

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION**

<b>Project Name:</b> L.A. River Open Space Project Hydrologic Design		<b>Amount of Request:</b> \$ 20,000	
		<b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$ 20,000	
<b>Applicant Name:</b> Community Conservancy International		<b>Amount of Match:</b> \$	
		<b>SMMC Fund Source(s):</b>	
		<b>Source of Match:</b>	
<b>Applicant Address:</b> 2554 Lincoln Blvd. Suite 223 Los Angeles, CA 90291 <b>Phone:</b> 310-398-8584 <b>Fax:</b> 310-398-8564		<b>Project Address:</b>	
		<b>County</b>	<b>Senate District</b>
		Los Angeles	23
			<b>Assembly District</b>
			42
		<b>Email:</b> Info@ccint.org	
<b>Grantee's Authorized Representative:</b>			
Esther Feldman, President		310-398-8584 x1	
<i>Name and Title</i>		<i>Phone</i>	
<b>Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:</b>			
Esther Feldman, President		310-398-8584 x1	
<i>Name and Title</i>		<i>Phone</i>	
<b>Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum):</b>			
Further develop the water quality improvement elements of the initial Site Concept Design for this L.A. River Natural Park in Studio City, focusing on the hydrologic, hydraulic and urban runoff concept components. This is the last remaining unprotected open space for 22 miles along the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley. Based on available data, identify hydrology, hydraulics and runoff elements to estimate rough-order-of-magnitude costs; recommend additional technical studies and analysis necessary for pre-design phase. Develop schematic hydrologic concept plan diagram for potential runoff capture & treatment.			
<b>Funding Source Applied for:</b>			
<b>Narrative/Detailed Project Description:</b>			
<b>L.A. River Open Space &amp; Public Access Protection &amp; Water Quality Improvement Studio City, CA: Hydrologic, Hydraulic &amp; Runoff Concept Components Design</b>			
This project will focus on the hydrology, hydraulic and urban runoff (stormwater and dry weather) elements of the initial Site Concept Design developed for this last remaining unprotected open space along a 22-mile stretch of the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley, and provide further conceptual analysis of the hydrologic, hydraulic and runoff components necessary to estimate costs for pre-design. The initial work in the Vision and site Concept Design for this last remaining unprotected open space along the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley determined that this site has the potential of capturing and naturally treating runoff from over 100 acres of surrounding paved, urban area, and could become a natural, river-oriented park that integrates the L.A. River, habitat restoration, regional public access, open space and natural runoff treatment to improve water quality. This L.A. River-front property could be an important part of the "Green Solution" critical to address the serious water pollution problems affecting the L.A. River, coast and beaches.			
Additional technical analysis is necessary to further assess the hydrologic and hydraulic and runoff			

components of the initial site concept design. Based on publicly-available data, work will consist of:

- Review and refine initial determination of size of potential/logical drainage area considering initial Site Concept Design layout and geometry
- Research storm drain locations, sizes via publically available records (Navigate LA/Vault). Assess at a concept level the opportunity to capture, divert and deliver stormwater to site
- Evaluate dry weather flow potential based on publically available data
- Review existing catch basin location/ with respect to need
- Compute anticipated wetted section/cross section flow area of potential bioswale
- Discuss estimated sizes and concept level design criteria for anticipated water quality catchment, conveyance, treatment and storage components in initial site concept design and refine as necessary at conceptual level
- Estimate components size and rough-order-of-magnitude (ROM) costs for potential implementation and pre-design phase
- Review outflow to L.A. River components
- Identify apparent design and/or site limitations, if any and recommend areas for further study/field investigation/testing (via subsequent phase) where appropriate
- Initial discussion of empirical water quality improvement potential

### **Deliverables**

Schematic concept-level hydrologic plan diagram illustrating hydrologic and hydraulic functions of potential runoff capture, diversion, treatment and infiltration

Technical memorandum including estimated components size and ROM costs for potential implementation and pre-design phase

Recommendation of additional technical studies and analyses necessary for pre-design phase and for integration of hydrologic elements with habitat restoration and public access concept design goals

Identify potential opportunities and constraints based on initial concept site design

Executive Summary

The work does not include site surveys, geotechnical investigations or evaluations or water quality or flow rate monitoring, or assessment of habitat or public access applicability.

### **Further Development of Hydrologic Components of Site Concept Design**

The proposed concept design for this site identified the water quality, public access and habitat elements for this unique 16-acres site on the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley. Additional analysis is necessary and essential to specifically focus on the hydrologic, hydraulic and urban runoff (stormwater and dry weather) components and to estimate costs for pre-design work.

The concept design shows that this privately-owned golf and tennis facility could be transformed into a cutting-edge, regionally-serving public Los Angeles River Park with multiple environmental, water quality, public access, recreational and community benefits, with emphasis on pedestrian access. The site could serve as a regional "Public Access Connection Hub" by providing access to the Los Angeles River greenway and regional trail system, as well as to other river greenways, trails, parks and mountain parks, including:

- Pacoima Wash
- Tujunga Wash
- Arroyo Seco
- Sepulveda Basin, Griffith Park, Elysian Park
- Santa Monica Mountains, Verdugo Mountains

Nearby parking facilities would make it possible to locate parking and staging areas off-site, preserving the vast majority of this last-remaining open space in the heart of a densely-populated urban area. The new L.A. River Natural Park could serve both adjacent neighborhoods and regional communities

The Concept Design process accomplished the following:

- Regional and site analysis
- Regional river, trail, public access, water quality needs analysis
- Review of regional L.A. River plans for consistency
- Preliminary review of potential surrounding drainage area, storm drain and catch basin locations, topography and current runoff and stormwater conveyance conditions
- Meetings with community & conservation leadership
- Design workshop with key community, city planning and engineering and elected leaders
- Development of vision and concept design integrating L.A. River, runoff capture for water quality improvements, overall hydrologic concept, regional L.A. River public access and staging, and historic recreational uses.

### **Background**

**This riverfront property is unique.** It is an irreplaceable link in the 51-mile L.A. River Greenway, and is the only opportunity to provide a significant public trailhead and staging area in the densely-populated San Fernando Valley. Public transportation to the site is readily available within less than 1/10 of a mile, connecting to both the Metro Rail and Metro Bus systems; this easy regional transit connectivity makes this site even more important and unusual. Public parking is available on the L.A. River within 500 yards of the project site. The concept design studies included the following goals:

- Creating a key public staging area, trailhead and connection node for the regional L.A. River Greenway
- Providing badly-needed river recreational access to under-served populations in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding region
- Creating a riverfront park and extending the L.A. River bike and pedestrian trail
- Protecting and developing connections to upstream and downstream river parks and trails, both implemented and planned
- Restoring riparian habitat for native birds and native vegetation
- Implementing critical water quality improvement projects by capturing & naturally filtering polluted urban runoff
- Assisting in improving water quality in the L.A. River and at beaches & coastal waters to which the river drains

### **Broad Support for Project**

There is wide-spread support for preserving this San Fernando Valley riverfront land for river trail, river park, public access, recreation and water quality improvement purposes, including the following elected officials and organizations:

The Honorable Howard Berman, U.S. Congress  
 The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, California State Senate  
 The Honorable Mike Feuer, California State Assembly  
 The Honorable Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles City Council  
 Friends of the Los Angeles River  
 Audubon California  
 Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council  
 Los Angeles Conservation Corps  
 Studio City Residents Association  
 Urban Semillas  
 Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition  
 North East Trees

Community Conservancy International (CCI) will direct the work and will retain Psomas Engineering to conduct the hydrologic, hydraulic and urban runoff conceptual design development.

This work is particularly important because of proposed development plans for this property. The proposed 200-unit development would build nine four-story buildings, destroying this last remaining riverfront open space and preventing future public access to the river and river trails. Sites in the San Fernando Valley are urgently needed for multiple-benefit, Green Solution projects to address polluted runoff improve water quality. Regional and city plans call for revitalizing the L.A. River as a major green and recreational resource serving the entire region, and significant public funds have already been invested along the river downstream. The City of Los Angeles has built a mile-long river trail and pedestrian bridge along the river just across Whitsett Boulevard, which would connect to this site. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has purchased and developed several river-front parks further downstream, which would link to this site via the River Greenway trail. This land has been used as recreational open space for more than fifty years, providing a popular and regionally-used small golf course, putting green and tennis courts. Los Angeles County Flood Control District owns and maintains the wide and unpaved right-of-way along the river's edge along the property, including a portion of the property itself; the County Flood Control District also owns the right-of-way immediately across the river.

<b>Tasks / Milestones:</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1 Retain & direct Hydrology Engineer	\$2,000	Month 1	Month 6
2 Hydrology & hydraulic research & conceptual assessment: site, drainage, flow, catch basins	\$5,000	Month 1	Month 4
3 Evaluate flow, system sizing, design criteria, opportunities & constraints	\$ 4,000	Month 2	Month 4
4 Review water quality improvement potential & outflow to L.A. River	\$2,000	Month 2	Month 4
5 Prepare technical memorandum & schematic hydrologic concept diagram	\$6,000	Month 4	Month 5
6 Prepare Executive summary, digital files	\$1,000	Month 5	Month 6
Total	\$20,000		

**Acquisition Projects:**      **APN(s):**  
**Acreage:**

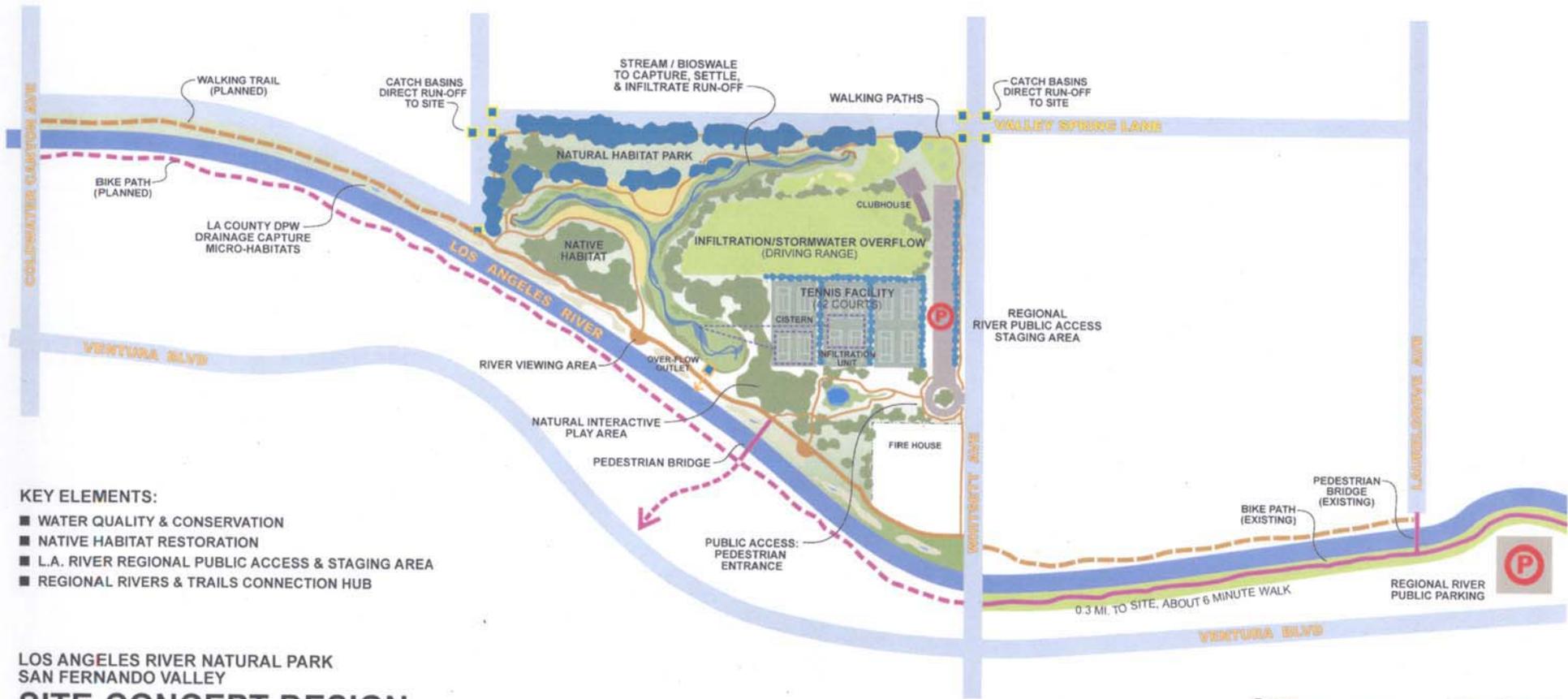
I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.



*Signature of Authorized Representative*

10-15-08

*Date*



**KEY ELEMENTS:**

- WATER QUALITY & CONSERVATION
- NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION
- L.A. RIVER REGIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS & STAGING AREA
- REGIONAL RIVERS & TRAILS CONNECTION HUB

**LOS ANGELES RIVER NATURAL PARK  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
SITE CONCEPT DESIGN**



# DRAINAGE AREA



**VALLEY SPRING LANE**

**CATCH BASINS**

**CATCH BASINS  
DIRECT RUN-OFF  
TO SITE**

**NATURALIZED STREAM  
CAPTURES RUN-OFF FOR  
TREATMENT & INFILTRATION**

**OVERFLOW AREA  
EXTENDED  
INFILTRATION**

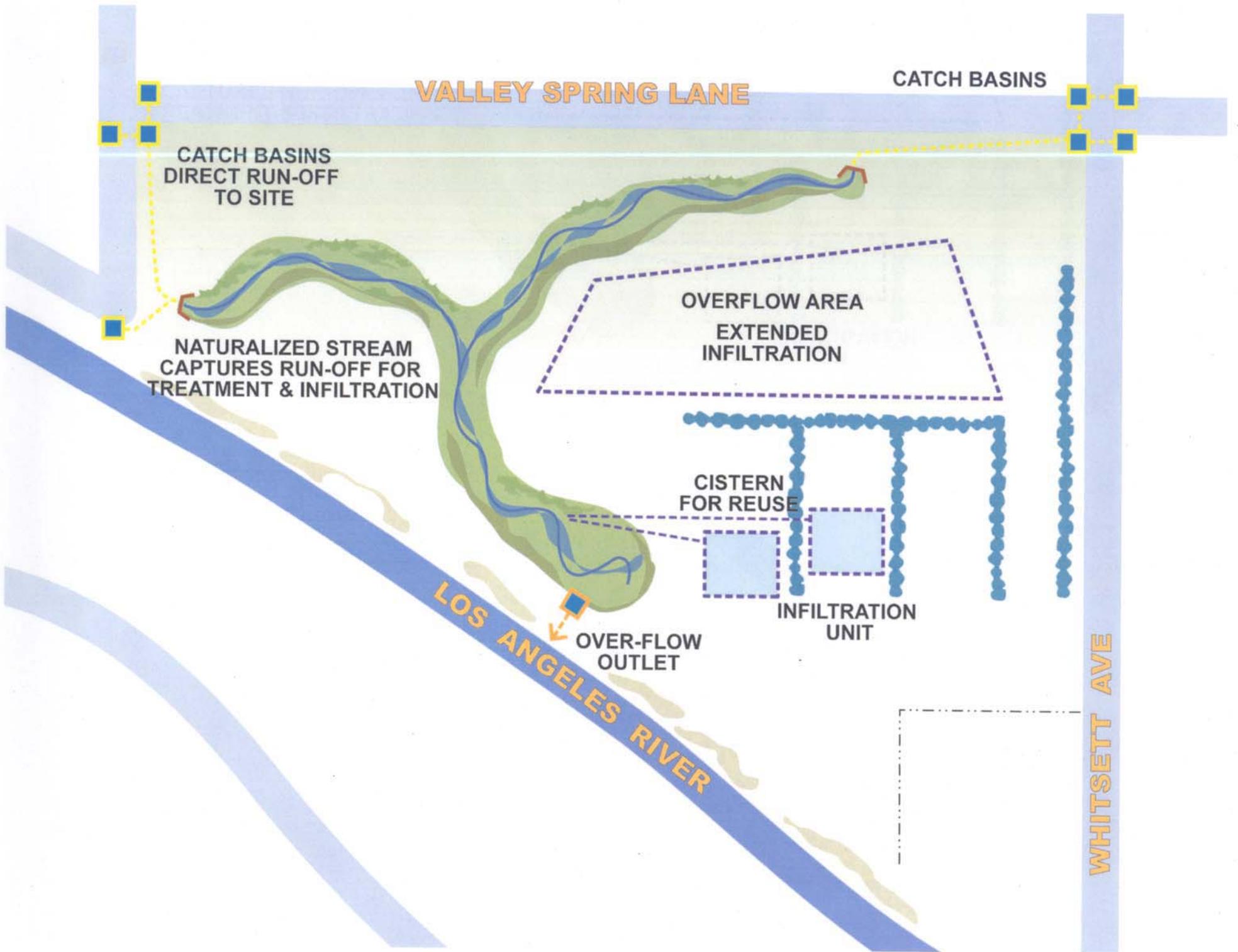
**CISTERN  
FOR REUSE**

**INFILTRATION  
UNIT**

**OVER-FLOW  
OUTLET**

**LOS ANGELES RIVER**

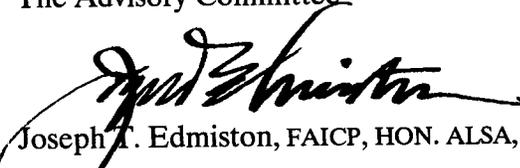
**WHITSETT AVE**



## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 24, 2007

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, HON. ALSA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 20: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to Community Conservancy International for a project feasibility study of a stream restoration project along the Los Angeles River adjacent to the Studio City Golf and Tennis Club.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to Community Conservancy International for a project feasibility study of a stream restoration project along the Los Angeles River adjacent to the Studio City Golf and Tennis Club.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code

Background: On February 26, 2007 the Board adopted a resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on a Notice of Preparation for the proposed Valley Heart Senior Community at the Studio City Golf and Tennis Club site. This letter recommended that mitigation efforts should be taken to ensure compatibility of the proposed 272-unit development project with the river corridor and the revitalization efforts centered around the Los Angeles River. The subject grant is to create an open space, river and public access focused design alternative to the development proposal for the site.

Community Conservancy International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization specializing in tackling the complex and challenging problems created when people and nature intersect. Community Conservancy International adapts to each new challenge by tailoring their diverse range of skills, expertise and experience to each project's specific needs. Their past projects include communications, site design, strategic planning, research and analysis, community collaboration, project direction and management, scientific, and technical and engineering expertise.

Community Conservancy International will develop a concept design focused on public access, riverfront recreation and water quality for the last remaining unprotected open space for 22 miles along the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley. Work will include landscape design, needs analysis, community outreach in the form of a design workshop, and hydrologic concept design for the site. The attached application from Community Conservancy International gives further details of the project.

# LOS ANGELES RIVER 17-ACRE OPEN SPACE

Last Remaining Unprotected L.A. Riverfront Open Space in San Fernando Valley

