

DATE: January 15, 2026

TO: WCA Governing Board

FROM: Arianne Garcia, Project Manager

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15: Consideration of a resolution to authorize Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a construction contract for the Azusa Wilderness Park

RECOMMENDATION

That the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a construction contract for the Azusa Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Azusa Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project, Exhibit A, is the realization of a portion of the Master Plan vision to provide public access to the dynamic Azusa Canyon along a natural stretch of the San Gabriel River, including features demonstrating watershed management and supporting responsible use of protected lands and stewardship for people and wildlife.

Cumming Group is providing construction management service under WCA25516 to lead all aspects of construction including the procurement of services.

Cumming Group has solicited requests for qualifications through PlanetBids. Contractors are required to prequalify for WCA commissioned projects for the year 2026, by completing a qualifying questionnaire and providing evidence of the successful completion of projects of similar nature. The prequalification process requires contractor's provide proof of financial stability, claims status, safety compliance and quality assurance to mitigate risk of project delays, cost overruns and poor workmanship. Steps in the procurement process include the following (see Exhibit B for the full project schedule):

- **Prequalification (December 31, 2025 – January 26, 2026)**
 - Prequalification is currently active via PlanetBids.
 - Scoring and Recommendations will follow the closing of the Prequalification Application Phase.
 - Pool of approved contractors will be eligible to bid on future WCA projects. (If applicable)
- **Bidding and Procurement: Contracting (March 31, 2026 – May 15, 2026)**
 - Bidding and Procurement is anticipated to take place between March 31, 2026 – May 15, 2026. *(Pending approval of plans from the City of Azusa. Plans have not been submitted.)*
- **Construction (June 15, 2026 – June 30, 2027)**
 - Substantial Completion by June 16, 2027.

Major component of the build include the following:

- **Architectural Structures:** Construction of an Event Pavilion and a Public Restroom featuring a modernized aesthetic of earth-toned plaster, steel, stone, and heavy timber.
- **Site Improvements:** Installation of an entry gate, park signage, a nature playground, and river overlook areas.
- **Park Amenities:** Furnishing site elements such as wood benches, bear-saver trash receptacles, bicycle racks, and a pre-fabricated clear-span steel bridge.
- **Civil & Infrastructure:** Realignment of approximately 900 feet of Old San Gabriel Road, asphalt and concrete paving, and comprehensive utility installation (water, sewer, and storm drainage).
- **Nature-Based Features:** Implementation of bioswales, landscape planting, and irrigation systems designed for watershed management.

BACKGROUND

Azusa Wilderness Park is a 76-acre site located at 100 N. Old San Gabriel Road. The Entry Improvements Project focuses on approximately 6.5 acres zoned as open space along a natural stretch of the San Gabriel River.

Following a budget augmentation approved for Withers and Sandgren in 2024, the project's architectural designs were updated to ensure cultural sensitivity to tribal land acknowledgement and to replace outdated log-cabin aesthetics with sustainable, locally-sourced materials. Technical specifications for the construction phase were finalized in February 2025, detailing requirements for everything from soil preparation and grading to specialized play equipment like log stack climbers and in-grade slides. The WCA is now prepared to move into the construction phase to realize the Master Plan vision for the canyon.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Funding for the project's design and engineering is provided by RMC 22021, a grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park & Open Space District and California Natural Resources River Parkways Grant.

Activity ID	Activity Name	Start	Finish	Original Duration	25	Qtr 1, 2026			Qtr 2, 2026			Qtr 3, 2026			Qtr 4, 2026			Qtr 1, 2027			Qtr 2, 2027					
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun			
WCA																										
Design					83	19-Mar-26, Design																				
A1000	Design: Prepare project plans for submission to the city of Azusa	25-Nov-25	21-Dec-25	27	Design: Prepare project plans for submission to the city of Azusa																					
A1010	Design: Revised plans due	22-Dec-25	22-Dec-25	1	Design: Revised plans due																					
A1020	Design: Submit Plans to city	29-Dec-25*	29-Dec-25	1	Design: Submit Plans to city																					
A1030	Design: City Review	30-Dec-25*	27-Jan-26	21	Design: City Review																					
A1040	Design: Review/Address City Comments	28-Jan-26*	18-Feb-26	16	Design: Review/Address City Comments																					
A1050	Design: Resubmit to city for review/approval	19-Feb-26*	19-Mar-26	21	Design: Resubmit to city for review/approval																					
Prequalification/ Bidding/ Procurement					98	15-May-26, Prequalification/ Bidding/ Procurement																				
A1060	Bidding: Prequalification	31-Dec-25*	26-Jan-26	19	Bidding: Prequalification																					
A1070	Bidding & Procurement :(PENDING APPROVAL OF PLANS FR	31-Mar-26*	15-May-26	34	Bidding & Procurement :(PENDING APPROVAL OF PLANS FROM CITY OF AZUSA/ PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED)																					
Construction/ Substantial Completion					273	Substantial Completion																				
A1080	Construction	15-Jun-26*	30-Jun-27	273	Construction																					
A1090	Substantial Completion	16-Jun-27*	16-Jun-27	1	Substantial Completion																					

█ Actual Level of Effort
 █ Actual Work
 █ Critical Remaining Work
 Primary Baseline
 Remaining Work
 ◆ Baseline Milestone

January 15, 2026 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2026-07

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE AZUSA WILDERNESS
PARK**

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 Azusa Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project is the realization of a portion of the Master Plan vision to provide public access to the dynamic Azusa Canyon along a natural stretch of the San Gabriel River; and

WHEREAS, Cumming Group is providing construction management service under WCA25515 to lead all aspects of construction including the procurement of services; and

WHEREAS, The procurement of construction services includes prequalification and bidding and procurement for the selection of a construction contractor; and

WHEREAS, The construction contractor will complete site improvements, park amenities inclusive of structures, civil & infrastructure utilities, and nature base features; 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 January 15, 2026.
4. **APPROVES** the Executive Officer will negotiate the value for construction based on the construction documents and competitive bidding results.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Resolution 2026-07

Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On January 15, 2026

Vincent Chang
Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
John Natalizio
Deputy Attorney General