

Attachment  
SMMC Item 13  
February 24, 2014

# Grant Application

[Print Form](#)



The Natural Resources Agency

**Project Title:** Los Angeles River Revitalization and Restoration Goals

**Funds:** Proposition 84 **Amount:** 280,000

**Applicant Name:** The Nature Conservancy **Match amount:** 14,000

**Address:** 601 S Figueroa St, Suite 1425 **Match source:** The Nature Conservancy

**State/Province:** California **Total Project Cost:** 294,000

**Zip/Postal code:** 90017

**Phone:** 213-327-0104 x 14207 **Brief Project Description:** We will oversee a feasibility study and the development of a plan to restore native vegetation and select native animal populations along a section of the

**Fax:** 213-327-0161

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265  
Phone: 310-589-3200  
Fax: 310-589-3207  
www.smmc.ca.gov

**Grantee's Authorized Representative:** Alfredo Gonzalez 213-327-0104 x 14206 agonzalez@tnc.org

*Name and Title Phone Number Email*

**Person with day-to-day responsibility:** Shona Ganguly 213-327-0104 x 14207 sganguly@tnc.org

*Name and Title Phone Number Email*

**Project Objective:** The proposed project is a science effort to identify biologically significant restoration opportunities along a section of the 11-mile soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River. This feasibility study will map the existing species in the focus area and determine the status of the habitat, which will result in an understanding of the Los Angeles River's biodiversity and available opportunities to bolster native species and enhance the ecosystem.

Please see attached \*Attach additional pages as necessary

**Project Address:** Los Angeles River

**Latitude:** 34.09445°N **Acreage:** 92.675 **Trail Length:**

**Longitude:** 118.240366°W **APN's:** 5442-002-823, 5445-00 **Stream Miles:** 3

**Congressional District:** 28th **State Senate District:** 22nd **Assembly District:** 51st

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date:
1 Identify study area & criteria	\$20,000	6/2014
2 Launch project/study	\$150,000	12/2014
3 Analyze completed project/study	\$60,000	6/2015
4 Outreach and Education	\$50,000	6/2015

\*Attach additional pages as necessary

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

Alfredo B. Gonzalez JAN 22, 2014  
Signature of Authorized Representative Date



**Narrative/Detailed Project Description:**

*Los Angeles River Revitalization and Restoration Study*

**Background**

The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our on-the-ground work is carried out in all 50 U.S. states and 34 countries and is supported by over a million members. To date, we have helped conserve more than 117 million acres (including 1.2 million in California) and 5,000 river miles around the world. We have been engaged in the protection and management of conservation lands and waters since 1951.

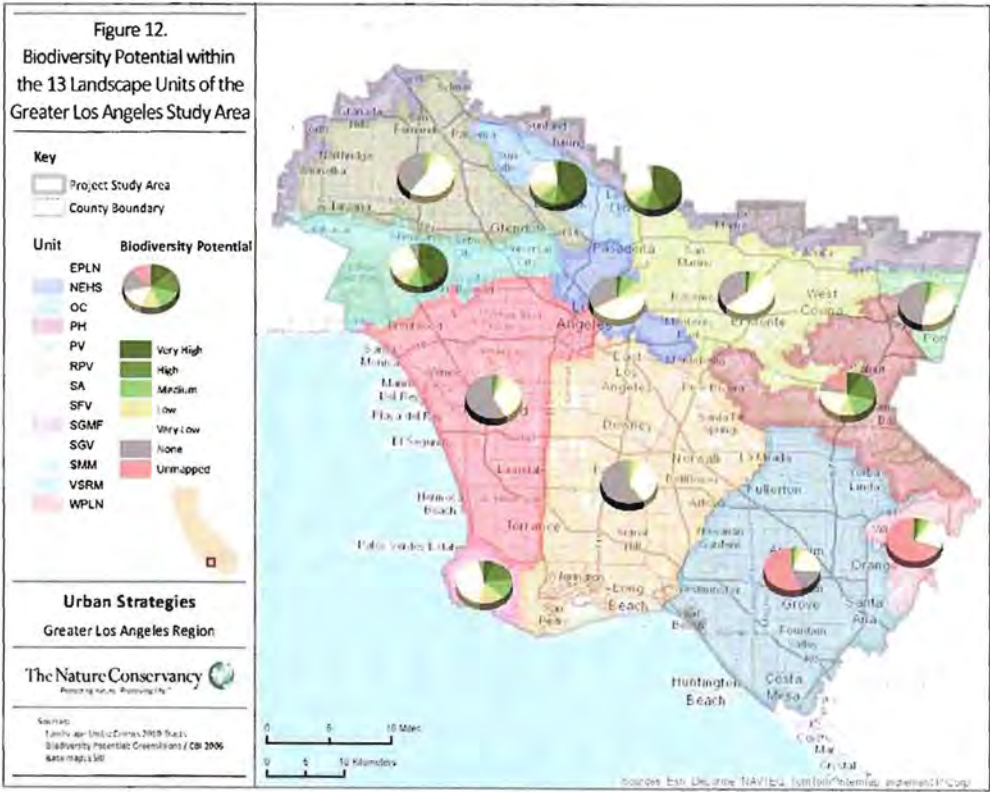
The foundation of the Conservancy's work is our commitment to using the most up-to-date conservation science information and methodologies to guide decision-making. Our assessment, planning, land and water protection, management tools, and methods have been adopted by many other organizations and agencies that engage in nature conservation and ecosystem restoration across the U.S. and around the world.

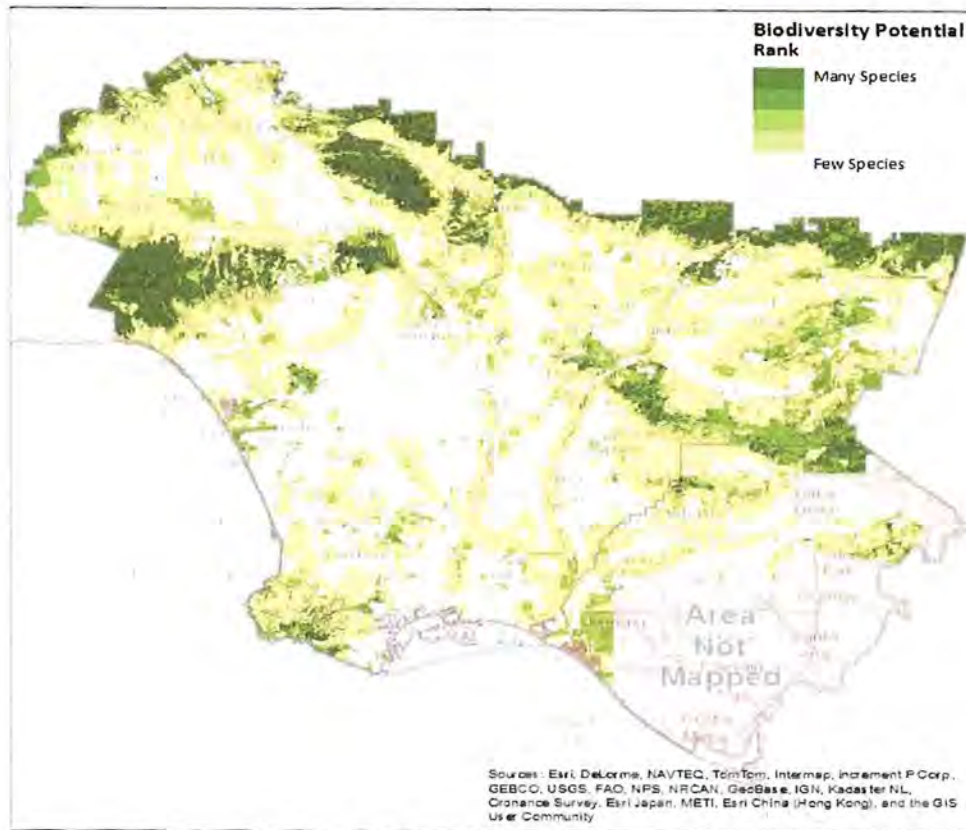
**Study Area: Los Angeles River**

The valleys of Los Angeles and surrounding municipalities have been almost completely developed for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, and in the process, most of the region's waterways were channelized, stripped of their streamside vegetation, and subjected to highly altered flows. It is widely acknowledged that this led to the local extirpation of most of the region's fish, and great losses of many other aquatic and streamside plants and animals. Nonetheless, studies of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries over the past 20 years have found that a variety of native plant and animal species can still be found in and around these waterways. Likewise, the Greater Los Angeles Biodiversity Assessment that the Conservancy carried out in 2013 reveals that some of the most important ecological values and best restoration opportunities in the region can be found along the stretch of the Los Angeles River in the Glendale Narrows. In fact, this science-based assessment of the region's biological diversity indicates that this and a few other riparian corridors and water retention/flood control basins offer great potential for restoration and rehabilitation of native vegetation and populations of native wildlife.

The Conservancy's Assessment also revealed that the Greater Los Angeles area still contains a broad array of species and natural communities, including 14 listed taxa, 18 unlisted rare plant species, and 13 rare natural communities that cover 1.5% of the region, even though nearly three quarters (72.9%) of the total land area is developed for housing, commercial, industrial, and transportation purposes. Developed parks and open space constitute 11% of the region, and the remaining lands are natural habitat, including shrubland (5.7%; 59,077 acres), chaparral (3.2%; 33,583 acres), oak woodland (3.0%; 30,644 acres), and grassland (1.3%; 13,305 acres). Small, but locally important areas of open water, riparian, marsh, and

forest habitat are also found within the region. There are several locations within Greater Los Angeles that would likely support quality natural habitat if actively restored, including wetlands and uplands along the region's major rivers and floodwater retention basins. These include riparian corridors along some portions of the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River in the San Gabriel Valley, and portions of the Los Angeles River.





Restoration of the Los Angeles River will be of particularly high value to the natural riparian plant communities along its course, and the animals that depend on riparian habitats for all or part of their lives. In fact, many of the region's distinctive species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, and other invertebrates depend on riparian habitats. As the Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles River Integrated Feasibility Study (ARBOR) notes, the Los Angeles River once supported an array of native fish and amphibians. Also, songbirds, seabirds, and water fowl found nesting sites and food sources there, and many animals (large and small) used the channel and riparian zone as a natural corridor for movement. Restoration of the Los Angeles River is a key element in the broader effort to bring native species and habitats back into Greater Los Angeles to benefit people and nature.

These efforts are also of global significance because Los Angeles is located in one of just five Mediterranean-climate areas worldwide. Mediterranean-climate regions have high levels of species richness and endemism, particularly for plants. While Mediterranean-climate regions cover only 2.2 percent of Earth's land surface, they contain 20 percent of all known plant species. Unfortunately, Mediterranean ecosystems are also among the most threatened on Earth. Because they are characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, Mediterranean-climate regions are attractive places for

human settlement. Many have been heavily urbanized and now face grave problems such as habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation. More than 41 percent of the mediterranean biome has been converted to farmland and urban uses, and only 5 percent of its natural area has been protected.

**Proposed Project: Los Angeles River Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study**

*Study of Los Angeles River biodiversity & restoration opportunities*

Now confined to a narrow channel, the riparian habitat along the Los Angeles River was once much broader. However, areas adjacent to the river have considerable restoration potential. Eventually, restoration of these lands might involve a multi-step process that could include removal or retrofitting of infrastructure, invasive species removal, planting of native plants, and other activities to improve habitat for native vertebrate and invertebrate animal species. *However*, before a plan for restoration can be drafted to include these strategies and before different options for restoration are even proposed, we must learn more about the current status of the habitat within and adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Los Angeles River, which may support the river's most significant patches of native riparian vegetation.

The restoration of areas adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the river will yield a variety of benefits. One important benefit will be the expanded habitat that will support greater abundances of many species already found there, as well as enabling some long-absent birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians to move back to areas where they are currently absent. It will also allow upland animal species now found in Griffith Park and other uplands ringing the region to gain access to the water, food, and shelter provided by riparian habitats. Conversely, species currently using the vegetated portions of the river may be able to expand their range into adjacent upland habitats.

The lands of interest for our study lie along the soft bottom and the east and west banks of the river in the Elysian Valley and Atwater Village area; from just upstream of the G2 parcel to the Los Feliz Boulevard bridge. This area falls in Reaches 5 & 6 in the Army Corps of Engineers *Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report: Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report*.

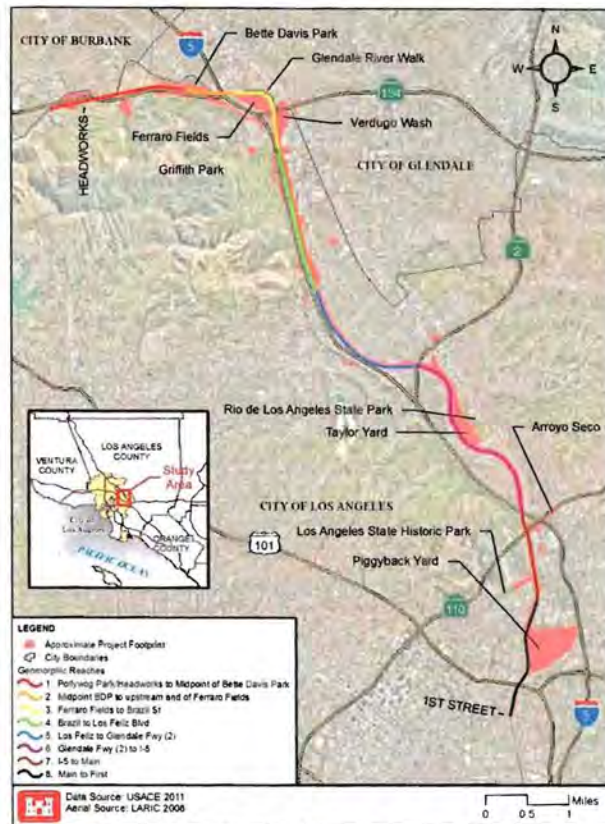


Figure ES-3 Study Area, the ARBOR Reach

### Scientific Analysis

We propose to conduct a detailed restoration feasibility study focused on native vegetation and habitats for select native animals along the river. Our study will map the existing vegetation in the focus area and determine its status as habitat for a select set of native birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. The study will identify areas where habitat restoration could both provide the greatest benefits to native species and be accomplished most cost-effectively. The study will produce a set of proposed alternatives for restoration along the selected stretch of the river. Compared with the ARBOR study, our study will provide more details about which invasive plant and animal species could be removed, which plant species could be planted to best enhance native biodiversity, and which native animal species we expect will most benefit from these restoration actions. The study will also project the benefits that could be

expected from additional habitat enhancements such as providing safe nesting areas for various species, or encouraging public access by the local community while preventing harmful destructive access. The findings of our study will inform how early funding of new or additional Los Angeles River restoration can best be directed to improve wildlife habitat and provide biodiversity gains to Greater Los Angeles while benefiting local neighborhoods.

### **Outreach and Community Engagement**

An Outreach and Community Engagement program is integral to building a local constituency vested in the findings of the study as well as the desired outcome of native species restoration. Outreach also addresses the historic disconnection of riverside communities, especially youth from the Los Angeles River due to its channelization/industrialization.

Throughout the duration of the habitat restoration study, we will engage nearby communities along the Los Angeles River (Lincoln Heights, Cypress Park, Elysian Valley/Frog Town, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Eagle Rock) with youth and community outreach activities. We expect to work in conjunction with an appropriate partner organization. Targeting these urban youth and communities who are largely underrepresented in conservation efforts, we will have the opportunity to connect with, educate, train, and develop the next generation of conservation supporters and leaders.

The outreach and community engagement activities will consist of an experiential eco-intern program for area high school juniors and seniors that will engage participants in a series of field exercises to teach them about diverse environmental and conservation subjects as well as to inspire them to pursue a higher education with a focus on the environment. This program will offer career development and a hands-on environmental stewardship experience. Eco-interns will observe and assist the scientists as appropriate. Supplementing classroom lessons with real world application in the field has a tremendous impact on students' lives, opening their eyes to career possibilities, building self-confidence, independence, work skills, conservation literacy, and a love of the outdoors.

This program will harmonize with the Conservancy's emphasis on environmental education and engagement, and will draw from the vast body of knowledge and expertise created by the Conservancy's robust educational programming. Since 1995, the Conservancy has provided internships for students on nature preserves across the nation and helped educators from various high schools share best practices and scientific resources. While the communities that we engage will not be living on nature preserves, they will be learning about the value of nature, particularly in their backyards, and the power they have to make a difference. This proposal echoes the Conservancy's model in its aims to supplement environmental education in the classroom with real-world experiences for urban youth, share best practices in environmental education, and increase student awareness of higher education and career paths in conservation.

We will also conduct a community forum series featuring multi-media presentations on historical native species in the Los Angeles River juxtaposed with the findings of the study. Also, developing interpretive signage will be a deliverable of this component of the study.



# Grantee Data Sheet

Print Form



State of California  
 The Natural Resources Agency  
 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
 Malibu, California 90265  
 Phone: 310-589-3200  
 Fax: 310-589-3207  
 www.smmc.ca.gov

Date:   
 New  Revised

Grantee Name:   
 Address:   
 State/Province:   
 Zip/Postal Code:   
 Tax ID Number:

Project Name:

Phone:   
 Fax:

**Primary Contact Information**

Name (1):   
 Address:   
 State/Province:   
 Zip/Postal Code:   
 Phone (1):   
 Phone (2):   
 Fax:   
 Email:

**Information**

Will administrative/overhead costs be included?   
 If yes, is the overhead policy attached to this sheet?   
 Will vehicle costs be included?   
 If yes, is the vehicle policy attached to this sheet?   
 Will cell phone costs be included?   
 If yes, is the phone policy attached to this sheet?

Name (2):   
 Address:   
 State/Province:   
 Zip/Postal Code:   
 Phone (1):   
 Phone (2):   
 Fax:   
 Email:

- I have completed and submitted the STD 204 Payee Data Record form.
- I have read and accepted the policies and procedures within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Administration Manual.
- I am aware that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has urged a reduction of costs associated with overhead, cell phone, and vehicle charges.

Notes:

\*If a reduction in the above costs has been made, please document the reductions and attach to this data sheet.

Signature Field



STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

**PAYEE DATA RECORD**

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003) (REVERSE)

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Requirement to Complete Payee Data Record, STD. 204</u></b></p> <p>A completed Payee Data Record, STD. 204, is required for payments to all non-governmental entities and will be kept on file at each State agency. Since each State agency with which you do business must have a separate STD. 204 on file, it is possible for a payee to receive this form from various State agencies.</p> <p>Payees who do not wish to complete the STD. 204 may elect to not do business with the State. If the payee does not complete the STD. 204 and the required payee data is not otherwise provided, payment may be reduced for federal backup withholding and nonresident State income tax withholding. Amounts reported on Information Returns (1099) are in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and the California Revenue and Taxation Code.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Enter the payee's legal business name. Sole proprietorships must also include the owner's full name. An individual must list his/her full name. The mailing address should be the address at which the payee chooses to receive correspondence. Do not enter payment address or lock box information here.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Check the box that corresponds to the payee business type. Check only one box. Corporations must check the box that identifies the type of corporation. The State of California requires that all parties entering into business transactions that may lead to payment(s) from the State provide their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The TIN is required by the California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18646 to facilitate tax compliance enforcement activities and the preparation of Form 1099 and other information returns as required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 6109(a).</p> <p>The TIN for individuals and sole proprietorships is the Social Security Number (SSN). Only partnerships, estates, trusts, and corporations will enter their Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>Are you a California resident or nonresident?</u></b></p> <p>A corporation will be defined as a "resident" if it has a permanent place of business in California or is qualified through the Secretary of State to do business in California.</p> <p>A partnership is considered a resident partnership if it has a permanent place of business in California. An estate is a resident if the decedent was a California resident at time of death. A trust is a resident if at least one trustee is a California resident.</p> <p>For individuals and sole proprietors, the term "resident" includes every individual who is in California for other than a temporary or transitory purpose and any individual domiciled in California who is absent for a temporary or transitory purpose. Generally, an individual who comes to California for a purpose that will extend over a long or indefinite period will be considered a resident. However, an individual who comes to perform a particular contract of short duration will be considered a nonresident.</p> <p>Payments to all nonresidents may be subject to withholding. Nonresident payees performing services in California or receiving rent, lease, or royalty payments from property (real or personal) located in California will have 7% of their total payments withheld for State income taxes. However, no withholding is required if total payments to the payee are \$1,500 or less for the calendar year.</p> <p>For information on Nonresident Withholding, contact the Franchise Tax Board at the numbers listed below:      Withholding Services and Compliance Section: 1-888-792-4900 E-mail address: wscs.gen@ftb.ca.gov      For hearing impaired with TDD, call: 1-800-822-6268 Website: www.ftb.ca.gov</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Provide the name, title, signature, and telephone number of the individual completing this form. Provide the date the form was completed.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>This section must be completed by the State agency requesting the STD. 204.</p>
	<p><b><u>Privacy Statement</u></b></p> <p>Section 7(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) requires that any federal, State, or local governmental agency, which requests an individual to disclose their social security account number, shall inform that individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by which statutory or other authority such number is solicited, and what uses will be made of it.</p> <p>It is mandatory to furnish the information requested. Federal law requires that payment for which the requested information is not provided is subject to federal backup withholding and State law imposes noncompliance penalties of up to \$20,000.</p> <p>You have the right to access records containing your personal information, such as your SSN. To exercise that right, please contact the business services unit or the accounts payable unit of the State agency(ies) with which you transact that business.</p> <p>All questions should be referred to the requesting State agency listed on the bottom front of this form.</p>