance throughout study area for reference in sensor data collection and for future reference in project work throughout Emerald Necklace, San Gabriel Valley Greenways, mitigation work, and project work throughout river and tributary system
- *Objective:* Inventory report on vegetation, fish, and amphibians at reaches including temperature sensors

Task 4 Creek and Stream Comprehensive Spatial Dataset Development

- *Goal:* Facilitate and inform restoration, daylighting, and environmental enhancement projects which may be led by municipalities, agencies, and nonprofits

- *Objective:* Develop comprehensive geospatial inventory digital dataset of creeks and streams across the San Gabriel Valley Watershed to be made publicly available

Task 5 Stakeholder and Community Engagement

- *Goal:* Communicate significance of riparian resources and implications of study while learning about community interests and priorities
- *Objective:* Identify minimum two project locations where there is jurisdictional and community support for project work and associated amenities to be incorporated into project concept development
- *Objective:* Develop materials that communicate major points of study work

Task 6 Project Concept Development

- *Goal:* Develop high-integrity project concepts for ecological restoration compatible with community interests
- *Objective:* Prepare minimum two project concepts including graphics and project impact measures to be support next steps in project development

E. Community Outreach

The WCA seeks to support environmental equity and justice which includes building informed consent and consensus among stakeholders. Across a large territory and with diverse populations these goals are challenging, but no less important and most informative at a local level with residents and potential users.

Study alone will have minimal impact without being shared. A dialog is significant to learn from local stakeholders about interests, concerns, and opportunities which can both better inform project work and communication methods while providing information to leverage investment in the proposed study, assistance, and planning. Engagement is both communicating and listening. An important facet of serving people is asking how people want to be served and represented, particularly as we talk about historically underserved communities where there may be a history of lacking communication and trust.

WCA staff will reach out to local community stakeholders including city and agency staff, representatives, and/or community members to identify interests in project locations identified through remote sensing and data collection and assessments. Stakeholders will largely be identified though agency contacts and local partners including representative deputies, agency staff, NGO staff, and community leaders. This work may also reference recent engagement efforts for the San Gabriel Valley Greenways Strategic Implementation Plan. The WCA will also develop materials to be shared across platforms with partners concerning study results and data. Additionally, spatial inventory of creeks and streams will be provided to County staff for hosting on the County GIS Data Portal.

F. Monitoring and Assessment Plan

- Objectives are to be delivered through project work, and to be tracked as part of consistent project management work and reporting.
- Following project implementation WCA staff anticipates continued promotion of developed datasets and reference through WCA resources to empower nonprofits, community leaders, and

city and agency staff to advance effective project work and land management outcomes, while also continuing to pursue impactful projects for development and implementation.

- The WCA will continue to track project inventories internally, and active projects through the WCA website and partner collaboration including Emerald Necklace Strategic Coordination Meeting.
- The WCA also continues to promote expansion of elements of the Gateway Greening Plan and development of a collaborative portal publicly sharing data, proposed and active project inventories, and projections of potential project impacts across the wider region for identification and tracking.

G. Organizational Capacity

The WCA is prepared to provide these services both as a cross-jurisdictional local government agency with comprehensive objectives aligned with the RMC, and also as an entity empowered to adopt and lead projects helping build capacity in high-need and underserved communities.

Established in 2003 the WCA is a local public entity of the State of California recognized as a joint powers authority, exercising the joint authorities of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) pursuant to Section 65000 et seq. of the Government Code.

The purpose of the WCA is to expand and improve open space and recreational opportunities for the conservation, restoration, and environmental enhancement of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed area consistent with the goals of flood protection, water supply, groundwater recharge and water conservation.
WCA's vision of Connecting Communities through Nature embraces a 'work with nature' approach to watershed enhancement. WCA partners with local and regional entities to plan and implement projects to improve our watersheds through investment in open space, parks, trails, bikeways, and greenways. WCA maintains more than 500 acres of open space, ranging from foothills lands to urban river parks that serve some of the densest and most diverse neighborhoods in the country.

The WCA has led the acquisition, planning and development of a variety of park and open space projects with complex jurisdictional and entitlement considerations. This work has provided the WCA with experience relative to the proposed scope of work, including multi-jurisdictional coordination, community engagement, and site programming/planning. Sample projects completed and in progress include: the Azusa River Wilderness Park Acquisition, Planning, Design and Implementation (approximately $10.2M); Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Park Acquisition and Planning (approximately $8.5M); Parque Dos Rios Habitat Enhancement and LA River Trail Bike Stop ($1.4M); Duck Farm River Park Design and Implementation ($10.2M); as well as, Master Planning efforts for Cattle Canyon Public Engagement and Improvement Plan ($770k); Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan ($630K); and the Emerald Necklace Feasibility Study & Implementation Plan ($560K), among others.

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning

Tasklist and Timeline

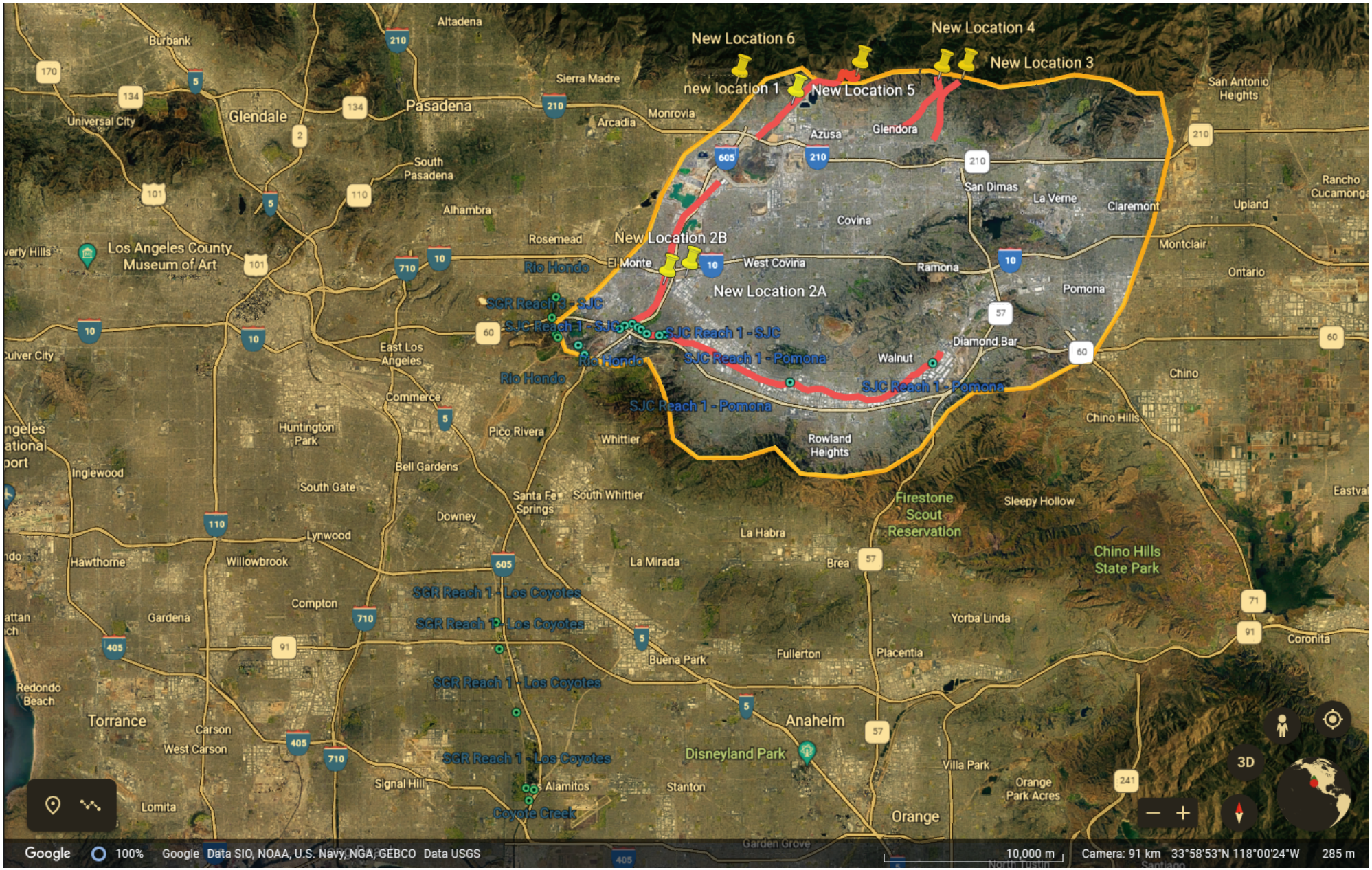
#	Tasks	2022	2023												2024	
		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1	Project Management															
2	Sensor Approvals, Purchase, Installation, and Data Collection															
3	Biological Survey															
4	Creek and Stream Comprehensive Spatial Dataset Development															
5	Stakeholder and Community Engagement															
6	Project Concept Development															
7	Indirect															
	Project Closeout															

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning

Budget

#	Task	Value
1	Project Management	$ 18,000
2	Sensor Approvals, Purchase, Installation, and Data Collection	$ 30,000
3	Biological Survey	$ 50,000
4	Creek and Stream Comprehensive Spatial Dataset Development	$ 30,000
5	Stakeholder and Community Engagement	$ 20,000
6	Project Concept Development	$ 70,000
7	Indirect	$ 18,000
	Total	$ 236,000

Location Map



Legend

- Existing Sensor Locations
- Potential New Sensor Locations
- Stream Inventory Area
- Potential Biological Survey Sections

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT
A Public Agency for Environmental Research

August 15, 2022

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: SUPPORT FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PROPOSAL FOR UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PLANNING

We are pleased to support the Watershed Conservation Authority proposal for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed technical support and planning. This work will create publicly available resources and advance data-driven management and implementation of projects for greater understanding of the riparian systems in the watershed. Key elements of the proposal include adding water quality sensors in the upper watershed to serve as controls documenting functions of healthy river and stream reaches; providing biological inventories of amphibians, fish, and vegetation to better understand existing conditions; developing a spatial data inventory of creeks and streams; and conceptual development of at least two project sites for restoration work in the San Gabriel River Watershed.

Relationships between temperature and habitat are key to determining the ability of streams to support species of management concern, and to plan for restoring streams in light of drought, climate change, and other factors that can affect stream temperatures. An ongoing temperature study of the San Gabriel River is a significant opportunity to inform current and future planning and implementation efforts with more robust data collection. There are major gaps in inventories and understanding of existing biological resources that may impact or may be impacted by project work both in the near and long-term. Better understanding these inventories can inform project priorities, native plant material selections, and site management among many other factors.

There is currently no comprehensive spatial dataset for creeks and streams outside Flood Control and Army Corps facilities. These represent some of the greatest opportunities to improve natural systems functions for cooling, carbon sequestration, water and air quality, water supply, and to support species diversity and abundance. From the state to local levels there are also often funding opportunities for restoration projects, and there have been few proposed in the area. These restoration projects rely on long-term temperature data to

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT
A Public Agency for Environmental Research

support project plan; unfortunately, this data is often lacking. This work presents strong steps toward making more restoration projects possible by filling key data gaps.

We strongly support this work moving forward to be available for community leaders, agencies, and to continue planning and design of effective projects and conservation in the region.

Please contact me at (714) 755-3233 or by email at erics@sccwrp.org if you require additional information. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Eric Stein

Eric D. Stein, Dr.Env.
Department Head, Biology Department
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

August 22, 2022

Mr. Mark Stanley
Executive Officer
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: SUPPORT FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PROPOSAL FOR UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PLANNING

Mr. Stanley:

We are pleased to support the Watershed Conservation Authority proposal for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed technical support and planning. This work will create publicly available resources and advance data-driven management and implementation of projects for greater understanding of the riparian system. Key elements of the proposal include adding water quality sensors in the upper watershed to serve as controls demonstrating effective functions of thriving river and stream reaches; biological inventory of amphibians, fish, and vegetation to better understand existing conditions; development of a spatial data inventory of creeks and streams; and conceptual development of at least two project sites for restoration work in the San Gabriel River Watershed.

An ongoing temperature study of the San Gabriel River is a significant opportunity to inform current and future planning and implementation efforts with more robust data collection. There are major gaps in inventories and understanding of existing biological resources that may impact or may be impacted by project work both in the near and long-term. Better understanding these inventories can inform project priorities, native plant material selections, and site management among many other factors.

There is currently no comprehensive spatial dataset for creeks and streams outside Flood Control and Army Corps facilities. These represent some of the greatest opportunities to improve natural systems functions for cooling, carbon sequestration, water and air quality, water supply, and to support species diversity and abundance. From the state to local levels there are also often funding opportunities for restoration projects, and there have been few proposed in the area. This work presents strong steps toward making more restoration projects possible.

We strongly support this work moving forward to be available for community leaders, agencies, and to continue to improve on the impacts and effectiveness of projects and conservation in the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Trout Unlimited – South Coast 923

Robert Blankenship, B.A.
Chapter Secretary

The RIVER PROJECT
12026 Hoffman St., # 304
Studio City, California 91604
tel: 818-980-9660
www.TheRiverProject.org

August 16, 2022

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: SUPPORT FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PROPOSAL FOR UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PLANNING

We are pleased to support the Watershed Conservation Authority proposal for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed technical support and planning. This work will create publicly available resources and advance data-driven management and implementation of projects for greater understanding of the riparian system. Key elements of the proposal include adding water quality sensors in the upper watershed to serve as controls demonstrating effective functions of thriving river and stream reaches; biological inventory of amphibians, fish, and vegetation to better understand existing conditions; development of a spatial data inventory of creeks and streams; and conceptual development of at least two project sites for restoration work in the San Gabriel River Watershed.

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Thank you for your consideration -

Melanie Winter
Founder & Director

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS
EMERALD NECKLACE

Donation Acknowledgement Letter

August 16, 2022

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

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Thank you for your consideration,

Claire Robinson
Managing Director
Amigos de Los Rios

September 15, 2022 - Item 14

RESOLUTION 2022-37

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68) FOR UPPER SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING

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 approves the application to the RMC California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) Grant Program for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program, 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, this action will accept a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning; 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 September 15, 2022.

4. **RATIFIES** the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC proposition 68 Grant Program for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68); and

5. **CERTIFIES** that Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning is consistent with local or regional land use plans or Programs; and

6. **CERTIFIES** that the Project is consistent with the goals for Proposition 68 developing urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration 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 Proposition 68 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.

10. **ACCEPTS** a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for $236,000 for Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Technical Assistance and Planning.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On September 15, 2022

_____
Herlinda Chico
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST:_____
Elizabeth St. John
Deputy Attorney General