

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: L.A. River Open Space Project Preliminary Design	Amount of Request: \$ 20,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 45,000						
Applicant Name: Community Conservancy International	Amount of Match: \$ 25,000 SMMC Fund Proposition 84 Source(s):						
Applicant Address: 2554 Lincoln Blvd. Suite 223 Venice, CA 90291 Phone: 310-398-8584 Fax: 310-398-8564	Source of Match: Studio City Residents Association						
	Project Address: 4141 Whitsett Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604						
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">County</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">42</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	23	42
	County	Senate District	Assembly District				
Los Angeles	23	42					
Email: Info@ccint.org							
Grantee's Authorized Representative: Esther Feldman, President 310-398-8584 x1 <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <i>Name and Title</i> <i>Phone</i>							
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project: Julie Poulos, Project & Fiscal Manager 310-398-8584 x2 <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <i>Name and Title</i> <i>Phone</i>							
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum): Develop a concept design focused on public access, riverfront recreation and water quality for the last remaining unprotected open space for 22 miles along the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley. This concept design is critical to future L.A. River public access opportunities for two million Valley residents. Work will include landscape design, needs analysis and hydrologic concept for this unique 17-acre site.							
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84							
Narrative/Detailed Project Description: L.A. River Open Space & Public Access Protection and Water Quality Improvement Studio City, CA This project will develop a concept design focused on public access, riverfront preservation and recreation and water quality for the last remaining unprotected open space along a 22-mile stretch of the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley. This concept design is a critical step in protecting this unique opportunity for creating a significant and easily accessible public staging areas for access to the river and river trails for nearly two million San Fernando Valley residents, as well as for the surrounding under-served region. The concept design will articulate a vision for the land that celebrates its unique regional significance as riverfront open space in the Valley, its river proximity and its potential for public access. The concept design will also make use of state-of-the-art techniques for using "green technology" to improve water quality in the river by catching and naturally filtering urban and stormwater runoff. The concept design will provide an important alternative to dense urban development proposed for the 17-acre Studio City site. Consistent with CCI's mission, CCI will also pay close attention to the needs of the many communities in the ethnically diverse Valley, particularly given the existing deficit of riverfront and river trail public access opportunities.							

This riverfront property is unique. It is an irreplaceable link in the 51-mile L.A. River Greenway, and is the only opportunity to provide a significant public trailhead and staging area in the densely-populated and San Fernando Valley. Public transportation to the site is readily available within less than 1/10 of a mile, connecting to both the Metro Rail and Metro Bus systems; this easy regional transit connectivity makes this site even more important and unusual. The site is large enough to provide unique opportunities for:

- Creating a key public staging area, trailhead and connection node for the regional L.A. River Greenway
- Providing badly-needed river recreational access to under-served populations in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding region
- Creating a riverfront park and extending the L.A. River bike and pedestrian trail
- Protecting and developing connections to upstream and downstream river parks and trails, both implemented and planned
- Restoring riparian habitat for native birds and native vegetation
- Implementing critical water quality improvement projects by capturing & naturally filtering polluted urban runoff
- Assisting in improving water quality in the L.A. River and at beaches & coastal waters to which the river drains

Broad Support for Project

There is wide-spread support for preserving this San Fernando Valley riverfront land for river trail, river park, public access, recreation and water quality improvement purposes, including the following elected officials and organizations:

The Honorable Howard Berman, U.S. Congress

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, California State Senate

The Honorable Mike Feuer, California State Assembly

The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles City Council

Friends of Los Angeles River

Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

North East Trees

Studio City Residents Association

Community Conservancy International (CCI) will direct the conceptual design process. Matching funds have already been secured. CCI will research, gather and compile background data related to the site and its river location, including demographics, park deficit data, access needs to the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas, hydrology, storm drain infrastructure and surrounding communities' parks and open space needs.

CCI will retain BlueGreen Consulting, an experienced landscape design firm specializing in multiple-objective open space projects, including parks, greenways, stream and habitat restoration and water quality improvements in riverside parks. Working together, CCI and BlueGreen will prepare for and run a concept design workshop. BlueGreen will research hydrologic and site usage opportunities and constraints, and will develop a concept site design incorporating hydrology, public access, riparian habitat restoration, recreation and other open space elements. With input from workshop attendees, the concept design will be refined, and a final concept design plan document prepared and distributed.

The concept design workshop will include community organizations and leaders, public agencies, civic and environmental organizations and elected officials interested in advancing the L.A. River Greenway, developing new, meaningful public access to the river, and improving water quality by integrating water catchment and natural filtration with recreation and open space. Working closely with these groups and individuals, CCI will ensure that the concept design for this site is consistent with the County L.A. River Master Plan, the L.A. City River Revitalization Plan, and the over \$100 million in public funds that have

already been invested in creating the 51-mile L.A. River Greenway. The concept design will acknowledge and incorporate the site's proximity to public transportation via the Los Angeles MTA Orange Line bus stop at Whitsett and Ventura Blvd.

This concept design is also particularly important because of proposed development plans for this property. The proposed 272-unit development would build nine four-story buildings, destroying this last remaining riverfront open space and preventing future public access to the river and river trails. An open space, river and public access focused design alternative to this development proposal is urgently needed. Regional and city plans call for revitalizing the L.A. River as a major green and recreational resource serving the entire region, and significant public funds have already been invested along the river downstream. The City of Los Angeles has built a mile-long river trail and pedestrian bridge along the river just across Whitsett Boulevard, which would connect to this site. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has purchased and developed several river-front parks further downstream, which would link to this site via the River Greenway trail. This land has been used as recreational open space for more than fifty years, providing a popular and regionally-used small golf course, putting green and tennis courts. Los Angeles County Flood Control District owns and maintains the wide and unpaved right-of-way along the river's edge along the property, including a portion of the property itself; the County Flood Control District also owns the right-of-way immediately across the river.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Start Date	Completion Date
1 Retain & direct Landscape Architect	\$ 1,500	10-15-07	3-31-08
2 Contact and confirm design workshop attendees; schedule & organize design workshop	\$2,500	10-15-07	12-14-07
2 Direct and attend design planning workshop	\$ 5,000	12-1-07	12-18-07
3 Research; Develop preliminary conceptual design	\$4,500	10-15-07	12-15-07
4 Prepare final conceptual design	\$ 6,500	12-15-07	3-31-08

Acquisition Projects: **APN(s):**
Acreage:

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


09-18-07

Signature of Authorized Representative
Date