



Audubon Center at Debs Park
4700 North Griffin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90031
Phone: 323-221-2255
debspark.audubon.org

Date May 31, 2018

Chairperson Craig Sap
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

Re: Grant Application, Los Angeles River Pocket Park Habitat Enhancement and Anti-Displacement Project

Dear Chairperson Sap and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for a grant for a project to build community engagement in habitat enhancement along the Los Angeles River and develop strategies and communications around community concerns about displacement driven by investments in parks and open spaces. The Audubon Center at Debs Park, together with its partners, the Southeast Asian Community Alliance and Public Counsel, request a grant of \$471,498 from Proposition 1 for hosting community volunteer activities in neighborhoods adjacent to the Los Angeles River and developing a toolkit responding to community concerns.

If you have any questions about the attached grant application, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Marcos Trinidad
Center Director
Audubon Center at Debs Park
(323) 221-2255
mtrinidad@audubon.org

cc: Sissy Trinh, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Community Alliance
Shashi Hanuman, Directing Attorney, Public Counsel

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

GRANT APPLICATION

Project Name Los Angeles River Pocket Park Habitat Enhancement and Anti-Displacement Project	Amount of Request: \$471,498.						
	Total Project Cost: \$742,046.						
Applicant Name: National Audubon Society / Audubon Center at Debs Park	Matching Funds: \$295,208						
	Lat/Long:						
Applicant Address: 4700 North Griffin Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90031	Project Address:						
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>County</th><th>Senate District</th><th>Assembly District</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Los Angeles</td><td>24</td><td>51</td></tr></tbody></table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	24	51
County	Senate District	Assembly District					
Los Angeles	24	51					
Phone: 323-221-2255	Tax ID:						
Email: mtrinidad@audubon.org	13-1624102						
Grantee's Authorized Representative:							
Gaylon Parsons, Deputy Director, Audubon California	415-644-4605						
<i>Name and Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>						
Overhead Allocation Notice:							
X Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.							
X The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.							
X The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.							
Outreach and Advertising Requirement:							
X Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies.							
X Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.							
<i>All check boxes must be checked</i>							

**Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Los Angeles River Pocket Park Habitat Enhancement
and Anti-Displacement Project
Audubon Center at Debs Park**

Brief Project Description:

See Description Below.

*attach additional pages with project detail

Tasks / Milestones:

Budget:

Completion Date

See Attached Documents

**For Acquisition
Projects:**

APN(s): N/A

Acreage: N/A

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



Signature of Authorized Representative

5/31/2018

Date

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Description

The Audubon Center at Debs Park (Audubon), together with its partners, the Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) and Public Counsel, is requesting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) Proposition 1 funds as follows:

- 1) **\$471,498** in the All Other Improvement Projects category to engage the community in restoration and stewardship of three pocket parks located along the urban core of the Los Angeles River owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) providing multi-benefits and planning funds for an engagement campaign to build community support for green infrastructure investments along the Los Angeles River.

This project directly addresses community opposition to green infrastructure projects due to concerns that such investments will heighten displacement pressures on existing residents. Audubon will create opportunities for the community to become directly engaged in caring for their nearby parks through monthly work days, through which they will learn about the importance of river restoration, green infrastructure, and native habitats and create their own community of residents who support parks and open spaces. Audubon will then create a report on best practices for implementation by other agencies of a corps of park stewards from diverse backgrounds working together on behalf of the Los Angeles River and its watershed. Audubon will also create opportunities for youth and young adults (ages 16-24) to develop related job skills in the fields of habitat restoration.

SEACA and Public Counsel are actively partnering with Audubon and will develop a series of anti-displacement tools and a set of recommended policies and programs for implementation by SMMC and other agencies to reduce the economic impacts of green infrastructure investment on existing communities. Along with these agency-level recommendations, SEACA and Public Counsel will also develop interpretation and education strategies to de-bunk myths commonly held about the link between parks and gentrification and identify strategies to build public support in difficult political environments. Communications tools and outreach will be conducted in multiple languages and the project is located within a disadvantaged community.

These engagement tools, strategies and practices are key components of efforts to maintain existing parklands and develop new parks and open spaces within the Los Angeles River watershed and the urban core of Los Angeles.

Background

One of the biggest barriers to implementation of parks, open space, habitat restoration, and green infrastructure investments in Los Angeles is community concerns around displacement and the belief that these kinds of investments will lead to gentrification. These concerns are particularly acute in river-adjacent communities and neighborhoods where public investment has been highest and long-time residents are increasingly being pushed out of the area by rising rents and skyrocketing housing costs. Recently, the Elysian Valley Neighborhood Council refused to support a proposed park clean up event brought to them by the Audubon Center at Debs Park, citing as their reason that clean parks bring gentrifiers into the neighborhood.

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Gentrification across the region has become a leading cause of Los Angeles' homelessness crisis. Many families who have been priced out of their homes have now set up encampments along the Los Angeles River, living in tents and RVs, and dumping their raw sewage into nearby storm drains and into the river itself. The situation has become so severe that the City's Bureau of Sanitation is exploring the establishment of a mobile sewage collection system in order to divert the waste from homeless encampments from ending up in the Los Angeles River. While displacement might seem to be a separate issue from environmental concerns, this situation and the community's response undermines the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's long-term goals of creating more reliable water supplies and more resilient and sustainably-managed water infrastructure.

Given these issues, we believe that order to successfully implement any green infrastructure and open space projects along the Los Angeles River, we must directly address concerns that public investments in green infrastructure will inevitably lead to gentrification and create proactive strategies to protect communities and increase the economic benefits of investments in healthy watersheds, water and fishery resources, and other green infrastructure. As such, we are proposing a project to identify strategies to debunk myths about parks and gentrification and develop more effective ways to build public support in difficult political environments for green infrastructure.

Goals and Objectives

We are seeking support for a combined Planning and All Other Implementation Project grant. The overall goals are to build the community engagement to care for pocket parks along the LA River. Through habitat enhancement, volunteers will become stewards of the park, which will ultimately lead to a more connected neighborhood through multiple volunteer events. And to identify and test strategies that increase and build support for projects along the 11-mile proposed restoration area of the Los Angeles River in order to increase low-income communities' access to nature and green spaces.

Objectives include:

- Become a consistent and engaged presence in the community for park stewardship. Volunteer work days at three pocket parks: Steelhead, Elysian Gateway Park and Rattlesnake;
- Improve the health of the Los Angeles River through habitat enhancement. Grow and Plant California natives throughout the pocket parks to increase the biodiversity of the LA River;
- Inventory anti-displacement tools that are impactful and can be applicable at different geographies and scales;
- Develop a set of recommended policies and programs for implementation by SMMC and other agencies to reduce economic impacts of green infrastructure investments on nearby communities, including model language for ordinances or zoning codes;
- Identify financial tools and / or other innovative financing solutions that could support equitable planning and comprehensive multi-benefit projects;

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- Create interpretation and education strategies to help de-bunk myths and frame communications around affordable housing, parks, and gentrification;
- Identify strategies to build public support in difficult political environments and launch a six-month community outreach campaign;
- Develop recommendations for best practices for engagement of a diverse community in habitat restoration and park stewardship projects

Partners

Applicant – Audubon California / Audubon Center at Debs Park

The Audubon Center at Debs Park is a unique, vibrant gathering place in northeast Los Angeles, located within the 282-acre Ernest E. Debs Regional Park, and serving an estimated 18,000 people annually through outings, classes and workshops, youth environmental education, community celebrations, and park stewardship activities. In 2015, the Center opened Los Nogales Nursery, the only native plant nursery in northeast Los Angeles and grows over 35 species of native plants for use in on-site habitat restoration projects. Through our work within the community, we ensure the long-term sustainability of the Center, engage diverse communities in conservation education and action, and build a movement for conservation in Los Angeles.

The Center is a program of the National Audubon Society's Audubon California field office. Founded in 1905, Audubon is one of the largest and most effective conservation organizations in the country and has been an active environmental leader in California for over 100 years. Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

For this project, Audubon will be responsible for stewardship and restoration of the pocket parks and for developing best practices recommendations for community engagement around stewardship. Audubon will also oversee the overall project as the applicant.

Active Partner – Southeast Asian Community Alliance

The mission of SEACA is to build power among Southeast Asian youth and their communities in Los Angeles for a more just and equitable society through intergenerational, multiethnic dialogue, leadership development, and community organizing. Launched in 2002, SEACA was founded on the principle of inclusion, and from the beginning, has been guided by a belief that individuals can improve and build power in their own communities. The organization was started due to a lack of resources targeting the needs of Southeast Asians. Most Asian Pacific Islander (API) organizations were dominated by the needs and interests of more established API communities (i.e., Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc.) who were typically more affluent. These issues tended to focus largely on representation and glass ceiling (i.e. affirmative action) issues. Because of their history with the War in Vietnam and the Killing Fields of Cambodia, many Southeast Asians came to the U.S. as refugees, suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, poverty, and poor education, yet most organizations that dealt with poverty or education issues were unable or unwilling to represent the needs and concerns of Southeast Asian refugees. SEACA was founded to represent the needs of these communities with a social justice perspective, and creates spaces

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for new forms of leadership to emerge and we support the development of members of our community to create new and culturally relevant solutions to deep-rooted social, economic, and racial justice issues impacting the Southeast Asian community. We began as a youth leadership program and over the years have expanded our programs to include youth organizing, creative arts and self-expression, and most recently, land use policy and health and community building through food and gardening.

Active Partner – Public Counsel

Public Counsel is the nation’s largest pro-bono law firm and over several decades has become a leading expert on the issues of land use, economic development, affordable housing, and gentrification. Public Counsel has authored a number of guides and research reports on issues of affordable housing, transportation, and community development.

For this project, SEACA and Public Counsel will be responsible for the planning components related to anti-displacement toolkit and communications campaign, working with Team Friday as a sub-contractor: Team Friday is a local communications firm that works with a number of small and mid-sized community organizations and one of their current projects is leading the communications efforts for the Our Parks coalition.

Project Location: The planning project will focus on the communities living along the 11-mile corridor of the proposed Los Angeles River restoration project. The three pocket parks proposed for community engagement are located here. In addition, plants needed for these restoration projects will be grown at Los Nogales Nursery, located within the Ernest E. Debs Regional Park in northeast Los Angeles. Please see the attached project map.

Tasks:

1. Project Start up and Coordination
2. Pocket Park Restoration
 - a. Plan restoration needs at each of the three pocket parks, working with MRCA
 - b. Begin growing plants needed for restoration work at Los Nogales Plant Nursery
 - c. Develop partnership with YouthBuild to support restoration work days
 - d. Develop a schedule of community restoration work days
 - e. Design outreach materials to promote participation in work days
 - f. Launch outreach campaign to recruit volunteers and to educate the community about the intent and purposes of the restoration projects
 - g. Host monthly restoration work days – 1 per month at each park
 - h. Host periodic volunteer appreciation events to build community among volunteers
3. Anti-Displacement Toolkit (SEACA)
 - a. Draft an inventory of best practices and anti-displacement tools for impact and applicability at different scales and will address both residential and small business displacement and include:

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- A set of recommended policies and programs for SMMC and other conservancies to adopt, including existing examples, detailed steps for implementation, and an appendix with references to model language such as ordinances and zoning codes
 - Recommendations for new financial tools and other innovative financing solutions that could support equitable planning and comprehensive multi-benefit projects
4. Outreach and Communications Strategies (SEACA)
- a. Develop interpretation and education strategies to help with framing, de-bunking myths about affordable housing, parks, gentrification, and identify strategies to build public support in difficult political environments
 - Build resident awareness campaign to amplify interpretation and education strategies and anti-displacement tools. May include digital/social media assets, video content creation, and/or commissioned artwork for posters/handouts
 - Create custom messaging strategy and resources to further discuss the health and community connectedness benefits of building parks and green infrastructure
5. Best practices for community engagement recommendations (Audubon)
- a. Contract with writer for project (may be handled by internal communications staff, TBD)
 - b. Produce draft and final report on best practice recommendations, including case study

BUDGET

Please see the attached budget.

Cash matching funds have been secured in the amount of \$150,000 from the California Wellness Foundation grant to SEACA. Audubon has secured \$25,000 from the Resource Legacy Fund. In addition to this cash match, Audubon California is contributing \$51,088 in in-kind staff time and SEACA is providing \$69,120 to ensure Restoration Trainees participate.

Audubon anticipates in-kind donations through time contributed by volunteers at planned park stewardship days and in the native plant nursery located at the Audubon Center. We estimate those in-kind donations to total approximately \$77,500 over two years.

TIMELINE

Please see the attached timeline

The proposed project will be completed approximately 24 months after approval. Community work days at the three identified pocket parks will occur monthly over the grant period, starting within three months of project start-up. A draft of the anti-displacement guide and toolkit would be prepared by June 2019, and would be finalized by December 2019. An awareness campaign would be launched in January 2020 and run through the end of the grant period.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

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This project scores a total of 78 points

The project achieves the purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a)

Yes, the proposed project is consistent with two of the 13 purposes established in the Proposition 1 Water Code Section:

#1. Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.

Gentrification across the Los Angeles region has become a leading cause of Los Angeles' homelessness crisis and has caused many communities near proposed parks, open space or restoration projects to oppose these projects fearing such investment will bring or heighten displacement pressures on existing residents. Gentrification effectively is undermining goals of creating healthy watersheds, fishery resources and instream flow. The proposed project will address the community's perceptions that such investments will negatively impact them. The eventual implementation of recommendations arising from this project would help protect and increase the economic benefits of such investments. The products to be delivered through this project – specifically an anti-displacement toolkit and communications guide will help mitigate the negative economic impacts of public investment and, by stabilizing local communities at risk of gentrification, expand the range of economic benefits of a healthy watershed.

Further, by engaging the community in stewarding nearby parks, the project can also help protect existing investments in healthy watershed, fishery resources, and instream flow.

#11. Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

Many families priced out of their homes and with nowhere else to go, have now set up encampments along the Los Angeles River, living in tents and RVs, and dumping raw sewage into storm drains and into the river directly. The situation has become so severe that the City's Bureau of Sanitation is exploring the establishment of a mobile sewage collection system in order to divert the waste from ending up in the Los Angeles River. By addressing our affordable housing and homeless crisis and we are directly reducing the number of residents who are dumping into the LA River.

The project provides multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply and/or watershed protection and restoration (5 pts)

Yes, Proposition 1 projects will already have water quality, water supply, and watershed protection as primary components. The proposed project will help identify how those can be augmented with additional benefits for recreation, habitat, housing, and economic and environmental justice.

The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan. Yes, the project will focus on the Los Angeles River corridor and will produce a toolkit,

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communications guide and best practices for community engagement to reduce negative impacts on the community through displacement pressures and build more community support for water supply-related projects.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan. (5pts)

Yes, this project will result in the stewardship of three pocket parks located along the Los Angeles River and will support restoration and protection of species and habitats in those parks as followings:

- Steelhead Park – this pocket park is connected to Los Angeles’ first green street. Oros Street was designed with sidewalk catchment basins that filter water before it enters the waterways. Few of the nearby residents are familiar with the project that has been installed or its importance to water quality and instream flow. Steelhead Park was redesigned at the same time with a Biofiltration system that is located in the middle of the park and very little is known about the process of water filtration located onsite. Audubon will work with local residents, community members and MRCA to maintain the vegetation in the catchment basins and in the park, as well as replacing plants with suitable native species to maintain the functioning of the infrastructure and replant part of the park through stewardship projects. Audubon will also continue to implement a high level evaluation of urban land management practices that can be shared with MRCA, LA City and SMMC.
- Elysian Valley Gateway – this the biggest of the three parks and is becoming popular with new residents and employees of new businesses at lunchtime, aggravating concerns of existing residents. Through monthly stewardship projects, Audubon would create a diverse cadre of park stewards from both new and old residents to help them work together to jointly support protection of park resources. The park is very overgrown and neglected, vegetation needs to be managed and in some areas of the park, replanted with native species. MRCA may also pursue a project to redesign the property to include more water infiltration features and a park stewardship corps will help gain public support for restoration.
- Rattlesnake Park – this very small park is not much more than an entrance to the Los Angeles River, but efforts to weed, mulch, and replant the park are still needed. The space has been cared for in recent months by Audubon volunteer events. The iconic Great Blue Heron gates are complemented by a beautiful backdrop of freshly weeded and mulched grounds. The need for habitat enhancement through native plants in this park are evident and will be filled in.

The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan. (5pts)

Yes, the project will produce best practices recommendations for implementation by SMMC, MRCA and other agencies to reduce displacement near parks and open spaces along the Los Angeles River, helping to create more resilient and sustainability managed water infrastructure regionwide.

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The project employs new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation. (5 pts)

Yes, the primary innovation is helping park and water agencies develop a comprehensive response to the impacts that displacement and homelessness are having on communities near green infrastructure projects. The creation of a toolkit and communications guide will provide best practices for implementation, combined with significant outreach to diverse and disadvantaged communities in multiple languages.

The project is located in or adjacent to communities defined no less than 81 percent disadvantaged as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool. (5pts)

Yes. The community is defined disadvantage by CalEnviroScreen by 91-100 percent.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible. (5pts)

Yes, Audubon is already committed to community engagement and has already hosted multiple park stewardship days at these two of the three pocket parks, showing that the work is feasible. With grant support we can create a regular schedule of work days and invest in outreach to grow the cadre of people engaged in the work. SEACA has significant experience working with local residents and stakeholders in the region across 5 languages for social justice and combining technical legal and communications materials with community organizing activities.

Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis. (5pts)

Yes, Audubon has the financial capacity to perform this project on a reimbursable basis. Audubon has been implementing projects on a reimbursable basis for many years, and has sufficient cash reserves to manage cash flow needs related to reimbursable grants.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope. (5pts)

Yes, Audubon has successfully completed many habitat restoration and community engagement projects, many of which involve coordination with park agencies and stakeholders. Audubon worked with the City of Los Angeles to negotiate an innovative public-private partnership with a 50-year lease over 17-acres at Ernest E. Debs Regional Park. In 2002, Audubon built the Center, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum-certified green building, the first in Los Angeles to be entirely “off the grid.” We have invested in capital improvements through implementing a Proposition Axx grant from the City of Los Angeles in 2015-2017. Working with the National Park Service, Audubon also refurbished a dilapidated structure on site to create Los Nogales Nursery in 2016, the only native plant nursery in northeast Los Angeles, growing about 4,000 plants a year from 35 species collected from seed or cuttings in the park and local watershed. For the proposed project, we would grow plants needed for the pocket park restoration at Los Nogales Nursery.

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SEACA has 16 years of experience engaging in youth and community organizing across 4 languages in the neighborhoods of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Lincoln Heights, 3 river adjacent neighborhoods. During that time, have developed a strong understanding of the needs and challenges of river adjacent communities as well as substantive expertise on issues of land use planning, affordable housing, and environmental justice and in 2013, we successfully passed a land use policy that the LA Times editorial board twice referred to as “A Model Plan for LA.”

Public Counsel is the nation’s largest pro-bono law firm and over several decades has become a leading expert on the issues of land use, economic development, affordable housing, and gentrification. Public Counsel has authored a number of guides and research reports on issues of affordable housing, transportation, and community development.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation. (4pts)

Yes, the project is a partnership between the Audubon Center at Debs Park with Public Counsel and the Southeast Asian Community Alliance. Each of these organizations has committed to contributing towards the project implementation.

Audubon has an existing relationship with MRCA that allows it to organize community work days on these pocket parks.

Another partner of Audubon’s is YouthBuild, a network of charter schools that helps youth ages 16-24 to complete their high school degrees through project-based learning that also builds skills needed in the workplace. Audubon would engage YouthBuild students interested in environmental science and habitat restoration in hands-on restoration work at the plant nursery and onsite at the pocket parks as part of the project, thereby providing job training skills.

Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection, watershed ecosystem restoration, or multi-benefit river parkway plan.

Yes, the implementation of several regional plans will be influenced by the outcomes of this project including plans by the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles related to the Los Angeles River. The issues identified through this project are critical to successful implementation of those plans.

Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years’ experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope. (4pts)

Audubon has over 15 years’ experience maintaining the Center at Debs Park and has been active in conservation efforts in California for more than 100 years. SEACA has 16 years of experience engaging in youth and community organizing across 5 languages in the neighborhoods of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Lincoln Heights, 3 river adjacent neighborhoods. During that time, have developed a strong understanding of the needs and challenges of river adjacent communities as well as substantive expertise on issues of land use planning, affordable housing, and environmental justice.

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The project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire and promote watershed health. (4pts)

Yes. This project will collect native seed from the local watershed and replant existing pocket parks. Currently the parks are at risk of fire due to drought and dead trees and plants. Through the introduction of natives, this will promote wildlife, water retention and biodiversity within the watershed.

The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational public use facility or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

The proposed work itself does not implement such a component, although the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan does call for economic analysis of future developments. As noted, the results of this proposed project will help influence implementation of such plans.

This project upgrades an existing regional trail or parkway to protect its continued use and enjoyment by the public. (3pts)

The three pocket parks/parkways proposed for stewardship and enhancement through this project all serve as high-quality access points for the public. With continue trash pick up, replanting and on-going maintenance, these pocket parks will continue to be enjoyed by the local and visiting community members.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities. (3 pts)

Audubon has conducted outreach to thousands of residents and stakeholders in northeast Los Angeles to recruit volunteers for park stewardship projects as well as to promote public awareness and understanding of conservation issues. Outreach is conducted in both English and Spanish. We have also conducted outreach about work day projects in these pocket parks in the past year. SEACA has conducted outreach to thousands of residents and stakeholders (schools, small businesses, community organizations) in the affected communities in five languages (Vietnamese, Khmer, Spanish, English, and 3 dialects of Chinese) in the last 16 years. The project includes interpretive programming or personal interpretation, and a plan to reach community audiences with meaningful information about a watershed resource.

The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits. (2pts)

The project will enhance existing visitor-serving amenities at three pocket parks on the Los Angeles River, replacing existing vegetation with native species and enhancing water filtration and catchment basin function to provide multiple ecosystem benefits. By addressing an underlying cause of homelessness, the project will also address public safety concerns.

The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a watershed resource. (2pts)

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The project will develop non-personal interpretive elements such as flyers for distribution within the community to enhance their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Los Angeles River and gain a better understanding of the linkages among parks and open space investments and displacement pressures. These interpretive elements will be made available in multiple languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer,, and 3 dialects of Chinese. We will also add temporary signage within the parks to help people understand the intent and purpose of enhancements, and invite people to attend regularly-scheduled work days. In addition the temporary signage we will work with MRCA to accurately describe the biofiltration process located at Steelhead Park.

The project creates a new venue for education and/or interpretation activities that promote water conservation and stewardship, or enhances an existing venue. (1pt)

While the project will not create a new physical venue, the project will create new communications tools to promote water conservation and stewardship. The community work days will enhance three existing venues, Steelhead Park, Elysian Fields Park, and Rattlesnake Park and serve as locations for promotion on water conservation and the importance of land stewardship in urban communities along our LA River..

The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access. (1pts)

While the project will not create a new physical public access to a watershed resource, it will enhance existing access to the Los Angeles River. Given how limited access to the river is, these few access points provide high interpretive and educational value to the community.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

No, the project is not expected to benefit such species, as the proposed project does not occur in those habitat types.

The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

No, the proposed project does not develop nor maintain trails. However, the results of the project could benefit future multi-use trail projects proposed to connect communities and public resources.

The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness. (2pts)

Yes, this is a primary goal of the project to build public support for Los Angeles River restoration projects through outreach, education, and interpretation strategies to support long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

Completion of the project would assist in fulfilling a Federal water resources protection or

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watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

Yes, the results of this project would assist implementation of any projects that fulfill the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Plan. Issues of displacement have to be addressed to build support for such projects.

Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.

Yes, Audubon will partner with YouthBuild, a network of charter schools that helps youth ages 16-24 to earn their high school diplomas while gaining job-related skills. We anticipate engaging YouthBuild students to learn about working in plant nurseries and habitat restoration projects.

Project has secured matching funds of at least 25 percent of total project costs.

SEACA recently received a 3-year general operating grant from the California Wellness Foundation for \$150,000 which we will use as our match for the project. In-kind donations of volunteer labor contributed to the project are estimated at \$77,500.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

The project is within 1 mile of the Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park and Chinatown Gold Line stations and nearly two dozen bus lines.

The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such technologies may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces and other forms of water capture and storage. (3pts)

Yes. Steelhead Park has a biofiltration system. The improved native drought landscaping will contribute the cleansing process in addition to adding biodiversity to the watershed. Additional stormwater technologies will be added to the parks such as earth works, native drought tolerant plants, and mulch and decomposed-granite pathways.

The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation. (3pts)

Yes. This project will add tree canopy to all the pocket parks. We will also grow native trees to be planted along the LA River Bike path, which will help promote more enjoyable experience for the public during their recreation at the LA River. The parks also provide an escape from the hot sun and contribute to reducing the heat island effect in this community.

The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems. (2 pts)

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Yes. The project is located in three parks in the 11 mile section of the LA River through Elysian Valley. This is the soft bottom section of the LA River that provide a huge wildlife corridor for small mammals, and birds. Currently, The National Park Service is studying this section for Coyote activity and this has proven to be vital habitat between Elysian Park and Taylor Yard/ G2 parcel which will be developed for public use.

Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.

No, the project would not result in any additional uses of public lands.

The project is consistent with the Common Ground Plan

Yes, the project is located within the Los Angeles River watershed and is consistent with the [San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan](#) (“Common Ground Plan”) as adopted by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as follows:

Accordingly, eligible projects must be compliant with one or more of the following guiding principles of Common Ground:

Land: Grow a Greener Southern California

- Create, Expand, and Improve Public Open Space Throughout the Region
- Improve Access to Open Space and Recreation for All Communities
- Improve Habitat Quality, Quantity, and Connectivity
- Connect Open Space with a Network of Trails
- Promote Stewardship of the Landscape
- Encourage Sustainable Growth to Balance Environmental, Social, and Economic Benefits

Water: Enhance Waters and Waterways

- Improve Quality of Surface Water and Groundwater
- Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water

Planning: Plan Together to make it Happen

- Coordinate Watershed Planning Across Jurisdictions and Boundaries
- Encourage Multi-Objective Planning and Projects
- Use Science as a Basis for Planning
- Involve the Public through Education and Outreach Programs
- Utilize the Plan in an On-Going Management Process

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GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSION BENEFITS OF PROJECT

We will use the GHGE calculator to calculate the our reduction with this project. Native trees and plants will be measure to determine the benefits of this project.

Tools for calculating can be found at the Air Resources Board website and <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/article/climatecalculators>. Other tools and calculators may be accepted with sufficient explanation and justification provided.

OVERHEAD ALLOCATION POLICY

Attachments:

Project Budget
Project Timeline
Project Map