

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 18, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to the National Audubon Society/Audubon Center at Debs Park for a Los Angeles River Pocket Park Habitat Enhancement and Anti-Displacement Project in Elysian Valley, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Audubon Center at Debs Park, the amount of \$471,498.

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

Background: The Audubon Center at Debs Park and partners Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) and Public Counsel, has submitted the attached application requesting Proposition 1 funding for a restoration and community engagement project at three Los Angeles River pocket parks that are owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Their project will provide community member opportunities to participate in resource restoration efforts along the river while creating strategies and tools for addressing disadvantaged community concerns about displacement and gentrification. The grant project directly addresses fears about parks and gentrification in order to allow successful implementation of green infrastructure and open space projects along the river. Native plants are to be grown with locally sourced seed, for planting in the parks.

Matching funding will be provided by in-kind volunteer labor (estimated at \$77,500), and from applicant partner SEACA's \$150,000 grant from the California Wellness Foundation.

Please see the attached application for additional project details.

Under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines, the Audubon application was scored in the All Other Projects category, receiving 70 points out of 96 (minimum of 68 required); plus 11 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 20 Additional Criteria points. Total points: 96 out of 134.

Staff recommends award of this grant.