

# BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) will be held  
Friday, July 22, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**5120 West Goldleaf Circle Los Angeles, CA 90056**

*(Please take the elevator to Floor 1, Room 120)*

## Teleconference Location

Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1305  
Sacramento, California 95814

**10:00 a.m. - CALL TO ORDER - Marina Voskanian, Chair**

## MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE ROLL CALL

***Public Comment and Time Limits: If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please complete a speaking card available near the door to the meeting room. Individuals wishing to comment will be allowed up to three minutes to speak. Speaking times may be reduced depending upon the number of speakers.***

1. Roll Call - Avril LaBelle, Executive Secretary
2. Approval of Minutes (June) - Marina Voskanian, Chair
3. Public Comments - Marina Voskanian, Chair
4. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$745,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Milton Green Street Project – Daniel Sciolini, BHC Proposition 1 Project Manager
5. Presentation on Los Angeles County’s Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers and Water Conservation Measure Proposed for the November 2016 Ballot – Jane L. Beesly, District Administrator - Los Angeles County Open Space District
6. Presentation on “*The Value of Urban Parklands: A Park User Study of the Baldwin Hills*” Semiannual Report - Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience
7. Executive Officer Report: Project Status Update, Fiscal Update - BHC Staff Representatives
8. Board Member Announcements or Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings  
*\*Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **September 16, 2016.***

## ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the Conservancy at (323) 290-5270 at least five days prior to the meeting. For more information about the Conservancy, you may visit our website at [www.bhc.ca.gov](http://www.bhc.ca.gov)

Be it known pursuant to Government Code Sections **54956.8, 54956.9**, the Conservancy may hold a closed session to discuss and take possible action regarding instructions on real estate negotiations, on personnel matters and/or to receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation. Confidential memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.

**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**

5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290

Los Angeles, CA 90056

Phone: (323) 290-5270

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**

**Friday, June 17, 2016**

**10:00 AM Call to Order**

A public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) was assembled at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 2016, at the Baldwin Hills Conservancy 5120 West Goldleaf Circle Los Angeles, CA 90056.

**I. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Julie Alvis, Sara Amir, Lloyd Dixon, Jacqueline Dupont-Walker (*arrived after Item 3.*) Yolanda Gorman (*arrived after Item 3.*) Lacy Johnson (*sworn in after Item 3.*) Eraina Ortega, Starlett Quarles, Craig Sap, Keshia Sexton, Hayden Sohm, Marina Voskanian.

**Staff Present:** David McNeill, Executive Officer; David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General, Gail Krippner, Grant Program Manager; Noa Rishe Khalili, Avril LaBelle, Executive Secretary.

**II. Approval of Minutes (April) – Marina Voskanian, Chair**

*The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Member Sohm so moved, Member Quarles seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken – 7 ayes, 0 nay, 0 abstain, Minutes approved.*

**III. Public Comments – Marina Voskanian, Chair**

*Public comment was invited. No comments were made.*

**IV. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant in an Amount not to Exceed \$606,000 to the City of Culver City for the Refuse Transfer Station Storm Water Diversion System and Rain Garden Project - Daniel Sciolini, BHC Staff Services Analyst**

Mr. Sciolini briefly discussed the recommendation process: grant solicitation, screening, scoring, and recommendation. He stated that there are four solicitation rounds per year with a one-month evaluation period in between each round: 8/1-9/30; 11/1-12/31; 2/1-3/31; and 5/1-6/30. (*Please see attached Item 4 Handout "Evaluation Scoring Criteria"*) Members discussed the definition of disadvantaged community as related to criteria for Proposition 1.

Mr. Sciolini stated the Refuse Transfer Station Storm Water Diversion System and Rain Garden Project is an effort to capture and store the first 1.1 inches of rainfall; this project is estimated to take 13 months - November 2016 through December 2017. (*Please see memorandum dated June, 17, 2016, Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a BHC Prop 1 Local Assistance Grant in an Amount not to Exceed \$606,000 to the City of Culver City for the Refuse Transfer Station Storm Water Diversion System and Rain Garden Project; and Attachment A – Culver City Transfer Station Diversion Project.*)

*(Deputy Attorney General David Edsall conducted the swearing in of Designee Lacey Johnson, Assistant Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor's Office. The BHC welcomes new member Lacy Johnson to the board.)*

*The Chair called for a motion Member Sap made a motion to approve Resolution 15-06, Member Gorman seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken – 10 ayes, 0 nay, 0 abstain, Approved.*

**V. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Scope, Performance Period, and Budget for the Milton Street Park Project, Agreement #BHC12000 with the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) - Noa Rische , BHC Park and Recreation Specialist**

Mrs. Rische Khalili - The scope for this project included a storm water pollution prevention system for the adjacent Milton Street Park. The goal was to create a multi-benefit project between Marina Del Rey Middle School and Ballona Creek for recreation, restoration, preservation, and storm water filtration. Milton Street Park has now been open for six months. The Green Street part of this project has been held up by ongoing permitting issues, and three years of permitting delays has led to an escalation of fees. The MRCA contacted the BHC and determined it best to remove the Green Street part of this project. If this resolution passes, there would be a six-month timeline reduction, and project closeout could take place by June 30, 2016; approximately \$400,000 in funds could be redirected; allowing for cleaner fiscal accounting. The MRCA does plan to apply for other funding for the construction of the Green Street with the support of the other project funders- Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority; Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; the State Coastal Conservancy; and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Members discussed and confirmed that removing the Green Street does not affect the original project guideline criteria. Mr. McNeill indicated that this would have been one of only a few Green Streets in the Los Angeles area, and the very first to have been established on the West Side.

*The Chair called for a motion. Member Sohm made a motion to approve Resolution 15-07, Member Sap seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken – 10 ayes, 0 nay, 0 abstain, Approved.*

**VI. Executive Officer Report: Project Status Update, Fiscal Update - BHC Staff Representatives**

**Project Status Update**

**Proposition 40 - Gail Krippner**

**Stocker Corridor Trail** – We will be finishing the paperwork by Fiscal Year-end, completing final walk-through, and paying remaining invoices. Los Angeles County Parks has been taking great care of the park.

**Stoneview Nature Center** – Construction is underway; the structure is taking shape; next week there will be on-site consultation regarding landscaping; they are moving the soil stockpile. Completion is forecast for November of 2016; project is set to be certified as “Leed Silver,” which is considered excellent environmental certification. Everyone worked very hard to meet this level of design. The community is hoping to use the center as a polling place. BHC has met with county staff regarding center hours of operation. The county will bring in four staff: a grounds maintenance worker, a rec leader, arboretum gardener, and a park superintendent. The BHC will have an office there as well, with someone (part-time) to work as a team and provide operational and interpretive assistance.

**Proposition 84 – Noa Rische Khalili**

**Milton Street Park** – The Park is open and we are closing out the project based on its completion.

**Hetzler Road** – The contractor withdrew their bid. There is a project cost increase; State Parks pledged money to complete this project; the City plans to rebid the project with the new costs; and completion is anticipated December 2016 pending approval by City Council.

**University Southern CA (USC)** – The research phase has been completed. USC is now working on reporting and website construction.

**Loyola Marymount (LMU)** – Parklands User Survey - LMU has completed the second round of surveys, and have surveyed 1,095 park visitors. Season three surveys will begin this summer, and project completion is expected by fall 2017.

**Park to Playa Trail – Ballona Creek Connection** – The design phase is underway, pending the results of geotechnical soil analysis; bidding is expected to close by the end of August; project is on track for completion by Spring 2017.

**Baldwin Hills Parkland Conservation** – BHRCA approved funding; planning has begun for this year’s summer camp; project completion is set for summer 2019

**Fiscal Update – David McNeill**

Applications are coming in for Proposition 40 and Proposition 1. Everything looks within budget for fiscal year-end. *(For details please see Memorandum dated June 17, 2016, Item 6: Executive Officer Report; and corresponding Attachments 1, 2, & 3.)*

**VII. Board Member Announcements or Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Member Sohm – The County has been looking at developing the Fairfax parcel. We have had public meetings related to the Parks Needs Assessment, and have met with pertinent parties to look at constraints, and providing clear access. We have not adopted anything final. Some of the concepts we are looking at have to do with soccer fields, ballfields, or a bicycle venue. Something that reflects water savings. We are moving forward on the pedestrian bridge. The County formed an underground utility district with Culver City and the City of Los Angeles. We are looking at approximately four years to complete. The trail segment from Stoneview up to the Overlook is moving forward, and the section from Hahn proper over La Cienega over to Stoneview will be the last.

Member Sap – We have installed two new autopay parking machines at Kenneth Hahn Park.

Member Dupont-Walker - LA Metro will be unveiling its joint development program. Come to the Inglewood City Hall on Monday, June 20, 2016, at 6 PM to learn about it.

Member Johnson - Stoneview nature center is on track for November. Hahn Community Center may be done by the end of summer. Park to Playa within Hahn Park has been completed. You can see street infrastructure improvements on Slauson around Overhill and Angeles Vista.

*\*The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **July 22, 2016.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Approved:

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Marina Voskanian, Chair

Date:

# BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90056  
Phone: (323) 290-5270  
www.bhc.ca.gov

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## Memorandum

**To:** Governing Board

**From:** Daniel Sciolini, Staff Services Analyst

**Date:** July 22, 2016

**Re:** Item 4: Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a BHC Prop 1 Local Assistance Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$745,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Milton Green Street Project.

**Recommendation:** Approve Resolution 16-01, authorizing a grant of up to \$745,000 in BHC Prop 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Milton Green Street Project

**Background:** The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted an application for Prop 1 grant funds to develop and implement the Milton Green Street Project. The goal of the Project is to transform a traditional asphalt street into a Green Street that will capture, treat and infiltrate both wet and dry urban runoff, removing various pollutants from the water before it can reach the Creek. The Project is designed to enhance water quality and improve the health of the Ballona Creek, while increasing urban green spaces, due to its proximity to Milton Street Park. Additionally, it will increase public access to recreation, offer environmental education, and provide habitat for the local wildlife. The Project will integrate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality improvement in the adjacent Ballona Creek through infrastructure improvements to the neighboring area's watershed utilizing four (4) key project elements:

1. More than ten (10) Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions (VSCE's) to both the north and south sides of the street to infiltrate stormwater and dry season urban runoff; increase the groundwater supply, and reduce pollutants discharged directly to the creek
2. New sidewalk on the southern side of the street for improved creek and park access
3. Crosswalk connecting Marina Del Rey Middle School (MDRMS) with the adjacent Natural Park and bike path
4. Installation of California native trees and shrubs

The application requests a grant of BHC Prop 1 Funds in the amount of \$745,000 to implement the Green Street improvements. Project matching funds including \$125,000 from the Baldwin Hills Regional and Conservation Authority (BHRCA) Prop A, and \$200,000 from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) total \$325,000, accounting for approximately 30% of the total project estimated budget of \$1,070,000. (See Attachment A, Preliminary Budget and Schedule, page 6)

Pursuant to the BHC Prop 1 Guidelines, the MRCA's proposal passed all screening requirements. The application was reviewed and scored by four (4) evaluators, including one expert in water quality. The application met all of the qualifications and scored highest in the following three areas: 1) The extent to which the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term; 2) The extent to which the project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan, other state plans, policies, and relevant regional water plans; 3) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project. It is also consistent with the Governor's Water Action Plan. The final average score of the evaluation was 79 out of 100 possible points. Scoring sheets and evaluations will remain on file.

If the MRCA's proposal is approved, the end result would be a Green Street which would serve as a demonstration of sustainable multi-benefit infrastructure. The project's design would also increase public access to recreation, offer environmental education, and provide native habitat for local wildlife. The project would be a model for similar projects along the Ballona Creek watershed, giving the public an opportunity to learn about water quality and supply, as well as, potential sustainable solutions to addressing stormwater issues. A new public access point to the adjacent park and bike path, as well as ADA-accessible parking and path of travel from the street, are also a part of the scope. The project can be replicated on other streets of this type, within the region and State-wide.

**Milton Green Street**

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**

**PROP 1 LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

(For use in the determination of the priority of Conservancy grants and projects authorized under Division 22.7 of the California Public Resources Code)

**STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

**a. Located within the BHC territory**

Site map and narrative identify project is within the Conservancy territory and boundaries as described in PRC 32553 (a).

**b. Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes**

*PRC 32555 (a)* The Conservancy shall provide recreational, open space, wildlife habitat restoration and protection, and lands for educational uses within the area.

*PRC 32555 (c)* The Conservancy shall provide for the public's enjoyment, and enhance the recreational and educational experience on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in the area.

*PRC 32565.5 (a)* The Conservancy shall develop and coordinate an integrated program of resource stewardship so that the entire Baldwin Hills area is managed for optimum recreational and natural resource values based upon the needs and desires of the surrounding community.

**c. Consistency with purposes of Prop 1 Statute**

*WC 79732 (a)*: In protecting and restoring California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds, the purposes of this chapter are to: (2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems; (4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow; (9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction; (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.

**d. Support from the public (demonstrate)**

*See attachment A page 19*

**e. Consistency with the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan**

*Hydrology, Page 13-14, BHPMP:* The Baldwin Hills are the last large, undeveloped open space in the urban portion of the 127 square mile Ballona Creek Watershed. The hills drain into both Ballona Creek and its tributary, Centinela Creek, through the Ballona Wetlands and then into Santa Monica Bay. The quality of water flowing from the Baldwin Hills is important to water quality in Ballona Creek, the Ballona Wetlands and in Santa Monica Bay.

*Open Space Deficit, Page 33, BHPMP:* The only trail in the planning area is the bicycle trail along Ballona Creek, which has very poor public access, no landscaping and no trailheads. An effective network of regional activities and amenities radiating from the Baldwin Hills Park would revitalize the areas park system maximizing the open space and recreational opportunities for millions of park users.

*Natural Habitat, Page 43, BHPMP:* Opportunities exist to create connections and produce much larger habitat areas, protect populations of native plants and animals unique to Southern California, establish large natural preserve areas, increase the diversity of plant and animal communities and preserve the overall environmental health of the region.

*Education and Interpretation, Page 76, BHPMP:* Providing opportunities for outdoor education and use of the Baldwin Hills Park as a living laboratory is a primary management goal.

**f. Need**

The need for the BHC funding is imperative to the project. If the project is not funded, MRCA would not be able to construct the improvements. The Project plans have been approved by the City, and a "B Permit" is ready to be issued, however the MRCA does not have sufficient funds to bid or construct. Without the additional funds the other funding committed to the Project is in danger of being lost due to budget deadlines and limitations. A delay would also increase costs due to inflation.

**g. Greater-than-local interest**

With nearly 3 million Californians residing in a five-mile radius of the Baldwin Hills territory (according to the 2000 census data), and over 58 million trip visits to the Los Angeles area annually by Californians alone, the land resources in the Baldwin Hills represent an extraordinarily unique value to the entire state. This project promotes and implements California's watershed conservation policies in one of the most densely populated areas of the country. In addition, the end result of this pilot project will serve as a filtering location to the Ballona Creek which can be replicated in other waste transfer stations regionally and statewide.

**h. Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area**

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Staff has experience in storm water projects in the Baldwin Hills Territory by successfully completing the following project:

- Milton Street Park Project completed in February 2016, funded with Proposition 84 grant funds. This project is located along the north side (adjacent) of Ballona Creek just west of Centinela Avenue and includes a 1.2-acre park, with grading, gabion retaining walls, pedestrian pathways including stairs and an ADA-accessible ramp, new gateway, irrigation, native plantings, seating, fencing, bike racks, interpretive panels, and a shade structure.

### **ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**

**a. Leverage**

The applicant has submitted a budget that specifies their ability to provide a 30% project match totaling \$325,000, (See Attachment A Preliminary Budget and Schedule, Page 6).

**b. Resolution of more than one issue (Multi-Benefit Project)**

All aspects of this project were designed to enhance water quality and improve the health of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. The transformation of a traditional asphalt street into an innovative Green Street through the implementation of best management practices. The implementation of a new sidewalk and crosswalk, and an opportunity for Marina Del Rey Middle School to sustain much needed access to stewardship programs at the park and creek. The installation of California native trees and shrubs, will help beautify the surrounding area of the park and improve habitat value while increasing groundwater supply. (See Attachment A, Project Maps and Design Plans pp.21-25)

**c. Readiness**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority staff is positioned to start the project in a timely manner. (See Attachment A, Prop 1 Grant Application, Page 1) They have all the resources needed to monitor and manage the site, as well as to follow up with adaptive management if needed. An aggressive timeline has been projected for the schedule with an estimated date of completion set for June of 2018.

**d. Realization of prior BHC goal**

Previous BHC-funded projects, such as the Prop 84 Milton Street Park project, have created storm water capture and ground water recharge through the use of rain gardens and infrastructure. This project will build on those efforts by providing an additional storm water capture within the Baldwin Hills Parklands. It will also provide park users with an opportunity to gain environmental education during their visits to the Parklands, while allowing the park to be more easily accessible.

**e. Cooperation**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is providing a substantial amount of leadership for the Milton Green Street improvements. Funding partners from the SMRBC and BHRCA, as well as Los Angeles Unified School District, Council District 11, City of L.A. Board of Public Works and Department of Transportation have all been engaged in moving this project forward. (See Attachment A, Letters of Support for MRCA Page 19)

**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY (BHC)**

**RESOLUTION 16-01**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$745,000 OF BHC PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS, FOR THE MILTON GREEN STREET PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, the BHC was created to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat within the Conservancy territory; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section PRC 32555 (c) The Conservancy shall provide for the public's enjoyment, and enhance the recreational and educational experience on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in the area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section PRC 32565.5 (a) The Conservancy shall develop and coordinate an integrated program of resource stewardship so that the entire Baldwin Hills area is managed for optimum recreational and natural resource values based upon the needs and desires of the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the BHC has the authority, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32569 (a), to make grants to local public and state agencies to further the purposes of the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a joint exercise of powers agency established pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 et seq., with expertise in storm water recapture as well as creating storm water management projects along the Ballona Creek; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code 79732, funds from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 are available to 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; and

WHEREAS, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has submitted an application for BHC's Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant Program for the Milton Green Street Project in the Conservancy territory, consistent with the funding source, bond obligation law and grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project was approved by the MRCA board in September of 2012.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BHC GOVERNING BOARD:

1. AUTHORIZES A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$745,000 OF BHC PROP 1 FUNDS TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROJECT FOR GREEN STREET IMPROVEMENTS ADJACENT TO THE BALLONA CREEK.

2. ADOPTS THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS DATED JULY 22, 2016 FOR THIS ITEM.
3. APPOINTS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AS AGENT TO CONDUCT ALL NEGOTIATIONS, EXECUTE AND SUBMIT ALL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO AGREEMENTS, PAYMENT REQUESTS, AND CERTIFICATIONS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PROJECT(S).

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marina Voskanian  
Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall  
Deputy Attorney General

**Baldwin Hills Conservancy - Proposition 1**

**ROUND 4 GRANT PROPOSAL**

**Milton Green Street**

**Submitted to:**

Baldwin Hills Conservancy  
daniel.sciolini@bhc.ca.gov

Attn: PROPOSITION 1

5120 West Goldleaf Circle, #290  
Los Angeles, CA 90056

**Submitted by:**

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
(323) 221-9944

**June 30, 2016**

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**Prop 1 GRANT APPLICATION**

**CONTACT INFO**

<b>Organization</b>	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority		
<b>Contact Person</b>	Ana Straabe	<b>Email</b>	ana.straabe@mrca.ca.gov
<b>Phone</b>	(323) 221-9944 ext. 107	<b>Fax</b>	(323) 221-8937
<b>Address</b>	570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90065		

**PROJECT INFO**

<b>Project Name</b>	Milton Green Street				
<b>Summary</b>	Green Street improvements to ~1-acre of currently conventional asphalt street. Improvements consist of native plant landscaping and irrigation, BMPs for water quality improvement, and sidewalk and ADA curb cuts.				
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$1,070,000	<b>Amount Requested</b>	\$745,000		
<b>Start Date</b>	8/1/16	<b>End Date</b>	6/30/18		
<b>Project Type</b> (check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Habitat Conservation/Restoration		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Greening		
<b>Acres</b>	1	<b>Trail Miles</b>	0	<b>APNs</b> (Acquisition Only)	n/a

**LOCATION INFO**

<b>County</b>	Los Angeles	<b>Specific Location</b>	Adjacent to Marina del Rey Middle School and Milton Park
<b>Latitude</b>	33°59'06.63"N	<b>Longitude</b>	-118°25'08.16"W
<b>What point is represented by the lat/longs (e.g., parking lot, center of site, etc):</b>	Approx. center of Project site where access into adjacent school field exists.		

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Districts	Number(s)	Name(s)
State Senate	26	Ben Allen
State Assembly	62	Autumn Burke
Congressional	37	Karen Bass

## GRANT APPLICATION – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1. **Need for the project.**

As the revitalization of urban waterways increases in popularity, the need for replicable examples of sustainable development also increases. The efforts to revitalize and restore the Ballona Creek have resulted in a high demand for more natural and sustainable projects in adjacent neighborhoods. This development pressure is no longer just for parks, gateways, and trails to replace vacant and blighted Creek-adjacent land, but for more green streets. Los Angeles has more streets than any other City in America: making up 15% of all land within the City. They are our largest underutilized assets that, if converted to green streets, help to support thriving communities, activate public spaces, provide environmental and economic revitalization, increase public safety, enhance local culture, and treat and clean water. Once implemented, this Project will directly help to achieve these benefits and more. Currently, there are very few examples of built green street projects within Los Angeles. Much more implementation of these types of projects is needed in order to take advantage of the large role our existing infrastructure can play in cleaning our watersheds and building more vibrant communities and ecosystems.

There is an unquestioned need for additional stormwater treatment and green space in urban areas of Los Angeles. This Milton Green Street project (Project) is part of the regional “Park to Playa” vision as it will contribute to a wide range of necessary recreational goals as well as regional water quality needs. Additionally, this Project is also identified as a priority project in the City of Los Angeles’ adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for Ballona Creek because there is a large need to clean polluted runoff entering waterbodies and improve the overall watershed health. There is also a lack of connectivity from this neighborhood to the immediately adjacent Natural Park and bike path which is much desired by the residents and students of the adjacent Marina Del Rey Middle School (MDRMS). The Project site is currently a completely asphalt, unattractive, and vegetation-free street with no BMPs, located directly adjacent to Ballona Creek.

#### Response to Need

The Project will transform 1,000 feet of asphalt, unattractive street into an environmentally friendly green street that will serve multiple benefits. The Project is an extension of previous gateway efforts to enhance the Ballona Creek bike path and will transform the area to be more inviting and accessible. As such, it will include a new much needed public access point to the adjacent Natural Park, bike path, and future Park to Playa Regional Trail significantly increasing the accessibility and value of the adjacent amenities to the neighborhood residents, students of MDRMS, and users of all abilities. Currently, the park and bike path entrance from Milton Street is closed because there is no ADA-accessible parking or path of travel from the street. The Green Street project includes those elements, and its implementation will allow that entrance to be opened allowing the Natural Park and bike path be utilized even more. Studies have shown that exposure to nature supports children’s healthy and creative development, strong immune systems, and beneficial effects on behavioral conduct and well-being.

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

The Project's design simulates the native landscape found along the adjacent Creek and will be an extension of the Natural Park bringing additional nature to an urban setting. The native planting will aid in improving air quality by sequestering carbon, provide habitat for local wildlife, and create an adaptable environment resilient to drought and climate change - supporting a thriving community and providing environmental revitalization.

Additional needs addressed by the Project include sustainable stormwater management, cleaner waterbodies and watersheds, and greater awareness and stewardship of natural resources. In addition, the Project will increase habitat for local wildlife, help tackle issues created by climate change, and support the curriculum at MDRMS through use as a plant and wildlife learning tool. The Project will be a demonstration project for future, similar, green streets in the Ballona Creek watershed. It will provide an opportunity to allow a wider segment of the public to learn about water quality and supply issues and potential sustainable solutions to those issues.

Serving an adjacent disadvantaged community, not only will the Project benefit people who live and work within walking distance, but it will remove various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil which currently flow from 45-acres of tributary area directly into the Ballona Creek. The Project's watershed treatment components address current California's drought with water sustainability as a main design component. The Project meets the requirements of this program (which seeks to fund multiple benefit ecosystem and watershed protection projects) by using natural systems to clean water and air, and creating a new multiple-benefit amenity for the community. The Project will capture, filter and infiltrate polluted storm and dry-weather runoff before it can enter into the Ballona Creek. The system is designed to efficiently protect California's precious resource by improving water quality and supply in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

## **2. Goals and objectives.**

The goal of the Project is to transform a traditional asphalt street into an attractive, thriving, and innovative Green Street that will serve as an exemplary demonstration of sustainable multi-purpose infrastructure that has both environmental and community benefits. All aspects of the Project were designed to enhance water quality and improve the health of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. Additional Project goals include increasing public access to recreation, offering environmental education, and providing habitat for local wildlife. It will also increase urban green space by acting as an extension of the adjacent Natural Park.

The Project will install California native trees and shrubs and integrate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality improvement by installing Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions (VSCEs) to both north and south sides of the Street, add a new sidewalk, and install a crosswalk connecting MDRMS with the adjacent Natural Park and bike path. The Project aims to significantly improve the quality of water within the Ballona Creek and improve overall watershed health. This will be achieved through the stormwater management components (VSCE's). As mentioned, the VSCEs will capture, treat, and infiltrate both wet and

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dry weather urban runoff removing various pollutants including trash, metals, bacteria, and oil from the water before these substances can reach the Creek. These functional elements will also serve as an educational tool for MDRMS students and promote infiltration achieving the goal of providing environmental education and increasing stewardship.

The proposed \$725,000 grant would be used to complete the permitting, bidding, and construction of the Project.

**3. Site Description.**

The Project is located entirely within the City of Los Angeles' public street right-of-way. The City of Los Angeles Sanitation Division will maintain the Project once constructed. It is situated directly between MDRMS and the recently completed multiple-benefit Natural Park and gateway to the Ballona Creek bike path which connects this site with severely disadvantaged communities upstream and allows the Project to directly serve those communities. To the east of the site is the Centinela Gateway, an access point to the bike path. To the west a short distance are the Ballona Wetlands (home to the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow), separated from the proposed Project by a few homes and the bridge of the Route 90- Marina Freeway that acts as a threshold.

The section of Ballona Creek directly adjacent to this Project is soft-bottom and supports many fish and bird species. The Project's water quality component will directly benefit the wildlife within this portion of the Creek as well as the downstream Wetlands and Pacific Ocean. Currently, the stormwater from a 45-acre drainage area is piped under the Natural Park and enters the Ballona Creek untreated, carrying trash, sediment, nutrients, oils, bacteria, and other urban pollution. The Project will intercept this flow within the VSCEs allowing for natural percolation. The water infiltrated will replenish the local aquifer, increasing local reserves of water.

**4. Specific Tasks.**

#	Task Name	Description
1	Planning/Project Management	Consultant contracting & coordination, develop and manage budgets and schedules, grant administration, permitting, maintain project records, coordinate and document meetings, etc.
2	Consultant Costs	Design & engineering construction consultation and observation; Construction bidding and management. Consultant services also include but are not limited to site visits, construction meetings, Responses to RFIs, calculations, and materials testing.
3	Construction	Construction implementation of green street.
4	Monitoring Program	Evaluation of water treatment (VSCE) features.

**5. Work Products.**

The specific work products of the Project will be (a) the construction of a 1-acre multiple-benefit green street and (b) monitoring information gathered.

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**6. Measuring Success.**

A Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP) was created to assess the effectiveness of the proposed Green Street's BMPs in reducing or eliminating wet-weather runoff pollutant load conveyance to Ballona Creek by measuring key water quality parameters before and after treatment. The BMPs are anticipated to infiltrate the runoff from most storm events and effectively remove trash, metals, bacteria, organics, oil, and grease that would otherwise discharge into Ballona Creek, Ballona Creek Estuary, and Santa Monica Bay. The monitoring will help to confirm that the BMPs are effective. Monitoring will be conducted by CWE, the developers of the MRP. Effectiveness of water conservation features will be monitored by LASAN via water bills and visual assessment of plant health. LASAN will implement adaptive management, if necessary.

Once the Project is constructed, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) will manage and maintain the Project elements including stormwater features. Funding for LASAN's maintenance comes through a variety of sources including annual ongoing tax revenue.

**7. Project Maps and Graphics.**

See attached Attachments 4 and 5. Also, refer to Milton Green Street Project Maps, Graphics and Photos digital files.

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**GRANT APPLICATION – PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE**

Task Number	Task	Completion Date	Applicant's Funding	Baldwin Hills Conservancy Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
1	Planning/Project Management	6/30/18	\$0	\$67,720	\$60,000	\$127,720
2	Consultant Costs	6/30/18	\$0	\$51,000	\$9,000	\$60,000
3	Construction	6/30/18	\$0	\$626,280	\$236,000	\$862,280
4	Monitoring Program	12/31/18	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>						
			<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$745,000</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>	<b>\$1,070,000</b>

**In Kind Services**

N/A

**GRANT APPLICATION – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**1. Proposition 1 Goals. Which of the following purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 are achieved by the project (check all that apply):**

- Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and in-stream flow.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects for which Grantee has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible (for restoration and ecosystem protection projects only). Grantees must submit a completed Corps Consultation Review Document. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Appendix D.
- Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways.
- Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.
- Fulfill the obligations of the state of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
- Remove barriers to fish passage.
- Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.
- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, storm water resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.

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- Protect and restore coastal watersheds including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and near shore ecosystems.
- 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.
- Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
- Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

**2. Conservation Corps.**

Completed Corps Consultation Review Documents are attached (see Attachment 1).

**3. Disadvantaged Communities.**

The Project is located directly adjacent to the Ballona Creek bike path which connects this site with severely disadvantaged communities upstream and allows the Project to directly serve those communities. See attached map developed using the Department of Water Resources' online map viewer. The Project will provide multiple-benefits to local flora and fauna, and most importantly, will improve the environment for community members, who are burdened by pollution, environmental conditions and population characteristics. The community within walking distance of the Project (to the East of Centinela Ave.) is comprised of a mix of census tracts which have CalEnviroScreen scores of 76-80% with 45% of the population diagnosed with asthma. The CalEnviroScreen is a California Communities Health Screening Tool, which helps identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. A higher percentile indicates a higher relative burden to the area. Since the Project will be planted with native California species, it will improve air quality and emitting oxygen, and the infiltration of stormwater will improve regional water quality and supply for this DAC. This Project will reduce the impacts of climate change by also encouraging bicycling and walking, reducing fossil fuel use and the associated pollution.

**4. Consistency with other State Plans:**

**California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report**

The Project helps to achieve the California @ 50 Million's vision and environmental goals in the following ways: It's native plant landscaping will serve as and provide much needed habitat for wildlife and will also minimize the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity and increase resiliency. The trees will aid in reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through carbon sequestration helping to provide clean air for California residents. The Project also helps to provide clean water for all residents via its BMPs which will infiltrate and recharge the groundwater supply and clean the water within the Ballona Creek.

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CA Climate Adaptation Strategy/Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk Plan

The Project's multiple-benefit design anticipates climate change and helps to reduce its effects thereby helping with the CA Climate Adaptation Strategy. The Project plans for installation of all drought-tolerant California native trees and shrubs: The purpose is to create habitat for local wildlife, provide shade for pedestrians, reduce the Urban Heat Island effect created by a completely asphalt street, reduce impervious surfaces and promote more infiltration projects, generate oxygen, and sequester carbon / remove pollutants from the air thus helping to address and reduce GHG emissions and helping with the adverse impacts of global warming.

California Water Action Plan

The Project ultimately aids in addressing issues identified in this Plan related to water supply and quality including declining water quality and native fish species / loss of wildlife habitat due to climate change. The Project will improve the quality of water within Ballona Creek and therefore help to improve conditions for both wildlife and humans. The Project is ultimately consistent with the strategies and goals of the Plan since, as the Plan states, "there is increased focus on projects with multiple benefits, such as stormwater capture, that can help simultaneously improve the environment, flood management and water supplies".

CA Wildlife Action Plan

California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California

"A functional network of connected habitats is essential to the continued existence of California's diverse species and natural communities in the face of both human land use and climate change" (CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife). This Project creates and contributes to that network of habitats to ensure the conservation of local wildlife. Not only does the Project's landscape contribute to a system of habitats on the area, but the ultimate restoration of the water quality through the Project's BMPs will inevitably help to protect the fish species inside the Ballona Creek. Per CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, "As habitat conditions change in the face of climate change, some species ranges are already shifting and wildlife must be provided greater opportunities for movement, migration, and changes in distribution" and the Project aids with this.

Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Community Conservation Plans (specify the plan)

Other relevant state or regional plan(s) (specify the plan, refer to Appendix C)

Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan (BHPMP) (2002) identifies the need to connect wildlife habitat areas and highlights the importance of creating new habitat due to the currently degraded and fragmented conditions in and near the Baldwin Hills. This Project will create new habitat for wildlife while also improving the current habitat conditions within Ballona Creek for marine life. Additionally, it will serve as an educational resource and conduit directly into an area for recreational purposes, as the BHPMP calls for. As the Project is

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part of the larger Park to Playa / One Big Park vision, it directly connects this site and adjacent Park and their benefits (for both humans and wildlife) to the Baldwin Hills.

GREEN LA Action Plan (2007, City of Los Angeles) strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1) Creating parks and work with schools to build more parks in their community, 2) Revitalize water bodies and create more open space opportunities, 3) Develop locations for stormwater infiltration to recharge the groundwater. The Project fulfills two of three of these objectives.

Integrated Resources Plan for the Wastewater Program (2006, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation) focuses on water treatment and re-use which is consistent with this Project as it reduces and re-uses stormwater runoff volumes through on-site measures, such as reducing impervious surfaces and BMPs to treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff.

Ballona Creek Watershed Management Master Plan (2004): Project is identified as a priority project in this plan: The plan identifies target areas for source control of pollutants, habitat/open space restoration potentials in the watershed, demonstrates their feasibility, evaluates their potential benefits in improving water quality, and selects and prioritizes best management practices (BMPs) that are most cost-effective for achieving the goals.

## 5. California Water Action Plan.

### a. Identify which goals of the California Water Action plan the project will promote or implement.

- The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.  
The infiltration of water via VSCEs will increase the quantity of our groundwater supply and the capture thereby reducing the amount of imported water needed for Southern California.
- The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.  
The Project's implementation will benefit Ballona Creek, which provides habitat to sensitive species. The planned native California species and will create new habitat.
- The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.  
By filtering and infiltrating stormwater and dry season urban runoff, water that is not infiltrated into the VSCEs and enters the infrastructure of the Ballona Creek will be both reduced and cleaner.

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b. Identify the Integrated Watershed Management Plan(s) and any other regional or watershed plans that apply to the specific project area. For each, list those goals, objectives, priority actions, etc. that the project will promote or implement.

- Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management (GLAC IRWM) South Bay Subregional Plan: Plan includes the Project and Ballona Creek and Ballona Wetlands Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans. The plan identifies target areas for source control of pollutants, habitat/open space restoration potentials in the watershed, demonstrates feasibility, evaluates potential benefits in improving water quality, and selects and prioritizes best management practices (BMPs) that are most cost-effective for achieving the goals.
- City of Los Angeles' Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (2007): Project is identified as a priority project in the City's adopted TMDL Plan for the Ballona Creek (appendix G, Figure G-3). This Project will help with the TMDL plan's goals to clean the currently polluted runoff and trash entering our waterbodies.

The Ballona Creek feeds into the Ballona Creek Wetlands and drains into the Pacific Ocean at Marina del Rey making up the Ballona Creek Estuary, which are all listed as impaired waterbodies for trash, cadmium, coliform bacteria, lead, copper, enteric viruses, zinc, DDT, and other pollutants <sup>[1]</sup>. The completion of the Project would assist in achieving the TMDL targets. Therefore, the Project will help contribute to meeting the TMDL plans and the GLAC regional planning goals, objectives, and targets for watershed health.

## 6. Best Scientific Practices.

The best available science applies to the methods used in design and future construction of the VSCEs, and the selection of plant materials. The design team includes experienced designers that regularly implement projects with a focus on stormwater and habitat restoration and who keep up with the current science and technology used in open space design, hydrology, and restoration, and have completed many projects that provide them the benefit of continued feedback regarding which scientific approaches are likely to succeed.

## 7. New Technology.

The Project will install solar panels for powering of the irrigation and will therefore save energy. More importantly, it will implement stormwater treatment VSCEs that are innovative and have only been installed (in the 472 square mile City of Los Angeles) twice before. The first implementation was the Riverdale project in 2010 in the Elysian Valley neighborhood of Los Angeles. The second was in 2012 by MRCA at the Dallas street-end in Elysian Valley. The VSCE design and details used in the Project's Construction Documents (CDs) employ standard plans for VSCEs created by the City's Bureau of Engineering.

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<sup>[1]</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/2012state\\_ir\\_reports/category5\\_report.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/2012state_ir_reports/category5_report.shtml)

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**8. Sustainability.**

This Green Street Project will be a model of sustainability for water treatment and will be replicable for other much needed similar projects. The Project was designed using a holistic natural management systems approach to resource protection and stormwater management. The VSCEs, fed by dry season urban runoff and urban storm water respectively, will collect, treat, and infiltrate water to recharge the local aquifer. Native drought-tolerant plantings will replace impervious asphalt, will sequester carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) as well as cool the atmosphere and reduce the urban heat-island effect. The smart irrigation controller will be powered by solar panels. A final notable aspect of sustainability is the development of environmental stewardship through the Project's location and use by MDRMS and interpretive signs: All public information regarding the Project, since its inception in 2008, has contained education about its many environmental benefits. Interpretive signs in Milton Park will include this content as well. The Project will promote long-term stewardship by teaching the public about water issues and the areas' precious natural resources. It will heighten awareness of GHG emissions and reduction measures that the public can take in their personal lives to improve air quality, highlight water conservation and water quality improvement measures, and carbon sequestration methods and benefits. Additionally, as mentioned, the Project will support the curriculum at MDRMS through use as a water conservation, plant and wildlife learning tool, ultimately creating future environmental stewards.

**9. Project and Applicant History:**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of [Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy](#), the [Conejo Recreation and Park District](#), and the [Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District](#). MRCA's mission is to protect land and public access to natural lands in southern California. Since its inception, the MRCA has designed, planned and constructed scores of projects throughout Los Angeles. The overall goal for MRCA's urban parklands program is to "integrate nature into the urban environment". The completion of this Project will represent one additional step toward that goal. The Project was originally envisioned and designed in conjunction with the adjacent natural park. The MRCA and its consultants have done extensive Project outreach since 2008 meeting with various City departments, City Council staff, adjacent middle school, and community groups (including the Del Rey Residents Association) to both gain support and design the Project. MRCA has implemented several recent Conservancy funded projects which have been even more complex in size, budget, scope and duration to the proposed Project including the adjacent Ballona Creek Milton Park and Stocker Trailhead, both exemplary urban projects. The site is prioritized in the City of LA's TMDL plan which acknowledges the need to improve the quality of water in the Ballona Creek and more greening of the neighborhood, specifically recommending the site for habitat and water quality improvements.

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**10. Environmental Review:**

The proposed project:

- Is not a project under CEQA. Briefly specify why.
- Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
- Requires Negative Declaration, MND, or EIR.**

The Project MND was completed in July 2012 and adopted by the MRCA Board in September 2012.

**11. Support:**

The Project has been developed by an exemplary partnership between the following groups:

- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA): Responsible for planning, design and construction;
- City of Los Angeles (Councilmember Mike Bonin, Bureau of Sanitation, Green Street's Committee, etc.): Land owner, project partner, and responsible for future park maintenance and operations;
- Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA): Land owner of adjacent Park and is supportive;
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas: Supports the project;
- State Coastal Conservancy: Supports the project; and
- Marina del Rey Middle School: Future end-users, adjacent school, and are supportive.

By the time the project is complete, the plans will have been approved by three more City departments: Department of Transportation, Bureau of Street Services, and Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division, as well as the City's Green Streets Committee. The Project is truly a partnership between jurisdictions in that the MRCA will be managing the construction within the City's right-of-way and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (Watershed Protection Division) will be maintaining the improvements in perpetuity (see Attachment 2 for maintenance letter). Because of its innovative design, partnerships, and improvement of environmental quality, this Project addresses many of the issues identified by local, regional, and State environmental groups. For these reasons and more the Project is also supported by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, City of Los Angeles Councilman Mike Bonin, City of Los Angeles' Green Street's Committee, City of Los Angeles' Watershed Protection Division, Marina del Rey Middle School and LAUSD, Ballona Creek Renaissance, and the adjacent and surrounding community. See Attachment 3 for Project support letter from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, chairperson of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority. Additional support letters are available upon request.

**12. Regional Significance:**

The Project is part of the multi-modal Park to Playa Regional Trail system. A component of the Project is an ADA curb ramp and parking that will service the street-level entrance to the adjacent Milton Natural Park that connects to the 6-mile bike path which connects the

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Baldwin Hills Parklands to the Pacific Ocean and is part of the future Park to Playa Regional Trail. The Project will be a new amenity and create a new connection along the regional trail route enhancing its use by the public. Additionally, the Project will improve watershed health and will benefit sensitive and endangered species, such as the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Stormwater treatment projects help to protect plant and animal species and their habitat found in fragmented urban interface. The Project will employ water conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce the trash within Ballona Creek: Improving the water quality within the Creek is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species and to the health of the overall watershed. Cleaner water in the Creek means cleaner water within the Wetlands, restoring and enhancing local wildlife habitat.

**13. Need for Conservancy Funds:**

If the Project is not funded, MRCA would not be able to construct the improvements. The Project plans have been approved by the City and they are ready to issue a B permit but MRCA does not have sufficient funds to bid or construct. Without additional funds at this time, the other funding committed to the Project is in danger of being lost due to budget deadlines and limitations. A delay will also increase costs due to inflation. Ultimately, the opportunity to create a demonstration green street, which will help to revitalize the Ballona Creek Watershed, would be lost should additional funds not be granted.

As mentioned, this Project has the potential to transform a currently unattractive and vegetation-free street and will also allow for a new access point to the adjacent park, bike path and the Park to Playa Regional Trail system. The Project is an extension of previous gateway efforts to enhance the bikeway and will transform the area to be more inviting and accessible ultimately encouraging and increasing the usage of the adjacent bike bath. As the P2P trail is expected to be highly used once completed, more people will use and pass through this Project and will be exposed to and learn more about the area's natural resources and water treatment projects. At the moment, the park and bike path entrance from Milton Street is closed because there is no ADA-accessible path of travel from the street. The Green Street project includes those elements, and its implementation will allow that entrance to be opened. If the Project does not receive funding these benefits and others specified in this application, would not be provided to the community.

**14. Vulnerability from Climate Change Impacts Other than Sea Level Rise:**

Los Angeles County will likely be affected by climate change in the following ways: More severe droughts, more intense heat spells and loss of California's native biodiversity. The design of this Project anticipates these changes and mitigates them. Native plant landscaping will cover the majority of the green street. This will serve as new and enhanced habitat and open space for wildlife, minimizing the threats of Global Warming on California's biodiversity. Additionally, the site is between the Baldwin Hills and the Ballona Creek Wetland and Ecological Reserve, both of which provide a habitat stepping stone to facilitate movement of wildlife. Additionally, the Ballona Wetlands provides habitat to sensitive species and endangered species such as the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. In case of extreme drought, the Project will help to act as a reserve of food, water, and potential shelter to migrating species.

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The Project will also employ water treatment and conservation measures to improve the quality of water and reduce trash and other pollutants within Ballona Creek upon which wildlife depends. Since this Project is adjacent to the soft-bottom portion of the Creek, there is much more wildlife that survives there than in other areas. Increasing opportunities for rainwater to filter into the water table can reduce the risk of minor flooding, as well as increasing local water reserves. Also, improving the water quality within the Creek is essential to the survival of the area's wildlife species. Furthermore, the density of trees and vegetation in Green Street will sequester carbon as well as cool the atmosphere, further helping California's native biodiversity by reducing intense heat spells created by climate change.

**15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:**

The Project includes improvements that will allow use of a new access point into the adjacent park and bike path. Additionally, the Project will serve as a new amenity and connector point to the future Park to Playa Regional Trail which serves to connect the Baldwin Hills Parklands to the Pacific Ocean with one continuous 13-mile multi-modal regional trail. This regional trail will not only connect parks and trails to one another but will also more easily connect neighborhoods and users to other various local amenities and public transit connections reducing overall and future VMT.

**16. Willing Seller:**

N/A - Acquisition is not part of this project.

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Milton Green Street Project

Attachment 1 – Conservation Corps Consultation

Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC)

Corps Consultation Review Document

Within five (5) business days of receiving the project information, both the CCC and CALCC representatives will review the submitted information, contact the Grantee if necessary, and respond to the applicant with this Corps Consultation Review Document. Two copies of this Corps Consultation Review Document (one completed by the CCC and one from the CALCC) must be included in applications to the Conservancy for Proposition 1 funded grants.

1. Name of Applicant: **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**  
Project Title: **Milton Green Street**

Department/Conservancy to which you are applying for funding: **Baldwin Hills Conservancy**

To be completed by Applicant:

Is this application solely for planning or acquisition?

Yes (application is exempt from the requirement to consult with the Corps)

No (proceed to #2)

To be completed by Corps:

This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:

The California Conservation Corps (CCC)

California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)

2. Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC and CALCC)

No (applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps – application is deemed non-compliant)

3. After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC and CALCC has determined the following:

It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant)

It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant).

*The Los Angeles Conservation Corps would like to participate in all aspects of this project.*

CCC AND CALCC REPRESENTATIVES WILL RETURN THIS FORM AS DOCUMENTATION OF CONSULTATION BY EMAIL TO APPLICANT WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS OF RECEIPT AS VERIFICATION OF CONSULTATION. APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.

*Be Saumon  
Deputy Director*

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

**Attachment 1 – Conservation Corps Consultation**

California Conservation Corps (CCC)

**Gabriella Garry**

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**From:** Prop 1@CCC <Prop1@CCC.CA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2016 2:21 PM  
**To:** Gabriella Garry; Prop 1@CCC; Lino, Edgar@CCC  
**Cc:** Ana Straabe  
**Subject:** RE: Conservation Corps Consultation: BHC Prop 1 Grant, Milton Green Street

Hello Gabriella.

Edgar Lino, the Conservation Supervisor at our CCC Los Angeles location has responded to the partnership for your project: Milton Green Street Project. CCC can assist with this project with signage and striping, and the Vegetated Storm water (VSCEs) planted with native trees and shrubs.

Please include this email with your project application as proof that you reached out to the CCC. Feel free to contact Edgar Lino at [Edgar.Lino@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Edgar.Lino@ccc.ca.gov) directly if you have project-specific questions and when your project receives funding.

**To be completed by Corps:**

This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:

- The California Conservation Corps (CCC)
- California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)

2. Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

- Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC and CALCC)
- No (applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps – application is deemed non-compliant)

3. After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC and CALCC has determined the following:

- It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant)
- It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant).

Thanks,

**Nick Martinez**  
Region II Analyst  
California Conservation Corps  
Office (916) 341-3157  
[Nicholas.Martinez@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Martinez@ccc.ca.gov)



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Attachment 2 – Maintenance Letter from LASAN

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEMBERS**

—

**KEVIN JAMES**  
PRESIDENT

**MONICA RODRIGUEZ**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**HEATHER NARE REPENNING**  
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—

**ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR**  
DIRECTOR

**TRACY J. MINAMIDE**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**LISA B. MOWERY**  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**ADEL H. HAGEKHALIL**  
**AL FRANDER E. HELOUJ**  
**ROBERT B. IRVIN (ACTING)**  
**L.F.O.N. MARTINEZ (ACTING)**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

—

**WATERSHED PROTECTION DIVISION**  
6145 SOUTH BRADWAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90046  
TEL: (213) 484-9637  
FAX: (213) 484-9834  
WWW.LACITY64N.DOC

November 17, 2015

Laura A. Saltzman  
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority  
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Ms. Saltzman:

**AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN MILTON GREEN STREET PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS**

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, Watershed Protection Division (WPD) understands that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Milton Green Street project (PROJECT) will improve and convert Milton Street between Westlawn Avenue and Mascagni Street into an active green street. The PROJECT is directly north of the new Milton Street Park located at 12500 Milton Street in the City of Los Angeles (City).

The PROJECT lies entirely within the City's right-of-way and will provide ecological benefits, enhanced water quality, and is expected to increase green space, promote infiltration and improve the quality of life for citizens residing within the City.

PROJECT improvements will include a crosswalk connecting the Park to the Marina del Rey Middle School, sidewalk and steel grate culverts on the south side of Milton Street, ADA curb ramps, signs and striping per MUTCD and CalTrans standards, and Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions (VSCB's) located on both the north and south sides of Milton Street which are to be planted with 1-28 native trees along with native shrubs/perennials as understory material and related irrigation. The VSCB's were designed utilizing the City's standard plans and will capture, treat and infiltrate wet and dry weather urban runoff as well as some runoff from the adjacent park. VSCB's will remove various pollutants including trash, bacteria, oil, and grease from the water before they can reach the Creek.

This PROJECT is identified as a priority project in the City of Los Angeles' adopted TMDL Implementation Plan as a "proposed distributed BMP site" (Figure G-3). Through the construction of these improvements, this PROJECT will help the City to meet our TMDL goals to clean the water

*zero waste • one water*

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Recycling and Sustainable Communities 

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Laura A. Saltzman  
November 17, 2015  
Page 2 of 2

entering our waterbodies and thus will improve our overall water quality. Additionally, the PROJECT meets the goals of the Mayor's Great Street's Initiative and is consistent with the City's "GREEN LA Action Plan" which strives to lead the nation in fighting global warming.

The PROJECT helps to move Los Angeles towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly City. Improved water quality is an important keystone of WPD's green infrastructure plan that will provide for sustainable water resources, habitat enhancement, betterment of the ecosystem, leading to enhancing the vitality of this area and creating a healthier and sustainable neighborhood in a greener environment.

WPD hereby agrees to maintain and accept liability for the PROJECT, as is described in this letter and as depicted in the Construction Documents, in perpetuity.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Shahram.Kharaghani@lacity.org](mailto:Shahram.Kharaghani@lacity.org) or by telephone at (213) 485-0587.

Sincerely,



SHAHRAM KHARAGHANI, P.E., PE BCEE  
Program Manager

SK:LS:m  
WPDOR9232

c: Ana Strahe, MRCA  
Alexander Cuzzo, BSS  
Nishik Dhandia, BSS  
Robert Gutierrez, BSS  
Wing Tam, LASAN  
Steven Nikaido, LASAN

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

**Attachment 3 – Support Letter**

**BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

*A public entity of the State of California exercising joint powers of the County of Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*

*Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Chairperson  
John Wicker  
Vice-Chairperson  
Irma Muñoz  
William Vanderberg*

February 22, 2016

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA  
Executive Officer  
Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority  
570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

**RE: LETTER OF NO OBJECTION TO MILTON GREEN STREET PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Edmiston,

On behalf of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA), I write to express support for the proposed Milton Green Street Project (Project).

BHRCA recognizes that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is committed to improving neighborhoods, creating public access, and devoted to the improvement and revitalization of the Ballona Creek Watershed. Adjoining BHRCA's new Milton Street Natural Park (Park) adjacent to Ballona Creek (located at 12500 Milton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90066), the Project will be a large asset to the neighborhood and the City as a whole. It will provide multiple public benefits including water quality improvement, and an extension of the Park which provides passive recreation, habitat creation for the area's animal species, traffic calming features, and vast aesthetic enhancements.

It is my understanding that the proposed improvements include a new sidewalk on the South side (directly in front of the Park property), cross-walk, signage, ADA curb ramps, and Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions (VSCEs) located on the North and South sides of Milton Street. The vegetation in these curb extensions will consist of native shrubs and trees. The VSCEs are designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate wet and dry weather runoff from the street as well as runoff from the park. They will significantly reduce the amount of pollutants

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Joseph T. Edmiston  
MRCA  
Letter of No Objection to Milton Green Street Project  
February 22, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

currently being expelled directly into Ballona Creek and thus improving habitat potential and water quality in the Ballona Watershed.

We understand that once constructed, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation has committed to maintenance and liability of the Project in perpetuity.

In closing, BHRCA has no objection to the Milton Green Street project as designed and directly adjacent to BHRCA's property. We look forward to this new asset.

With hope,



**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
Chairperson

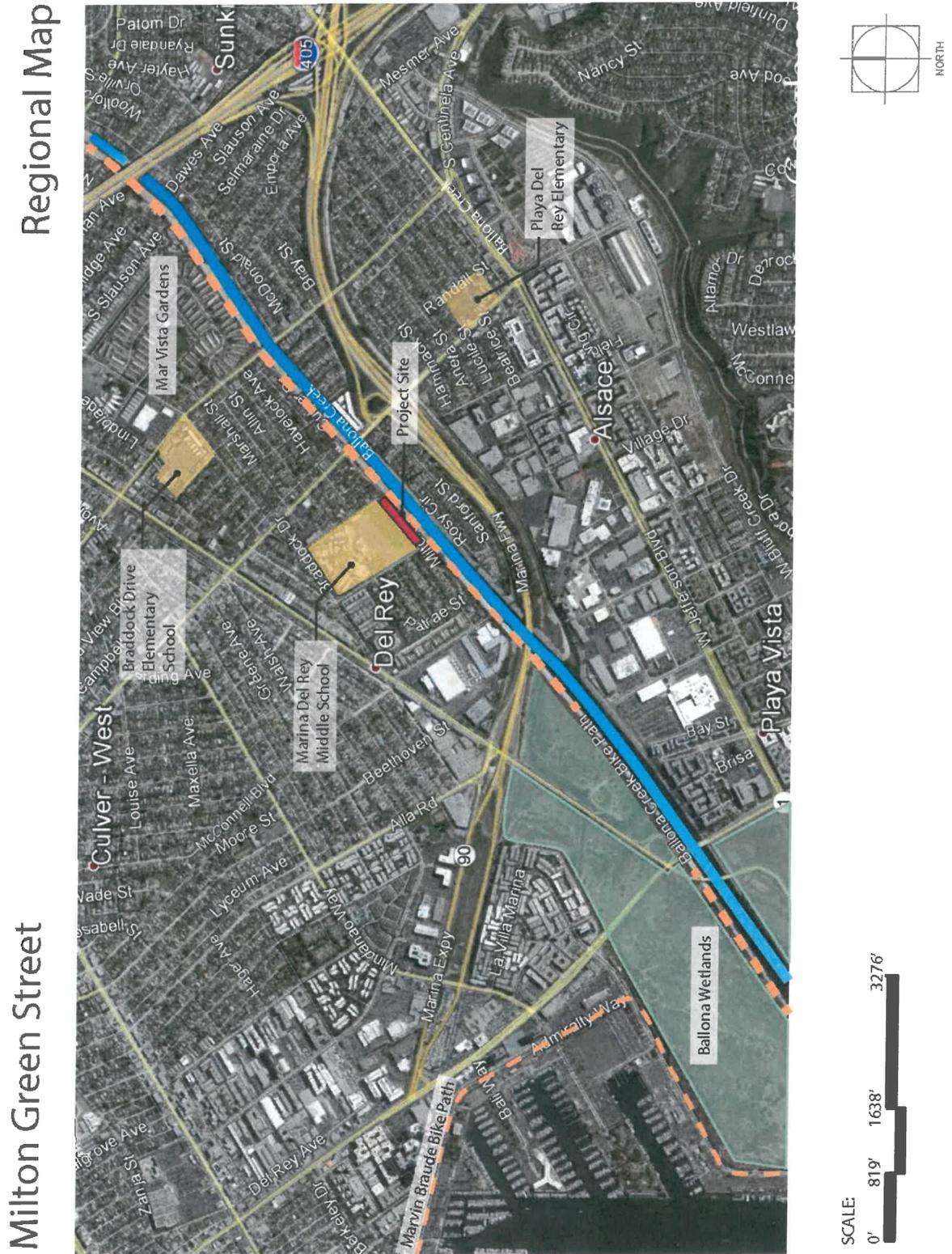
Attachment: Green Street Conceptual Design

*Mailing address: 500 W Temple Street, Room 866, Los Angeles,  
California 90012*

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Attachment 4 – Project Maps and Graphics

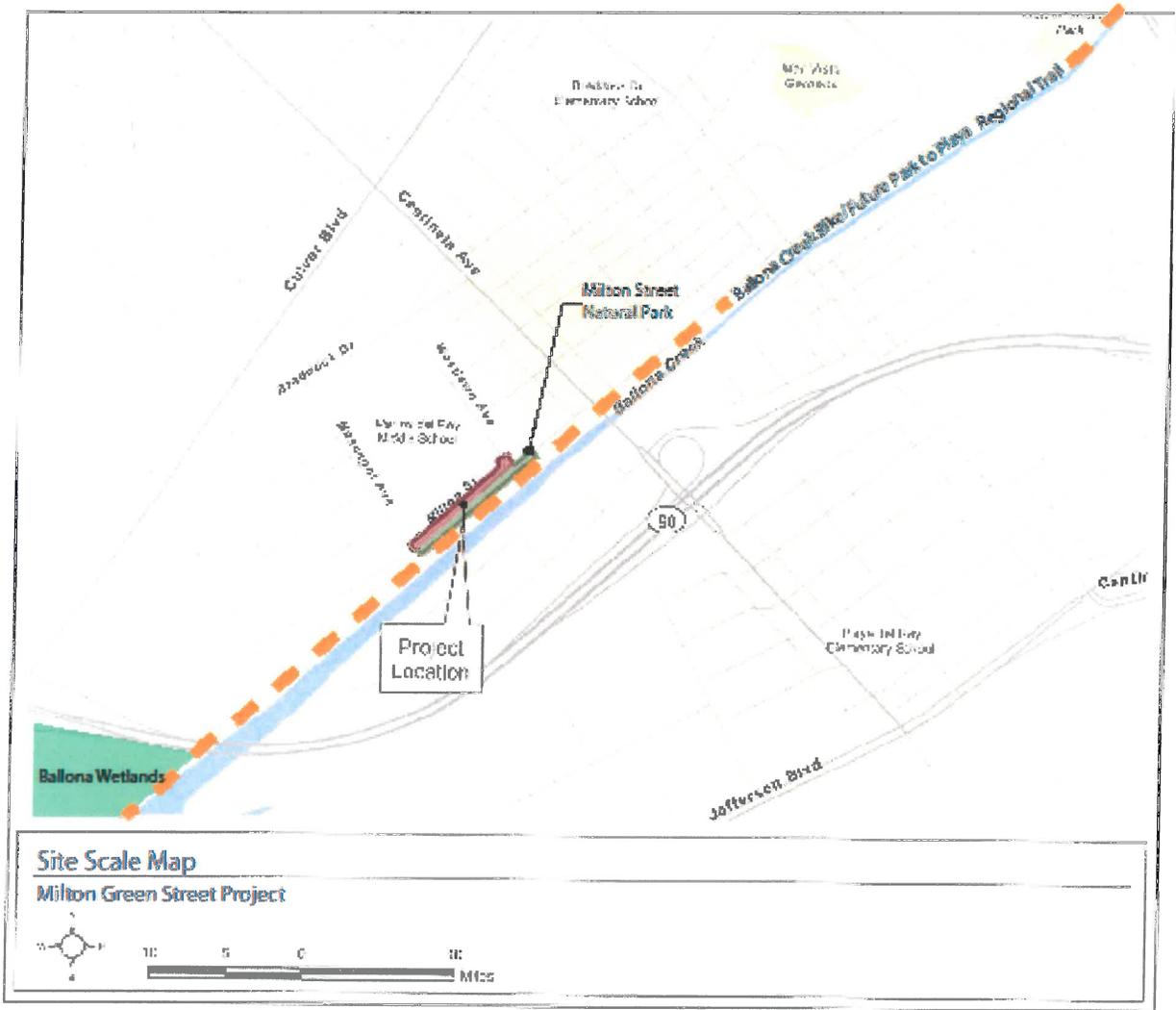
Regional Map



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Attachment 4 – Project Maps and Graphics

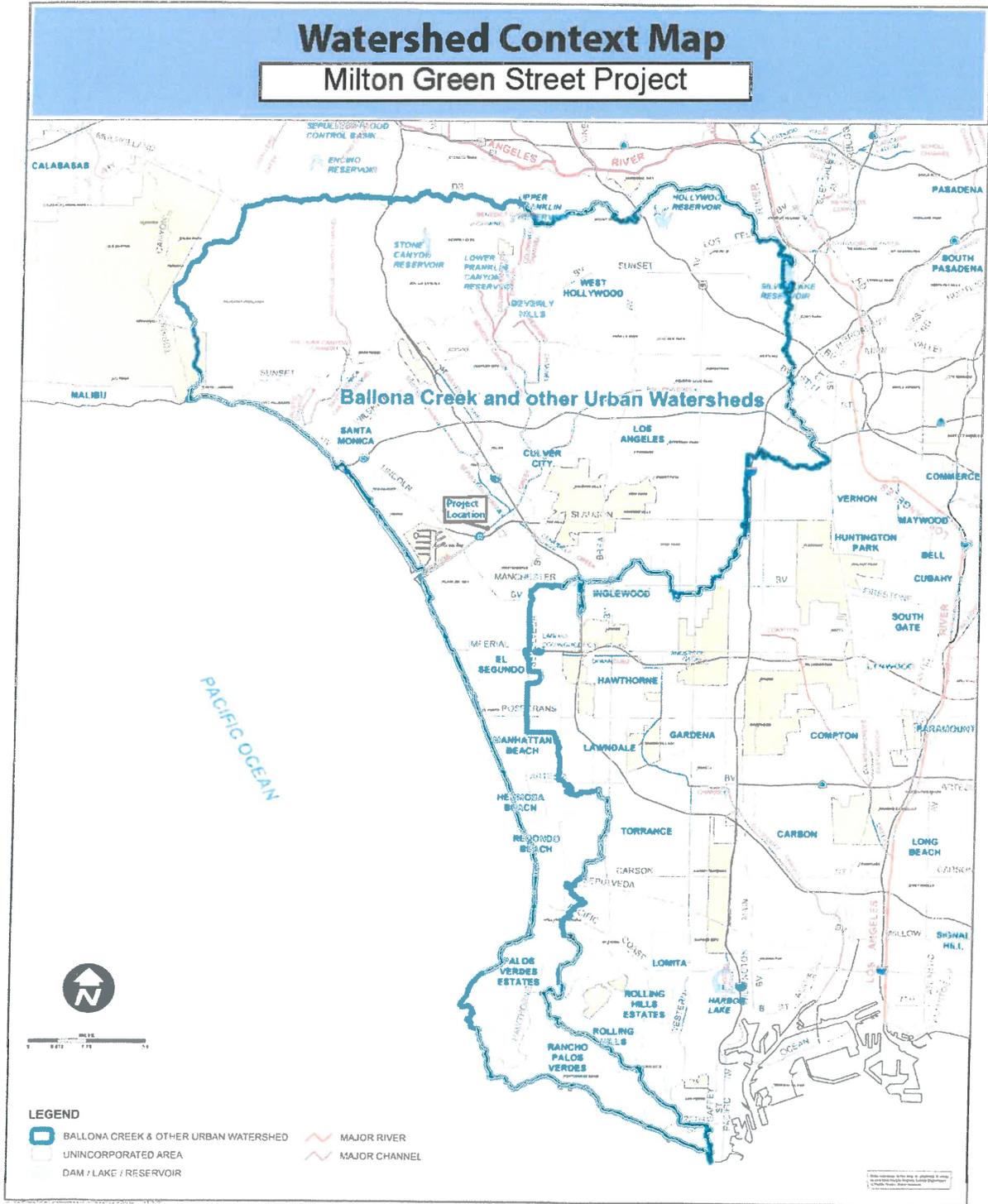
Site-scale Map



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Attachment 4 – Project Maps and Graphics

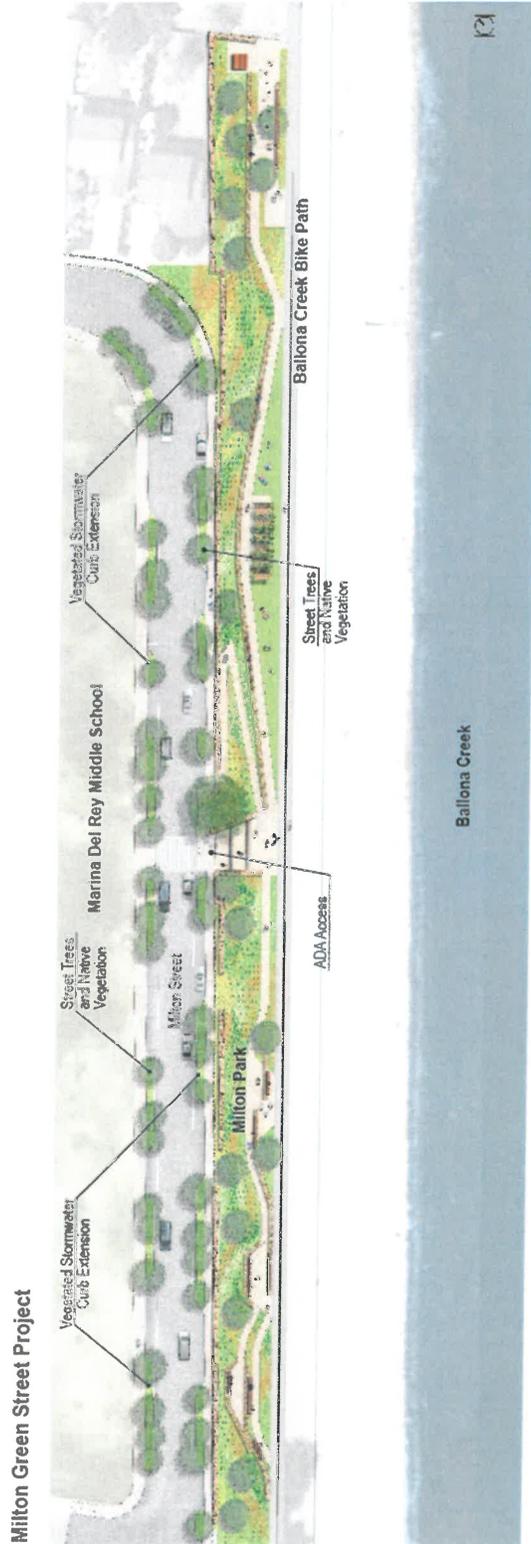
Watershed Context Map



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

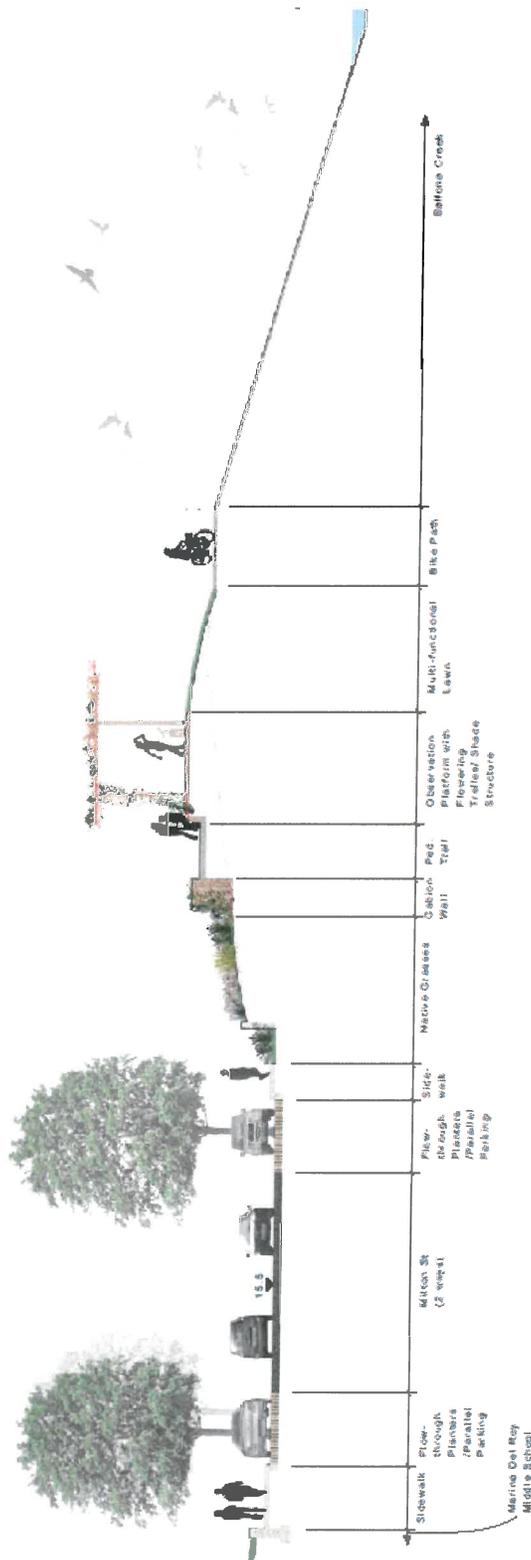
Attachment 4 – Project Maps and Graphics

Design



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

Cross-Section



SECTION A: SECTION AT MULTI-FUNCTIONAL LAWN

2.1.1 SCHEMATIC LANDSCAPE PACKAGE FOR MILTON STREET PARK  
Los Angeles, California

201905

Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application  
Milton Green Street Project

**Attachment 5 – Site Photos**



Existing street conditions looking East  
(MDRMS ballfields on the left, Milton Park on the right)



Existing street conditions looking West

## BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90056  
Phone: (323) 290-5270  
www.bhc.ca.gov

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### Memorandum

**To:** Governing Board

**From:** David McNeill, Executive Officer

**Date:** July 22, 2016

**Re:** Item 5: Presentation on Los Angeles County's Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers and Water Conservation Measure Proposed for the November 2016 Ballot

**Recommendation:** No action required. *Power point Presentation to be provided at the meeting.*

**Background:** The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, to place a parks funding measure on the November ballot. The L.A. County Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches and Rivers Protection and Water Conservation Measure would replace funding under Proposition A, passed more than 20 years ago. The measure would add a parcel tax of 1 ½ cent per square foot of developed property. An average homeowner with a 1,500 square foot home would pay approximately \$22.50 a year. If approved by voters, the measure would raise just over \$94 million dollars annually. The funds would go directly to cities, local agencies and communities to protect, enhance and maintain parks, open space, trails, beaches, natural habitat, rivers, creeks and streams. See Attachment #1 for information on this item.



# Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure of 2016

Parks, open space and natural water resources are vital to life here in L.A. These natural areas help make our community a wonderful place to live and protect our quality of life, as we all spend so much time indoors and in our cars.

For over 20 years, our community has relied on local, voter-approved funding to protect and maintain our neighborhood parks, outdoor areas and water resources—and now this funding is expiring. When this funding expires, we could lose the only source of dedicated local funding for our neighborhood parks.

## LOCAL BALLOT MEASURE

The County of L.A. has placed the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure on the November 2016 ballot. The measure, if approved, will provide stable, local funding from an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of building floor area, for our parks and open space including beaches and cultural institutions throughout Los Angeles.

### Funding from the measure will:

● Repair and Upgrade Neighborhood Parks

Local funding helps to ensure we can upgrade playground equipment, parks, recreation centers and senior centers so they are safe and meet the needs of our community.

● Keep Kids Safe and Out of Trouble

Kids in our community need safe places to play and opportunities to participate in after school programs. Safe, clean parks and recreation centers are key to helping keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

● Conserve Water

We are four years into a historic drought, making water conservation critical. The implementation of drought-tolerant plants and use of recycled water and rainwater all help to reduce the amount of water wasted, saving money and protecting our local water resources.

● Protect Our Last Open Spaces

Most of the remaining undeveloped open spaces and natural areas in LA County are located next to rivers, creeks, streams and lakes. Our parks help to protect and preserve these undeveloped natural areas for future generations.



 [RPOSD.LACounty.gov](http://RPOSD.LACounty.gov)  /RPOSD  @RPOSD  @RPOSD

### The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure of 2016 will provide funding for:

- Providing safe places to play
- Protecting clean water resources, including rivers and creeks
- Removing asbestos, mold and lead paint from aging recreation centers
- Reducing gang activity
- Ensuring that drinking water is safe at park and recreation centers
- Protecting clean and safe beaches
- Protecting and preserving parks and natural areas

### Learn More

Visit [RPOSD.LACounty.gov](http://RPOSD.LACounty.gov) to read the full text of the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure and how it will impact parks and open space in our neighborhoods.

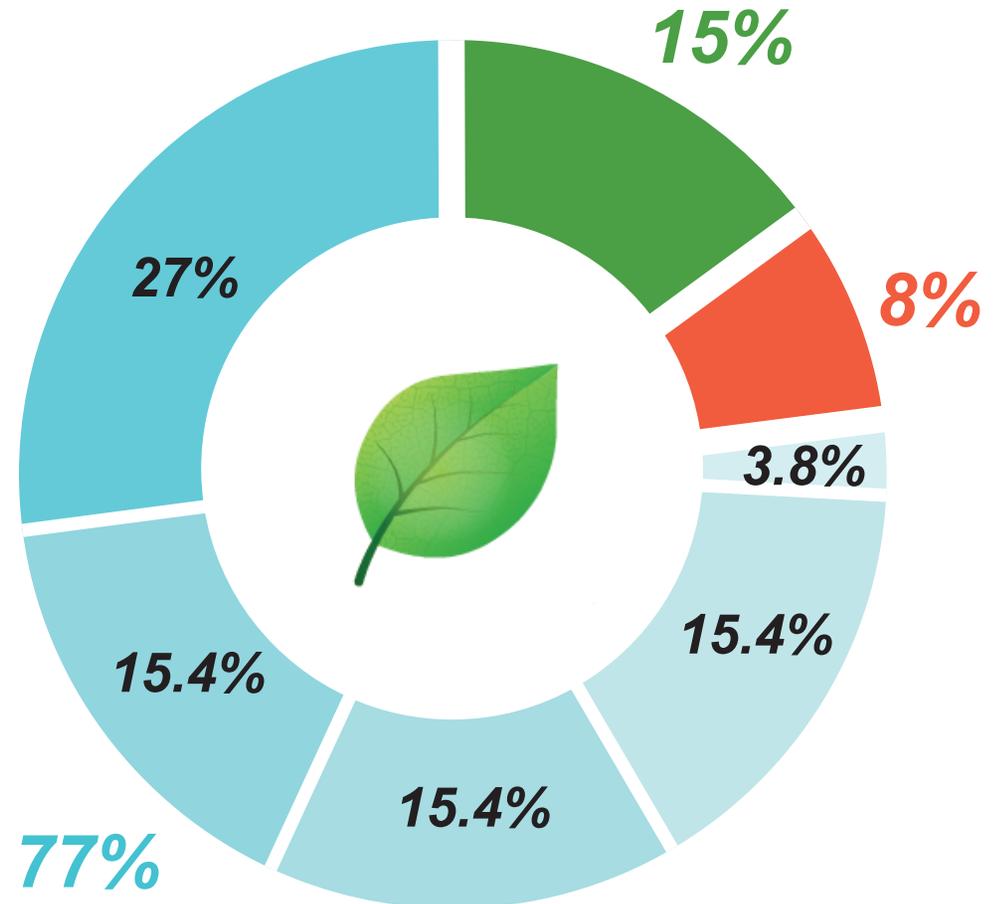
# REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

## 77% - GRANT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

-  **27%** - COMMUNITY BASED PARK INVESTMENT PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - SAFE PARKS, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, URBAN GREENING PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - PROTECTING OPEN SPACES, BEACHES AND WATERSHED PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TRAIL AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM
-  **3.8%** - YOUTH AND VETERAN TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

## 15% - MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING

## 8% - PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, INNOVATION, AND OVERSIGHT



## Expenditure Plan for Potential Parks Funding Measure

Funding Category			\$ 0.03/sq foot dev		\$ 0.015/sq foot dev	
			Annually	35 Years	Annually	35 Years
<i>Grant Category 1</i>	<b>Community Based Park Investment Program:</b> Funds Returned to Study Areas/Cities through direct grant programs with delegated authority to the Director	35.00%	\$ 64,957,628	\$ 2,273,516,994	\$ 32,478,814	\$ 1,136,758,498
<i>Grant Category 2</i>	<b>Safe Parks, Healthy Communities, Urban Greening Program:</b> Funds to projects in High and Very High Need Study Areas through grant programs	13.00%	\$ 24,127,119	\$ 844,449,169	\$ 12,063,560	\$ 422,224,585
<i>M&amp;S</i>	<b>Local Agency Maintenance and Servicing Funds:</b> Funds directly to Cities, County Dept., local Agencies & Non-profits, through an administrative process from the District	15.00%	\$ 27,838,984	\$ 974,364,426	\$ 13,919,492	\$ 487,182,213
<i>Grant Category 3</i>	<b>Protecting Open Spaces, Beaches, Watersheds Program:</b> Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	13.00%	\$ 24,127,119	\$ 844,449,169	\$ 12,063,560	\$ 422,224,585
<i>Grant Category 4</i>	<b>Regional Recreational Facilities, Trail &amp; Accessibility Program:</b> Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	13.00%	\$ 24,127,119	\$ 844,449,169	\$ 12,063,560	\$ 422,224,585
<i>Grant Category 5</i>	<b>Youth and Veteran Job Training &amp; Placement Opportunities Program:</b> Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	3.80%	\$ 7,052,543	\$ 246,838,988	\$ 3,526,271	\$ 123,419,494
<i>Program Innovation and Oversight</i>	Strategic Planning, Technical Assistance, Needs Assessment Updates, Innovative Electronic Technologies, Operations of the District: Funds distributed with delegated authority to the Director.	7.20%	\$ 13,362,712	\$ 467,694,924	\$ 6,681,356	\$ 233,847,462
		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 185,593,224</b>	<b>\$ 6,495,762,846</b>	<b>\$ 92,796,612</b>	<b>\$ 3,247,881,423</b>

# BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90056  
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## Memorandum

**To:** Governing Board

**From:** Noa Rishe, Park and Recreation Specialist

**Date:** July 22, 2016

**Re:** Item 6: Presentation on “The Value of Urban Parklands: A Park User Study of the Baldwin Hills.” Semiannual Report - Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience

**Recommendation:** No Action Required. *PowerPoint Presentation to be provided at the meeting.*

**Background:** The Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience (LMU-CURes) serves urban communities with a suite of research, education, restorative justice, and urban planning programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents; especially for those in underserved neighborhoods. LMU-CURes was awarded a Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) Prop 84 - Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Grant in the amount of \$236,042 for the Baldwin Hills Park User Study Project.

The Pilot and First Season of the Survey were completed in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The results of Season 1 were presented to the BHC board during the February 2016 meeting. The Season 1 Survey Report identified multiple areas that needed improvement to increase survey volume and efficiency.

Season 2 of the Survey was conducted from February 2016 through April of 2016. The results of the second survey season are summarized in “The Value of Urban Parklands: A Park User Study of the Baldwin Hills: Semi-annual Report – Season 2” *See Attachment #1*. Today’s presentation by Erich Eberts, CURes Research Assistant, will explain the findings, challenges and improvements cited in this report.

This survey season resulted in 63% more visitors surveyed than in the previous season. This increase can be attributed to changes that were made to survey length, survey location, and surveyor management in response to Season 1’s findings.

During the last LMU presentation to the BHC Governing Board, some members expressed particular interest in the geographic reach of the park. This report addresses that question, finding that 51% of surveyed users came from outside the area immediately surrounding the Baldwin Hills Parklands, and nearly all the surveyed users came from the Los Angeles Area.

Season 2 was also the first complete season for the Trail Camera portion of the study. The footage from cameras mounted at five (5) sites throughout the Parklands are beginning to reveal answers to questions like - “From which direction are park users approaching park entrances?” The report explains strategic elements behind the camera mount locations, and reveals visitor traffic patterns between adjacent parks along the Park to Playa trail network.

**The Value of Urban Parklands:  
A Park User Study of the Baldwin Hills  
*Semiannual Report*  
*Season 2***

**Submitted to Baldwin Hills Conservancy on June 1, 2016**

**By:**

**Michele Romolini, Ph.D., Director of Research**

**Eric Strauss, Ph.D., Executive Director**

**Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience**

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## 1. SUMMARY

The following report describes the second field season of the Comprehensive Phase of the Loyola Marymount University research project, "The Value of Urban Parklands: A Park User Study of the Baldwin Hills." This is a three-year study, covering 2014-2017, funded by Proposition 84 and sponsored by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Since this is a longitudinal study, a comprehensive analysis of all survey responses in aggregate, by season, and over time will be in the final summative report. Including the pilot, 1,195 unique surveys have been collected to date for this research study. By the end of the study, this number should exceed 2,000. Thus, the summative report findings will be robust and can be used with confidence to provide evidence of user behavior in the parks. This is the third of five total reports, following the 2014 Pilot Phase report and the Season 1 report. It will cover progress made in both the survey and game camera visitation components of the study during Season 2.

Season 2 was the most successful survey season yet. We benefitted from the adjustments made following the pilot and Season 1, and the study is now running on field-proven methodologies and a refined internal management structure that allowed this season to run smoothly with no unforeseen obstacles. Research assistants were able to collect approximately 220 more surveys while spending about 80 fewer hours in the field compared to Season 1. This report will focus on these and other statistics in addition to highlighting a few findings of note for Season 2. We will also describe modifications from Season 1, discuss any challenges faced, and report our progress in Season 3.

The game camera visitation study, launched in 2015, is the second component of this park user study. The Season 1 report described our approach to designing the study, and the period following has served as a pilot of this part of the project. Thus, in this report we will describe some preliminary findings, challenges faced, and how the pilot season has informed our plans for Season 3.

## **2. SCOPE OF WORK**

This study represents the first ever large-scale, long-term, field-based attendance survey and multifaceted analysis of the park visitors' experiences in the Baldwin Hills (BH) parks system. The work is being conducted by the Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs). This scope of the study includes a pilot phase, in August-December 2014, during which the survey was tested; preliminary results were collected, reported, and presented to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Board; and the study was revised in response to researchers' recommendations and Board feedback. The next two years of the study, from January 2015 through July 2017, represent the "comprehensive phase" of the study. The comprehensive phase consists of 1) a park user survey, and 2) a game camera visitation study. This report covers Season 2 survey data collection (February 2016-April 2016) and any additional progress since the Season 1 report was submitted in December 2015.

This study will inform ongoing initiatives, specifically the BH Master Plan and Park to Playa (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, & Baldwin Hills Conservancy, 2012), along with additional recommendations for land development, restoration efforts, and resource allocation. Because this study coincides with implementation of the Park to Playa trail, which will connect many of the BH parks, the data will be instructive in revealing trends and potential changes in park use, behavior, and attitudes during a period of major physical change to the park system. This study, supported by Proposition 84 funds through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) is, therefore, well-aligned with the BHC's priorities given its commitment to the acquisition of open space, protection of natural habitat, and provision of recreational and educational resources for users in the BH.

## **3. PARK USER SURVEY**

This report covers the second of four field survey collection seasons—Summer 2015, Winter/Spring 2016, Summer 2016, and Winter/Spring 2017—during which park visitors are

intercepted at designated locations by trained undergraduate research assistants (RAs) and invited to take the user survey. RAs also conduct strategic visitor counts each time they are in the field to provide an estimate of visitor usage on the weekdays and weekends, in the mornings and the afternoon/evenings. The following sub-sections describe how Season 2 was managed and implemented, progress and findings, challenges faced, and plans for the next field season.

### **3.1. RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION**

In this season, we had minor modifications from Season 1. We now expect to hold the methodology constant for the remaining field seasons. Modifications included:

1) Surveying mostly at the most heavily trafficked locations and times of day.

This was an adjustment from Season 1 as we sought to be more efficient with the time spent in the field. The approach we took was to cover all parks equally during the first month of the field season. In the subsequent two months, we were strategic in where to send RAs and for how long. During each 4-hour shift, RAs were given two potential locations, rather than being assigned to one for the entire time. Instead of staying at a relatively empty location for four hours, the pair could collect visitor counts and any potential surveys for about an hour, and then move to the second location. This allowed for movement to a potentially busier location and also ensured visitor counts for two parks.

2) Adjusting the projected number of surveys collected.

As reported in the Season 1 report, following the pilot, we switched from paper surveys to electronic tablets. This may have led to the lower than expected number of surveys collected. However, we also realized our original projections were far too high, given the number of hours RAs are budgeted to spend in the field, time lost to travel to/from the park and on foot around the park, and high refusal rates. We thus projected about 550 surveys could be collected in the

field, and that we could get an additional 150 online surveys by sending it after the fact to visitors who offered their email address.

3) Grouping the locations as seven distinct parks rather than four zones with 14 locations.

This facilitated the ability to ensure coverage at all locations, and allowed for clearer and more efficient reporting.

4) Eliminating questions to reduce the overall length of the survey.

In the Season 2 report, we suggested cutting some questions that were redundant or were received by survey respondents with confusion or lack of response. Most were extremely minor changes, except for the place attachment section, which was a whole series of questions that were interesting but not integral to the scope of the project. This slightly shortened version of the comprehensive survey should be considered the final survey instrument for Seasons 2-4.

5) Requiring students to commit to a minimum number of hours.

In Season 2, all RAs were required to complete a minimum of 60 hours in the field, and they were given a monthly fixed schedule. This change to research team management increased student commitment by reducing the number of students we had in Season 1 who seemed to just want “try out” the project to see if they liked it.

### **3.2. SEASON 2 PROGRESS & SELECT FINDINGS**

With a field-tested, established methodology and refined research management structure, Season 2 was quite successful. In this section, we will describe our progress and the select findings of note from this season.

#### **3.2.1. Progress**

Over the Season 2 field season, we recruited, hired, and trained 8 research assistants,

who spent a total of 453 hours conducting surveys, which amounted to 79 fewer hours than in the previous season. RAs followed the same methodology as Season 1, except as indicated in the previous section. During this collection season, RAs collected 584 unique surveys (Figure 1), which equaled 221 more surveys than in the previous season. These 584 surveys exceeded our expectations for 550 field surveys, though we did not have the online response we had hoped. We projected we could collect 150 online surveys from park visitors who did not want to take the survey when encountered in the field but provided an email for follow-up. In total, only 103 visitors provided an email address to take the survey online, and only 10 of those actually took the survey (a 10% response rate). Thus, a total of 594 surveys were collected in Season 2. Table 1 shows the past, present, and projected progress in survey collection.

Table 1. Park user survey collection to date and projected for the study.

<b>Season</b>	<b>Pilot</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>Projected Total</b>
<b>Surveys Collected</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>594</b>	500	500	<b>2,193</b>

*\*projected*

At the end of the study, we project a very large sample size of 2000+ surveys, allowing for robust statistical analyses that can be interpreted with a high level of confidence. Note in Table 1 the lowered projection of 500 surveys for each of seasons 3 and 4. These modified projections were informed by field experience and the expectation that we may see a lower return due to saturation (i.e., many park visitors have already taken the survey).

Figure 1 shows where the surveys were collected in Season 2. Most surveys (31%) were collected in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, divided almost evenly between the lower and upper portions of the park; followed by Culver City Park (24%), Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (23.5%), Ruben Ingold (10.5%), and Norman O. Houston (10%). Due to extremely low return in Season 1, surveys were not collected at the Ballona Creek Path or Ladera Ball Fields,

but one online respondent identified the Ballona Creek Path as the location they most recently visited.

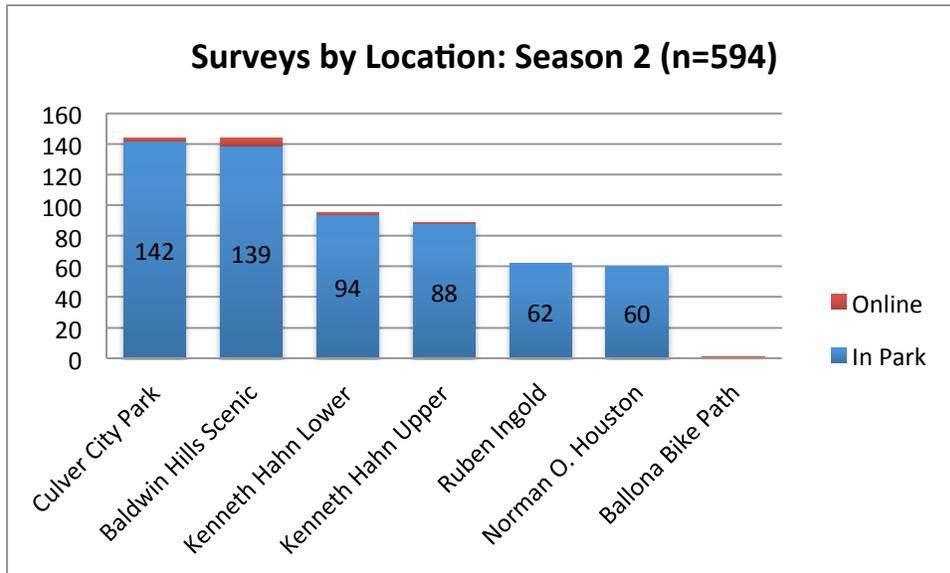


Figure 1. Number of surveys collected by location in Season 2.

The RAs reported that 427 park users were approached but declined to take the survey. Thus, 1,011 park users were approached in total in Season 2, with a 42% refusal rate.

### 3.2.2. Select Findings

Research Assistants conducted strategic visitor counts for 15 minutes in all seven parks on the weekdays and weekends. Figure 2 shows Season 2 visitation by park. As shown, weekday visitation rates ranged from a low of 0.7 visitors per minute at the Ladera Ball Fields to a high of 4.5 visitors per minute at the Ballona Creek Path. On weekends, rates greatly increased at Culver City Park (7.2 visitors/minute), Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (8.5 visitors/minute) and Kenneth Hahn (10.6 visitors/minute). In contrast, the Ballona Creek Path and Ruben Ingold Park saw reduced visitation on weekends. This may be attributed to the Ballona Creek Path's primary use by commuters, and Ruben Ingold's location in the middle of a neighborhood, which allows for easy access during the work week.

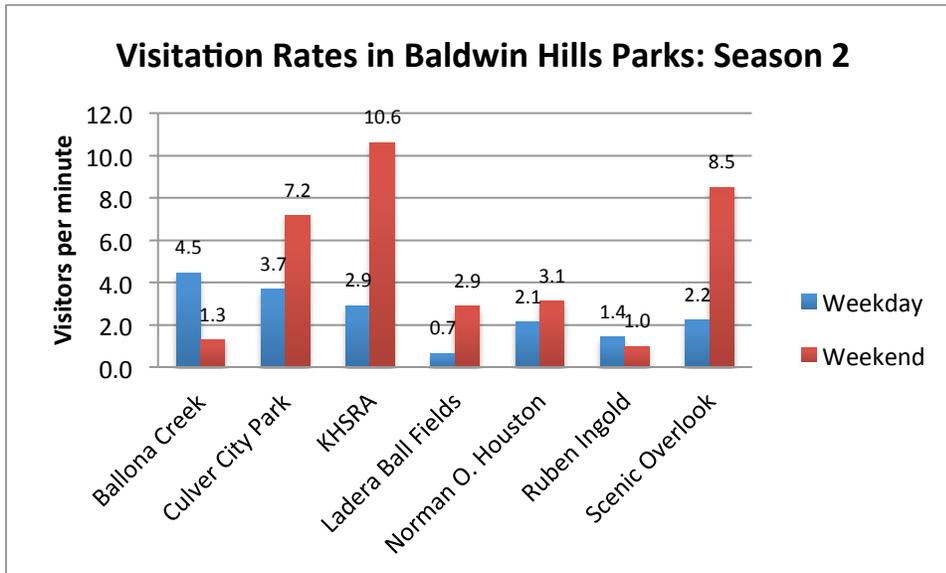


Figure 2. Visitation rates in the Baldwin Hills Park system in Season 2.

The survey asks several questions about how visitors access the park, including how they arrived at the park today and how they would prefer to travel to the park. We reported the results of these questions in Season 1, and here we show some early trends in the data (Table 2). While there is an overall increase in visitors who report arrived by car/truck/SUV (up to 87% from 73% in Season 1), the number of respondents who say they would choose that mode of transportation if given other options dropped from a majority (54%) to a minority (42%) of visitors. Indeed a majority of Season 2 respondents (55%) indicated that they would prefer to arrive by walking, bicycling, or public transportation (bus or train). The interest in public transportation increased by 13% from Season 1 to Season 2. One possibility for these increases may be the visibility of the Park to Playa changes and the publicity surrounding the opening of the new Metro line extension. We look forward to seeing how the trends in both the actual and preferred options change over the next two seasons.

Table 2. Visitor responses for how they accessed the park, and their most preferred option for accessing the park.

Mode of Transportation	How did you get to the park today?			If given the choice of transportation options, what would be your preferred way to get to the park?		
	Season 1	Season 2	Change	Season 1	Season 2	Change
Walk	12%	10%	(-) 2%	19%	24%	(+) 5%
Bike	10%	2%	(-) 8%	21%	18%	(-) 3%
Car/SUV/Truck	73%	87%	(+) 14%	54%	42%	(-) 12%
Bus	4%	0.5%	(-) 3.5%	2%	6.5%	(+) 4.5%
Train	0%	0%	n/a	1%	6.5%	(+) 4.5%
Motorcycle/Scooter	1%	0%	(-) 1%	1%	1%	n/a
Other	1%	0.5%	(-) 0.5%	1%	2%	(+) 1%

In another question potentially related to the Park to Playa project, we ask visitors how often they visit the coast. As shown in Figure 3, the majority of respondents (79%) report never visiting the coast or visiting a few times a month or less. We will look forward to trends in this question over time as the Park to Playa plan continues to be implemented and publicized.

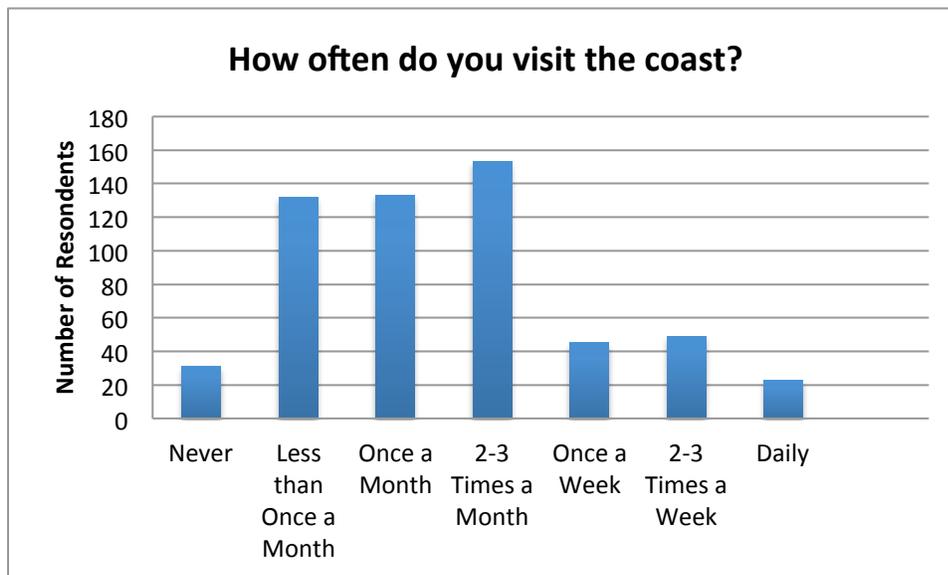


Figure 3. Season 3 responses to “how often do you visit the coast?”

In Season 1, we were concerned with the potential for saturation; that is, as the season went on we observed higher refusal rates with many visitors stating that they had already taken

the survey. Figure 4 shows Season 2 visitor responses to the question “how often do you visit this particular park?” As shown, 44% of visitors report coming to the same park once a week or more. Thus, it is possible that we may encounter the same visitors over the season. However, we schedule RAs in the parks on different days of the week and different times of day. In addition, since 56% of visitors report only visiting a few times a month or less, we expect we will continue to encounter many park users who have not yet taken the survey.

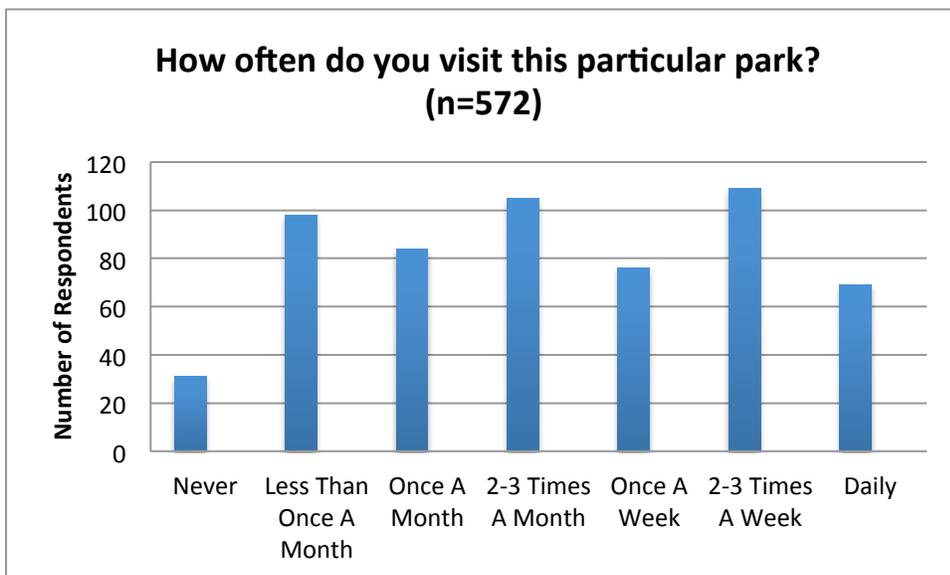


Figure 4. Season 2 responses to the question “how often do you visit this park?”

The survey also includes many questions about demographic information. As with all the results, we will report trends and aggregate data in the summative report. The only demographic data we will highlight in this report is the location where visitors live. When we last presented, Board members were particularly interested in this information. Figure 5 shows the neighborhoods surrounding the Baldwin Hills parks where visitors indicated they live.

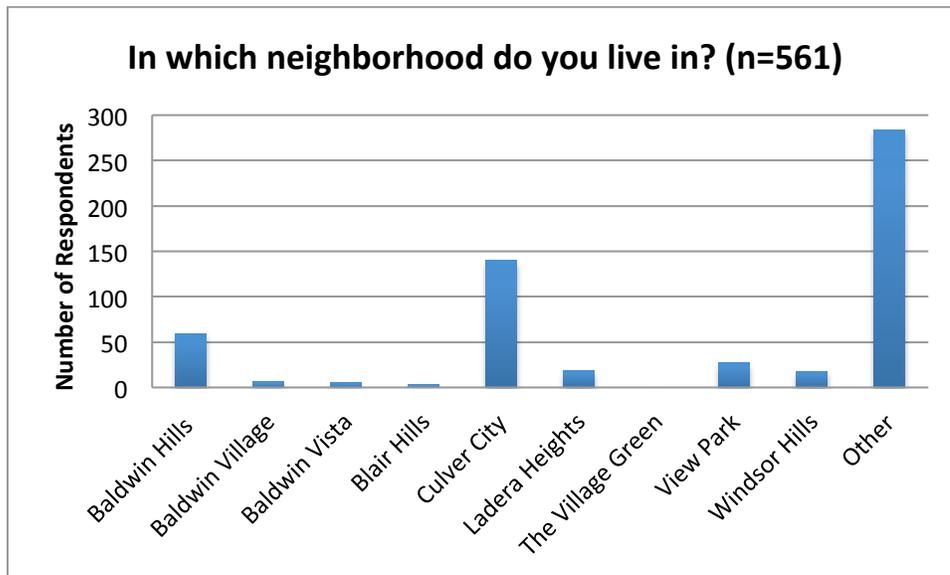


Figure 5. Season 2 responses to the question, “in which neighborhood do you live?”

As shown, about half of the respondents (49%) indicated living in neighborhoods surrounding the parks, with most reporting living in Culver City, Baldwin Hills, View Park, Ladera Heights, and Windsor Hills. However, 51% of respondents listed “Other” as the neighborhood they lived in. Of these, visitors report living in 81 other zip codes. Nearly all of these were Los Angeles zip codes, though two visitors gave zip codes from out of state (Colorado and Washington DC), and several reported coming from places in the region but outside of L.A., including Squaw Valley, Fort Irwin, and Carlsbad. Table 3 shows the top 15 most commonly reported zip codes.

Table 3. Most commonly reported zip codes in response to the question, “in which neighborhood do you live?”

Zip Code	Number of Respondents
90016	17
90019	16
90034	13
90043	11
90045	11
90302	11
90018	10
90035	9
90044	8
90066	8
90062	7
90007	6
90008	6
90037	6
90003	5

### 3.3. CHALLENGES

This second comprehensive field collection season was quite successful, and we largely overcame the obstacles from the pilot and Season 1. However, the season was not entirely free of challenges, which were largely a direct result of informed decisions we made following Season 1. Challenges included a low online survey response rate and lack of survey coverage on the Ballona Creek Path and Ladera Ball Fields.

We anticipated that most of the visitors who refused the survey in person would be willing to take it online; however, only 103 of the 427 non-respondents offered their email addresses, and only 10 of those actually took the online survey. This is not surprising, as online surveys are known to have lower response rates than in-person (Ryu et al. 2006). The original survey design intentionally focused on in-person surveys for this reason, and indeed, the 58% response rate for Season 2 field surveys is on the high end of anticipated response (Baruch 1999). In the Season 1 report, we suggested using the incentive of an online drawing to boost response rate for the web surveys. However, subsequent research revealed that non-monetary incentives generally do not substantially increase response rates (Church 1993, Fox et al. 1988).

Thus, we did not proceed with offering an incentive, and we received a response rate well within the normal range for web surveys (Shih & Fan 2008). Even with a monetary incentive offered up front, the response rate would only be expected to increase an average of 19%. In this season, that would have given us 19 more responses to the online survey. Since this number is nominal, we do not plan to change the protocol for Season 3; rather, we have changed our survey collection projections to reflect this new information (Table 1).

In Season 2, we did not collect field surveys from the Ballona Creek Path or Ladera Ball Fields (Figure 1), though we did conduct strategic counts at these sites (Figure 2). This decision stemmed from what we deemed in Season 1 to be an inefficient use of field time, as only 29 surveys were collected in 72 hours spent at Ballona Creek Path and only 10 surveys collected in 32 hours spent at Ladera Ball Fields during Season 1. The increased number of surveys from Season 1 to Season 2 can be partially attributed to reducing those inefficiencies. However, it is less than ideal to have zero surveys for those locations, and thus we plan to attempt field surveys again at those locations in Season 3. We will monitor closely after every shift to maximize efficiency.

#### **3.4. SEASON 3 PROGRESS**

Season 2 ended on April 30, 2016, and we quickly shifted to planning for Season 3. In fact, we began recruitment for Season 3 in March 2016, while students were planning for their summer internships. We held an information session in late April, which attracted a pool of 15 interested students. Ten research assistants were hired, and we conducted two separate field trainings in late May. RAs are scheduled to be in the field on 27 out of 30 days in June, with the first shift scheduled in Norman O. Houston Park, today, June 1.

#### **4. GAME CAMERA VISITATION STUDY**

The game camera visitation study was launched in Summer 2015 and continued through the fall and spring. The aim of this portion of the study was to provide an additional

source of data collection by utilizing remote-sensing camera equipment to monitor the park and capture activity by visitors. This technique is an innovative method to boost the power of the study to capture the numbers of people visiting the park and associated data such as demographic background, park activity involvement, and location of park usage. Camera data also supplements the study by capturing activity during off-peak hours, particularly pre-dawn and post-dusk.

This section will describe the progress made from December 2015-April 2016 to collect field data and produce some preliminary findings. This season was a field pilot for the game camera study, and thus we will also discuss plans for Season 3.

#### **4.1. SEASON 2 PROGRESS**

The student research technician hired during Summer 2015 was able to continue work on the project, contributing approximately 80 hours in the field from January through April 2016.

Five Browning “Dark Ops” High Definition Trail Cameras were installed and collecting data in five locations in the Baldwin Hills parks for the duration of Season 2, following the research design developed in Season 1 (Table 4). The research technician replaced batteries and changed SD cards on approximately a weekly basis, and data were reviewed to evaluate the performance of the cameras as well as to begin to categorize the hundreds of hours of data from each site.

Table 4. Research questions and field design for Baldwin Hills game camera visitation study.

Site	Research Questions	Camera Positioning	Camera Setting
1: La Brea/Don Lorenzo entrance	How are park users approaching the entrance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are they parking in the dead end across the street and crossing into the park?</li> <li>• Are they arriving by foot?</li> <li>• Are they arriving by bus (bus stop directly adjacent)?</li> </ul>	Tall tree adjacent to the stairs is the preferred location, though a fake rock is an alternative. Took stumps to use when considering how to camouflage. Camo tape also a possibility. Tree will have to be trimmed.	Field scan
2: La Brea & Stocker entrance	How are park users approaching the entrance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the most and least common ways that pedestrians cross the busy intersection?</li> </ul>	Mount on the second highest hanging branch, angled down. Collected bark from the tree.	Field scan
3: La Brea/Veronica Street (DWP Road inside Kenneth Hahn State Park)	How or whether is this unofficial entry point being utilized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are people coming in through the road and climbing over the wall?</li> <li>• Are people coming from the “trail” created by the drainage ditch?</li> </ul>	A fake rock could be created with the camera hidden inside and then surrounded by a rock pile using the many other rocks near the fence. The beech tree can be an alternative, which may be easier.	Field scan
4: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook back entrance (behind the visitor’s center)	Are park users entering and exiting through this gate? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this entrance being used after hours?</li> </ul>	Dead tree/bush next to gate, faced inwards toward trails. Use dead bark to camouflage.	Motion activated
5: Culver City Park—Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Connector (halfway up Hetzler Road)	How frequently are park visitors utilizing this connection? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there certain times of day that are more common than others?</li> <li>• Are there any observable issues or obstacles?</li> </ul>	Most preferable would be a stake and bird box inside the Audubon fence, pointing up the trail. Could also use a tree branch outside the fence.	Motion activated

#### 4.2. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS & CHALLENGES

This section provides a very brief site-by-site summary of preliminary findings, challenges, and proposed methodological changes.

### Site 1 – La Brea/Don Lorenzo entrance

Current camera location: in a tree above the stairs and to the right, facing down towards the crosswalk and bus stop (Figure 6). This camera was set to field scan.

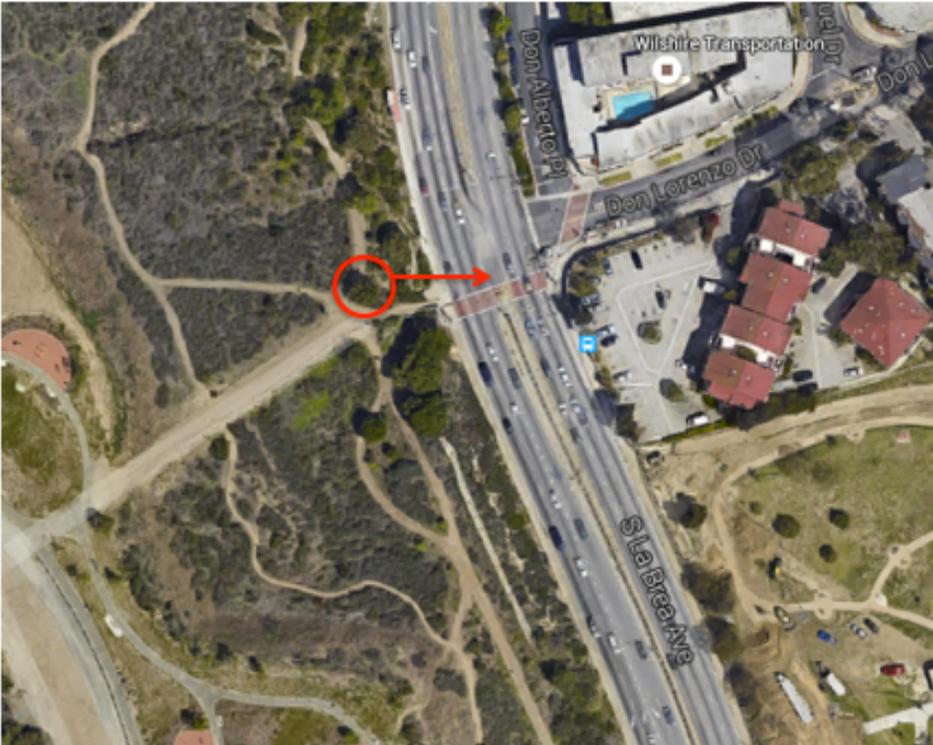


Figure 6. Camera location at La Brea/Don Lorenzo entrance. Location is noted with a circle, facing direction noted with an arrow.

Based on data collected, it would appear that most people are coming from either the neighborhood across the street or up the hill in the Norman O. Houston direction. Camera field does not cover Norman O. Houston park, but the field technician reported that she has observed many people traveling between the two parks during the times when she is servicing the cameras.

*Challenges:* This camera captured many night images, which have yet to be interpreted.

*Future plan:* We will keep this camera in the same general location because it has a good view

of the bus stop, street, and crosswalk. We may consider a slight move to the left of the entrance stairs. More time will be spent reviewing the night images for additional data trends.

**Site 2 – La Brea/Stocker St entrance**

Current camera location: in a tree facing the entrance and pathway, intersection in the distance (Figure 7). This camera was set to field scan.

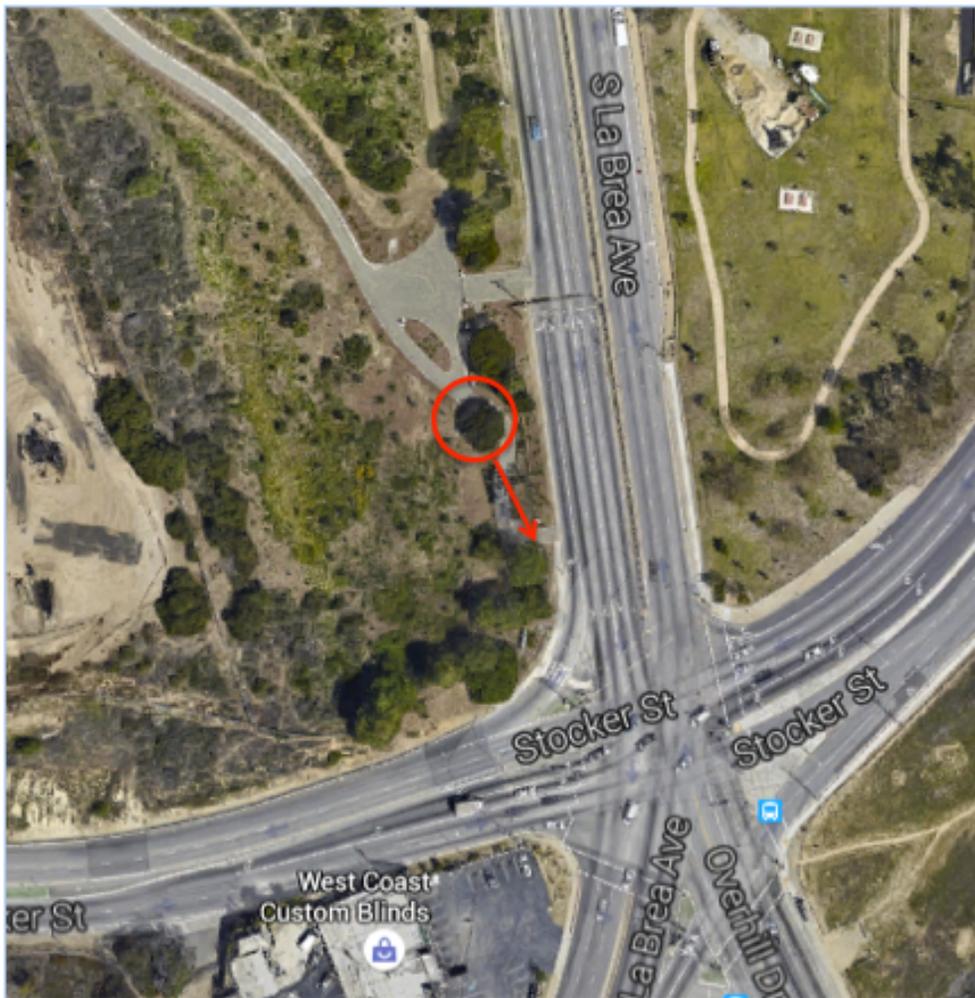


Figure 7. Camera location at La Brea/Stocker St entrance. Location is noted with a circle, facing direction noted with an arrow.

This entrance was mostly used by morning and afternoon exercisers, and had the most dog usage observed at any entrance. We sought to determine how visitors were entering the park from the busy intersection converging five wide streets. The data showed most people crossing La Brea from the Norman O. Houston direction. This is one of the busier streets to cross, though there are clearly marked crosswalks and crossing signs. The bus stops, parking lot, and other park on the other side of La Brea are probably the reason for this. The new exercise equipment in Norman O. Houston is popular, and people seemed to enjoy using that and then crossing the street to walk through the park. General trends noticed on camera were heavy morning and afternoon usage by walkers and joggers, also when traffic seemed to be heaviest.

*Challenges:* This site was relatively straightforward. The only challenge here is the large amount of data and time allocated to review it.

*Future plan:* We will keep the camera in the same spot, possibly change angle to capture more of the intersection.

### **Site 3 – DWP road**

Current camera location: in a tree to the right of the entrance looking up the hill (Figure 8). This camera was set to field scan.



Figure 8. Camera location at DWP road. Location is noted with a red circle, facing direction noted with an arrow. Proposed location in yellow.

This camera was problematic, and much of the season was spent trying to test different angles. Few images were captured here, but the field technician observed most people at the site were coming from inside the park—either the trail or the hill, and not La Brea. Many people seemed to be using it as a hill to run up and down, and headed back into the park once finished, not out to the road. However, we do not yet have the data to back this up.

*Challenges:* This was one of two cameras that were difficult. While the current location gives a good view of all areas in question, there was too much interference from the surrounding trees. The camera was moved repeatedly and tested, but over the week, the majority of images were tree branches.

*Future plan:* camera location moved to a tree facing down the hill (Figure 8). This will allow for observation of La Brea and the trail, which is more needed than the DWP road. Once data has been collected in this direction, the camera can be turned to face up the hill again. Camera location was changed at the end of May (5/23) and will left in that direction for 2-3 months before being turned back. Long term, the camera will probably be switched back and forth in direction. Attempting to view the entire site with one angle is not possible if we want to gain quality images and data.

#### **Site 4 – Scenic Overlook back entrance**

Current camera location: On a bush to the left of the gate, facing into the park (Figure 9). This camera was set to motion activated.



Figure 9. Camera location at the Scenic Overlook back entrance. Location is noted with a red circle, facing direction noted with an arrow. Proposed location in yellow.

The data from this location showed that this entrance was used by many morning and afternoon exercisers. Many people brought children, probably because this entrance backed up to a neighborhood. Occasionally on weekdays there were individuals/groups who appeared to be walking to work or school, which may mean the park is being used as a shortcut for commutes. The camera also captured images at night, with an average of 2-3 groups or individuals passing through the entrance late at night. Most of these night visitors appeared to be youth though this is difficult to discern based on the image resolution. The most data was collected for this site.

*Challenges:* Even though we collected a large amount of data, it is possible that the camera may have missed some entries and exits due to the way the motion activation works and the positioning of the camera.

*Future plan:* Move the camera to a bush facing the actual gate rather than into the park (Figure 9) to provide increased likelihood of capturing people passing through.

#### **Site 5 – Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook connection**

Current location: In a birdhouse facing down the trail (Figure 10). This camera was set to motion activated.



Figure 10. Camera location at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook connection. Location is noted with a circle, facing direction noted with an arrow.

This camera did not collect images. It was repeatedly tested, settings changed and returned to the birdhouse, only to come back the next week and discover that it still had not collected any images. Finally, the field technician consulted with our research scientist and determined that the birdhouse was blocking the motion sensor.

*Challenges:* Inexperience of the field technician and lack of reporting of the problem led to a non-functional camera for this season.

*Future plan:* the camera either needs to be removed from the birdhouse and set in a tree, or the birdhouse will need to be modified to allow the sensor to function properly. These changes are being put into place during the first week of Season 3.

#### **4.3. SEASON 3 PLANS**

We will make the adjustments as discussed above and begin collecting data for Season 3. We also intend to review our preliminary findings and protocol and use the wealth of data to develop other questions of interest to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. While most of the preliminary results provided here are observed trends, in the next report we will have enough data to conduct quantitative data analyses.

## 5. REFERENCES

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- Church, A. H. (1993). Estimating the effect of incentives on mail survey response rates: A meta-analysis. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 57(1), 62-79.
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- Shih, T. H., & Fan, X. (2008). Comparing response rates from web and mail surveys: A meta-analysis. *Field methods*, 20(3), 249-271.

# BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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## Memorandum

**To:** Governing Board  
**From:** David McNeill, Executive Officer  
**Date:** July 22, 2016  
**Re:** Item 7: Executive Officer Report

### **Projects Status Report**

Please see Attachment #1 for the updated Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) Local Assistance/Capital Outlay Projects Status Report.

### **Fiscal Update**

Please see Attachment #2 - BHC Summary Expenditure Sheet by Fund, and Attachment #3 - BHC Prop 40 & Prop 84 Bond Cash Funds. The reports correspond with the end of month twelve (12) for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

The Office of State Audits and Evaluations has sent the Conservancy an engagement letter for the audit of Proposition 84 Bond Funds expended through fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The Department of Finance has a contract with the California Natural Resources Agency for bond oversight and will be working with Conservancy staff during the month of August to complete the process. Please see Attachment #4 – Prop 84 Audit Engagement Letter.

**Baldwin Hills Conservancy  
Local Assistance / Capital Outlay Projects Status Report  
07/22/16**

<b>Grantee/Administrator</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>ContractID</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Funds Allocated</b>	<b>Agreement Expiration</b>	<b>PROJECT STATUS</b>
Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks & Recreation	Stoneview Nature Center	BHC12002	Prop 40	\$5,000,000	12/31/16	<b>Construction is ongoing; nature center walls, site perimeter fencing, and pre-slope stabilization in progress; landscaping planned late Summer 2016; 'Substantial completion' status in November 2016; County staff investigating the feasibility of opening only the building for voting in November; Project completion now expected December 2016.</b>
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)	Park to Playa Trail - Stocker Corridor Section	BHC12005	Prop 40	\$1,030,000	6/30/16	<b>Trail opened March 2016; Closeout documents are in-progress.</b>
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)	Milton Street Park Construction	BHC12000	Prop 84	\$1,603,786	6/30/16	<b>Milton Park opened February 2016; Closeout documents are in-progress.</b>
Culver City	Hetzler Road Pedestrian Path at BHSO	BHC13003	Prop 84	\$791,000	12/31/16	<b>The City is re-bidding the project with a revised budget; State Parks will provide the additional funding. Project completion expected 12/31/16.</b>
University of Southern California (USC)	Baldwin Hills Biota Update	BHC13002	Prop 84	\$140,794	9/31/16	<b>The research phase of the project completed Spring 2016; Reporting and construction of the website are in progress; Project completion expected Fall 2017.</b>
Loyola Marymount University (LMU)	Parklands User Survey Study	BHC14000	Prop 84	\$236,042	9/31/17	<b>Season 2 field surveys have been completed, bringing the total to 1,195 visitors surveyed; The 2nd semiannual report is complete. Season 3 surveys are underway. Project completion expected Fall 2017.</b>
City of Culver City	Park to Playa Trail - Ballona Creek Connection	BHC15002	Prop 84	\$336,043	6/31/17	<b>Design phase is underway, pending the results of Geotechnical Soils Analysis; Bidding is expected to close by 8/22/16 and construction to begin in September 2016; Project completion expected Spring 2017.</b>

Grantee/Administrator	Project Title	ContractID	Fund Source	Funds Allocated	Agreement Expiration	PROJECT STATUS
Los Angeles Audubon Society	Baldwin Hills Parklands Conservation Project	BHC15004	Prop 84	\$124,536	8/31/19	<b>Planning and recruitment in-progress for the first Summer Camp scheduled August 2016. The West LA College certification program to begin Spring semester 2017. Project Completion expected Summer 2019.</b>
Culver City	Waste Transfer Station Stormwater Diversion System and Rain Garden Project	BHC16001	Prop 1	\$606,000	TBD	<b>Initial meeting with Grantee was held on 7/12/16; Draft contract documents in-progress; Project completion expected Spring 2018.</b>

**Baldwin Hills  
2015/16 Summary Sheet by Fund**

<u>As of 6/30/16</u>	<u>PCA #</u>	<u>Remaining Appropriation</u>	<u>EXP + ENC</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>Encumber by</u>	<u>Liquidate by</u>
<b>ELPF - #0140, Support</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-001-0140	<b>10001</b>	\$ 386,000.00	\$ 359,188.38	\$ 26,811.62	06/30/16	06/30/18
<b>Prop 40 - #6029, Support</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6029	<b>10005</b>	\$ 122,000.00	\$ 104,121.70	\$ 17,878.30	06/30/16	06/30/18
<b>Prop 84 - #6051, Support</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6051	<b>10009</b>	\$ 129,000.00	\$ 61,058.81	\$ 67,941.19	06/30/16	06/30/18
<b>Prop 1 - #6083, Support</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6083	<b>10006</b>	\$ 102,000.00	\$ 27,037.85	\$ 74,962.15	06/30/16	06/30/18
<b>Total Support Balance:</b>				<b>\$ 187,593.26</b>		
<b>Prop 1 - #6083, Local Assistance/ Capital Outlay</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	<b>20004</b>	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00	06/30/18	06/30/20
<b>Total Prop 1 Balance:</b>				<b>\$ 2,000,000.00</b>		
<b>Prop 40 - #6029, Capital Outlay</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6029	<b>20005</b>	\$ 11,604,000.00	\$ 5,673,930.20	\$ 5,930,069.80	06/30/18	06/30/20
<b>Total Prop 40 Balance:</b>				<b>\$ 5,930,069.80</b>		
<b>Prop 84 - #6051, Capital Outlay</b>						
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6051	<b>30004</b>	\$ 2,118,000.00	\$ 192,490.02	\$ 1,925,509.98	06/30/18	06/30/20
2014 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6051	<b>30003</b>	\$ 3,120,000.00	\$ 2,140,316.00	\$ 979,684.00	06/30/17	06/30/19
<b>Total Prop 84 Balance:</b>				<b>\$ 2,905,193.98</b>		

**BOND CASH FUNDS**

2015 COMMERCIAL PAPER TE		CASH ALLOCATED	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
	PROP 84:	\$1,377,819.00	1,332,278.26	\$45,540.74
	PROP 40	\$2,487,337.53	2,372,822.97	\$114,514.56
2010 SPRING BAB SALE		CASH ALLOCATED	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
	PROP 40:	\$579,277.00	579,277.00	\$0.00
	PROP 84:	\$829,272.44	829,272.44	\$0.00
2010 DECEMBER BAB SALE				
	PROP 40:	\$380,954.00	380,954.00	\$0.00
	PROP 84:	\$43,760.00	43,760.00	\$0.00
2010 DECEMBER TE SALE				
	PROP 40:	\$60,547.82	0.00	\$60,547.82
2010 SPRING TE SALE				
	PROP 40:	\$3,082,367.86	3,074,011.81	\$8,356.05
	PROP 84:	\$1,095,534.16		\$0.00
2009 OCTOBER TE SALE				
	PROP 40:	\$1,812,376.87	1,812,376.87	\$0.00
	PROP 84:	\$188,122.75	188,122.75	\$0.00
2009 MARCH SALE				
	PROP 40:	\$901,961.01	901,961.01	\$0.00
	PROP 40-SMIF	\$10,088.33	10,088.33	\$0.00



Transmitted via e-mail

July 18, 2016

Mr. David F. McNeill, Executive Officer  
Baldwin Hills Conservancy  
5120 Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90056

Dear Mr. McNeill:

**Engagement Letter—Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Audit of Proposition 84 Bond Funds**

In accordance with our bond oversight responsibilities, the California Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations (Finance), will audit the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's (Conservancy) Proposition 84 bond funds.

Conservancy is responsible for the state level administration of the bond funded programs. Our audit responsibilities and objectives are to determine whether bond funds were awarded and expended in compliance with applicable legal requirements and established criteria, and to determine if the Conservancy has adequate project monitoring processes in place to ensure projects are completed within scope and cost, and achieve the intended outcome. Except as noted below, Finance will conduct the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Finance and Conservancy are both part of the State of California's Executive Branch. As required by various statutes within the California Government Code, Finance performs certain management and accounting functions. Under generally accepted government auditing standards, performance of these activities creates an organizational impairment with respect to independence. However, Finance has developed and implemented sufficient safeguards to mitigate the organizational impairment so reliance can be placed on the work performed.

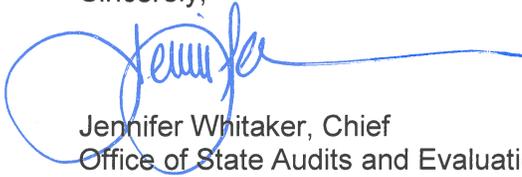
An entrance conference is scheduled for July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Resources Building located at 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1412, in Sacramento. At the entrance conference, the audit and reporting processes will be discussed. Following the entrance conference, we will require access to records and staff related to the engagement.

At the conclusion of fieldwork, an exit conference will also be conducted to discuss the engagement results. Finally, a draft report will be issued requesting your written response. Your response, if any, will be incorporated into the final report issued to you and the California Natural Resources Agency. The final report will be placed on our website.

Mr. David McNeil  
July 18, 2016  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Tarvin, Manager, or Wendy Griffe, Supervisor, at (916) 322-2985.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer", with a large circular flourish on the left side and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Whitaker, Chief  
Office of State Audits and Evaluations

cc: Ms. Julie Alvis, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Mr. Bryan Cash, Deputy Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency