DATE: **September 15, 2022**

TO: **WCA Governing Board**

FROM: **Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager**

THROUGH: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Item 14: Consideration of a resolution to approve award of contract to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP).**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board approve award of contract to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) for up to Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000) for supplemental water quality sensor installation and data collection on the conditions that (1) the WCA Governing Board approves grant application for Upper San Gabriel River Technical Assistance and Planning, and (2) a grant is awarded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) including this scope of work.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: SCCWRP is conducting a temperature study of the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers for the LA County Sanitation Districts pursuant to a LA Regional Water Board proposal to reduce temperature effluent and receiving water limits in surface water discharge permits. As part of the study temperature sensors have been installed in largely unvegetated stretches of river and creek channels. Concurrent supplemental data collection in vegetated areas with different assemblages not only presents an opportunity to inform these efforts, but also to serve as a reference for actions across the RMC and WCA territory.

Proposed scope includes securing approvals, purchase, installation, and data collection of up to 6 additional sensors in target locations in the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed, with location recommendations from SCCWRP highlighted in Exhibit A location map.

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. The wider initiative is to run for approximately 10 years including initial study, recommended actions, and implementation of recommended actions to reach targets. However, the ongoing study is to be completed by fall 2023 and for influence on the study and subsequent actions a majority of project work must be completed within a year with an imperative to begin as soon as possible for approvals and data collection through the winter 2022/2023 rain season.

The study lead SCCWRP is a public research and development agency that develops and applies next-generation science to improve management of aquatic systems in Southern California and beyond. Since the founding in 1969 SCCWRP has been developing strategies, tools, and technologies that the region's water quality management community relies on to more effectively protect and enhance the ecological health of Southern California's coastal ocean and watersheds. SCCWRP's 14 member agencies collectively represent the preeminent group of organizations responsible for protecting Southern California's coastal ocean and the watersheds that drain to it:

Wastewater treatment agencies

- City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
- Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
- Orange County Sanitation District
- City of San Diego Public Utilities Department

Stormwater management agencies

- Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- Orange County Public Works
- San Diego County Watershed Protection Program
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District

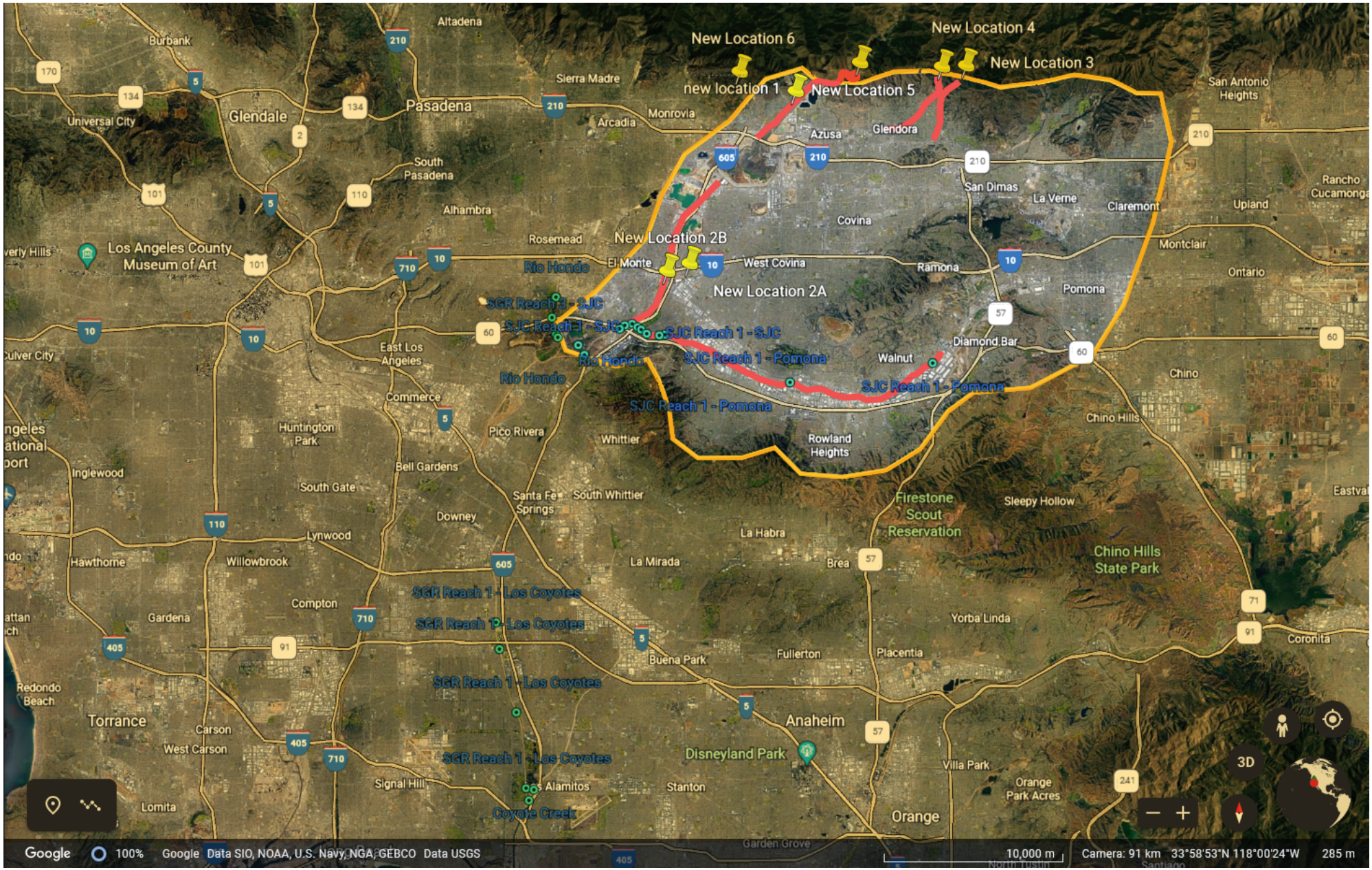
Water-quality regulatory agencies

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Ocean Protection Council

Through the SCCWRP Commission governing board this independent public agency works to build scientific consensus and unify member agencies and other environmental organizations around best-practices approaches for improving management of aquatic systems.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The recommended action would approve award of contract in an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000) on the conditions that (1) the WCA Governing Board approves grant application for Upper San Gabriel River Technical Assistance and Planning, and (2) grant is awarded by the RMC including this scope of work. This contract would be budgeted through the awarded grant.

Exhibit A: Location Map



Legend

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

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RESOLUTION 2022-38

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT (SCCWRP).

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 (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, this action will approve award of contract to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP**)**; 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. **AUTHORIZES** award of contract to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP).

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2022-38

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