

APPROVED  
FEB 06 2020

BOARD REPORT

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

NO. 20-016

DATE February 06, 2020

C.D. 2

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 68 GRANT – LA RIVER GREENWAY – HABITAT RESTORATION (PRJ21336) PROJECT – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS; ALLOCATION OF QUIMBY FEES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
V. Israel	_____	*N. Williams	<u>NDW</u>

*Neil Denis Williams*

General Manager

Approved X Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

If Approved: Board President *John Thomas* Board Secretary *H. Arriola*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to submit the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 68 Grant (Grant) application for the LA River Greenway – Habitat Restoration (PRJ21336) Project (Project) at 4000 Whitsett Avenue, Studio City, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council;
2. Recommend City Council authorize RAP to apply for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 68 Grant funds for the Project and designate RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, Assistant General Manager, or designee, as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to grant applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and all other required documents necessary for the acceptance and use of Grant funds;
3. Direct the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) Secretary to transmit a copy of the report to the Mayor's Office, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and to the City Clerk for Committee and City Council approval, pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 *et seq.* as may be amended;
4. Authorize RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, Assistant General Manager, or designee, as the agent to conduct all grant-related negotiations, and sign and submit all grant documents, including but not limited to grant applications, agreements, amendments, extensions and payment requests, which may be necessary for the acceptance and use of Grant funds;
5. Authorize RAP's General Manager to accept and receive the Grant funds if awarded, subject to compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and subject to authorization by the City Council and the Mayor to accept the Grant funds;

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6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to establish the necessary account(s), and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the Grant funds, if awarded, from Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
7. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to establish new Quimby Fees Account No. 89460K-LW with LA River Greenway and Bikeway as the Account Name;
8. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to transfer Three Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Dollars (\$371,000) in Quimby Fees from the Quimby Account 89460K-00 to the LA River Greenway and Bikeway Account No. 89460K-LW;
9. Approve the allocation of Three Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Dollars (\$371,000) in Quimby Fees from the LA River Greenway and Bikeway Account No. 89460K-LW to the LA River Greenway – Habitat Restoration (PRJ21336) Project;
10. Authorize RAP's General Manager, or designee, to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since then it has helped to preserve of parkland and improve recreational facilities in both wilderness and urban settings. The SMMC administers competitive grant programs including funds allocated under The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Prop 68). SMMC releases a Notice of Funds quarterly for the Proposition 68 Competitive Grant Program (Grant). SMMC was allocated \$15,000,000 to protect and enhance an urban creek pursuant to Chapter 7 of Prop 68 and \$30,000,000 for projects in accordance with the governing statutes of SMMC pursuant to Chapter 8 of Proposition 68.

The Grant requires projects to be eligible under one of the following categories:

1. Resource Protection and Restoration
2. Vegetation Management and Fire Safety
3. Visitor Serving Development and Improvement
4. Community Access, Education, and Interpretation

RAP was notified in November 2018 by SMCC that \$150,000 of the SMMC Prop 68 funds were allocated to the City of Los Angeles (City) for the proposed Project. SMMC instructed RAP at that time to submit a Grant application to receive funds for the Project. Grant applications are accepted on a continuous basis, and RAP staff has prepared an application for the Grant. RAP staff is seeking authorization from the Board to submit the Grant application.

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As applied for, the Grant will partially fund the habitat restoration of the southern bank of the Los Angeles River Greenway between Whitsett Blvd. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. in Studio City, which totals to approximately 73,304 square feet (Attachment No. 1). The total construction cost of the proposed Project is \$521,000.00 and the proposed Project scope at this time will include removal of existing non-native vegetation, as-needed irrigation repairs, slope stabilization, and installation of new plant material that will be designed to promote a natural California riparian habitat.

Due to the facilities and features it provides, LA River Greenway and Bikeway meets the standard for a Regional Park, as defined by the City’s Public Recreation Plan.

PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, Three Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Dollars in Quimby Fees can be transferred from Quimby Account No. 89460K-00 to the LA River Greenway and Bikeway Account No. 89460K-LW and allocated to the proposed Project.

These Quimby Fees were collected within ten (10) miles of the LA River Greenway and Bikeway, which is the standard distance for the allocation of the Quimby Fees for regional recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Work Order	Amount	Percentage
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	205/89/88TBD	NA	\$150,000.00	29%
Quimby Fees	302/89/89460K-LW	NA	\$371,000.00	71%
<b>Total</b>			\$521,000.00	100%

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of repair of minor pipes, slope stabilization, and of new gardening or landscaping, but final plans for the Project have not been prepared at this time. Subsequent to the award of the Grant, RAP staff will return to the Board with final plans for the Project and with recommendations regarding determinations under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the proposed Project is \$683,015.84. The Grant will contribute \$150,000 towards this project and Quimby fees will contribute an additional \$371,000.00. There is an expected fiscal impact of \$130,098.26 in staff salaries to RAP’s General Fund in order to complete the proposed Project. Future maintenance costs have yet to be determined.

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STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

<b>Goal No. 1:</b>	Provide Safe and Accessible Parks
<b>Outcome No. 1:</b>	Increased public access and recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River.
<b>Result:</b>	The habitat restoration along the Los Angeles River Greenway in Studio City will create a safer and more welcoming green space for local residents to enjoy.

This Report was prepared by Nicole Panza, Management Assistant, Grants Administration, Finance Division and reviewed by Kai Wong, Senior Project Coordinator, Grants Administration, Finance Division and Bill Jones, Chief Management Analyst, Grants Administration, Finance Division

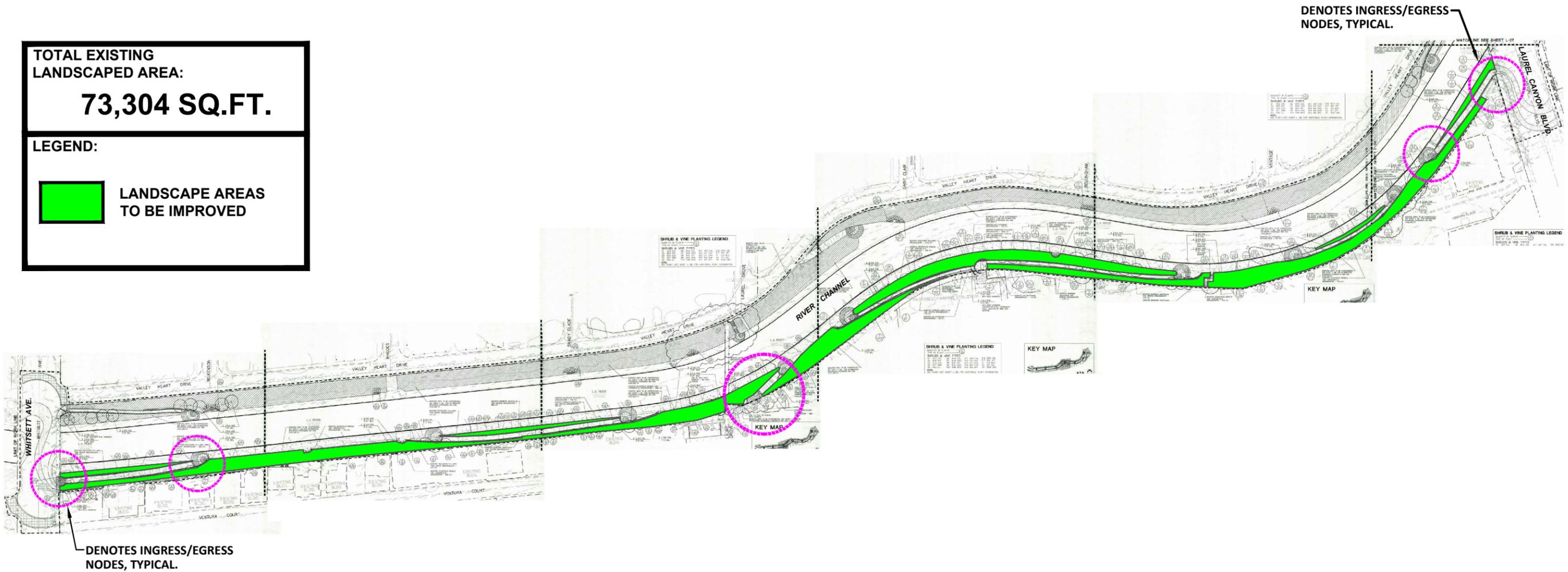
LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) LA River Greenway – Habitat Restoration Project Conceptual Plan

TOTAL EXISTING  
LANDSCAPED AREA:  
**73,304 SQ.FT.**

LEGEND:

 LANDSCAPE AREAS  
TO BE IMPROVED



# LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY - Laurel Canyon to Whitsett

