

**DATE:** June 26, 2025

**TO:** WCA Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 11: Consideration of a resolution for a contract amendment with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for an extension of the River Ranger Pilot Program service (WCA20513)

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WCA Governing Board approve a contract amendment with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for an extension of the River Ranger Pilot Program service (WCA20513).

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In May 2025 the WCA Governing Board approved year two program activity to be led by Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) as the primary service supplier coordinating activity with partner organizations.

The River Rangers 2.0 (Year 2) Vision Plan and CCLB's updated Scope of Work outline in detail the plan for CCLB River Rangers to implement all five guiding principles from River Ranger Implementation plan. Below is an excerpt from CCLB's scope of work.

#### **1. Maintenance and Natural Resource Management**

- Provide services that focus on maintaining and enhancing the condition of natural resources as well as public access facilities (trails, parks, signage, etc.). This includes but is not limited to landscaping, litter control, trail building, facilities repair, and sediment removal, invasive species removal, and vegetation replanting.
- Workforce development and Internship opportunities.
- Working with the local cities, WCA, LADPW and County Parks and Trails to identify special projects.

#### **2. Recreation and Interpretation/Educational Programs**

- Increase public awareness of River access, provide educational opportunities for the community, such as nature walks.
- Coordinate the implementation of wayfinding and interpretive signage.
- Work with subcontractor to develop complete booklet for River Ranger Program Education and Curriculum.

#### **3. Outreach and Engagement**

- Educate the public regarding where and how to safely experience the River corridor.
- Engage with existing entities (LAHSA & DHS) who conduct homeless engagement and provide support services and resources.
- Create partnerships with Educational Institutions.

#### 4. Public Safety

- Regularly observe use of the river and adjacent trails, parks, and open space to proactively identify and respond to emerging issues and opportunities.
- Walking and Bike patrols along the River corridor provide a proactive measure to enhance visibility and promote community safety.
- Participate in de-escalation training to report or respond to incident and provide basic emergency supplies.

#### 5. Administration and Coordination

- Coordinate regularly with WCA and Committee.
- Coordinate with LAHSA and DHS to ensure the training materials for Ambassadors are highly coordinated.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies to ensure resources are deployed effectively as needed.

In 2024-2025, the Program saw a significant increase in participation and impact. With an established and effective curriculum and strong mechanisms for engagement, CCLB expanded the reach of the program through a myriad of community education events and activities such as water quality testing, watershed clean-ups, wayfinding research, and data collection, biking events, and habitat restoration.

The third-year extension provides the opportunity to take best practices from year one and two for the continuous of the pilot in year three (3). At the conclusion, a report on the data collected, analysis services, and resource impacts will be compiled in a report to conclude the pilot and present final recommendations.

Staff is currently reviewing a proposal from CCLB for year three (3) service. The proposed expansion focuses on three core elements: **safety, education, and stewardship**. The program will continue to actively engage communities around the LLAR to encourage residents to take ownership of the river and meaningfully participate in restoration and recreation. CCLB will continue to facilitate restoration and community engagement alongside city and county partners and agencies. Given the two years of experience and data, the third year will target expanding training capacity, resident engagements, leader engagement, and data collection.

#### BACKGROUND

On May 31, 2019, the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was delivered to the State Legislature. The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) established an agreement to implement Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), also known as the River Ranger Bill, introduced by Assembly member Cristina Garcia (AD 58). The bill required both Conservancies to collaborate with multiple state and local agencies to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers along the entire 51-mile Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The Conservancies agreed to implement AB 1558 with support from their JPAs – WCA and MRCA.

The mission of the Los Angeles River Ranger Program is to foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities. The full Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan (Plan) completed in 2019 can be viewed on the WCA website: [https://www.wca.ca.gov/our\\_work](https://www.wca.ca.gov/our_work). The Los Angeles River Ranger

Program (Program) will provide five key services: 1) Resource Management and Maintenance; 2) Recreation and Interpretation/Educational Programs; 3) Outreach and Engagement; 4) Public Safety; and 5) Administration and Coordination.

On November 21, 2021, the RMC Governing Board approved a grant to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) for the LA River Ranger Pilot Program Implementation Project. WCA identified the first REACH Zone in the Lower LA River at the Rio Hondo Confluence. It is approximately five miles.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

The proposed action would approve subject to negotiations an agreement with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to be funded through RMC Grant 21015. Staff will present to the WCA Governing Board the final negotiated amounts with CCLB for approval.

June 26, 2025 – Item 11

**RESOLUTION 2025-19**

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR A CONTRACT AMENDMENT  
WITH THE CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH FOR AN  
EXTENSION OF THE RIVER RANGER PILOT PROGRAM SERVICE  
(WCA20513)**

**WHEREAS**, The Watershed Conservation Authority 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**, the mission of the Los Angeles River Ranger Program is to foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities.; and

**WHEREAS**, the River Ranger Program has functioning through two years of programing, community service, outreach, engagement and maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the third-year extension provides the opportunity to take best practices from year one and two for the continuous of the pilot in year three (3); and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed expansion focuses on three core elements: safety, education, and stewardship and expanding training capacity, resident engagements, leader engagement, and data collection.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; NOW

*Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:*

1. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.
2. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated June 26, 2025.
4. **APPROVES** the WCA Governing Board approves a contract amendment with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach for an extension of the River Ranger Pilot Program service (WCA20513).

*~ 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 26, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Chang  
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Natalizio  
Deputy Attorney General