

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 22, 2018

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 Urban Creek grant to The Nature Conservancy for a stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project on the Los Angeles River.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant not to exceed \$250,000 in Proposition 1 funds to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for planning for a stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project on the Los Angeles River.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from The Nature Conservancy for a detailed description. The grant request is for \$250,000 in Proposition 1 urban Los Angeles River funds to be matched with at least \$82,471 from other funding sources. The project would expand upon TNC's completed feasibility study and provide an engineering plan to implement a pilot project of stormwater capture and habitat enhancement at one of two possible project sites: the north side street end of Silverlake Boulevard or California State Parks' Bowtie Parcel.

The Conservancy granted Proposition 50 funds to TNC in February 2014 toward a "Water Supply and Habitat Resiliency for a Future Los Angeles River: Site-Specific Natural Enhancement Opportunities Informed by River Flow and Watershed-Wide Action Study." The current project seeks to undertake a pilot project on the river to demonstrate how stormwater management might accelerate restoration of native habitat and natural flow in the river.

Scoring under the Conservancy's revised Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant Guidelines results in the project receiving 69 points (out of a possible 86; 61 minimum required), plus 2 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 86**(out of a possible 115). Staff recommends award of \$250,000 for this project.