

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy

Date: June 18, 2018

The Advisory Committee

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to River LA for Rio Vistas project for three street-ends along the Los Angeles River in Elysian Valley, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to River LA for the Rio Vistas project in an amount not to exceed \$578,700.

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

Background: Please see the attached application and additional description pages from the nonprofit River LA for the “Rio Vistas” project details. The grant request is for \$578,700, with total project cost of \$1,754,700; the applicant has secured matching funds in the amount of \$1,176,000. River LA seeks to construct three new multi-benefit street-end pocket parks along the Los Angeles River in the Elysian Valley, at Clearwater Street, Coolidge Street, and Newell Street. River LA indicates they have “moved 100% construction drawings through entitlements/permits, and continue to conduct ongoing community engagement.” The project intends to divert and/or infiltrate runoff draining from approximately 5 upstream acres using low-tech improvements including pavement removal, swales and planted areas. The improvements include removing existing street-end barriers to access to the river bikeway for pedestrians and bicyclists. New vegetation to be planted will assist with reducing heat island effect, and create green spaces.

River LA proposes to contract with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for monitoring and ongoing maintenance, to be paid out of their matching funding.

Under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Guidelines, the Audubon application was scored in the Water Conservation, Treatment and Improvement 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.

