

DATE: June 1, 2023

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 10: Consideration of a resolution to amend agreement with Conservation Corps of Long Beach for improvements at Parque dos Rios.

RECOMMENDATION: That the WCA Governing Board approve amendment of agreement with Conservation Corps of Long Beach for improvements at Parque dos Rios, increasing contract value by Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) to pay consultant a maximum not-to-exceed value of One Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$107,000) and extending performance period through August 31, 2023.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Parque dos Rios is an early implementation project of the Lower LA River revitalization efforts that was completed August 31, 2021 and further improved in response to site impacts for an official celebration held October 15, 2022. On February 13, 2023 the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) certified an amendment to shift the remaining budget on an awarded grant and extend the performance period to October 31, 2023 to complete additional related work.

At this time with site work substantially completed and under budget the WCA requested remaining grant funding be allocated to investigation into further site improvements for water management and planting on and adjacent to the site along the Los Angeles River Bikeway, and to continue site evaluation and improvements in response to site use and impacts. Work by CCLB would support presence on the site and continued support to the WCA in adaptively managing on-site amenities for hardening and public benefit.

To date the Conservation Corps of Long Beach has taken the lead on facilitating initial installation of two site overlooks, grading, planting, installation of interpretive elements, and subsequent site cleanup and hardening, including demolition and repair of facilities, replacing and improving gates, and installation of materials including hardened benches and moving and hardening waste containers, together with presence on site in tandem with improvements to observe and report on site conditions and continued resilience of site elements. The recommended action would approve an amendment to continue services for a safe, improved park site and to continue to align next steps with more substantial improvements.

BACKGROUND: The project consists of viewing areas and shade structure, decorative gates, seating, decorative waste containers, native plants and trees, slope stabilization, water service establishment and new water service meter, irrigation, bike racks, interpretive signage, and the preparatory work and grading for the project. Deed restrictions and notice of completion have been filed with the County-Recorder and the improvements are publicly accessible. These amenities are among the first completed in alignment with the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan as part of the wider Opportunity Area 3: Rio Hondo Confluence Area.

The WCA governing board approved award of construction contract to Parque dos Rios September 21, 2017 in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,100,000. Funding included The LA County Park and Open Space

District Proposition A funds in the amount of \$1,584,740.68, Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 Active Transportation Program (ATP) for \$195,000, and Proposition 68 Parks and Water Bond of 2018 for \$60,000.

The Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) was awarded a construction contract July 23, 2019 for the initial implementation which was completed August 31, 2021. Immediately substantial site impacts necessitated further work to improve and harden amenities, and the WCA applied for additional funding from the RMC to complete this work and assess what improvements may be most resilient and effective in this reach and current use level of early implementation projects. Investments into project development, target hardening, and landscape and interpretation elements that have demonstrated resistance to physical force and other tampering will continue to be key to high-integrity presentations setting expectations and support for continued work. Additionally, research and development of materials will set groundwork for continued improvements for 7 acres of upland habitat and potential for riparian wetland habitat as part of a wider water capture and conservation project.

On March 21, 2022 the RMC awarded \$167,000 to the WCA for these purposes, which was accepted by the WCA Governing Board on March 30, 2022 also approving an agreement with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to continue supporting the WCA in making improvements, evaluating the site, and maintaining presence for a not-to-exceed value of \$93,000. The WCA has led project management, coordinating an official delayed celebration for the opening of the park, research and development of materials to set a groundwork for restoration and water management opportunities, developing and ordering interpretation materials, and on ecological enhancements pending approvals and coordination with County Public Works Flood Control District.

Lessons learned from implementation and post implementation are already informing other project concepts and improvements will continue to be tested against prevailing site conditions, including vulnerabilities to vandalism, tagging, theft, and influences on sense of security, sense of place, and awareness of management and broader vision for river projects and stewardship. Significant impacts are expected even during daylight hours. Removal of gates has been unprecedented in other reaches understood to have higher visibility and levels of traffic, but which has happened at this project location. Multiple incidents of arson and violent crime have been noted over the performance period. At the same time, improvements made to date already see visitors at overlooks, and observations of small mammals and invertebrates in planted areas.

Geotechnical work completed under a Safe, Clean Water technical assistance grant identified subsurface waste that limits further work on the habitat portion of the site inaccessible to the public. Research and development of materials and estimates will be necessary to identify opportunities for restoration and further habitat improvements, including concepts for lining and restoring an existing Caltrans channel that drains to the site south of Imperial Highway for wetland habitat as part of a wider water capture, cleansing, and infiltration project as feasible and beneficial. This inclusive of groundwork to satisfy LA County Public Health conditions and supporting potential applications to related funding sources concerning acquisitions and development under relevant funding sources such as the Safe, Clean Water Program and others.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The proposed action would approve an amendment to an existing agreement increasing the value by Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) to a total not-to-exceed value of One Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$107,000) to be funded through an existing grant award of \$167,000 through RMC Proposition 1 funds.

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RESOLUTION 2023-13

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO AMEND AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT PARQUE DOS RIOS.

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established to facilitate joint projects between the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County Flood Control District; and

WHEREAS, The Watershed Conservation Authority has 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 amendment of agreement with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for improvements at Parque dos Rios; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); 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.
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated June 1, 2023.
4. **APPROVES** amendment of agreement with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for improvements at Parque dos Rios increasing contract value by Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) to pay consultant a maximum not-to-exceed One Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$107,000) and extending performance period through August 31, 2023.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On June 1, 2023

Victoria Paul
Governing Board Vice Chair

ATTEST: _____
Elizabeth St. John
Deputy Attorney General