

Attachment
SMMC Item 15
June 23, 2008

Materials prepared by: C. Meyer, 6/23/08

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June 18, 2008

Joseph T. Edmiston, F.A.I.C.P.
Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Los Angeles River Center and Garden
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six
Los Angeles, California 90065

Dear Mr. Edmiston: *Joe*

The City of Los Angeles is hereby submitting a grant application for the Sunnynook River Park project. This project will convert an underutilized publicly-owned easement into a River-adjacent park, linking currently isolated uses in local neighborhoods to the River. The City sees this project as an important step forward in implementing its comprehensive, long-term Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) and it is on the LARRMP priority list, first endorsed by our City Council in July 2007.

The Sunnynook River Park project is intended to be a notable destination along the River—contributing as a key node within a future seamless “River loop” that will include the historic Glendale/Hyperion viaduct as a key feature. The park will enable safe and enjoyable visits to the River with easy access to existing recreational and environmental resource amenities, including: Red Car Park in Council District 13’s Atwater Village Community, the Friendship Auditorium and Griffith Park Recreation Center in Council District 4’s Silver Lake Community, and the vibrant riparian habitat and wildlife that exist in this soft-bottomed stretch of the River.

The Sunnynook River Park site is located upstream of the viaduct on the western bank of the River, on an approximately 5-acre California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) easement; the proposed park use is fully-supported by Caltrans. The project will convert an underutilized open space into a multi-benefit River-adjacent park that will include a walking trail, water quality best management practices, new habitat establishment, environmental education elements, and passive recreational amenities. New tree plantings are intended to increase habitat connectivity to the River and simultaneously act as buffers to the noise and particulate matter generated by vehicles on nearby Interstate 5. The park will be designed as a safe and accessible destination for residents and visitors from throughout the region.



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By helping to make the River an easily-accessible and inviting place, the project will facilitate important community connections and will serve valuable environmental education functions by providing information on the relationship of the River to its communities and its central role in the history of the region's natural and infrastructural transformations.

With the assistance of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy funds, the Sunnynook River Park project can help establish this area of the River as a desirable destination for visitors who live elsewhere so that they may experience one of the River's most natural, scenic stretches and also see and understand that revitalization is possible. Also, this project will demonstrate that the City can lead by example in implementing the same River revitalization principles and practices that it is encouraging others to adopt.

Attached please find the completed application for the Sunnynook River Park project. Please direct comments and questions concerning the application to Larry Hsu of my staff at (213) 485-4562.

Sincerely,



Gary Lee Moore, P.E.
City Engineer

Attachment

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant application

Cc:

Honorable Eric Garcetti, Council President, District 13
Honorable Ed P. Reyes, Councilmember, District 1
Honorable Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, District 4
Nancy Sutley, Deputy Mayor

