BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) will be held
Friday, September 25, 2020 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, certain provisions of the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act are suspended due to a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with the Executive Order, this public meeting will be conducted by teleconference and internet, with no public locations.

Members of the public may dial into the teleconference
and or join the meeting online at Zoom.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/j/91443309377
Or Telephone, Dial:
USA 214 765 0479
USA 8882780296 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 596019

Materials for the meeting will be available at the Conservancy website on the Meetings & Notices tab in advance of the meeting date.

10:00 AM - CALL TO ORDER – Keshia Sexton, Chair

MEETING AGENDA

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

Public Comment and Time Limits: *Members of the public can make comments in advance by emailing tiffany.jones@bhc.ca.gov or during the meeting by following the moderator's directions on how to indicate their interest in speaking. Public comment will be taken prior to action on agenda items and at the end of the meeting for non-agenda items.* ***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 – BHC Staff

2. Approval of Minutes (July) – Keshia Sexton, Chair

3. Public Comments – Keshia Sexton, Chair

4. Message from the Chair – Keshia Sexton, Chair

5. Consideration of Resolution # 20-08 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,020,746, to North East Trees for the Five-Points Habitat Restoration Project – David McNeill, Executive Officer

6. Consideration of Resolution # 20-09 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,952,500, to Culver City for the

Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability and Accessibility Project - David McNeill, Executive Officer

7. Consideration of Resolution # 20-10 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,027,640, to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project – David McNeill, Executive Officer

8. Executive Officer Report: Legislative, Project Status, and Fiscal updates – BHC Staff Representatives

9. Board Member Announcements or Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

*Pursuant to Government Code Section **11126**, 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, among other permissible subjects. Confidential memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions.*

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **November 20, 2020.*

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

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290
Los Angeles, California 90056

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290
Los Angeles, CA 90056

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
Friday, July 17, 2020

10:00 a.m. Call to Order - A public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) was assembled at 10:05 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2020 via teleconference Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020.

I. Message From the Chair – Keshia Sexton, Chair
Chair Sexton thanked the board and public for attending the Baldwin Hills Conservancy meeting and asked that the board and the public be patient and understanding with the hope that all participants were staying safe and healthy in the wake of the Pandemic. She reiterated some of the housekeeping rules about public comments and the agenda for the meeting.

II. Roll Call – David McNeill, Executive Officer
Members Present: Megan Cooper, Lloyd Dixon, Jacklyn Dupont Walker, Norma Garcia, Peter Garcia, Dr. Yolanda Gorman, Lacey Johnson, Corey Laken, Dr. Nicole Lawson, Sally Lukenbill, Amanda Martin, Sarah Rascon, Keshia Sexton, Marina Voskanian, Dr. Raissa White, Udak-Joe Ntuk.
Staff Present: David McNeill, Executive Officer; Gail Krippner, Grant Program Manager; Tiffany Jones, Project Manager; David Edsall Jr., Deputy Attorney General .

III. Public Comments – Keshia Sexton, Chair
1.Slate Z provided a comment before the meeting. Comment addressed by Natalie Hernandez of Climate Resolve.

2.Dawn Vincent- Thank you to Conservancy for keeping parks accessible and open spaces. No comments submitted before meeting and no comments were submitted when asked.

IV. Approval of Minutes (May 29, 2020) – Keshia Sexton, Chair:
Member White provided a motion to approve the minutes unanimously. Member Gorman seconded the motion. There being no objections or questions, the Chair called for any objections to the approval of the minutes. With no objections, the minutes were approved.

V. Consideration of Resolution # 20-07 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant in an Amount Not to Exceed $200,000 to Climate Resolve for the Community Resilience and Access Plan for Baldwin Hills Conservancy Project – David McNeill, Executive Officer
The objective of this project is to create a resilience hub within the Baldwin Hills Parklands. It would serve to support the region's wide range of socio economic constituents in the event of an emergency. Member Gorman provided a motion. Member White seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously through roll call voting.

VI. 2019-20 Inglewood Oil Field Update - Presentation available: http://bhc.ca.gov/meetings/

VII. Baldwin Hills SNAPS Study Update - Presentation available: http://bhc.ca.gov/meetings/

VIII. Baldwin Hills CSD 2020 Update - Presentation available: http://bhc.ca.gov/meetings/

IX. Executive Officer Report: Legislative, Project Status, and Fiscal updates – BHC Staff

Project status updates were given by Gail Krippner- 1) La Cienga Pedestrian Bridge- on schedule for completion December 2020; 2) Scenic Overlook- projection completion date is expected December 2020; 3) Water capture project at YBB- grantee planning to ask for term extension.

Two Personal Leave days for staff have been implemented to help balance the State budget. A policy of 75% telework is being managed currently.

X. Board Member Announcements or Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Norma Garcia wished the BHC staff the Board a Happy Park and Recreation Professional's Day and acknowledged everyone's contributions and hard work.

Member Dupont Walker emphasized following the guidlines od the LA County Public Health for the best practices to stay safe and healthy.

Member Lawson mentioned the LA Audubon Society's bid LA2050 grant challange and to vote.

Chair Sexton announced she and David McNeill gave an interview to the Wave Newspaper and to look for the article.

*Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **September 25, 2020.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately **11:56 a.m.**

Approved:

_____

Keisha Sexton, Chair Date:

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

Memorandum

To: Governing Board

From: David McNeill

Date: September 25, 2020

Re: Item #5: Consideration of Resolution # 20-08 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,020,746, to North East Trees for the Five-Points Habitat Restoration Project

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 20-08, authorizing a grant of up to $1,020,746 in BHC Prop 1 Funds to North East Trees for the Five-Points Habitat Restoration Project.

Background: North East Trees has applied for Prop 1 grant funds to develop and implement the Five-Points Habitat Restoration Project (See Attachment #1). The project objectives include restoring native habitat, improving ecosystem health, and addressing water quality, all while providing stewardship and job skills for local at-promise youth. The site is situated on approximately 10-acres at the southeastern tip of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and is one of the primary pedestrian entrances for surrounding communities. Current conditions include a dominance of non-native vegetation which increases annual fuel for potential fires and lowers the ability of the soil to retain storm run-off and curtail erosion. The proposal includes a unique collaboration with a wide range of partner scientists, community organizers, volunteers and environmental leaders.

Deliverable work products are reflected in three major categories: 1) plans, documentation and monitoring; 2) native habitat restoration work; and 3) community outreach and education.

Category 1 deliverables:

- Weed Management Plan
- Native Habitat Restoration Plan
- Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Execution of a right-of-entry permit with LA County Dept of Parks & Recreation
- Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (or applicable agreement) with County Parks specifying long term maintenance and monitoring responsibilities

- Annual reporting for 5 years post-grant period (LA Audubon Society)

Category 2 deliverables:

- Site and soil preparation, weed control, of a 10.5-acre restoration
- Propagation of selected native plants (500) from on-site LAAS nursery stock
- Install irrigation for the 500 container plants
- Successful installation (seeding) of 8,700 Southern California native plants.
- Supervision and monitoring before, during, and after construction. NET will continue establishment on all planted materials for at least one year after the grant period.

Category 3 deliverables:

- Community workshops, focus groups and meetings
- Community outreach report, quantifying results and providing a narrative of the community outreach and education conducted

Pursuant to the BHC Prop 1 Guidelines, the proposal passed all screening requirements. The application met all the qualifications and scored highest in the following three (3) areas: 1) The extent to which the project achieves and demonstrates the purposes of Chapter 6 Prop 1; 2) The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits; 3) The extent to which the project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan and advances Watershed Protection, Habitat Restoration or Urban Greening. The final average score of the evaluation was 86 out of 100 possible points. Scoring sheets and evaluations will remain on file.

If the application is approved, the result will be a precedent setting sustainable restoration that quantifies vegetation re-establishment techniques that can be applied over a large area without requiring herbicides or irrigation. Restoration of native species and their deep root zones will stabilize hillsides, increase soil resiliency during anticipated intense rainfall events and reduce fire hazard during dry periods. Native species would also provide nesting sites, cover and food for birds and other small creatures to help improve ecosystem biodiversity and the conservation goals outlined in the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan.

Five Points Habitat Restoration Project

North East Trees

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.

PRC 32565.5 (b) The Conservancy shall establish policies and priorities within the Baldwin Hills area, and conduct any necessary planning activities in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32555.

PRC 32565.5 (c) The Conservancy shall give priority to related projects that create expanded opportunities that provide recreation, aesthetic improvement, and wildlife habitat in the Baldwin Hills area.

c. 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.

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.

d. 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: (B) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems; (H) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks and promote watershed health; (I) 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. (K) 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.

e. Support from the public (demonstrate)
See attached letters: Ballona Creek Renaissance, LA Council District 10, Senate District 30, California State Parks, Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Mujeres De La Tierra, Los Angeles Audubon Society.

f. 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.

g. Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area

NET has extensive experience with design build projects in disadvantaged communities with an emphasis on education, job training and employment for local at-promise youth. Projects ranging from construction, planting and maintenance of parks, watershed revitalization projects, and urban greening have been successfully implemented throughout Los Angeles County over the past three decades. Work in the Baldwin Hills includes two completed Prop 84

projects: Don Lorenzo Entrance and Gateway; as well as the La Brea Corridor Planning Study. They also have established partnerships with local government agencies and corporations for support and funding. Local government agencies include the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Parks. Additionally, their partnerships with, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Land IQ, and Mujeres De La Tierra, will provide professional expertise and services including outreach, landscape design, monitoring, labor and job training.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

a. Urgency

Existing conditions of fire hazard, erosion and invasive species proliferation are noticeable, and will continue without the proposed improvements. The project addresses the necessity to expand restoration to this section of the park to include the transformation of the matrix around recently planted trees and shrubs. The opportunity to train and implement seed bank management in tandem with seed-based restoration practices is unique for this densely populated urban portion of the Los Angeles County.

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

The proposed project will manage site runoff, stop erosion and stabilize slopes and increase ecosystem biodiversity and resilience. It also provides for carbon sequestration and ground water recharge. Moreover, the stewardship and job training component will create a pipeline for future employment for at-promise youth.

c. Readiness

North East Trees staff and its partners are positioned to start the project in a timely manner (*See Preliminary Budget and Schedule, p. 25).* A deliberate timeline has been projected for the schedule, with an estimated date of completion within three (3) years from the project initiation.

d. Cooperation

North East Trees has support from County of Los Angeles Department of Public and Recreation who will assist in obtaining the permits needed including maintaining the project upon successful completion, and the California Conservation Corps who will provide labor and other support to the contractors.

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY (BHC)

RESOLUTION 20-08

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH NORTH EAST TREES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,020,746 OF BHC PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS FOR THE FIVE POINTS HABITAT RESTORATION 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, North East Trees is a non-profit 501c (3) organization with experience in project coordination with multiple partners in the Baldwin Hills; and

WHEREAS, the North East Trees has submitted an application for BHC's Prop 1 local assistance grant program for the FIVE POINTS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT in the Conservancy territory consistent with the funding source and grant requirements adopted by the BHC in May of 2015; and

WHEREAS, North East Trees has a proven record of completing grant projects utilizing various funding sources within each project's stated budget and performance period end date; 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 Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE BHC GOVERNING BOARD:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES A GRANT AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,020,746 OF BHC PROP 1 FUNDS TO NORTH EAST TREES FOR THE FIVE POINTS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

2. ADOPTS THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 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 September 25, 2020

_____
Keshia Sexton (Chair)

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General

North East Trees
Bringing Nature Back

GRANT PROPOSAL
PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM
JUNE 30, 2020
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

PROP 1
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM
WATER BOND 2014

FIVE CORNERS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Team and Partners

North East Trees
Bringing Nature Back

LAND IQ

MUJERES DE LA TIERRA

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS SINCE 1864

FIVE CORNERS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State of California — Natural Resources Agency
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME	**GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED**
Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project	$ 1,020,745.87
APPLICANT *(Org. Name and Address)*	**TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT**
North East Trees, Inc 570 W. Ave 26, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90065	$1,342,529.87

APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (Name, Title, Phone)
Mark Kenyon, Executive Director Office- (323) 441-8634 ext. 31
PROJECT ADDRESS *(Including Cross-Street)*
4100 S La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90056 (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area) Exact project Location: 10.5 acres of Kenneth Hahn State Park, North West of the intersections of La Brea, Stocker, and Overhill (the five corners intersection).

COUNTY	**SENATE DISTRICT**	**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**
Los Angeles County	30 (Holly Mitchell)	54 (Sydney Kamlager-Dove)

PERSON W/ DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT (Name, Title, E-mail, Phone)
Joe Laskin, Project and Development Manager Office- (323) 441-8634 ext. 24; Direct- (818) 590-3777
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project is a collaboration between North East Trees (NET), LandIQ, Mujeres de la Tierra (MDLT), Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS), and the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club. The goals of the Project are to restore native habitat, improve the ecosystem health of Ballona Creek watershed, improve water quality and storage, provide conservation benefits for people and wildlife, increase climate resiliency, and provide stewardship opportunities and jobs skills training for local at- promise youth through the restoration of native ecosystems. The Project is situated on approximately ten and a half acres of land on the Southeast tip of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, at South La Brea Avenue (west side) and Don Lorenzo Drive. Much of the site is currently dominated by nonnative vegetation, including invasive annual mustards and grasses. Compared with native shrubland and riparian

woodland, this vegetation provides inferior ecosystem function, contributes greater stormwater runoff and slope erosion, is prone to more frequent fires, and sequesters and stores less carbon.

The Project stands out for its innovative use of seed bank management for shrubland restoration at the scale of multiple acres. It conforms to best scientific practices for seed bank management, slope stability, fire risk management, and carbon sequestration. Whereas local shrubland restoration often relies on mulching around container plants to control weeds, the Project proposes herbicide-free restoration through the development of a weed management plan implemented over at least two years. This will be followed by the seeding of native coastal sage scrub species, and the propagation and planting of container plants on north-facing slopes of the riparian zone, which are grown at the LAAS nursery within the Baldwin Hills parklands. Implementation will be carried out by NET's crew of local at-promise youth and other community members including local residents. At-promise youth will be trained by habitat restoration ecologists, expanding their knowledge base and creating a pipeline to future employment. We will maximize safe and equitable access to the park through meaningful community outreach, targeting the adjacent disadvantaged communities and other neighborhoods that suffer from environmental injustice. MDLT will conduct the project's outreach, with help from NET's at-promise youth crew. The Project will help conserve water by installing temporary irrigation to water the riparian species through the establishment period. By reducing stormwater runoff, the Project will reduce erosion on-site, including damage to trails and the discharge of contaminants to nearby waterways. Through these measures, the Project supports the goals of Proposition 1, the Baldwin Hills Strategic Plan, and the California Water Strategic Plan.

TASK / MILESTONE	**COST ESTIMATE**	**COMPLETION DATE**
1.1 Fiscal Management and Contracting	$ 15,552.00	Ongoing until January 2024 *(estimated project completion)*
1.2 Project Management	$ 84,497.76	Ongoing until proj. completion
1.3 Community Outreach and Education	$ 32,033.28	Ongoing until proj. completion
1.4 Design (includes Weed Management Plan)	$ 76,210.00	May 2021
1.5 Permits and CEQA	$ 5,000.00	May 2021
2.1 Dethatching and Site Preparation	$ 49,590.00	August 2021
2.2 Install and Maintain Irrigation	$ 24,325.80	August 2022
2.3 Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank-Soil Preparation	$ 200,619.75	Summer 2022
2.4 Trail Repair and Erosion Control	$ 58,880.00	February 2023
3.1 Container Plants	$ 54,063.25	September 2022
3.2 Purchase Seed	$ 30,000.00	January 2022
3.3 Seeding	$ 20,000.00	December 2023
3.4 Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank-Plant Installation and Establishment	$ 247,808.95	January 2024

3.5 Monitoring and Reporting	$ 29,370.00	January 2021(est. project start) - January 2029
3.6 Plant Establishment (1 year post grant period)	$ 0.00	January 2025 (1 yr after completion)

I certify that the information contained in this project application form, including required attachments, is accurate.
NAME: Mark B. Kenyon
SIGNATURE: **DATE: June 29th, 2020** 

GRANT APPLICATION – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project scope is the part of project planning that involves determining and documenting a list of specific project goals, **deliverables**, features, functions, **tasks**, deadlines, and ultimately costs. In other words, it is what needs to be achieved and the work that must be done to deliver a project.

Describe each of the elements of the project description below with clear, but detailed answers. All applications must be provided in 12-point font.

1. **Need and urgency for the project. Describe the specific problems, issues, or un-served needs the project will address. Include a detailed description of how the project will provide multi-benefit ecosystem, water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and public benefits.**

   The Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project is a multi-benefit project that will transform approximately ten and a half acres in the southeastern terminus of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) by exhausting the invasive species seed bank in order to restore native habitat, maximize stormwater capture, provide urban greening, and improve water quality and storage, benefiting this coastal watershed, the Ballona Creek and the Pacific Ocean. This is especially important as the Ballona Creek watershed is highly developed with nearly half of the watershed covered by impervious surfaces. This project proposed an innovative approach to native habitat restoration which has not been used in an urban setting, which focuses on soil restoration and diminishing the invasive seek bank so that native species can thrive and self-propagate. This project will be carried out through a collaboration between North East Trees (NET), Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club.

   The project site is within KHSRA, which is an urban oasis and is one of the largest inner-city parks and regional open spaces in the greater Los Angeles area. Totaling 338-acres, this park attracts residents from all over Los Angeles (see Figure 11.1), especially from nearby disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities in South Los Angeles such as Baldwin Village, Crenshaw, and Inglewood.

   South Los Angeles, which includes the severely disadvantaged and densely populated community of Baldwin Village, will be our primary target area for community outreach, education and volunteer engagement in habitat restoration activities. This community has disproportionately borne the burden of exposure to extreme levels of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and a lack of green infrastructure. Located in close proximity to the Inglewood Oil Field, one of the largest active urban oil fields in the United States, these communities suffer from poor air quality containing dangerous levels of methane, fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and ozone. This community has significant socio-economic needs and a high degree of racial/ethnic health disparities. The area is at an economic disadvantage as it ranks in the 88th percentile for poverty, meaning that it is amongst the top 12% of communities in poverty in the State of California (CalEnviroScreen 3.0). Furthermore, the air pollution in this area ranks in the top 15% of the state (75th percentile) and residents experience high concentrations of ozone, PM 2.5, and other harmful pollutants that can lead to public health issues such as asthma (this community ranks in the 88th percentile for asthma), diabetes, and obesity.

   Not surprisingly, this grey landscape suffers profoundly from the ill effects of the urban heat island. Additionally, high levels of GHG from the adjacent oil field located within a mile of the community, highly developed transportation networks, increased vehicular traffic, expanded urbanization, and all of the harmful emissions that are a result of this intensive urban development add to the poor health of Baldwin Village residents. For many local residents, KHSRA is the closest green space that they have access to.

This multi-benefit project addresses several urgent needs related to native habitat restoration, climate resilience, community outreach, public health and stewardship. This project will improve water quality and air pollution through native habitat restoration, reduce the fire risk through invasive plant removal and increasing the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), prepare for future droughts through use of drought tolerant native plants that can self propagate, improve public health through native tree plantings, and create stewardship opportunities for volunteers, and a pipeline for future jobs for at-promise youth hired and retained by NET.

It's important to note that the ecosystem function of exotic annual grasslands and weed stands is inferior to that of Southern California native scrublands and grasslands. Native species and their deep root zones stabilize hillsides and will be more resilient in the face of more intense rainfall events expected under future climate conditions. Native vegetation will reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff and reduce the amount of nitrogen and suspended sediments in that runoff. Native species also support biodiversity and conservation goals for KHSRA, as they will provide nesting sites, cover and food for birds, squirrels and other small creatures. The new trees will enhance habitat and help to strengthen critical corridors for wildlife.

The project will set a precedent for vegetation reestablishment techniques that can be applied over large areas without requiring herbicides or irrigation (except for riparian species) and increase capacity within the region, especially in urban settings, to apply these techniques. The restoration design will incorporate lessons learned by Land IQ from two decades of restoration of coastal sage scrub habitats in northern Orange County and recognized by resource agencies as a new paradigm in habitat restoration (Brooks et al. 2019). Recent regulatory actions limiting the use of herbicides highlight a need for techniques that can be applied at scale and without chemical inputs. Such large-scale restoration techniques and local capacity to implement them are necessary for future projects within the territory of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy associated with existing and potential future public lands.

Specifically within KHSRA, the project addresses a land management need for a high-use area of the park with a new and well-appreciated trail system. Thus far, restoration and vegetation enhancement efforts have focused on establishing large shrubs and trees, and these have established important native cover in areas of the project footprint. Weedy cover, in the form of mustards and nonnative annual grasses have, however, continued to dominate over large areas and this vegetation is prone to and carries wildfires easily. Furthermore, these weed-dominated areas are less stable and subject to erosion because of the shallow root systems of the nonnative plants. In recent rains, some trail areas have experienced rilling. The project therefore addresses a need of expanding the restoration efforts for this zone to include transformation of the matrix around recently planted trees and shrubs to a native scrub landscape, which will have multiple benefits, for biodiversity, landscape resilience, hydrological function, and ecosystem function.

The project is specifically designed to provide the following benefits:

- Reduced stormwater runoff and improved stormwater quality through conversion from annual weeds to native shrublands with riparian elements
- Increased native plant and wildlife biodiversity through restoration of rare coastal scrubland.
- Increased aesthetic values through introduction of diverse native species.
- Reduced fire risk through replacement of weedy annual species with native perennial species. This will increase and strengthen the WUI
- Increased carbon sequestration and improved air quality through aboveground and belowground accumulation of biomass in plants, fungi, and invertebrates, in addition to carbon fixation by fungi belowground associated with roots of native plants and trees

- Increased geological stability through deeper root systems creating greater resilience to future extreme rain events associated with future climate conditions
- Creation of new jobs and training for local at-promise youth
- Ease of long term maintenance for LA County Park staff as the project will be designed to minimize maintenance, and, furthermore NET and LandIQ will conduct maintenance & training for up to five years combined post grant period, and leave behind materials to inform the project's long term maintenance

2. **Goals and objectives. The goals and objectives should clearly define the expected outcomes and benefits of the project. Include the following:**

Project Goals: All project goals support the goals of Proposition 1, Chapter 6. This project aims to improve the ecosystem health of Ballona Creek watershed; improve water quality and storage at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) and in downstream rivers, coastal bays, and the Pacific Ocean; reduce pollution and improve air quality, which benefits public health; increase climate resiliency, including but not limited to fire, drought and flooding of KHSRA; increase stewardship and engagement opportunities for the public; and provide a job pipeline for future land stewards into the conservation/habitat restoration fields.

We will accomplish the following project goals by achieving these objectives

Objective 1. Prepare the 10.5 acre site and its soil for reintroduction of native plants following a science-based restoration plan.

1.1 Undertake complete "dethatching" of the project area, in which the accumulated organic matter from European grasses, mustards, and other weeds is removed from the site, leaving behind the native species that are remnant and recently planted shrubs and trees.

1.2 Repair the trail segments that have exhibited damage from erosion using best management practices (BMPs).

1.3 Prepare the soil for seeding and planting by reducing the seed bank of undesirable plant species that compete with native plants and inhibit healthy development of soil mycorrhizae (fungi that form symbiotic networks with native plant roots and promote growth and stability of native plant communities). Soil seed bank can be depleted through repeated, strategically timed clearing of nonnative plants before they set seed without disturbing the soil.

1.4 Establish drip irrigation for areas that have been identified for planting of container plants (toyon, elderberry, southern California walnut, coast live oak).

Objective 2. Restore the 10.5 acre site with seed and native plants, and ensure establishment through continued site management.

2.1 Develop localized seed mixes and planting plans for all portions of site that take into account remnant and restored plant cover, native plants that have germinated or recovered through the site soil preparation phase, and considerations for fire hazard.

2.2 Seed and install native plant material, including 500 container plants.

2.3 Undertake periodic and strategically targeted control of weedy annual species without soil disturbance to minimize development of weed seed bank and reduce germination of undesirable species.

Objective 3. Conduct successful community outreach and education. This will be achieved through our partnership with MDLT, who has deep roots in the Baldwin Hills and Baldwin Village communities.

3.1 We will perform outreach activities such as community surveys, door knocking, focus groups, and planting workshops for community members. Additionally, MDLT will provide training on how to best conduct meaningful community outreach, and empower community members to help with this cause.

3.2 MDLT and NET will pass out educational materials to increase the public's understanding of the value of the urban and community forest and their responsibility for its health. MDLT has framed this through what they call a set of “Green Ethics”, which empowers residents to take care of the improvements this project will install and provides hands on experience in doing so. Through this process we will reiterate the importance of advocacy, organization, and community empowerment

Objective 4. Conduct community stewardship events centered around native habitat restoration

4.1 This project will host at least 12 community-based volunteer events with an expected attendance of at least 40 volunteers at each event. We will utilize LAAS close connection with West LA college, and MDLT intimate knowledge of the surrounding disadvantaged communities to source volunteers for these events. NET also recently completed a project in this area, which included a robust outreach program, so we will leverage their connections to increase our reach.

4.2 We anticipate that we will engage over 500 volunteers on this project, which increases the community's knowledge and capacity to fight against the negative effects of climate change.

Obtective 5. Providing local at-promise youth with ongoing education, training, and meaningful employment will help create a future job pipeline into the conservation/habitat restoration fields. This has been part of NET’s ongoing mission for nearly thirty years.

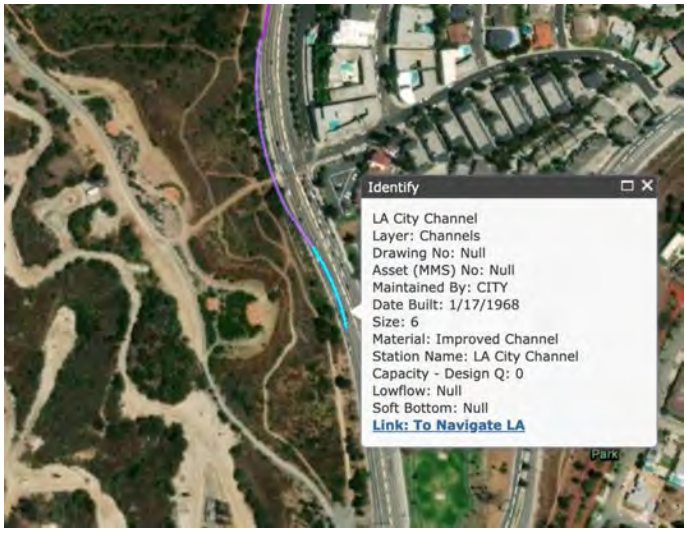
a.) A detailed description of how the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Prop 1.

The proposed project fulfills the purposes of **Proposition 1**.

First, it is an innovative adaptation project that will reduce the impacts of climate change specifically for disadvantaged communities (i.e. the nearby Baldwin Village), who typically are disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of climate change, and ecosystems. The slopes to be restored are steep and are vulnerable to erosion and failure under extreme rainfall events. Higher one-day total rainfall events are predicted for Los Angeles under future climate conditions and projections. Restoration from annual grassland to shrubland will improve the stability of the slope. The additional stability will increase the resilience of the system and adapt in a way to reduce the impacts of climate change. Additionally, with the domination of non-native grasses in its current state,

the project area poses a significant fire risk. NET staff observed a brush fire in this specific area as recently as July of 2019 (see picture above).

Second, the project will provide urban greening to restore watershed health, improving stormwater management, reducing greenhouse gases, and protecting life and property. Shrublands can reduce the volume and flow of stormwater and improve stormwater quality compared to weedy grasslands, which only further exacerbates this issue. The restored vegetation will also increase carbon sequestration and storage on the site and underground. This includes harmful pollutants such as ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. The pollutants are absorbed through pores on the surface of leaves, called stomata, as a part of the tree's respiration process. The deep roots of the native vegetation will protect the slope and surrounding public infrastructure from failure in future extreme rainfall events.



Third, the project will reduce pollution of Ballona Creek and downstream coastal waters and incrementally improve natural ecosystem functions with respect to flood management. The project site is the headwaters of a drainage down La Brea Boulevard, that is collected by storm drains and conveyed to Ballona Creek. Along the site edge, stormwater is conveyed in a concrete channel. The objective of the project is to reduce the sheet flow and rilling across the project site to reduce the runoff into this channel. The combined restoration and erosion control methods will have the effect of collecting and infiltrating more water on site and reducing the quantity of stormwater leaving the site. We estimate a 20% reduction in runoff from converting the site from grassland to perennial shrub, chaparral, and forest species, based on the rational method. Sandy loam soils with grasslands at 5-10 percent slopes see about 43% of rainfall become runoff, similar conditions with forest-type vegetation have only 33% of rainfall becoming runoff.

Fourth, Proposition 1 prioritizes projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities, which occur within a half mile of the project site. Our outreach and education efforts will be targeted in these disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, our benefits to disadvantaged communities will be expanded to the greater Los Angeles Area, as NET's youth crew is sourced exclusively from disadvantaged communities in LA County.

b.) A detailed description of how the project helps meet the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, including a quantification of the metric tons of CO2 or CO2e removed or avoided, and an explanation of the methodology used to quantify this figure.

The project will use an ecosystem-based model that incorporates plants native to the Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles, with year-round leaf canopies above-ground and extensive root systems with an associated soil biome below-ground. The native plant community proposed for the project includes trees and large shrubs, as well as smaller shrubs and perennial grasses. All the planned native species have extensive deep roots that will hold the soil on the slopes

above the several drainages that run through the project area, thereby reducing water run-off and soil erosion.

This specific native habitat approach will help optimize carbon sequestration to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The structure of the plant community is designed to maximize plant and soil carbon sequestration both in above ground plant canopy and below ground for the specific climate and soils at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The plants will be chosen, in part, on their ability to form mutualistic relationships with soil symbionts (mycorrhizal fungi) that increase plant productivity and improve the carbon sequestration in both plant canopy production above-ground as well as below ground in the root biosphere. These soil symbionts, mainly mycorrhizal fungi, reduce soil carbon loss by extending root lifespan and by improving soil aggregate formation (Deyn et al 2008). Tree species that associate with ectomycorrhizal fungi, including native coast live oak, show a strong biomass increase in response to elevated CO2 regardless of nitrogen availability in the soil (Terrer et al. 2016), and this translates into carbon sequestration. Carbon storage is affected by photosynthesis and soil respiration, which have been studied extensively in natural and agricultural systems. Recent studies in reclamation of coalfields showed that arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi increased carbon storage in small trees by an average of 17.2 percent compared to controls and soil carbon also was increased significantly (Wang et al. 2016). Therefore, it is important to consider the soil biosphere when calculating carbon sequestration in this native habitat array of species.

The carbon sequestration of native species for this project is estimated based on previously published and reviewed methods. This method calculates sequestered carbon based the number of native plants to be planted by the type (tree, small tree/large shrub, and shrub) and uses actual and estimated amounts of carbon sequestered from the carbon calculator developed from the Center for Urban Forest Research Tree Carbon Calculator as applied to upland habitats per Community Conservation Solutions (2016). The project will plant 510 native trees and small trees/large shrubs mainly along the upper Eastern Trail edge and along drainages within the project area. Additionally, we assume once seeded that native shrubs and perennial grasses will be spaced approximately 6-feet (estimating the triangular planting method) over the project area, calculated as 8,661 target plant specimens after three years. These plants are all evergreen shrubs and perennial bunchgrass species that have a root zone of at least one meter. Native bunch grasses have been shown to more effectively store carbon in the soil biosphere than other shallow rooted non-native grasses (Koteen et al. 2011). It is proposed that as an aggregate, considering the above and below ground carbon, the project coastal sage shrub species should be calculated conservatively as approximately 4.0 percent of a small tree/large shrub, and the perennial grass understory as approximately 1.4 percent of the carbon sequestration of a small tree/large shrub for purposes of this project. The below ground roots and associated mycorrhizal fungi will be present for the species selected for the project and will sequester carbon. The existing conditions of the project are mainly shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), neither of which form a mutualism with mycorrhizal fungi, and therefore, the project will result in an increase of these important soil fungi across the area, for the overall health of native species, and increased carbon sequestration.

Tons of Carbon Sequestered by Project Native Trees/Large Shrubs over 20, 50 and 85-Year Periods.

Totals for Five Points Project Site, KHSRA	20-yr (tCO2e)	50-yr (tCO2e)	85-yr (tCO2e)
Large Trees (Evergreen >25')	107	544	1,324
Small Trees/Tree-sized Shrubs (Evergreen >15' <25')	275	1,242	2,350
Coastal Sage Scrub Species	241	1,296	1,841
Total, Project Site	**623**	**3,081**	**5,516**

Native habitat is long-lived, self-perpetuating, and adapted to Southern California's hot climate, with leaf canopies and deep root systems that maximize carbon uptake. By planting a resilient natural plant community with a range of trees and small tree-sized shrubs, as well as filling the understory with native shrubs and grasses, the project also will mitigate stormwater runoff.

The proposed native habitat will help reduce urban heat island effects by replacing weedy areas of annual grasses and herbaceous weeds with a site appropriate native habitat, creating year-round shade to help offset longer-term climate change impacts. In addition to these environmental benefits, native vegetation has been associated with lower levels of asthma and obesity, and there is strong evidence that urban vegetation provides respiratory health benefits.

The native habitat approach will create permanent, functioning habitat that creates sustainable green, open space in the heart of this urbanized part of Los Angeles; support native birds, butterflies, invertebrates and reptiles, and be a functional habitat link to other regional natural areas. This approach restores native habitat lost to over a century of urban development.

References

Community Conservation Solutions. 2016. The Green Solutions Project Upper L.A. River Watershed Project, Phase IV. Funded by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy.

Deyn G.B., J H.C. Cornelissen, and R. D. Bardgett. 2008. Plant Functional traits and soil carbon sequestration in contrasting biomes. Ecology Letters 11: 1-16.

Koteen, L. E., D. D. Baldocchi, and J. Harte. 2011. Invasion of non-native grasses causes a drop in soil carbon storage in California grasslands. Environmental Research Letters 6: 044001.

Terrer, C., S. Vicca, B. A. Hungate, R. P. Phillips, I. C. Prentice. 2016. Mycorrhizal association as a primary control of the CO2 fertilization. Science; Research Reports 353: 72-74

Wang, Zhi-Gang, Y-L. Bi, B. Jiang, Y. Zhakypbek, S-P Peng, W-W. Liu, and H.Liu. 2016. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance soil carbon sequestration in coalfields, northwest China. Scientific Reports, 6: 34336.

c.) A detailed description of how the project will promote and implement other relevant regional and state plans and policies

Proposition 1 provides funds to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy for "multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects." The **Baldwin Hills Conservancy Strategic Plan** establishes priorities of resource protection, habitat restoration, and urban greening. The proposed project is consistent with the priorities of this plan, which direct the Conservancy to "advance the optimal management of resources in the watershed in order to achieve conservation benefits, improve ecosystem health, and increase climate resiliency." The plan further calls on the Conservancy to "Restore native habitat to improve ecosystem function and provide multi-benefit wildlife corridors, species biodiversity and other ecosystem benefits." The proposed project supports both of these goals, by providing conservation benefits (restoration of native vegetation), improving ecosystem health and function (increased stormwater infiltration, increased carbon sequestration, improved slope stabilization), increasing species biodiversity (provision of native habitat suitable for rare coastal scrub species), and increasing climate resiliency (increased water capture, increased resilience to extreme weather events). The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the California Water Action Plan by restoring natural habitat, improving urban water quality, and increasing the resilience of a watershed connected to the Santa Monica Bay. The project will demonstrate an adaptation technique to climate change (restoration of deep-rooted native plants to increase soil stability in advance of future extreme precipitation events) and provide sustainable outdoor amenities for the public's enjoyment.

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report . This project meets this State Plan's goals: help preserve the state's lands and natural resources by restoring native habitat, and build sustainable regions that support healthy livable communities and build climate resilience into the planning process. For these goals above, this project meets the following key actions: building a strong, sustainable water system; reflecting the value of natural resources to promote stewardship and the economy; investing in sound infrastructure that is consistent with the state's long-term environmental goals; support and invest in active transportation projects, such as walking and biking infrastructure; partnerships with local and regional governments; and leverage and link state funding opportunities.

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the CA Climate Adaptation Strategy/Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk Plan. This project helps reduce impacts of climate change through native habitat restoration, reduce heat island impacts; provide natural shade and cooling and will sequester carbon. This project meets this State Plan's goals and strategies: Biodiversity and Habitat; Energy; Public Health and Water, and helps promote these priority actions: improve habitat connectivity; support environmental stewardship across sectors by promoting nature-based solutions for adapting to climate risks; develop pilot projects to refine understanding of greenhouse gas storage associated with natural systems; create and maintain partnerships that support biodiversity conservation and promote public education and outreach; promote measures that reduce energy demand through support of green buildings, cool roofs, cool pavement, urban greening, and energy-conserving land use practices; improve the capacity of communities to prepare, respond, and recover from climate-related health risks by supporting implementation of a recommendations in the 2013 report, *Preparing California for Extreme Heat: Guidance and Recommendations*; support active transportation measures through development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs and approaches; prepare California

for hotter and dryer conditions and protect and restore water resources for important ecosystems.

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the CA Wildlife Action Plan. The proposed project meets all goals of the California Wildlife Plan: sustaining and enhancing species abundance and richness; enhancing ecosystem conditions; and enhancing ecosystem functions and processes.

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California. This project meets the following goals of this State Plan: maintain and enhance functional ecological connectivity; help sustain California's unique natural heritage; and incorporate natural resource considerations into transportation and land use planning

d.) Indicate whether the project will have matching funds from private, local, or federal sources, and if so, to what extent (Include dollar amount.)

All other sources of funding for this project are in-kind services from North East Trees, LA Audubon Society, The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, Mujeres de la Tierra, California State Parks, LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, and our community volunteers. Total in-kind services for this grant are $321,748.00 which is nearly a third (31.52% to be exact) of the requested grant funds. These sources are already committed and available for the project if it were to be funded. These sources include volunteer labor, project partner in-kind labor hours, and NET in-kind labor hours that will not be paid for by this grant. For the breakdown of this cost, please see, Preliminary Budget and Schedule, In-Kind Services.

3. **Site Description. Describe the project site or area, including site characteristics that are tied to your project objectives (i.e.: for acquisition of habitat, describe current vegetation assemblages, condition of habitats, known wildlife migration corridors, etc.). When relevant, include ownership and management information.**

The site consists of approximately 10.5 acres of land at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) located near the southwestern terminus of the park at the intersections of La Brea, Stocker, and Overhill (the five corners intersection). The site has been divided up in 13 polygons (see figure below) that are delineated by the trails and roads on the site. In the most recent vegetation mapping for the Baldwin Hills (Longcore and Noujdina 2016), the dominant vegetation types were: California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), Coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), nonnative annual grasses, Mustard-Radish stands, and then along the hillside adjacent to La Brea Blvd, Coast Live Oak, Lemonadeberry, and Pepper Tree. Although native shrub and tree species are found across the project site, they do not form a contiguous canopy and are found within a dense matrix of weeds, primarily European grasses, mustards, and radish. Furthermore, flat benches around the new trail and exercise infrastructure at the western side of the site is either sparsely vegetated or weedy. A portion of the site was recently burned in July of 2019, which removed the herbaceous layer temporarily, but as of winter 2020, weed cover was growing back.

Trails are found throughout the site, including a new entryway trail that is located across La Brea from Don Lorenzo Drive. This trail and others adjacent to it have been subject to erosion in the form of rilling.

The site is used by native wildlife species as part of the contiguous habitat block that extends down La Brea Avenue. This use includes migratory birds that winter in Los Angeles, and birds

that stopover in Los Angeles during their migration. In recent surveys for reptiles and amphibians, western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, southern alligator lizard, western skink, black-bellied slender salamander, and gophersnake were recorded within the project area (Pauly et al. 2016). Habitat for these species would be enhanced through the project restoration activities, as the new trees and plants will enhance habitat and help to strengthen critical corridors for wildlife. The wildlife camera nearest to the project site, just north on La Brea Boulevard, documented the presence of coyote, opossum, raccoon, skunk, domestic dogs, and domestic cats. Cottontail rabbits are also present at the site.

The site is owned by California State Parks (CA State Parks) and managed by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County DPR). Planting projects have been completed within the project area, consisting of native trees (coast live oak) and shrubs. These trees and shrubs are found within the weedy matrix that characterizes the site and no associated native understory or annual species were seen during a site walkthrough in late 2019. NET and all listed project partners have a long existing relationships with both CA State Parks and LA County DPR, and have recently completed successful habitat restoration and stormwater projects at KHSRA with participation from both agencies.

Pauly, G., S. Kennedy-Gold, J. McKenzie, and B. Hardy. 2016. Herpetofaunal surveys of the Baldwin Hills. Pages 39–71 in T. Longcore, editor. Urban Biodiversity Assessment: Baldwin Hills Biota Update. University of Southern California for Baldwin Hills Conservancy (Proposition 84) and Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (Proposition A), Los Angeles.

4. **Specific Tasks. Identify the specific tasks that will be undertaken and the work that will be accomplished for each task.**

#	Task Name	Description
1.1	Fiscal Management and Contracting	Fiscal administration including project invoicing, project financials, and contract administration for our project partners.
1.2	Project Management	Project direction and management; project team meetings; administration and document management
1.3	Community Outreach and Education	Host community workshops, focus groups/community workshops, outreach to local residents; summarize results
1.4	Design (includes Weed Management Plan)	NET's design team, including a licensed landscape architect, will produce schematic design plans for irrigation, trail repair and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Coordinate with CA State Parks and LA County DPR on review and approval of plans.
1.5	Permits and CEQA	Obtain required permits to enter and install improvements on site and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act through the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE), or Negative Declaration
2.1	Dethatching and Site Preparation	Remove the thick layer of decaying plant material on the slopes. These thick layers of annual plant material are unnatural in the system and removing them will allow weed seeds to germinate, which can then be killed. It will also allow any native seed bank to germinate and those plants can be preserved and become part of the restoration.

2.2	Install Irrigation	Install a temporary, low-flow drip irrigation system to water the drought tolerant, native plantings for approximately two to three years until they are established, and can thrive on their own. This irrigation system we are proposing helps to further conservation goals as it will conserve water through the low flow drip technology.
2.3	Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank- Soil Preparation	Sustained weed abatement of approximately 10 and a half acres of open space. Utilize project labor (NET at-promise youth) and volunteer engagement to reduce the presence of annual grasses and other flammable invasive species focusing on soil restoration. This will occur within the first year and a half.
2.4	Trail Repair and Erosion Control	In consultation with the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, we will repair the adjacent trail segments within the Project Area that have shown damage from erosion using BMPs.
3.1	Container Plants	Install 500 Southern California native container plants. The plants will be grown at the LA Audubon Society nursery sites located within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.
3.2	Purchase Seed	Seeds will be purchased to create seed mixes appropriate to the different areas of the site and of sufficient number and viability to establish a closed canopy scrubland at maturity (approximately 8,700 plants). The mix near La Brea Boulevard will include a greater proportion of annual wildflowers and low biomass species to reduce fuels near the roadway. Mycorrhizal inoculum will also be purchased to be mixed with the seed.
3.3	Seeding	Install seeds mixed with mycorrhizal inoculum and an inert carrier as specified in different site areas per plan. Rake in seed.
3.5	Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank- Plant Installation and Establishment	With improved soil conditions as a result of Task 2.3, we will continue sustained weed abatement of the project site, with the focus on installation of container plants, seeding, and establishment (irrigation and weed abatement as necessary)
3.6	Monitoring and Reporting	The restoration area will be monitored by conservation experts for performance annually, following the first full growing season after installation, through the fifth year of establishment.
3.7	Plant Establishment (1 year post grant period)	At the request of LA County DPR, NET at-promise youth crew will perform plant establishment for all planted materials at least one year after the grant period. This will be funded at the sole cost of NET.

5. **Work Products.** List the specific work products or other deliverables in which the project will result.

   The deliverable work products from the project fall into three major categories: 1) plans, documentation, and monitoring; 2) native habitat restoration/field work; and 3) community outreach and education.

   1) For plans, monitoring, and documentation, the deliverable work products will include a:
      - Weed Management Plan
      - Native Habitat Restoration Plan
      - Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
      - Execution of a right-of-entry permit with LA County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County DPR)
      - Execution of an Memorandum of Understanding (or applicable agreement) with LA County DPR, specifying both NET, Land IQ's and LA County DPR's long term operations, maintenance, and monitoring responsibilities of the site
      - Quarterly reports during the project period
      - Annual reporting for 5 years post-grant period (LA Audubon Society)

   2) The field work will include:
      - Site and soil preparation, weed control, and maintenance of a 10.5-acre restoration site
      - Propagation of selected native plants (500) from on-site LAAS nursery stock
      - Install irrigation for the 500 container plants
      - Successful installation (seeding) of 8,700 Southern California native plants.
      - Supervision and monitoring before, during, and after construction. NET will continue establishment on all planted materials for at least one year after the grant period.

   3) Community outreach will include:
      - Community outreach report, quantifying results and providing a narrative of the community outreach and education conducted

6. **Measuring Success. For projects involving restoration, construction or land acquisition, describe the plan for monitoring, evaluating and reporting project effectiveness, and implementing adaptive management strategies if necessary. Identify who will be responsible for funding and implementing ongoing management and monitoring.**

   The project is designed with ongoing reporting and monitoring to ensure the project benefits are realized.

   Performance Monitoring and Reporting
   The restoration area will be monitored for performance annually following the first full growing season after installation (the second spring after planting/seeding) through the fifth year of establishment. Therefore, this restoration project timeline is for eight years from the start of site

preparation through the final reporting year of establishment. This reporting period extends well beyond the grant period and the reporting services will be provided as an in-kind donation from Los Angeles Audubon Society, which maintains an active education and restoration program at the site. Reports will be prepared for the restoration areas after installation is complete in year three, with annual performance reporting in years four through eight. Each report will include qualitative data, photo documentation, and future recommendations for site maintenance. The annual performance monitoring reports in years four through eight will include quantitative data. Annual performance monitoring will take place each year in mid-spring or as close to mid-spring as each year's rainy season permits to capture the majority of annual as well as perennial CSS species. Results from the annual performance monitoring will be used to evaluate the progress of the CSS habitat toward the ultimate goals of the project. Annual performance monitoring reports will be prepared for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Reports will be submitted annually by December 1 of the reporting year.

Performance Criteria

Restoration criteria have been developed to assess the functions and values of the CSS restoration area, to evaluate the development of the site and progress towards reaching the final goals of the project. Thus, the restoration will be assessed as the habitat develops trends in cover, species diversity, and soil development, so that the habitat quality of the site is restored.

Performance criteria are as follows:

First-Year Monitoring

Performance Criteria:

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 20 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 20 percent cover

Second-Year Monitoring

Performance Criteria:

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 30 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 20 percent cover

Third-Year Monitoring

Performance Criteria:

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 40 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover

Fourth-Year Monitoring

Performance Criteria:

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 50 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover

Fifth-Year Monitoring

Performance Criteria:

- Absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 70 percent
- Absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover
- The site does not require significant maintenance during the last two years of the establishment period as documented by the Restoration Ecologists annual monitoring report
- Irrigation must be discontinued a minimum of two years

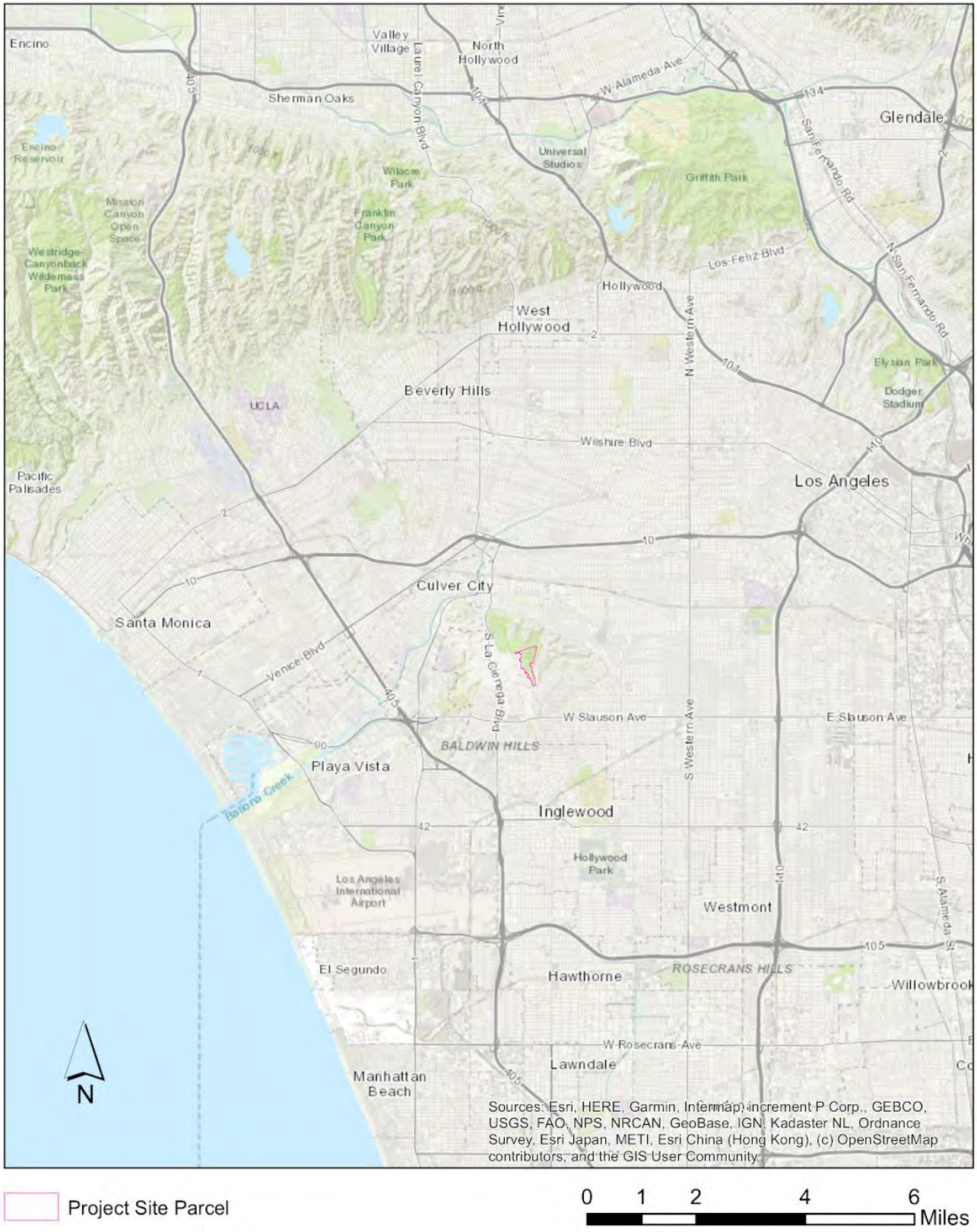
- There shall be no woody California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC's) "Invasive Plant Inventory" species present
- Soil at the site is stable and shows no significant erosion
- The majority of native plant species set seed, and seedlings of at least five CSS species demonstrate recruitment in the site in the fifth year of monitoring

7. **Project Maps and Graphics.** Provide the following project graphics with your application. Project maps and design plans should be combined into one pdf file with a maximum size of 5 MB. Project photos should be provided in jpg format.

   See Next Page for all Project Maps and Graphics

Regional Map – Clearly identify the project's location in relation to prominent area features and significant natural and recreational resources, including regional trails and protected lands.

Figure 7.1 - Regional Map



Site-scale maps – Show the location of project elements in relation to natural and man-made features on-site or nearby. Any key features discussed in the project description should be shown.

Figure 7.2 - Site restoration polygons used for planning purposes, showing relationship to surrounding neighborhoods.

Figure 7.3 - Conveyance channel along La Brea, per County of Los Angeles Public Works.

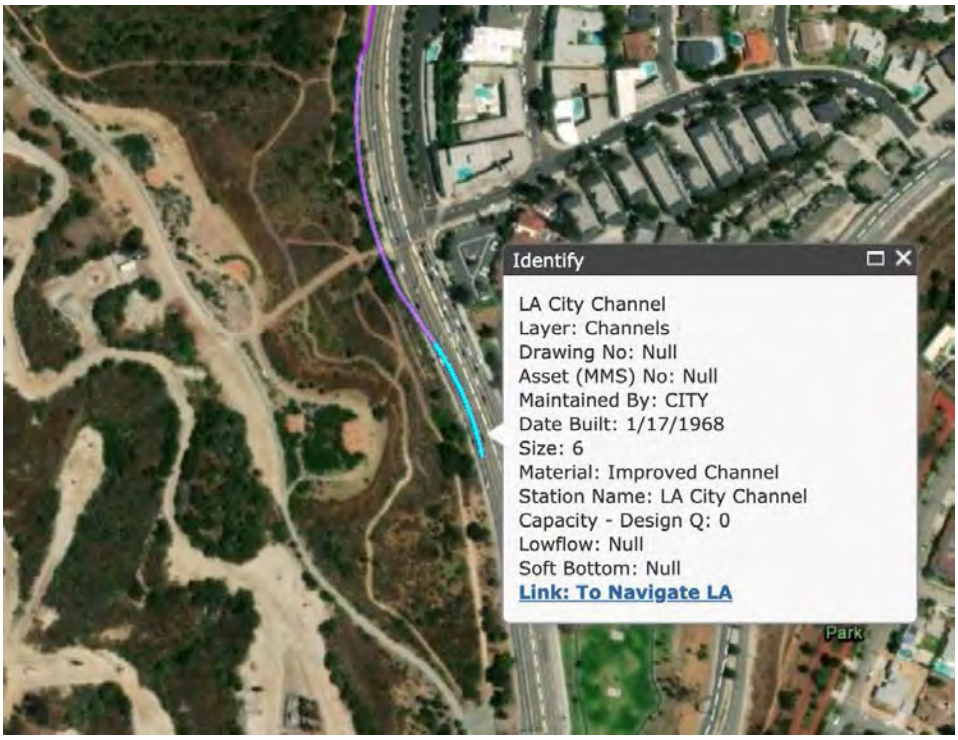
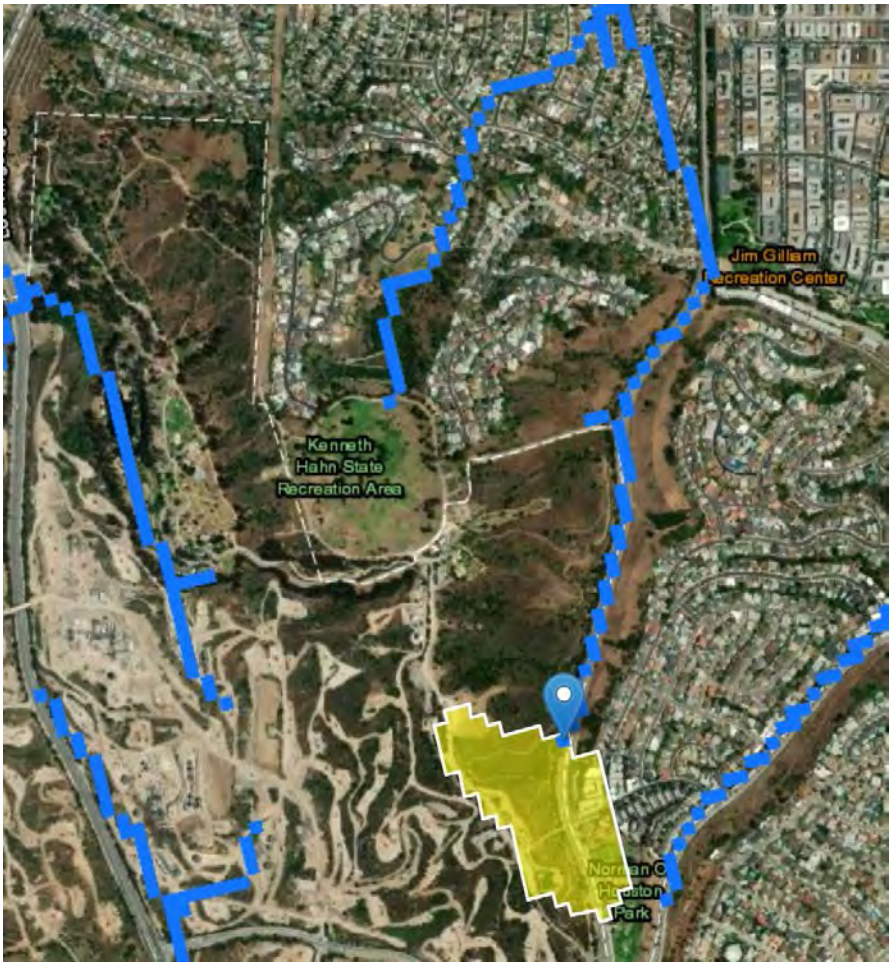


Figure 7.4 - Surface drainage and basin calculated by USGS StreamStats website



Design Plan – Construction projects should include one or more design drawings or graphics indicating the intended site improvements.

Id	SqMeters	Shape_Length	Shape_Area
1	2457	1169.725702	26450.815764
2	7899	1622.109629	85028.772967
3	6499	2576.429971	69951.248513
4	2006	720.888981	21594.514757
5	325	263.615903	3502.544902
6	641	361.834607	6898.827698
7	4296	933.276576	46244.432732

Id	SqMeters	Shape_Length	Shape_Area
8	3474	1182.241176	37391.834967
9	3486	1842.916419	37524.500886
10	1152	536.575773	12401.171026
11	812	793.580875	8744.683672
12	2161	1348.871491	23259.997543
13	4436	2141.371105	47744.835145
14	2386	1018.555393	25682.963865

Figure 7.5 - Site management units and documentation of restoration area.

Site Photos – One or more clear photos of the project site.

Figure 7.6 - Site Photographs Showing Current Conditions

GRANT APPLICATION – PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

In the budget matrix below, relist the tasks identified in #4 above and for each provide: 1) the estimated completion date for the task, 2) the estimated cost of the task, and 3) the funding sources (applicant, Conservancy, and other) for the task. The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and press the F9 key on your keyboard.

Task #	Task	Completion Date	Applicant (NET) Funding	BHC Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
1	**Project Management, Design, and Outreach**		**$ 23,000.00**	**$ 213,293.04**	**$ 17,680.00**	**$ 253,973.04**
1.1	Fiscal Management and Contracting	Ongoing until Proj. Completion (est. Jan 2024)	$ 3,000.00	$ 15,552.00	$0.00	$ 18,552.00
1.2	Project Management	Ongoing until Proj. Completion	$ 8,400.00	$ 84,497.76	$0.00	$ 92,897.76
1.3	Community Outreach and Education	Ongoing until Proj. Completion	$ 6,000.00	$ 32,033.28	$ 7,680.00	$ 45,713.28
1.4	Design (includes Weed Management Plan)	May 2021	$ 5,600.00	$ 76,210.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 87,810.00
1.5	Permits and CEQA	May 2021		$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 9,000.00
2	**Native Habitat Restoration - Soil Preparation**		**$ 0.00**	**$ 333,415.55**	**$ 106,600.00**	**$ 440,015.55**
2.1	Dethatching and Site Preparation	August 2021	$ 0.00	$ 49,590.00	$0.00	$ 49,590.00
2.2	Install Irrigation	August 2022	$ 0.00	$ 24,325.80	$0.00	$ 24,325.80
2.3	Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank	Summer 2022	$ 0.00	$ 200,619.75	$ 81,000.00	$ 281,619.75
2.4	Trail Repair and Erosion Control	February 2023	$ 0.00	$ 58,880.00	$ 25,600.00	$ 84,480.00
3	**Native Habitat Restoration - Plant Installation and Establishment**		**$ 67,704.00**	**$ 381,242.20**	**$ 106,800.00**	**$ 555,746.20**
3.1	Container Plants	September 2022	$ 1,000.00	$ 54,063.25	$ 10,800.00	$ 65,863.25
3.2	Purchase Seed	January 2022		$ 30,000.00	$0.00-	$ 30,000.00
3.3	Seeding	December 2023		$ 20,000.00	$0.00	$ 20,000.00
3.4	Deplete Invasive Species Seed Bank	January 2024		$ 247,808.95	$0.00	$ 247,808.95
3.5	Monitoring & Reporting	January 2021-January 2029	$ 20,800.00	$ 29,370.00	$ 96,000.00	$ 146,170.00
3.6	Plant Establishment (1 year post grant period)	January 2025	$ 45,904.00	$ -	$ $0.00	$ 45,904.00
4	**Indirect Costs (limited to 10%)**		**$0.00**	**$ 92,795.08**	**$0.00**	**$ 92,795.08**
TOTAL			**$ 90,704.00**	**$1,020,745.87**	**$231,080.00**	**$1,342,529.87**

In Kind Services

In-kind services or contributions include volunteer time and materials, bargain sales, and land donations. Describe and estimate the value of expected in-kind services.

All of the figures located in the column “other funds” above include in-kind services from North East Trees (NET), LA Audubon Society (LAAS), Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, Mujeres de la Tierra (MDLT), California State Parks (CA Parks), LA County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County DPR), and our community volunteers. Total in-kind services for this grant are $321,748.00 which is nearly a third (31.52% to be exact) of the requested grant funds. These sources are already committed and available for the project if it were to be funded. These sources include volunteer labor, project partner in-kind labor hours, and NET in-kind labor hours that will not be paid for by this grant. Please see below for a detailed description of in-kind funding by agency.

Community Volunteers - Funds include $91,800 of in-kind labor from volunteer participation in our habitat restoration, planting workshop, and invasive species removal community events.

NET - Funds include $90,704.00 of in-kind labor for the following tasks: Fiscal Management and Contracting, Project Management, Community Outreach and Education, Design. We will contribute in-kind labor to container plants, as we will grow contingency stock and replacement trees in our own native plant nursery, and will assist Land IQ and LAAS in project monitoring and reporting. Additionally, NET has committed to performing a one year, post grant period, maintenance term before passing the long term operations and maintenance to LA County DPR staff.

LAAS - Funds include $88,000.00 of in-kind labor by Dr. Margot Griswold of LAAS, who will conduct monitoring and reporting for all planted and seeded areas for a five-year post grant period. The final deliverable will be annual monitoring and performance reports.

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club - Funds include $25,600.00 of in-kind labor, who will both advise the design and restoration team on the needed trail and erosion control improvements proposed for this project, as well as provide volunteer labor for restoration activities.

LA County DPR - Funds include $12,000 of in-kind labor for reviewing permits and CEQA documents, and staff labor in monitoring, reporting, and transferring the operations and maintenance responsibilities after the first year post grant period.

MDLT - Funds include $7,680 of in-kind labor by MDLT CEO/President Irma Muñoz for community outreach training sessions.

CA Parks - Funds include $6,000 of in-kind labor by CA Parks staff on reviewing the weed management plan, and coordination for any site control related matters if necessary.

GRANT APPLICATION – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Provide clear, concise answers to each question below. Unless otherwise specified, please limit your answer to one concise paragraph. See grant application instructions for more information. For question #4, limit your answer to 1-3 sentences per relevant plan. Most questions should be answered by all applicants, enter "***not applicable***" if a question does not pertain to your project.

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.

   ☒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, in stream 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. For restoration and ecosystem protection projects, Grantee to include each signed and completed Corps Consultation Review Document as evidence that applicant has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Attachment 1 to this application.**

   North East Trees (NET) conducted the required consultation with both the California Conservation Corps (CCC) as well as the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC). Both the CCC and CALCC (Los Angeles Conservation Corp) have reviewed this project's scope of work and have determined that it is feasible for their services to be used on this project. Please see attached for the completed CCC and CALCC consultation documents as well as the email coordination.

3. **Consistency with other State Plans: If the proposed project will help to implement or promote the goals of any of the State Plans listed below, check that plan and specify which goals, objectives, priority actions, etc. will be furthered by the project. Limit your answers to 1-3 sentences per plan.**

   ☒**California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report**
   This project meets this State Plan's goals: help preserve the state's lands and natural resources by restoring native habitat, and build sustainable regions that support healthy livable communities and build climate resilience into the planning process. For these goals above, this project meets the following key actions: building a strong, sustainable water system; reflecting the value of natural resources to promote stewardship and the economy; investing in sound infrastructure that is consistent with the state's long-term environmental goals; support and invest in active transportation projects, such as walking and biking infrastructure; partnerships with local and regional governments; and leverage and link state funding opportunities.

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

   This project helps reduce impacts of climate change through native habitat restoration, reduce heat island impacts; provide natural shade and cooling and will sequester carbon.

   This project meets this State Plan's goals and strategies: Biodiversity and Habitat; Energy; Public Health and Water, and helps promote these priority actions: improve habitat connectivity; support environmental stewardship across sectors by promoting nature-based solutions for adapting to climate risks; develop pilot projects to refine understanding of greenhouse gas storage associated with natural systems; create and maintain partnerships that support biodiversity conservation and promote public education and outreach; promote measures that reduce energy demand through support of green buildings, cool roofs, cool pavement, urban greening, and energy-conserving land use practices; improve the capacity of communities to prepare, respond, and recover from climate-related health risks by supporting implementation of a recommendations in the 2013 report, *Preparing California for Extreme Heat: Guidance and Recommendations*; support active transportation measures through development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs and approaches; prepare California for hotter and dryer conditions and protect and restore water resources for important ecosystems.

☒**California Water Action Plan**.

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the **California Water Action Plan** by restoring natural habitat, improving urban water quality, and increasing the resilience of a watershed connected to the Santa Monica Bay. The project will demonstrate an adaptation technique to climate change (restoration of deep-rooted native plants to increase soil stability in advance of future extreme precipitation events) and provide sustainable outdoor amenities for the public's enjoyment.

☒ **CA Wildlife Action Plan**

The proposed project meets all goals of the California Wildlife Plan: sustaining and enhancing species abundance and richness; enhancing ecosystem conditions; and enhancing ecosystem functions and processes.

☒ **California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California**

This project meets the following goals of this State Plan: maintain and enhance functional ecological connectivity; help sustain California's unique natural heritage; and incorporate natural resource considerations into transportation and land use planning

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

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

This project promotes and furthers both The Baldwin Hills Conservancy Strategic Plan and the Baldwin Hills Master Plan, which establish priorities of natural resource protection, native habitat restoration and protection, balancing recreational and cultural needs, and urban greening. This project also promotes and furthers the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan, which calls for creating more green spaces for public benefit, improved mobility and access, growing strategically, and balancing the distribution of land uses. Furthermore this project will support The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's plans to expand public transportation throughout the County. The West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Community Plan Area is the recipient of two notable Metro projects. These include the east-west Mid-City Exposition Light Rail Transit Project (Expo Line Phase I) and the north-south Crenshaw/ LAX Transit Corridor Project. Together, these projects will ultimately link neighborhoods located throughout the South Los Angeles and Baldwin Hills Region, and especially along the Crenshaw Corridor.

4. California Water Action Plan.

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

The project promotes all three goals of the California Water Action Plan: it creates a more reliable water supply by diverting urban runoff from the storm drain system and cleaning and re-using this otherwise wasted water source; it promotes the restoration of important species and habitat through the restoration of native habitat using an ecosystem design, which will provide nesting and foraging sites for native bird species; and it helps to create a more resilient, sustainable managed water resource system that can withstand the unforeseen pressures in the coming decades by recycling stormwater and dry weather runoff for irrigation of the native habitat, reducing reliance on imported, potable water.

The project also promotes four of the California Water Action Plan's five overarching strategies/ actions: make conservation a California way of life; increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government; protect and restore important ecosystems; and manage and prepare for dry periods.

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.

The Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) that covers this region is the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project promotes the following goals and mission of this IRWMP: address the water resources needs of the Region in an integrated and collaborative manner to improve water supplies, improve surface water quality, preserve flood protection, conserve habitat, and expand recreational access in the Region.

Additionally, this project promotes the goals of the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) for the Ballona Creek Watershed, which is to determine the network of control measures (often referred to as best management practices [BMPs]) that will achieve required pollutant reductions while also providing multiple benefits to the community and leveraging sustainable green infrastructure practices.

5. **Best Scientific Practices. Describe how the project is consistent with best scientific practices where achievable and appropriate.**

As elaborated in the project description, this project, which uses the best available scientific practices in land management, restoration, and ecosystem restoration, represents a paradigm shift in the way that we manage urban open space. This project will set a precedent for a new and innovative way to manage urban open space lands that are dominated by invasive species. A few examples highlight the scientific support for these practices.

Fire Risk of Annual Weeds. Annual grasses and other annual weeds increase fire risk because they are "flashy" fuels that dry completely and ignite easily. They carry fire and spread it easily during wind-driven fire events. Native shrubs, however, and especially larger species such as toyon, retain moisture through the year and although they will burn in a wind-driven fire, they are not as prone to ignition as annual grasses and weeds. Currently, the project area has extensive annual grass and weeds. Their replacement with native shrubs and walnut woodland elements would reduce the risk of a fire ignition and spread, especially from a fire in the surrounding urban area not associated with Santa Ana winds.

Seed bank management. The soil contains a "bank" of seeds (and other plant parts that can develop into plants, known collectively as *propagules*) to which there are "deposits" and "withdrawals" that determine the amount of propagules (Forcella 2003). Seed rain and dispersal by animals increases seeds, while germination, decay, and predation decrease seed number of any particular species (Liebman et al. 2001, Davis et al. 2005).

Weed seeds can be decreased through germination and then killing the weeds before they set seed again, which is the primary strategy for this proposal project. A secondary strategy is to avoid soil disturbance so that seeds that are buried deep enough that they do not receive the light cues to germinate will decay before they ever germinate. The management of the weed seed bank through such techniques was developed in organic farming through practices such as "no-till" (Liebman et al. 2001) and has spread to ecological restoration (Brooks et al. 2019).

Slope stability. The conversion of southern California's coastal scrublands to exotic grasslands to produce pasturage for cattle is one of the major ecological shifts of the European era of occupation of these lands. Grasslands, however, have shallow root systems that are less able to hold the soil together and therefore are more prone to landslides. Researchers have shown that deeper soils can be held intact under shrublands when they would fail under grasslands (Gabet and Dunne 2002). The project area contains slope areas that exceed 28º, putting them in the range of steepness where deeper soils will be unstable and could be made more stable through restoration of native shrubland vegetation (Figure 5.1).

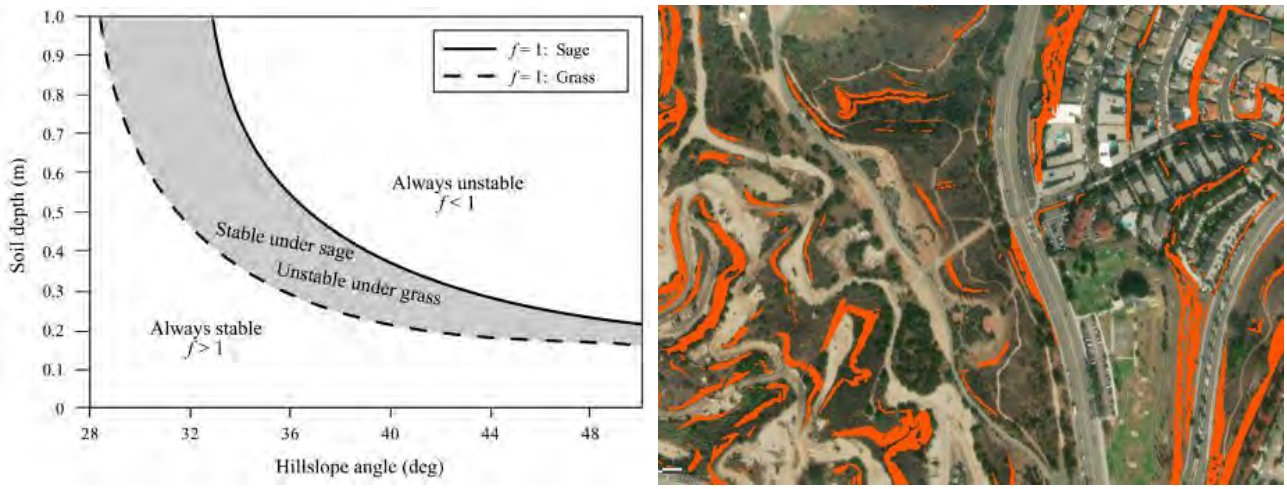


Figure 5.1 Left: Relationship between hillslope, soil depth, and stability under grassland and shrubland vegetation (Gabet and Dunne 2002). Right: Areas of project area where slope exceeds 28º. Data from Esri Living Atlas.

6. **New Technology. Does the project employ new or innovative technology or practices? If yes, describe those technologies and/or practices.**

This project is unique in the way that it combines very simple, yet effective, methods of native habitat restoration with newer, innovative strategies that can ensure that we maximize the project's impact and benefits to the natural environment and local residents.

Some of the proposed solutions on this project can be characterized as a return back to the future. First, we propose to undertake herbicide free restoration of natural ecosystems. For many years, herbicides have been used to ease the process of reclaiming landscapes from nonnative grasses and pernicious weeds. New guidance from the County of Los Angeles, and local agencies groups such as the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, points toward an emphasis on land management without herbicides in the future. Drawing on expertise from project partner LandIQ and their extensive wildland restoration efforts in Orange County and the San Fernando Valley, we will apply the innovations from organic farming of seed bank management to the restoration process. Although this is not a new innovation in human history, its application to shrubland restoration at the scale of acres is now being pioneered.

For project areas where conventional irrigation is not viable, North East Trees has been using cocoon planting technology from the Land Life Company, and we are proposing to use these cocoons in certain areas of this project where automatic irrigation is impractical due to the steep terrain. NET has used them for past Earth Day tree planting events and has proof of concept and successful plant establishment. Each cocoon is designed to support a seedling or a small plant (no larger than 1 gallon) for the first year following installation in the landscape. Typically they

have a 75-95% survival rate. Every cocoon has its own 100% biodegradable water reservoir; the water is supplied to the tree roots by means of capillary action. Cocoons are in the shape of an overly large donut and the trees, typically 1 gallon seedlings, are planted in the donut "hole" and the surrounding donut-shaped container is filled with 5 gallons of water which supplies water to the tree for several months, thus enabling the trees to establish themselves without an automatic irrigation system. Symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi are added to the soil at the time of planting, in the form of planting tablets, which increase the health of the roots of the plant during establishment by providing nutritious byproducts from the digestion cycle of the fungi. By initially providing water and shelter while stimulating the seedling to produce a healthy and deep root structure, the seedling will tap into the subsurface water supply. Additionally the cocoon lid has multiple draining surfaces, keeping the lid dry after a rain event, with water draining inwards to irrigate and benefit the tree seedling during the critical establishment period. This lid will last longer and keep more water inside the Cocoon to the seedling's benefit. This design can take heavier loads as it is not entirely covered in soil, meaning accidental trampling during maintenance is prevented. After 1-2 years, the cocoons will start to biodegrade, and the surrounding soil will fill in the space that the cocoon was previously taking up. Not only does this minimize trash/waste as often trees planted with stakes and plastic ties are neglected after the initial planting, leaving unwanted litter at the tree site, but it also significantly reduces the maintenance of the improvements for LA County Department of Parks and Recreation. Furthermore, the LandLife Cocoons have chilli powder embedded into the reservoir, which acts as a natural repellent to rodents and has no effect on the growth of the seedling.

7. **Sustainability.** Described how the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term.

The project is designed to reduce the maintenance needed by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation staff and to produce a self-sustaining natural system that is resilient to future environmental conditions. These sustainable long-term outcomes are built into the project design and implementation.

Seed-based Restoration. Many projects to restore coastal sage scrub vegetation rely on mulching around container plants to establish shrubs. Although this approach certainly can be effective at establishing shrub cover, results are tenuous in the longer term. Mulch does not kill the weed seed bank existing at site and weeds often germinate and grow through the mulch, requiring more mulch. When the site is eventually disturbed, weed seeds remain dominant and limited native seed is available to recover. In contrast, a project that spends two (or more) years to reduce the weed seed bank through targeted control efforts and then introduces seed for native shrub and annual species sets up a system that will be resilient to future disturbance. With this approach, the combination of a suppressed weed seed bank and introduction of native seeds that can grow quickly after disturbance (annuals) and more slowly after disturbance (shrubs) sets up the site to be dominated by native vegetation in the long term. In addition, seed-based restoration includes introduction of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), which form networks in the soil that are beneficial to native species. The presence of AMF enhances growth of native species through facilitating uptake of crucial nutrients, while inhibiting re-invasion by weeds.

Fire Hazard Reduction Through Restoration. Even though coastal sage scrub is adapted to periodic fire over the long-term, too frequent fire is detrimental and favors exotic annual weeds. Native scrublands in southern California experience too-frequent fires, so reduction in fire risk is a long-term benefit of the proposal projects. In the current conditions, the areas to be restored are dominated by invasive exotic weeds, including mustards, radish, and annual grass species. These species pose a significant fire risk through production of biomass annually that then dies and dries, leaving a landscape through which fire would spread quickly under the wind conditions that characterize the fall southern California fire season. By restoring a native shrubland (with

associated riparian elements) the vegetation would be converted from annual species that die each year leaving dry fuels, to perennial shrubs and native grasses that have a far lower fire return interval. Although the eventual biomass of vegetation will increase over current conditions, it will be less fire prone because of the moisture content of live tissue of native perennials compared with the annual fuel load of dead weeds.

8. **Project and Applicant History:** Provide a history of the project, and any background information not provided in the project description. Is the project related to any previous or proposed Baldwin Hills Conservancy projects? If so, which ones and how are they related?

   Project History: This project was inspired and conceived by Land IQ, who has professionally assessed approximately 50,000 acres of land for habitat restoration potential and developed specific protocols for resource management plans. They are experts in the field of revegetating and reclaiming drastically disturbed landscapes such as landfills, roadways, and water projects, monitoring for mitigation, and assessing and monitoring exotic species highlight our success in restoration ecology. This project represents a paradigm shift in the way that we manage open space, particularly in urban settings. We hope that this project will set a precedent for open space land management within the urban areas of Los Angeles County.

   Relation to other projects in the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Territory

   Baldwin Hills Biota Update: Dr. Travis Longcore of Land IQ was the principal investigator for the 2016 update of the biota of Baldwin Hills when he was in a previous position, funded by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority. This project developed a new vegetation map for the entire Baldwin Hills Conservancy territory, conducted the first acoustical surveys for bats, expanded knowledge about the distribution and species diversity of reptiles and amphibians, and documented the distribution of native and exotic mid-sized mammals. The results of this study are found at baldwinhillsnature.bhc.ca.gov. Knowledge of the Baldwin Hills derived from that study informs the restoration design and approach to the current project.

   Eastern Gateway Project: Funded by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and Los Angeles County Prop A, this project, which was designed and built by North East Trees (NET) planted over 800 native plants and trees, Removed of over 1,000 square feet of a concrete storm drain, and installed a rustic wood-crete two-rail fencing, wooden stairs and metal handrails to replace the dangerous steep dirt path entering the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA). River rocks and large boulders enhance the aesthetics of this site. NET also irrigated and landscaped the long median on the eastside of La Brea Avenue at Don Lorenzo Dr., which serves to blur the line between the residences and the park. Native sycamores, shrubs, boulders, a water efficient drip system, and a meandering decomposed granite and broken concrete walkway strikingly transformed this former strip of dirt and weeds into an unlikely idyllic setting inches from speeding motorists. The concrete that was removed from the storm drain, instead of being hauled to a landfill, was recycled by our designers, and along with granite river rock, was used to build beautiful walls that define the upper streambed of this sinuous natural channel. Stormwater now flows over native soil and through new native plantings where it is cleaned and allowed to infiltrate into the ground. Whatever doesn't immediately soak in, is held in the infiltration basin at the end of the bioswale where it can infiltrate slowly over a few days. Only during the largest storm events does the water fill up the basin and flow into the original storm drain. The Eastern Gateway Project supports the Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project (FCHRP) by providing additional pervious surfaces below the park, which will help capture water during high rain events, as well as providing trees and an inviting trail that safely (and with shade) leads the adjacent community into the park.

La Brea Greenbelt Project: Funded by the Strategic Growth Council's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program and resulted in 1,500 new trees on the westside of LaBrea. This project supports the FCHRP by providing additional, well established, trees at the bottom of the slope from where we will be doing our restoration. The habitat that we are restoring will be exclusively Southern California Native, as are the 1,500 trees, so when established, the ecosystem will share symbiosis.

Urban Greening in South LA: Funded by the California Department of Fire and Forestry (CALFIRE) this project planted 3,500 trees in Baldwin Hills and surrounding disadvantaged communities including Baldwin Village (500 street trees). 2,000 of these trees were planted in KHSRA, so it will support this project by providing additional trees to the park, which create a shaded and more enjoyable experience for park users and both domestic and migratory wildlife.

Applicant History and Capacity:
NET is a design-build, community based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving ecologically depleted and socioeconomically underserved communities through the design, construction and preservation of green open spaces. A core part of our mission is to provide meaningful education, job training and employment to local at-promise youth. Founded in 1989, NET is recognized throughout the state of California for its creation of innovative, low impact native plant based sustainable designs, and for forging strategic partnerships with urban communities in LA County.

Since our inception, we have relied primarily on government reimbursement basis only grants for the majority of our work. By virtue, we consider ourselves experts in the field of grant management and execution. NET has successfully led and completed at least 50 public grants from State agencies, ranging from $10,000 - $4,500,000. NET's professional in-house staff consists of a diverse team from the fields of landscape architecture, landscape design, arboriculture, environmental science, biology, park construction, construction management, and project management. We have extensive experience in deploying our staff to projects of similar scope and budget as contemplated in this proposal and pride ourselves in being able to manage complex projects to successful conclusions. When required, engineering, geotechnical or similar services are subcontracted to firms specializing in these fields and with whom we have been working with for a number of years.

Our projects throughout almost three decades have included the design, construction, planting, and maintenance of parks, mini-parks, watershed revitalization projects, stormwater cleanup and infiltration projects, and urban greening projects similar to the one envisioned in this proposal. We specialize in working with local communities to identify neglected areas or distressed parcels of land and to work collaboratively with these communities and agency stakeholders to successfully transform them into safe, inviting green spaces. NET has planted hundreds of thousands of trees, designed and built over 200 parks/greenways and trained and employed thousands of local at-promise youth in our environmental stewardship program.

Below are some examples of similar NET projects. All projects listed below were in disadvantaged and/or severely disadvantaged communities, and included an education, job training, and employment component for local at-promise youth. All were completed on time and within budget.

The Ascot Hills Habitat Restoration Project features over 5,000 native trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers; three natural low impact stormwater infiltration systems, rock check dams, planted detention/infiltration basins, 2.5 miles of enhanced trails, creation of three 'vista points' with rock

seating that overlook downtown L.A., and interpretive signage about the various water capture BMPs located on site. The project goals were to restore the park's natural habitat, increase tree canopy, install low impact vegetative systems that mimic natural hydrologic patterns, improve air and water quality, provide key learning and stewardship opportunities, and attract community members to use the park. All of these goals were successfully completed. This project made a lasting difference to the community by helping preserve one of the last remaining natural open spaces in Los Angeles.

The Garvanza Park Stormwater BMP project is the first of its kind in Los Angeles. NET in coordination with the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), completed the design and construction of this project that has the capacity to capture and clean more than one million gallons of stormwater at a time. A large storm drain passes under Garvanza Park that carries all the water draining from the hillside neighborhood directly to the Arroyo Seco. This innovative BMP captures the stormwater, which typically would go right into our local rivers and eventually to the Pacific Ocean, and diverts it into two large cisterns under the park. Water is cleaned and filtered utilizing natural infiltration processes. Water collected in one chamber is allowed to soak into the soil replenishing the groundwater. The other chamber stores water that is used to irrigate the park during the dry months. This project helps keep our local rivers and ocean clean, while also conserving potable water.

City Plants Tree Planting – NET has been planting street trees and open space trees with the Los Angeles Mayors' Program for over 15 years. We have been working with "City Plants" for nearly 10 years which is the current iteration of what was previously known as the Mayor's "Million Trees Los Angeles (MTLA)" Program, and before that "Trees for a Green LA (TFGLA)". This program is funded by the LADWP and managed through the Los Angeles Mayor's office.

9. **Environmental Review**: Projects funded by the Conservancy must be reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). CEQA does not apply to projects that will not have either a direct or indirect effect on the environment. For all other projects, if the project is statutorily or categorically exempt under CEQA, no further review is necessary. If the proposed project is not exempt, it must be evaluated by a public agency that is issuing a permit, providing funding, or approving the project, to determine whether the activities may have a significant effect on the environment. The evaluation results in a "Negative Declaration (Neg. Dec)," "Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)," or "Environmental Impact Report."

   The proposed project…. (select the appropriate answer):

   ☐ 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.**
   While this specific project has yet not been reviewed for CEQA compliance by the lead agency, The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, we expect the project will be granted a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Code Section 15303 - Minor Alterations of Land and Section 15301(h) - Maintenance of native growth. If, however, the project is deemed not Categorically Exempt then we expect a Negative Declaration will be issued, see the attached CEQA Checklist.

   ☐ Requires Negative Declaration, MND, or EIR. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date. Please note that the

Conservancy will need to review and approve any CEQA document and cannot present a project to the Conservancy Board for funding consideration without a completed CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: **http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html**.

10. **Support: Obtain letters from the public agencies, identified project partners, park owner/operator non-profit organizations, elected officials and other entities and individuals that will support the project.**
The project has the written support from the land operator, The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, and the landowner, California State Parks. Additionally, this project has written support from the Office of Senator Holly Mitchell (Senate District 30), the Office of LA City Councilmember Herb Wesson (Council District 10), and Ballona Creek Renaissance. Furthermore we have verbal commitments from The office of State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove (Assembly District 54) and The office of LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas (Supervisorial District 2) that they will submit written letters of support for this project.

    We have also obtained all project partner letters from Land IQ, LA Audubon Society, Mujeres de la Tierra, and The Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club. Please see supporting documents below for copies of these support and project partner letters.

11. **Regional Significance: Describe the regional significance of the project with respect to recreation (regional trails and parks, staging areas, environmental education facilities, etc.), agricultural resources, and natural resources (including listed species, identified high priority habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, and agricultural soils).**

    The Baldwin Hills area, especially the 338 acre Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA), is one of Los Angeles' most popular destinations to enjoy hiking, exercise, and arguably some of the best panoramic views of the Los Angeles Basin that one can find. Figure 11.1 represents the importance of this site as a regional park destination.

    This exhibit was created from data collected by USC landscape architecture student Blake Weber in 2015. Mr. Weber surveyed 250 people on one weekend day who were recreating in the Baldwin Hills (at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook) and asked them about their travel distance to the park, frequency of park use, and age. The average visitor during this period was 30 years old and 94.4% of visitors had driven to the site to exercise. Repeat visitors came to the park an average of 1.4 times a week. A map of the origin locations of those visiting the park shows high local use combined with visitors from the San Fernando Valley, San Bernardino County, and Orange County. A substantial portion of visitors arrived from the areas south and east of the park, which are lacking in similar outdoor recreation opportunities. These data indicate the importance of the park to the local and regional community and demonstrate potential geographic reach of educational benefits of the proposed project.

    This project sits within the Ballona Creek Watershed, which is significant in both promoting the goals of Proposition 1, as well as for this project's regional significance. The Ballona Creek Watershed is 130 square miles, and it's uses consist of 64% residential, 8% commercial, 4% industrial, and 17% open space. This watershed is highly developed with approxiamtely 50% of the watershed covered by impervious surfaces. This makes projects like ours even more significant and impactful as we will capture, and retain stormwater on site before it gets to the Ballona Creek, therefore reducing flow volume and pollution entering the creek and Pacific Ocean. Ballona Creek is a nine-mile long flood protection channel that drains the Los Angeles basin, from the Santa Monica Mountains on the north, the Harbor Freeway (110) on the east, and the Baldwin

Hills on the south. The major tributaries to the Ballona Creek include Centinela Creek, Sepulveda Canyon Channel, Benedict Canyon Channel, and numerous storm drains. Ballona Creek is designed to discharge to Santa Monica Bay approximately 71,400 cubic feet per second from a 50-year frequency storm event. The watershed comprises all or parts of the Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

This project also promotes the existing and planned Park to Playa Trail, which is a 13-mile regional trail that will connect urban residents in neighborhoods like Crenshaw and Baldwin Village, with the KHSRA, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, and the Pacific Ocean through a network of trails and greenways. The Park to Playa Trail, like our project will put an emphasis and ensure maximize safe and equitable access to the park for nearby disadvantaged communities. The Park to Playa trail can be accessed in various locations along the Ballona Creek Bike Path, in Culver City Park, at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Stoneview Nature Center, several staging areas in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and Norman O. Houston Park. The existing Park to Playa Trail includes Stocker Corridor, KHSRA, Stoneview Nature Center, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Culver City Park, and Ballona Creek Bike Path. The existing segment at KHRSA is directly adjacent, and in some cases passes through our project area, which is significant. We will consult and work with the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club in order to prioritize erosion control measures that will protect this vital resource.

Although sizable swaths of native coastal sage scrub habitat persist, historic oil drilling and human habitation and development in the Baldwin Hills has resulted in substantially degraded habitat throughout. Efforts to restore existing and add native habitat in some areas have been underway, but there is still much room for improvement, specifically to assist wildlife diversity and populations. The park is currently home to many notable species including the gray foxes, raccoons, skunks, desert cottontail rabbits, opossums, and California quails, among other animals. The Baldwin Hills area is also the nesting grounds for nearly 50 species of birds, and the three local Audubon Society Chapters offer monthly birdwatching walks in the park. Some bird species found in the park include black Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, California and Spotted Towhee, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Ring-billed Duck and American Wigeon. We will work with the LA Audubon Society to enhance habitat for these species, as well as provide educational opportunities to park visitors and interested volunteers.

Cont’d on next page

Figure 11.1 *- Distribution of visitors to BHSO on a weekend day in 2015. Width of lines indicates proportion of visitors from each zip code out of 250 surveyed (Source: Blake Weber).*

12. **Disadvantaged Communities. Does the project benefit a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community? If yes, specify which community and how it will be benefited by the project. Disadvantaged Community (DAC) — Census block-groups with a Median House Hold Income (MHHI) less than 80% of the California MHHI. The threshold is derived from American Community Survey 5-year estimates at the block-group geographic level, per the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 75005(g). Use the State Parks Community Fact Finder tool to determine State Median Household Income (MHHI): http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities**

    Although the project itself is not located in a disadvantaged community, according to the California State Parks Fact Finder, the project does serve disadvantaged communities, as the specific project area is located within a half-mile of outside of a disadvantaged community. Furthermore, the severely disadvantaged community of Baldwin Village (located a mere 0.75 miles away), will be our primary target area for community outreach, education and volunteer engagement in native habitat restoration activities.

    This historically predominantly African American community of Baldwin Village is one of the most densely populated and severely economically and environmentally disadvantaged in South Los Angeles. Housing in Baldwin Village consists of multifamily units with almost no private green spaces, and public streets and sidewalks are stark in their lack of tree canopy cover and greenery.This area is among the most dense communities in the County with 22,681 residents per square mile.

The Baldwin Village community is at an economic disadvantage as it experiences a median household income of $37,777, which is less than 53% of the California Median Household Income. As stated above, this community ranks in the 88th percentile in the State of California for poverty (CalEnviroScreen 3.0). Additionally this community is very ethnically diverse and has the following demographic profile: 60% Black; 34% Latinx; 2% Asian; 2.5% Other, 1.25% White, and 0.25% Native American. Young children (<10 yrs old) and seniors (+65 yrs old) comprise 26% of the target population, which is noteworthy as they, similar to residents of disadvantaged communities, are often among the most vulnerable in terms of public health issues (asthma, obesity, type 2 diabetes) that parks and open space can alleviate. Children have also been reported to demonstrate more cooperative play, civil behavior and positive social relationships with the presence of trees. The calmness that is brought on by contact with nature has well-documented effects in supporting mental health and focus. It has been reported that views of green landscapes can help people recover more quickly from stressful events. Additionally, greening elements can reduce aggression and discipline problems. We will emphasize reaching out to the young people and children of the neighborhood to help them understand their surroundings by reconnecting with nature.

Direct benefits to residents of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities include

- Improvement in local water quality and sustainability, reducing contaminated stormwater runoff on impervious surfaces, and urban flooding for nearby residents
- Improvements in local air quality by providing tree and vegetation buffers to mitigate the air pollution and noise impacts of the adjacent oil field and transit corridor.
- Improved quality of life as trees provide calming influences in an area with extreme population density and pollution
- Trees and vegetation absorb key components of air pollution produced by cars and industrial uses, including ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. According to the United States Forest Service, a single large tree can remove 2.8 lb. of ozone, 2.4 lb. of PM 10 and 1.6 lb. of NO 2 every year *(McPherson EG, Simpson JR, Peper PJ, Xiao Q. Tree Guidelines for San Joaquin Valley Communities. Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education, US Forest Service, Davis, CA. 1999. Online at: https://www.itreetools.org/streets/resources/Streets_CTG/CUFR_38_Inland_Valleys_CTG.pdf)*
- Improved public health as trees help remove airborne pollutants which cause serious, chronic health problems such as asthma, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. Breathing fine particulate matter is among the leading causes of asthma and impaired lung development in children and cardiovascular disease, early death and severe disability in adults *(USC Keck School of Medicine, Epidemiology. Vol. 16, No. 6, November 2005)*. Poor health due to air pollution has also been shown to affect school attendance, academic and work performance, and is associated with lower earnings potential.
- Natural cooling and reduction of urban heat islands
- Employment of local at-promise youth providing exposure to habitat restoration ecology, arboriculture, horticulture, landscape architecture, habitat restoration science, GIS mapping, and related professions.
- Regular exposure to nature in an urban context will result in enhanced positive and decreased negative emotions. It has been reported that contact with natural areas would enhance feelings of competence and increased supportive social relationships that help build resilience

In addition to directly benefiting disadvantaged communities as described above, NET will engage, train and provide meaningful employment to young men and women (generally ages 18 to 26) from the urban, under-served, and disadvantaged communities that we serve. This process of creating our future land stewards through education, training, and meaningful employment of local at-promise youth is part of NET's ongoing mission.The ethnicities of our crew are primarily Latinx and African-American and they often come from communities that are geographically bound and experience severe poverty and distress. Many of our current and past crew members grew up in Section 8 Public Housing, or in disadvantaged communities in the North East, East, and South Los Angeles neighborhoods. Our target audience generally has never held a job nor has any tangible skills. We seek to provide an opportunity to lift them on to the first rung of the employment ladder by providing 'hands-on" experience and a more structured. NET pays all of its employees a living wage per the City of Los Angeles ordinances, and for the proposed project a prevailing wage, landscape tender, as required by State law.

Those participants who excel in the program will be provided an opportunity to be promoted to one of the higher prevailing wage classifications. They will receive daily and weekly safety training to reduce and limit the health risks associated with urban forestry practices. And they will, of course, be covered by Workers Compensation Insurance in event of any work related accidents. NET will, as is our practice, retain as many of the program participants as possible though 2 or 3 cycles of our larger training and Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Program. Over the past 25+ years we have engaged thousands of young men and women and have successfully helped them obtain employment (or for some, pursue further education in college). Our graduates have gone on to careers in urban forestry, National Parks, US Forest Service, City and County of Los Angeles Parks Departments, union landscaping construction jobs, landscape design, and environmental justice. Many found careers outside of forestry and environmental work, but the skills and discipline they needed to succeed they learned first through our YES Program.

Furthermore, NET is committed to sourcing materials needed for our projects locally to the greatest extent possible. We expect to utilize minority- or women-owned businesses as well as businesses located within the surrounding disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities for project outreach events and for educational/ training activities.

13. **Need for Conservancy Funds:** What would happen to the project if no funds were available from the Conservancy? What project opportunities or benefits could be lost and why if the project is not implemented in the near future?

This project, as conceived, cannot be fully implemented without funding from this grant. The unfortunate result would be that the multiple benefits that the project proposes would not become a reality, and the public and nearby disadvantaged community would not see any marked improvement on mitigating the negative effects of climate change, specifically urban flooding, fire and stormwater management. If funding is not awarded, the steep slopes would continue to undergo massive erosion and slope stabilization issues, putting at risk and negatively impacting the downhill residences and existing passive recreation trails. Additionally, there would be a lost opportunity to introduce more native vegetation and strengthen the wildland-urban interface, which would protect the public from dangerous brush and wildfires as seen in this specific area just last year.

This would also result in a lost opportunity for potential new jobs created, local youth to be trained, and local volunteers to be engaged in the project. Local employment, training, and volunteer engagement are essential when developing a multifaceted approach to ensure the long term sustainability of a project such as this. Assuming that longer and hotter summers continue, trees

and other plants will continue to undergo stress, becoming more susceptible to pests and diseases, and may be replaced by non-native, invasive species. There will be no new trees or plants to invigorate the park, and the risk of erosion and degraded local habitat and environment will not be mitigated.

14. **Vulnerability from Climate Change Impacts Other than Sea Level Rise:** Using the latest regional scenarios, predictions and trends, describe how the project objectives or project may be vulnerable to impacts (fire, drought, species and habitat loss, etc.) from climate change, other than sea level rise, coastal erosion or flooding. Identify design, siting, or other measures incorporated into the project to reduce these vulnerabilities.

    The communities in the vicinity (one mile radius) of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) are some of the most vulnerable in terms of resilience to climate change. This target population has an average CalEnviroScreen Percentile of 70-75% with the following averages: 76th percentile for pollution burden, 64rd for Groundwater Threats, and 82th percentile for PM 2.5 concentrations.

    Due to the continuing effects of climate change, KHSRA has shown signs of stress. To address this, we propose to design, build, and permit this multi-benefit project, which will build resilience to climate change by meaningfully addressing urban flooding, future droughts, air pollution, and water quality and storage. This project will directly support LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's Green New Deal, which sets aggressive goals for the City's future, and sets LA on course to be carbon neutral by 2050.

    Our focus will be on how to maximize climate resilience by increasing flood protection, fire resiliency, water storage and water quality. We propose to improve this highly urbanized, environmentally degraded region through the design and installation of native scrub, chaparral, and oak/walnut woodlands where appropriate. These native vegetation communities will use and infiltrate water better, reduce urban runoff in the local area and clean water that does run off. It will require no irrigation to maintain once established, even as it provides a place of respite and rejuvenation within a degraded landscape. This is especially important in LA as nearly 90% of our water comes from three different sources, all hundreds of miles away. Transporting water creates more emissions, and exacerbates the negative impacts of climate change.

    Climate resilience will be further improved by increasing tree canopy through planting native trees indigenous to the area around KHSRA (i.e., coastal sage scrub and chaparral plant communities,a and oak/walnut woodland where appropriate). These plant communities are drought tolerant and after becoming established, are able to flourish on their own without supplemental irrigation. We will source native plants from LA Audubon Society's native plant nursery, to the greatest degree possible. This will promote climate resilience and improved natural resource management within our city, as all seed and plant material is ethically and locally sourced. These locally sourced plants will then be planted as part of this project. The resiliency of the plant populations we work with is further improved from the risk of increasing ecological pressures through the planting from different, yet local, patches provided by the nursery, which promotes gene flow between isolated populations and minimizes the risk of genetic inbreeding, therefore increasing resilience to climate change. This practice not only protects these species for generations to come, but also supports native wildlife that these plants sustain.

    The issue of fire risk will likewise be addressed by the removal of non-native invasive trees, plants and grasses in order to increase the site's climate resilience, the selection of native plants that are adapted to the Southern California climate, and the site-specific design conducted by our project

partners. We will increase the Wildland Urban Interface, which is a zone of transition between wildland and human development in order to prevent the risk of catastrophic wildfire and the negative effects they have on the human population and natural ecology. The site currently supports many annual grasses and weeds that easily ignite and quickly carry surface fires. Replacement with a native plant community that has a 30 to 50+ year natural fire return interval instead of the annual fire return expected in grasslands, the site will be more resilient against the predicted increased fire conditions associated with hot dry conditions in future climate scenarios for the area.

The project is designed to reduce the probability of hillslope failure and erosion that will be faced as winter rainfall events become more extreme in future climate scenarios. The deeper root zones of coastal sage, chaparral, and foothill woodlands more effectively hold up steep slopes than do annual grasslands.

In addition to these strategies, we will help build the biodiversity needed for KHSRA and the surrounding neighborhood to thrive even under the uncertainty due to climate change. Knowledge supports resilience, and understanding this concept will be of vital importance for local residents who will have to find ways to adapt to a warming world in real time during the course of their lives.

By educating, training and providing employment to local at-promise youth, NET will build climate resilience. We will have the opportunity to train and foster local youth who will eventually make up the majority of our workforce, especially in conversation. This develops the hard skills needed and fosters stewardship and a sense of collective being, which they can pass on to their social networks who are all essential in fighting climate change. This effort directly supports LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's goals in the Green New Deal to create 300,000 green jobs by 2035 and 400,000 by 2050.

This community faces additional risks from climate change which will cause temperatures in the Los Angeles region to increase by an average of 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit by the middle of this century, and the number of extremely hot days in communities such as Baldwin Village will triple. This underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and minority community is more likely to suffer from the effects of climate change. Residents and local community groups understand these issues and recognize the need for trees for the long term health of the community. Groups such as Land IQ, LA Audubon Society, Mujeres de la Tierra, and the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club are seeking the support of nonprofits such as North East Trees, their local council members, and other advocacy groups to bring tree planting projects such as this to their neighborhoods.

15. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:** If the proposed project will result in production of greenhouse gas emissions (including construction impacts and vehicle miles travelled as part of a public access component), describe the measures your project includes to reduce, minimize or avoid greenhouse gas emissions through project design, implementation construction, or maintenance. What, if any, are the possible sources or sinks of greenhouse gases for your project, such as carbon sequestration from habitats at the site? If one of the project goals is to sequester carbon (reduce greenhouse gas concentrations), how do you intend to ensure continued long-term sequestration while achieving project objectives? Do you have any plans to seek carbon credits for the carbon sequestration activities on the project site?

    The construction of the proposed project will have a direct negative impact from the GHG emissions caused by our construction vehicles, the products we use in the project, trips taken to meetings, and other unavoidable activities. NET has adopted and implemented BMPs to reduce or

eliminate as much of our carbon footprint as possible. For example, we buy products that are produced locally; we hire local at-promise youth; we limit the use of construction machinery, and we minimize travel and conduct much of our business by phone or internet. We estimate the direct negative carbon footprint from design and construction activities for the project at less than 2 tons of carbon. This would be balanced by carbon the project would sequester and reduce which we estimate at: 623 tons over a 20 years period, 3,081 tons over 50 years period, and 5,516 tons over an 85 year period of direct carbon sequestration from the new trees and plants. As seen here, the major sinks for greenhouse gases on this project will be the 500 native trees and 8,700 plants.

We will ensure continued sequestration through ongoing establishment and community involvement. It is NET's standard practice to perform at least 2-3 years of establishment after trees are planted. We will go above and beyond this practice for this project, as NET has committed to an additional year of maintenance, post grant period, to ensure that all trees and plants survive. Furthermore, NET will, through our many existing programs and youth led native plant nursery, commit to providing replacement trees and plants as necessary. When properly established, native and drought tolerant trees and plants maximize canopy coverage and have long life-spans, so carbon sequestration can continue for many decades to come. This will help California to reach both 2030 and 2050 targets for GHG emission reductions.

While we have been in discussions with groups who can facilitate carbon credits for projects similar to this one, we do not anticipate that it will be a part of this specific project.

16. **Willing Seller:** Projects that involve acquisition of property must involve a willing seller. If your project includes property acquisition, please describe the status and expected conclusion of landowner negotiations.

    This question is not applicable, as this project does not include an acquisition.

Supporting Documentation

RESOLUTION NO: 4

RESOLUTION OF THE *North East Trees, Inc* BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY FOR PROPOSITION 1 FUNDING FOR the *Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project*

WHEREAS, voters of California passed the California Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The State Legislature has appropriated funds to the BHC for capital outlay and local assistance projects within the territory. Funds are to be awarded for reduction of pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, and protection or restoration of natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management consistent with the statute creating the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC).

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Proposition; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy's procedures require North East Trees, Inc to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that North East Trees, Inc must comply with; and

WHEREAS, North East Trees, Inc will enter into an Agreement with the Conservancy to provide funds for acquisition and development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE North East Trees, Inc Board of Directors HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an application with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy for Proposition 1 Funds for the above project; and

2.Certifies that North East Trees, Inc understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and

3.Certifies that North East Trees, Inc will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project in perpetuity; including, but not limited to land acquisitions, capital improvement projects, and intellectual property-related deliverables (i.e. web-based content)

4.Certifies that North East Trees, Inc has, or will have, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project in perpetuity; or has the right to assign maintenance to another agency; and

5.Appoints the North East Trees, Inc EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR or designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Passed, approved and adopted this 9th day of June, 2020

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6

Nos: 0

Absent: 2

SIGNATURE: _____

ATTEST:_____

CEQA APPENDIX G:
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form and may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1. Project title: Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project
2. Lead agency name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
1000 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803
3. Contact person and phone number: Andrea Vona (626) 223-9385
4. Project location: 4100 S La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90056 (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area)
5. Project sponsor's name and address: North East Trees 570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 200 Los Angeles CA 90065
6. General plan designation: Public Use/Government Parcel
7. Zoning: A2 (Agricultural 2)

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.) The goals of the Project are to restore native habitat, improve the ecosystem health of Ballona Creek watershed, improve water quality and storage, provide conservation benefits for people and wildlife, increase climate resiliency, and provide stewardship opportunities and jobs skills training for local at- promise youth through the restoration of native ecosystems. The Project stands out for its innovative use of seed bank management for shrubland restoration at the scale of multiple acres. It conforms to best scientific practices for seed bank management, slope stability, fire risk management, and carbon sequestration. Whereas local shrubland restoration often relies on mulching around container plants to control weeds, the Project proposes herbicide-free restoration through the development of a weed management plan implemented over at least two years. This will be followed by the seeding of native coastal sage scrub species, and the propagation and planting of container plants on north-facing slopes of the riparian zone, which are grown at the LAAS nursery within the Baldwin Hills parklands. Implementation will be carried out by NET's crew of local at-promise youth and other community members including local residents. At-promise youth will be trained by habitat restoration ecologists, expanding their knowledge base and creating a pipeline to future employment. We will maximize safe and equitable access to the park through meaningful community outreach, targeting the adjacent disadvantaged communities and other neighborhoods that suffer from environmental injustice. MDLT will conduct the project's outreach, with help from NET's at-promise youth crew. The Project will help conserve water by installing temporary irrigation to water the riparian species through the establishment period. By reducing stormwater runoff, the Project will reduce erosion on-site, including damage to trails and the discharge of contaminants to nearby waterways. Through these measures, the Project supports the goals of Proposition 1, the Baldwin Hills Strategic Plan, and the California Water Strategic Plan.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings: The Project is situated on approximately ten and a half acres of land on the Southeast tip of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, at South La Brea Avenue (west side) and Don Lorenzo Drive. Much of the site is currently dominated by nonnative vegetation, including invasive annual mustards and grasses. Compared with native shrubland and riparian woodland, this vegetation provides inferior ecosystem function, contributes greater stormwater runoff and slope erosion, is prone to more frequent fires, and sequesters and stores less carbon.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.) N/A

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun? No

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology /Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality
☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources	☐ Utilities/Service Systems
☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance		

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

_____ _____

Signature Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Issues:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XII. NOISE -- Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XV. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, 21083.09 Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21073, 21074 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2,21082.3, 21084.2, 21084.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino,* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors,* (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised December 2019

California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps

Corps Consultation Review Document

Proposition 1 – Water Bond – Chapter 6

Except for an exempted project, this Corps Consultation Review Document shall be completed by California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps staff and must accompany applications for funding through Proposition 1, Chapter 6, Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds. Applications that do not include Corps Consultation Review Documents demonstrating that both Corps have been consulted will be deemed noncompliant and will not be considered for funding. Please see the Corps Consultation Process for more information. A copy of the process can be requested from the state department administering the grant program.

1. Name of Applicant: **North East Trees, Inc**
2. Project Title: **Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project**
3. Department/Conservancy to which you are applying for funding: **Baldwin Hills Conservancy**
   Grant Program: **Prop 1 Grant Program**

   This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:
   - ☐ The California Conservation Corps (CCC)
   - ☒ **California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)**

4. Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the Corps:
   - ☒ **Yes, Applicant has submitted all necessary information.**
   - ☐ No, Applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps. Application is deemed non-compliant.

5. Determination:
   - ☐ It is NOT feasible for Corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant).
   - ☒ **It is feasible for Corps services to be used on the project. The following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant):**

     Please contact the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to discuss costs and coordinate the planning of Corps involvement in this project, and reach out again if your project receives funding:

     Name: Bo Savage
     Email: bsavage@lacorps.org
     Phone: 213-362-9000 ext. 238

Notes

CCC and CALCC representatives will return a Corps Consultation Review Document to applicant via email within 10 business days of receipt of a complete consultation request as verification of consultation. Applicant will include a copy of the documents as part of the project application.

If the Corps determine it is feasible for their services to be used on the project, applicant will contact the Corps to discuss costs and coordinate the planning of Corpsmember involvement in the project and reach out again if the project receives funding.

Submission of past consultations does not satisfy the requirement to consult with the Corps. The Corps must be consulted each grant cycle prior to submitting a grant application.

Gmail **Joe Laskin <joe@northeasttrees.org>**

CCC Consultation Form

Prop1 Community Corps <inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org> Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 3:51 PM
To: joe@northeasttrees.org
Cc: "Prop 1@CCC" <Prop1@ccc.ca.gov>

Hi Joe,

Bo Savage of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps has responded that they are able to assist with the Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project if the city receives funding. Please include this email with your application as proof that you reached out to the Local Conservation Corps.

Additionally, please feel free to contact Bo (bsavage@lacorps.org) directly if your project receives funding.

Thank you,
Emily

On Tue, Jun 9, 2020 at 10:02 AM Prop1 Community Corps <inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

CALCC Prop 1 Consultation Response - Feasible - (Rev. Dec. 2019).docx
64K

Revised December 2019

California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps

Corps Consultation Review Document

Proposition 1 – Water Bond – Chapter 6

Except for an exempted project, this Corps Consultation Review Document shall be completed by California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps staff and must accompany applications for funding through Proposition 1, Chapter 6, Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds. Applications that do not include Corps Consultation Review Documents demonstrating that both Corps have been consulted will be deemed noncompliant and will not be considered for funding. Please see the Corps Consultation Process for more information.

1. Name of Applicant: **North East Trees, Inc**
   Project Title: **Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project**
   Department/Conservancy to which you are applying for funding: **Baldwin Hills Conservancy**
   Grant Program: **Proposition 1**

   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 Corps:
   ☒ **Yes, Applicant has submitted all necessary information.**
   ☐ No, Applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps. Application is deemed non-compliant.

3. Determination:
   ☐ It is NOT feasible for Corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant).
   ☒ **It is feasible for Corps services to be used on the project. The following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant):**

   CCC Corpsmembers from the Los Angeles Satellite Center can assist with all activities related to herbicide-free restoration, the seeding of native coastal sage scrub species, and the propagation and planting of container plants on north-facing slopes of the riparian zone.

   Please contact the District Director of the Los Angeles Satellite Center to discuss costs and coordinate the planning of CCC involvement in this project, and reach out again if your project receives funding:
   Duane Wilson, District Director
   Email: Duane.Wilson@ccc.ca.gov
   Phone: (909) 594-4206

Notes
CCC and CALCC representatives will return a Corps Consultation Review Document to applicant via email within 10 business days of receipt of a complete consultation request as verification of consultation. Applicant will include a copy of the documents as part of the project application.

If the Corps determine it is feasible for their services to be used on the project, applicant will contact the Corps to discuss costs and coordinate the planning of Corpsmember involvement in the project and reach out again if the project receives funding.

Submission of past consultations does not satisfy the requirement to consult with the Corps. The Corps must be consulted each grant cycle prior to submitting a grant application.

Gmail Joe Laskin <joe@northeasttrees.org>

CCC Consultation Form

Prop 1@CCC <Prop1@ccc.ca.gov> Tue, Jun 9, 2020 at 9:38 AM
To: Joe Laskin <joe@northeasttrees.org>
Cc: Travis Longcore <tlongcore@landiq.com>, Scott Cher <scott@northeasttrees.org>, "Wilson, Duane@CCC" <Duane.Wilson@ccc.ca.gov>

Hi Joe,

The CCC Los Angeles Satellite Center has reviewed your project and determined that it is feasible for CCC services to be used.

Corpsmembers can assist with all activities related to herbicide-free restoration, the seeding of native coastal sage scrub species, and the propagation and planting of container plants on north-facing slopes of the riparian zone.

Please contact the District Director of the Los Angeles Satellite Center to discuss costs and coordinate the planning of CCC involvement in this project, and reach out again if your project receives funding:

Duane Wilson, District Director

Email: Duane.Wilson@ccc.ca.gov

Phone: (909) 594-4206

Thank you again for consulting with us on your Proposition 1 Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project. Please include the attached form with your application as official confirmation that you have consulted with the CCC.

Best regards,

ANDREA GABRIEL

Bond Program Analyst & Corps Consultation Liaison

Bonds & Grants Unit

Emergency & Environmental Programs

1719 24th Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

P: (916) 341-3272

Andrea.Gabriel@ccc.ca.gov

Prop1@ccc.ca.gov

Prop68@ccc.ca.gov

ccc.ca.gov

Hard Work, Low Pay,
Miserable Conditions and More

From: Joe Laskin <joe@northeasttrees.org>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Prop 1@CCC <Prop1@CCC.CA.GOV>
Cc: Travis Longcore <tlongcore@landiq.com>; Scott Cher <scott@northeasttrees.org>
Subject: CCC Consultation Form

Hello Andrea:

[Quoted text hidden]

CCC Prop 1 Consultation Response - Feasible - Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project .pdf
94K

Attachment 2 – Non-Profit Organization Pre-Award Questionnaire

"Nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All nonprofit organizations must complete this questionnaire and include it in their application.

CONTACT INFO

Organization	**North East Trees, Inc**		
Contact Person	Mark Kenyon	**Email**	mark@northeasttrees.org
Phone	(323) 441-8634 ext 31	**Fax**	N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Please attach a copy of your most recent financial reports with your response to this questionnaire. ***See attached***
2. Have you had a financial audit within the last three years by an independent auditor? Yes ☐ No ☒

   If yes, please provide a copy of the audit report.
3. Does your organization have appropriate segregation of duties to prevent one individual from processing an entire financial transaction? Yes ☒ No ☐
4. Does your organization have controls to prevent expenditure of funds in excess of what is approved in your project budget? Yes ☒ No ☐
5. Does your organization have a conflict of interest policy? Yes ☒ No ☐
6. How much unrestricted money does your organization raise annually? ***Unrestricted funds are generally between $50,000 to $100,000 annually***
7. Is there a Finance Committee of the board of directors, or does the Board make all financial decisions? ***There is a Finance Committee of the board of Directors.***
8. What are the Treasurer's duties?

   The treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, accounts receivables, disbursements, gains, losses, capital, retained earnings and other matters customarily included in financial statements. The books and records shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any director.
   The treasurer may appoint an agent to: deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board; disburse or cause to be disbursed the funds of

the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board; render to the president and directors whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or the Bylaws. If required by the Board, the treasurer shall give the Corporation a bond in the amount and with the surety or sureties specified by the Board for faithful performance of the duties of his or her office and for restoration to the Corporation of all its book, papers, vouchers, money, and other property of every kind in his or her possession or under his or her control on his or her death, resignation, retirement, or removal from office.

CASH MANAGEMENT

9. Are grant funds accounted for through segregated accounts? Yes ☒ No ☐
10. Are all disbursements properly documented with evidence of receipt of goods or performance of service? Yes ☒ No ☐

PAYROLL

11. Does your organization have a time reporting system developed to determine and explain proper labor and overhead charges billed to the grant? Yes ☒ No ☐
12. Have you developed procedures to ensure fair and competitive contracting? Yes ☒ No ☐
13. Is there an effective system of identifying expenditures for time, travel and purchase of supplies to determine relevancy to individual grant projects? Yes ☒ No ☐

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

(Complete this section, if State grants will be used to purchase physical assets.)

14. Are detailed records of individual capital assets kept and periodically balanced with the general ledger accounts? Yes ☒ No ☐
15. Are there effective procedures for authorizing and accounting for the disposal of property and equipment? Yes ☒ No ☐

INDIRECT COSTS

16. Does the organization have an established methodology for calculating indirect costs or overhead? Yes ☒ No ☐
17. Is this used consistently for all grants and contracts? Yes ☒ No ☐

COST SHARING

18. Does the organization have a means to determine and document that it has met cost-sharing goals for each project? Yes ☒ No ☐

19. Do your financial records identify the receipt and expenditure of funds separately for each grant or contract? Yes ☒ No ☐

COMPLIANCE

20. Does your organization have a formal system for complying with the payment of prevailing wages? Yes ☒ No ☐

21. Does your organization have a system in place to ensure it does not use contractors who may be suspended or debarred from receiving federal or state contracts? Yes ☒ No ☐

I certify that the above information accurately represents the organization of which I am a representative.

Name and title of person completing questionnaire:

NAME:	**Mark Kenyon**
SIGNATURE:	**DATE: June 29, 2020**

NORTH EAST TREES INC
Profit & Loss
January through December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Donations	17,206.28
Foundation Support	5,411.00
Foundation Support, Restricted	7,500.00
Grants	1,247,496.12
Landscaping	108,976.12
Offices-Sublet	3,990.00
Reimbursed Expenses Income	1,000.00
Service Income	3,250.00
Total Income	1,394,829.52
Cost of Goods Sold	
Auto Exp	7,920.69
Contracts Services	263,566.28
Education, Training & Uniforms	1,073.16
Equipment Rental	12,331.49
Equipment Repairs	146.83
Insurance Exp	77,073.67
Licenses & Permits	75.00
Printing & Reproduction	4,602.36
Programs Materials	64,763.69
Salary & Wages	507,666.15
Small Tools & Equipment	1,950.54
Website Developement & Maint	323.87
Total COGS	941,493.73
Gross Profit	453,335.79
Expense	
Property Tax Assessment	13,980.06
Auto Expense- Registration	1,011.00
Auto Expense-Gas/Mileage	319.03
Auto Expense-Repair	9,985.22
Bank Fees-Finance Charge	3,519.20
Computer	7,768.86
Education & Training	285.00
Insurance expense	43,175.12
License & Permits	3,753.27
Meetings and seminars	425.85
Office Exp	3,776.09
Office supplies	1,502.14
Payroll Expenses	62,107.35
Postage and Delivery	358.22
Printing and Reproduction	1,543.25
Professional Fees	60.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.10
Reimbursed Expense	18.31
Rent	37,905.80

NORTH EAST TREES INC
Profit & Loss
January through December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19
Repairs & Maintenance	12,157.28
Small Tools & Equip (less 1000)	0.00
Telephone	8,772.77
Travel	751.92
Wages & Salary	201,754.23
Total Expense	414,930.07
Net Ordinary Income	38,405.72
Net Income	**38,405.72**

NORTH EAST TREES INC
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	Dec 31, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
UB AP Checking #1130024684	1,607.42
UB Grants #1200022994	4,146.93
WF - Grants Acct - 6349490679	162,696.84
WF - GreenWay LA #6349490695	44,912.57
WF - Payroll - 1736841394	4,061.37
Total Checking/Savings	217,425.13
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	363,286.74
Total Accounts Receivable	363,286.74
Other Current Assets	
Payroll Service Customer Asset	(17.04)
Prepaid Insurance	10,090.72
Total Other Current Assets	10,073.68
Total Current Assets	590,785.55
Fixed Assets	
Land	1,425,000.00
Computer Equipment	29,504.00
Leasehold Impr Office Expansion	21,078.00
Property & Equipment	117,618.08
Accumulated Depreciation	(167,599.67)
Total Fixed Assets	1,425,600.41
Other Assets	
Deposits	3,083.42
Total Other Assets	3,083.42
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,019,469.38**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	36,812.42
Total Accounts Payable	36,812.42
Credit Cards	
BankAmericard #0218	4,286.13
Home Depot Card #3899	3,610.13
Total Credit Cards	7,896.26
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued Liabilities	(130.00)
Wages Payable	19,351.94
Accrued Vacation	10,635.65
Deferred Revenue	99,800.00
Direct Deposit Liabilities	(21,674.08)
Total Other Current Liabilities	107,983.51

NORTH EAST TREES INC
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	Dec 31, 19
Total Current Liabilities	152,692.19
Long Term Liabilities	
WFB EQ2 LOAN# 9146751979	47,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	47,000.00
Total Liabilities	199,692.19
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,781,371.47
Net Income	38,405.72
Total Equity	1,819,777.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**2,019,469.38**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

(Required when receiving payment from the State of California in lieu of IRS W-9)

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003)

1

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all information on this form. Sign, date, and return to the State agency (department/office) address shown at the bottom of this page. Prompt return of this **fully completed** form will prevent delays when processing payments. Information provided in this form will be used by State agencies to prepare Information Returns (1099). See reverse side for more information and Privacy Statement.

NOTE: Governmental entities, federal, State, and local (including school districts), are not required to submit this form.

2

PAYEE'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME (Type or Print)
North East Trees, Inc.

SOLE PROPRIETOR – ENTER NAME AS SHOWN ON SSN (Last, First, M.I.)

E-MAIL ADDRESS
info@northeasttrees.org

MAILING ADDRESS
570 W. Ave 26, Suite 200

BUSINESS ADDRESS
570 W. Ave 26, Suite 200

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
Los Angeles, CA 90065

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
Los Angeles, CA 90065

3

PAYEE ENTITY TYPE

CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

ENTER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN): 95-4320174

☐ **PARTNERSHIP**

☐ **ESTATE OR TRUST**

CORPORATION:

- ☐ **MEDICAL** (e.g., dentistry, psychotherapy, chiropractic, etc.)
- ☐ **LEGAL** (e.g., attorney services)
- ☑ **EXEMPT** (nonprofit)
- ☐ **ALL OTHERS**

☐ **INDIVIDUAL OR SOLE PROPRIETOR ENTER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:** ___-___-____

(SSN required by authority of California Revenue and Tax Code Section 18646)

NOTE: Payment will not be processed without an accompanying taxpayer I.D. number.

4

PAYEE RESIDENCY STATUS

☑ California resident - Qualified to do business in California or maintains a permanent place of business in California.

☐ California nonresident (see reverse side) - Payments to nonresidents for services may be subject to State income tax withholding.

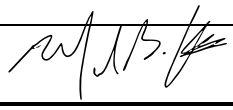
- ☐ No services performed in California.
- ☐ Copy of Franchise Tax Board waiver of State withholding attached.

5

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided on this document is true and correct. Should my residency status change, I will promptly notify the State agency below.

AUTHORIZED PAYEE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (Type or Print)
Mark Kenyon

TITLE
Executive Director

SIGNATURE 

DATE
6/29/2020

TELEPHONE
(323) 441-8634

6

Please return completed form to:

Department/Office: _____

Unit/Section: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (___) _____ **Fax:** (___) _____

E-mail Address: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003) (REVERSE)

1	**Requirement to Complete Payee Data Record, STD. 204** A completed Payee Data Record, STD. 204, is required for payments to all non-governmental entities and will be kept on file at each State agency. Since each State agency with which you do business must have a separate STD. 204 on file, it is possible for a payee to receive this form from various State agencies. Payees who do not wish to complete the STD. 204 may elect to not do business with the State. If the payee does not complete the STD. 204 and the required payee data is not otherwise provided, payment may be reduced for federal backup withholding and nonresident State income tax withholding. Amounts reported on Information Returns (1099) are in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and the California Revenue and Taxation Code.
2	Enter the payee's legal business name. Sole proprietorships must also include the owner's full name. An individual must list his/her full name. The mailing address should be the address at which the payee chooses to receive correspondence. Do not enter payment address or lock box information here.
3	Check the box that corresponds to the payee business type. Check only one box. Corporations must check the box that identifies the type of corporation. The State of California requires that all parties entering into business transactions that may lead to payment(s) from the State provide their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The TIN is required by the California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18646 to facilitate tax compliance enforcement activities and the preparation of Form 1099 and other information returns as required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 6109(a). The TIN for individuals and sole proprietorships is the Social Security Number (SSN). Only partnerships, estates, trusts, and corporations will enter their Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).
4	**Are you a California resident or nonresident?** A corporation will be defined as a "resident" if it has a permanent place of business in California or is qualified through the Secretary of State to do business in California. A partnership is considered a resident partnership if it has a permanent place of business in California. An estate is a resident if the decedent was a California resident at time of death. A trust is a resident if at least one trustee is a California resident. For individuals and sole proprietors, the term "resident" includes every individual who is in California for other than a temporary or transitory purpose and any individual domiciled in California who is absent for a temporary or transitory purpose. Generally, an individual who comes to California for a purpose that will extend over a long or indefinite period will be considered a resident. However, an individual who comes to perform a particular contract of short duration will be considered a nonresident. Payments to all nonresidents may be subject to withholding. Nonresident payees performing services in California or receiving rent, lease, or royalty payments from property (real or personal) located in California will have 7% of their total payments withheld for State income taxes. However, no withholding is required if total payments to the payee are $1,500 or less for the calendar year. For information on Nonresident Withholding, contact the Franchise Tax Board at the numbers listed below: Withholding Services and Compliance Section: 1-888-792-4900 E-mail address: wscs.gen@ftb.ca.gov For hearing impaired with TDD, call: 1-800-822-6268 Website: www.ftb.ca.gov
5	Provide the name, title, signature, and telephone number of the individual completing this form. Provide the date the form was completed.
6	This section must be completed by the State agency requesting the STD. 204.
	Privacy Statement Section 7(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) requires that any federal, State, or local governmental agency, which requests an individual to disclose their social security account number, shall inform that individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by which statutory or other authority such number is solicited, and what uses will be made of it. It is mandatory to furnish the information requested. Federal law requires that payment for which the requested information is not provided is subject to federal backup withholding and State law imposes noncompliance penalties of up to $20,000. You have the right to access records containing your personal information, such as your SSN. To exercise that right, please contact the business services unit or the accounts payable unit of the State agency(ies) with which you transact that business. All questions should be referred to the requesting State agency listed on the bottom front of this form.

LAND IQ

June 23, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Partnership with North East Trees in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

Land IQ is pleased to partner with North East Trees (NET) in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project which is being submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program. Los Angeles Audubon Society will provide technical restoration planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting services as detailed in the proposal.

The Land IQ Habitat Restoration Group offers a wide range of specialized services in natural resource planning, analysis, restoration, and management. Our achievements in revegetating and reclaiming drastically disturbed landscapes such as landfills, roadways, and water projects, monitoring for mitigation, and assessing and monitoring exotic species highlight our success in restoration ecology. Land IQ has assessed over 50,000 acres of land for habitat restoration potential and developed specific protocols for resource management plans. Land IQ has successfully completed over 1,400 acres of habitat restoration and revegetation in southern California, including over 800 acres of coastal sage scrub. Additionally, our staff has expertise in working with federal, state, and local agencies for upland and wetland restoration projects.

This letter is to inform you that Land IQ recognizes and understands our role as a project partner. We look forward to working with NET, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mujeres de la Tierra, and Sierra Club to improve water quality, restore native habitat in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation, and improve the quality of life for nearby residents. We look forward to the potential of the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project being funded so that together we can collaborate to achieve the many common goals associated with this project.

Sincerely,

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
Environmental Scientist/Certified Senior Ecologist
Land IQ

Table 1. List of Project Experience with Land Management, Resource Management Planning & Restoration/Enhancement by Habitat Type.

Project	County	Acres	Land Management	Resource Management Planning	Habitat Restoration/Enhancement	Coastal Sage Scrub	Cactus Salvage	Cactus Scrub	Native Grasslands	Forblands	Riparian Scrub and Forest	Alluvial Floodplain Scrub	Oak and Sycamore Woodland	Walnut Woodland	Wetlands (Ephemeral/Perennial)
Saddle Creek South	Orange	84	✓			✓		✓	✓				✓		
Upper Chiquita Canyon Conservation Area	Orange	1,186	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Irvine Ranch Land Reserve	Orange	11,652	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Bonita Creek	Orange	36	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Coyote Canyon	Orange	122	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							
UCI Preserve (Measure M, EEMP)	Orange	12.5			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Limestone/Santiago Creek	Orange	50	✓		✓	✓									✓
Siphon Reservoir	Orange	112	✓		✓	✓					✓		✓		
Live Oak	Orange	23	✓			✓		✓	✓				✓		
Strawberry Farms	Orange	15			✓	✓	✓	✓							
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park	Orange	15			✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
SJHTC CHA Side Slopes	Orange	118	✓		✓	✓									
ETC CHA Side Slopes	Orange	194	✓		✓	✓									
FTC CHA Side Slopes	Orange	13	✓		✓	✓									
FTC-Oso CHA Side Slopes	Orange	31	✓		✓	✓									
Santa Ana River Mainstem, Reach 9, Ph.SB	Orange	23			✓						✓				✓
Whiting Ranch Regional Park	Orange	10			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Crystal Cove State Park	Orange	22			✓		✓	✓	✓						✓
City of Laguna Beach	Orange	3			✓	✓									
Puente Hills Habitat Preserve	Los Angeles	1,304	✓	✓											
Puente Hills – East Colima & Ridgewood	Los Angeles	16			✓	✓									
Puente Hills – TRTP Mitigation	Los Angeles	60			✓	✓							✓	✓	
Debs Park	Los Angeles	246		✓		✓								✓	
Los Angeles River – Elysian Valley	Los Angeles	160		✓							✓				✓
Lakeside Ranch	San Diego	55			✓	✓			✓				✓		
Grasslands Restoration Experiment	San Diego	70			✓				✓	✓					
City of Lake Elsinore	Riverside	6			✓							✓			✓
Santa Clara River - Heritage Valley Park	Ventura	249			✓						✓	✓			✓
Santa Clara River – Hanson-Villanueva	Ventura	250		✓	✓						✓	✓			✓

Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, California 90093-1057

June 23, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Partnership with North East Trees in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS) is pleased to partner with North East Trees (NET) in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project, which is being submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program. Los Angeles Audubon Society will provide training, volunteer engagement, restoration support, monitoring, and native plants as elaborated in the proposal.

LAAS has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for over 100 years. Our mission is to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters. LAAS has been involved in restoration and education in the Baldwin Hills for 15 years, with successful programs at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. LAAS's involvement will be led by Dr. Margot Griswold, who has decades of experience as a professional restoration ecologist and leader of LAAS's education programs. LAAS has furthermore involved hundreds of volunteers in the Baldwin Hills and we will leverage our audience and volunteer base for restoration activities.

This letter is to inform you that LAAS recognizes and understands our role as a project partner. We look forward to working with NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, and Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Clube to improve water quality, restore native habitat in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation, and improve the quality of life for nearby residents. We look forward to the potential of the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project being funded so that together we can collaborate to achieve the many common goals associated with this project.

Sincerely,

Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
President
Los Angeles Audubon Society

June 25, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

RE: Partnership with North East Trees in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

Mujeres de la Tierra (MDLT) is pleased to partner with North East Trees (NET) in the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project, which is being submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program. MDLT will conduct all community outreach and education for this project and will lead all efforts to engage the public, local residents, youth and students, and families in this multi-benefit project. Our efforts will be in both English and Spanish.

MDLT is an environmental equity nonprofit founded with the guiding principles of respect, advocacy, self-determination, bravery, and creativity. MDLT inspires the healing of La Madre Tierra by working to build grassroots community leadership and capacity among historically unrecognized communities, especially among those that are low-income, immigrant and/or communities of color. We firmly believe in the power of one and that community action and social change starts with an individual's commitment to move, inspire, mobilize and lead. Our engagement efforts provide tools of empowerment by using facts, data, and science with culturally relevant tools and platforms. We are connected to the community through local residents' input, platicas, listening sessions and other means of interactive conversations and communication.

MDLT will lead the project's outreach and education, as this project will add to our residents' awareness of the importance of trees in the landscape, such as how trees and greenspace benefit their mental and physical health and longevity. We have a 10-year history in working with the Baldwin Hills and South LA Communities and understand the many constraints they face in their daily lives. MDLT aims to instill a set of "Green Ethics" for all community members so that the improvements can be sustained for generations. This project will also provide education and training to community members, and employment of local at-risk youth, in the fields of urban forestry, water conservation and arboriculture, and the skills required to pursue careers in the green industry.

This letter is to inform you that MDLT recognizes and understands our role as a project partner, and as the community outreach and education lead for this project. We look forward to working with NET, Land IQ, LA Audubon, and the Sierra Club to improve water quality, restore native habitat in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation, and improve the quality of life for nearby residents. We look forward to the potential of the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project being funded so that together we can collaborate to achieve the many common goals associated with this project.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at Irma.munoz@mujeresdelatierra.org or call me at (323) 350-3306.

Sincerely,

Irma R Muñoz
CEO/President
Mujeres de la Tierra

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force
Angeles Chapter
PO Box 377
Inglewood CA 90306

June 26, 2020

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

RE: PROP 1 GRANT - KHSRA FIVE CORNERS HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Mr. McNeill:

The *Sierra Club* is pleased to support **North East Trees** grant application to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program for the *Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project* at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The proposed project will address a critical need along the popular Park to Playa Trail, and will restore native habitat, improve the ecosystem health of the Ballona Creek watershed, improve water quality and storage, provide conservation benefits for people and wildlife, increase climate resiliency, and provide jobs skills training for local at-promise youth through the restoration of native ecosystems.

Our organization has a several decades old relationship with KHSRA, as our volunteers have constructed over 8 miles of hiking trails in the park during this time. We are committed to the appreciation and preservation of wildlife habitats and the importance of recreational facilities, and we recognize that **North East Trees** shares this vision with projects such as the *Five Corners Habitat Restoration Project.*

We look forward to a positive funding decision in the near future for this very important project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 310-245-2763 or bill.vanderberg@ca.rr.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Vanderberg
Vice-Chair

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Parks Make Life Better!"
John Wicker, Director
Norma E. Garcia, Chief Deputy Director

March 26, 2020

Mr. Joe Laskin
North East Trees
570 W Ave 26 Ste. 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Laskin:

FIVE CORNERS RESTORATION
KENNETH HAHN STATE RECREATIONAL AREA

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) has reviewed the project concept submitted for the Five Corners Restoration project within the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is operated and maintained by the Department. The Department is in agreement with this project concept as described in the attachment and requests consultation prior to scope finalization. Prior to the Department taking over maintenance responsibilities, North East Trees shall complete a maintenance term of one year past any grant performance period and provide site specific educational training materials for County use. For any plantings, a minimum 18-month establishment period is also required.

In order to proceed with this project, North East Trees must: 1) have any final plans and project scope reviewed and approved by the Department. 2) obtain a right of entry permit from the Department. 3) adhere to the State Parks plant palette landscaping guidelines. 4) adhere to Park and Recreation Design Guidelines. 5) adhere to the Los Angeles County Trails Manual. 6) obtain any necessary permits from appropriate regulatory agencies, and 7) demonstrate compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Department looks forward to working with North East Trees to develop this project. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Vona of our Grants/Legislative section at (626) 588-5249 or via e-mail at avona@parks.lacounty.gov.

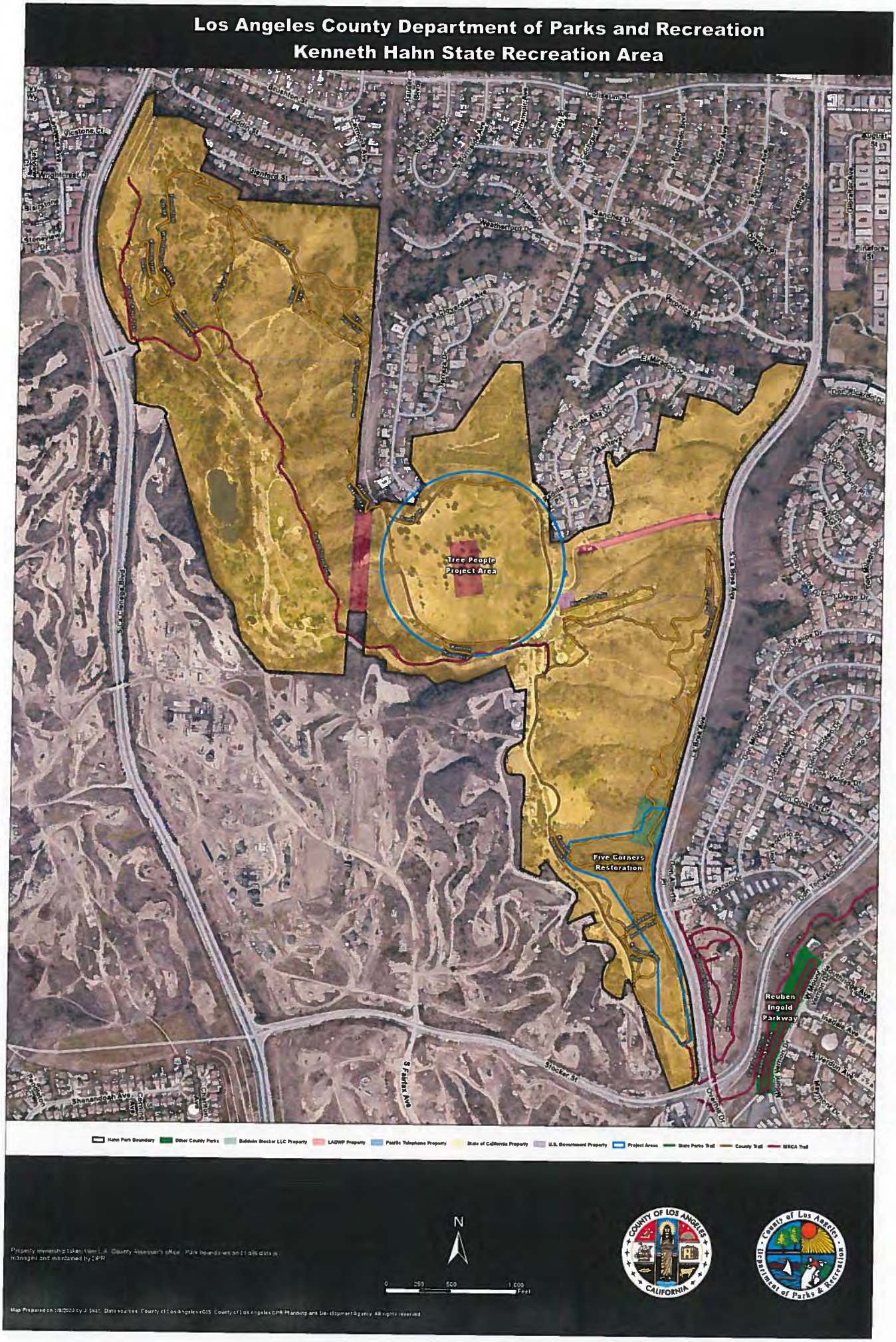
Sincerely,

Alina Bokde
Deputy Director

AB:av

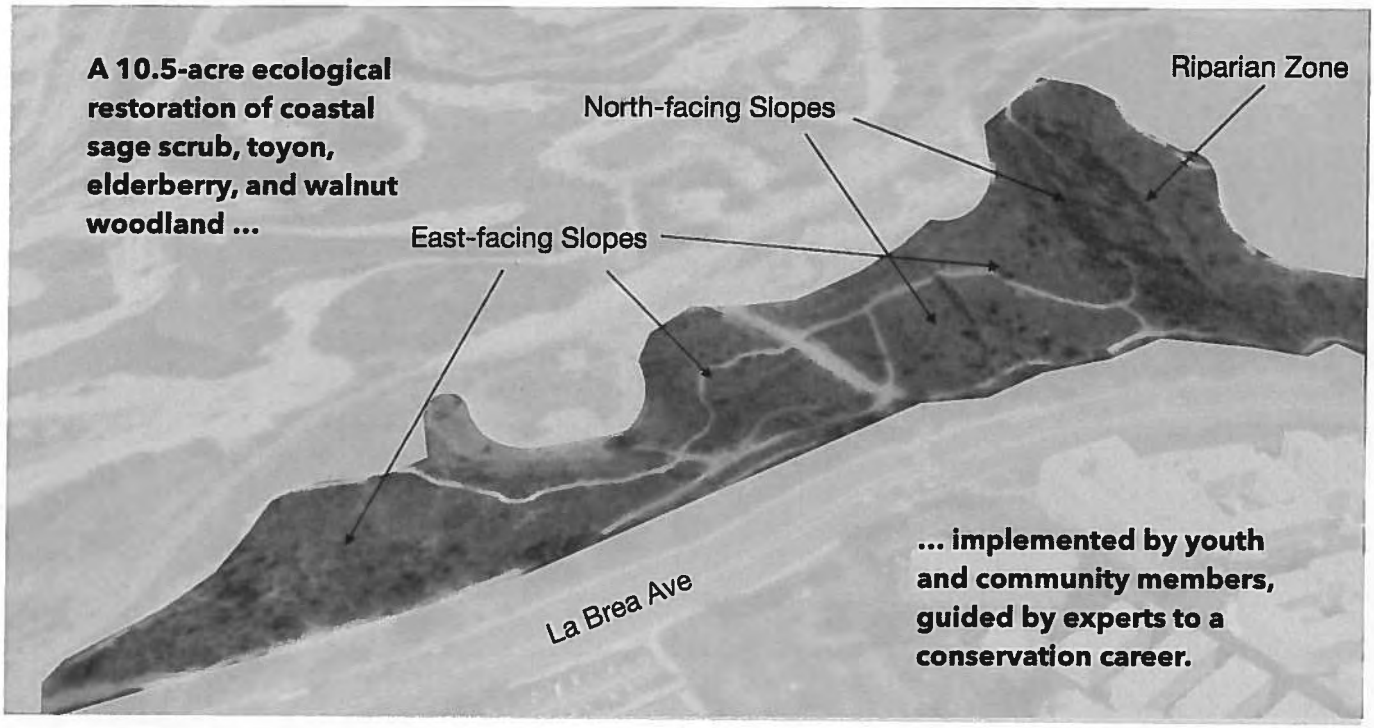
Attachments

c: Parks and Recreation (K. Regan)


Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area
Tree People Project Area
Five Corners Restoration
Reuben Ingold Parkway
Hahn Park Boundary
Other County Parks
Baldwin Blocker LLC Property
LADWP Property
Pacific Telephone Property
State of California Property
U.S. Government Property
Project Areas
State Parks Trail
County Trail
MRCA Trail
N
0
250
500
1,000
Feet
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation

Five Corners Restoration

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area | North East Trees | Los Angeles Audubon Society | Land IQ



Project Approach

- Scrubland restoration focused on multiple weed control events over two years, then seeding in coastal sage scrub community, including early succession species.
- Enhancement of riparian zones and north-facing slopes through locally grown container planting of elderberry, black walnut, and toyon.
- Selective weeding within areas currently supporting native plants.
- Technology transfer from successful large-scale wildland restoration projects to urban context.
- Training of North East Trees youth corps alongside professional restoration workers.
- Integration of long-term monitoring with community-based education program.

Project Benefits

- Reduced erosion of fine sediments and discharges of Nitrogen from site.
- Greater slope stability resulting from deeper root zones of native plants provides resilience for intense rainfall events predicted under climate change scenarios.
- Reduction in weeds that can carry fire from ignitions along La Brea Avenue.
- Increased carbon sequestration from addition of toyon, elderberry, and walnut trees.
- Demonstration of science-based weed-management approach to restoration at scale in urban area.
- Development of career path into restoration and conservation for North East Trees and Los Angeles Audubon Society youth participants.

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Gavin Newsom, *Governor*
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*
Angeles District
1925 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, California, 91302

June 10, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Support for and Participation in North East Trees' Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Angeles District (State Parks) is pleased to support North East Trees (NET) Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project application proposal to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program. This project will provide our community with additional native trees, improve public access to resources used by the community, and will offer water quality benefits that will positively impact County lands.

This project, a collaboration between NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club, will restore nine acres of coastal sage scrub, toyon, elderberry, and walnut woodland at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. It will be implemented by at-promise youth and provided with training towards potential careers in conservation and habitat restoration ecology. Additionally, the project will reduce erosion and improve the many trails in our project area. Storm water will be captured by plants, reducing pollutant discharge off site and improving trail conditions. Furthermore, Mujeres de la Tierra will lead the project's outreach and education. The project will instill a set of "Green Ethics" for all community members, so that the improvements can be sustained for generations.

North East Trees has deep roots in many different Los Angeles communities, including Baldwin Hills, and their organization has represented and involved many citizens in urban greening and habitat stewardship for nearly 30 years. We are pleased to see that NET, as part of their core mission, will be training, educating and employing local at-promise youth on this project.

This proposed project aligns closely with our mission to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and to create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. We support this project and think that it will provide many benefits for the community and our natural resources, including water quality improvements.

As the land owner, State Parks fully supports the project and looks forward to working with NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, LA Audubon, and the Sierra Club to improve water quality and restore native habitat in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Craig Sap
District Superintendent

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 5050
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4030

DISTRICT OFFICE
Wallis Annenberg Building
700 STATE DR. SUITE 113
LOS ANGELES, CA 90037
(213) 745-6656

WEBSITE:
http://sd30.senate.ca.gov/

EMAIL:
SENATOR.MITCHELL@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

SENATOR, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review (Chair)
Committee on Public Safety
Committee on Health
Committee on Insurance
Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations
Joint Legislative Committee Rules

Select Committee on Women and Inequality (Founder)

Select Committee on the Social Determinants of Children's Well-being

June 29, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Support for North East Trees' Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of North East Trees' (NET) Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project application to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program.

I have the honor of representing Senate District 30, which includes many communities that would be positively affected by this project, including Baldwin Hills. The project will provide ecological restoration of coastal sage scrub, toyon, elderberry, and walnut woodland over a 10.5-acre area of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. It will offer additional access to open recreation space and improve water quality for the surrounding communities. Additionally, restoration of the native landscape will result in cleaner air throughout the area. Strategic partnerships, include that with the Sierra Club, will allow for the improvement of trails in the project area and reduction of pollutant discharge due to stormwater capture. Additional education and community outreach will be provided in collaboration with Mujeres de la Tierra, and will promote residents' awareness to the importance of trees and the benefits of greenspace for physical and mental prosperity.

I recognize and applaud NET for their deep roots in the greater Los Angeles community and their commitment to representing and involving residents in urban greening and habitat stewardship for the past thirty years. I am pleased that NET, in alignment with their core mission, will train, educate, and employ local youth for this project.

Overall, North East Trees' Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project will make a lasting positive impact on local residents and the larger Los Angeles community.

Sincerely,

Hjmitchell

Holly J. Mitchell
Senator, District 30

HERB J. WESSON, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT

June 17, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear North East Trees:

Re: Support North East Trees' Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

As Councilman of the Tenth Council District in the City of Los Angeles, I am pleased to support North East Trees (NET) Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project and your application being proposed to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program -- a collaboration between NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club.

This project, which neighbors the district I represent along the hills and canyons adjacent La Brea Ave in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, represents a 10.5-acre ecological restoration of coastal sage scrub, toyon, elderberry, and walnut woodland. I understand this project will be implemented by at-promise youth hired by NET, and community members, who will be guided by experts to a potential career in conservation and habitat restoration ecology. This project will not only provide our community with additional native trees and the benefits they offer, it will also improve public access to resources used by the community and will offer water quality benefits that will positively impact County lands.

North East Trees has deep roots in Los Angeles communities, including Baldwin Hills, and your organization has represented and involved many citizens in urban greening and habitat stewardship for nearly 30 years. It is a pleasure to see that NET, as part of their core mission, will be training, educating and employing local at-promise youth on this project. Additionally, this project will provide educational and engagement opportunities for neighborhood residents and local at-risk youth. Overall, it aims to make a lasting difference for the entire community.

Council District 10 supports the project and looks forward to the potential of the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project being funded.

Sincerely,

HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District

CITY HALL OFFICE: 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 430 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 • PHONE: (213) 473-7010 • FAX: (213) 485-9829
DISTRICT OFFICE: 1819 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90006 • PHONE: (323) 733-8233 • FAX: (323) 733-5833
E-MAIL: COUNCILMEMBER.WESSON@LACITY.ORG

BALLONA CREEK Renaissance
P.O. Box 843, Culver City CA 90232

April 16, 2020

North East Trees
570 W Ave 26, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Support for and Participation in North East Trees' Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project

Dear North East Trees,

Ballona Creek Renaissance is pleased to support North East Trees (NET) Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project and your application being proposed to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program. This is a collaboration between NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club.

Our organization. BCR, concentrates on cleaning and greening the Ballona Creek Watershed. This 130 square mile area drains virtually all of western Los Angeles including, of course, the land where your important project is located. We have a dedicated team of volunteers that do bi-monthly cleanups along the creek, perform Creekside planting projects, and educate our youth about the importance of caring for our urban waterways. Your plan is a great fit with our mission.

We completely support doing an upland habitat restoration in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, on La Brea Avenue near the five corner intersection with Stocker. Restoring the land in this degraded area is needed and welcomed. Your ambitious plan to remove non-native vegetation, repair damaged slopes, and plant native plants and trees is well planned and thought out. The bonus of having this project serve our community as well, is admirable. We recognize North East Trees has deep roots in many different Los Angeles communities, including Baldwin Hills, and that their organization has represented and involved many citizens in urban greening and habitat stewardship for nearly 30 years. We are pleased to see that NET, as part of their core mission, will be training, educating and employing local at-promise youth on this project. Additionally, this project will provide educational and engagement opportunities for neighborhood residents and local at-risk youth. Overall, it aims to make a lasting difference for the entire community. The impressive list of partners in this task assures us that this job is attainable and sustainable. The benefits of the restoration to the natural environment, the waterways, and the people of Los Angeles are significant.

This letter is to inform you that Ballona Creek Renaissance fully supports the project and looks forward to working with NET, Land IQ, Mujeres de la Tierra, LA Audubon, and the Sierra Club to improve water quality and restore native habitat in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation. We look forward to the potential of the Five-Corners Habitat Restoration Project being funded so that together we can collaborate to achieve the many common goals associated with this project.

Sincerely,

Amy Rosenstein
President,-Ballona Creek Renaissance

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

Memorandum

To: Governing Board

From: David McNeill

Date: September 25, 2020

Re: Item #6: Consideration of Resolution # 20-09 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,952,500, to Culver City for the Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability and Accessibility Project.

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 20-09, authorizing a grant of up to $1,952,500 in BHC Prop 1 Funds to Culver City for the Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability and Accessibility Project.

Background: Culver City has applied for Prop 1 grant funds to develop and implement the Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability and Accessibility Project (See Attachment #1). The project seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing tree canopy, reducing run-off into the creek, and encouraging commuter use along the 6.7-mile multi-use trail. This proposal comes on the heels of the Ballona Creek Revitalization Project Task Force's extensive workshop and outreach efforts of 2018-19 and the adoption of the Culver City 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. The improvements target the eastern-most reach of the formal trail and bikeway in close proximity to Syd Kronenthal Park and the Metro Stations at La Cienega Blvd and in Culver City. Featured enhancements include ADA upgrades, signage, replacement of existing concrete with permeable materials, new drainage and grates, installation of safety elements and native plantings, all situated along 1.1 miles of the corridor. The existing conditions that characterize this stretch of the bikeway are stark in terms of tree canopy, vegetation, security and accessibility. The application focuses on investments that would bring aesthetic continuity and regional connectivity to a long-neglected section of the pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare.

Overall, the project has several goals related to community access, regional transportation and the environment. Beneficiaries and key potential users targeted include underserved communities that reside within a half mile of the project site.

Major work products for this Project include:

- Plant palette and final planting design
- Final design of Bike Path improvements
- Installation of 116 trees (50% canopy) and retaining walls
- Replace 300 feet of fencing
- Installation of permeable pavement

- Activated solar lighting (60) along path and timed lights below (3) overpasses
- Add improvements for ADA access at Gateways to Bike Path.
- Installation of signage and pavement markings for wayfinding and visibility
- Installation of customized bike racks, benches and trash bins

Pursuant to the BHC Prop 1 Guidelines, the proposal passed all screening requirements. The application met all the qualifications and scored highest in the following three (3) areas: 1) The extent to which the project achieves and demonstrates the purposes of Chapter 6 Prop 1; 2) The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits; 3) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partners to complete the project. The final average score of the evaluation was 86 out of 100 possible points. Scoring sheets and evaluations will remain on file.

If the application is approved, the project would represent the culmination of years of collaboration to revitalize the bikeway and upgrade the corridor's habitat value. Benefits of increased public health, physical activity, active transportation use and climate resiliency are inherent to the implementation of the proposed improvements.

Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability and Access Project

Culver City

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.

PRC 32565.5 (b) The Conservancy shall establish policies and priorities within the Baldwin Hills area, and conduct any necessary planning activities in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32555.

PRC 32565.5 (c) The Conservancy shall give priority to related projects that create expanded opportunities that provide recreation, aesthetic improvement, and wildlife habitat in the Baldwin Hills area.

c. 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.

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.

Park Concept Description: One Big Park, Page 51, BHPMP: Storm water on the site will be collected and treated to reduce potential pollutants from flowing into Ballona Creek. Storm water will also be collected as an irrigation source for high water use areas... Substantial areas of the site will be re-vegetated with drought tolerant native plant species.

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.

d. 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: (B) Implement watershed

adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems; (C) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways. (I) 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. (K) 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.

e. Support from the public (demonstrate)

Letters Received: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bike Culver City, Mayor of Culver City, Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Culver City Unified School District, Walk n Rollers, Women of Bikes.

f. 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 and Ballona Creek represent an extraordinarily unique value to the entire state. This project promotes and implements California's climate adaptation and biodiversity policies in one of the most densely populated areas of the country.

g. Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area

Culver City Public Works has experience in multi-benefit and trail projects citywide.

- Ballona Creek Rain Garden Project completed in September 2012, funded with Proposition 50 grant funds. This project is located along the north side of Ballona Creek just west of Overland Avenue and captures runoff of approximately 2.75 acres from adjacent parking area and playground from Culver City Unified School District property.
- Culver City developed and maintains the 1.9-mile Culver Blvd Bike and also has maintenance responsibility for the portion of the Ballona Creek Bike Path within the City's jurisdiction.
- Public Work Maintenance Facility Rain Garden Project completed in March 2014, funded partially with Proposition 50 grant funds. The project is located at 9505 Jefferson Boulevard and captures all site and roof runoff from the Public Work Maintenance Facility. This project also incorporated a rain harvesting system (cistern) capturing roof runoff for future irrigation use.

.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

a. Urgency

Existing conditions demonstrate the need for proper access and safety measures along this portion of the Ballona Creek Trail. The project will help address access for disadvantaged communities adjacent to the north east gateway at National Blvd. ADA improvements along with lighting will allow for a broader range of users to feel safe entering and exiting the path. Additionally, with a youth population of nearly 5,100 living in poverty, access to a low-cost transportation option that provides health benefits for this densely populated portion of the Los Angeles County.

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

The proposed project will manage site runoff, increase urban tree canopy to sequester carbon, lower the level of vehicle miles traveled, all while providing much needed access to a significant regional recreational amenity.

c. Readiness

Culver City is positioned to fast track the project utilizing department resources and cooperating agencies. (*See Preliminary Budget and Schedule, p. 10).* The aggressive timeline anticipates completion of design and construction within one year.

d. Cooperation

Culver City will collaborate with LA County Flood Control, US Army Corps of Engineers who will assist in obtaining the permits needed for the project. including maintaining the project upon successful completion. The California Conservation Corps is available to provide labor and other support to the contractors.

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY (BHC)

RESOLUTION 20-09

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CULVER CITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,952,500 OF BHC PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS FOR THE BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY 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 Culver City has submitted an application for BHC's Prop 1 local assistance grant program for the BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT in the Conservancy territory consistent with the funding source and grant requirements adopted by the BHC in May of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Culver City is a municipality that has a proven record of completing grant projects utilizing various funding sources within each project's stated budget and performance period end date; 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 Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems. Now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE BHC GOVERNING BOARD:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES A GRANT AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,952,500 OF BHC PROP 1 FUNDS TO CULVER CITY FOR THE BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

2. ADOPTS THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 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 September 25, 2020

_____

Keshia Sexton (Chair)

ATTEST: _____

David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General

Greening the Greenway: Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability, Safety, and Accessibility Enhancements

Proposition 1 Grant Funding Proposal

Submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy

By the City of Culver City

August 31, 2020

Contents

State of California — Natural Resources Agency
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

1. GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	
Greening the Greenway: Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability, Safety, and Accessibility Enhancements	$1,952,500	
APPLICANT (Org. Name and Address)	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	
City of Culver City 9770 Culver Boulevard Culver City, CA 90232	$2,800,160	
APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (Name, Title, Phone)		
Charles Herbertson, P.E., Director, City of Culver City Department of Public Works 310-253-5635		
PROJECT ADDRESS (Including Cross-Street)		
Ballona Creek Bike Path, between National Boulevard (Syd Kronenthal Park) and Duquesne Avenue, in Culver City, CA.		
COUNTY	SENATE DISTRICT	ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
Los Angeles	30	54
PERSON W/ DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILY FOR PROJECT (Name, Title, E-mail, Phone)		
Ms. Heba El-Guindy, Manager, Mobility & Traffic Engineering **Heba.El-Guindy@culvercity.org** 310-253-5628		

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Greening the Greenway: Ballona Creek Bike/Ped Path Sustainability, Safety and Accessibility Enhancements Project reduces greenhouse gas emissions by increasing tree canopy and encouraging increased commuter use of a significant 6.7-mile multi-use trail, part of Southern California's Regional Greenway Network. The Project area currently consists of an uneven concrete path segment with no lighting and no shade. These unpleasantly hot and stark conditions deter many would-be users, and render the entire Project segment inaccessible for some users. In addition to ADA accessibility improvements, the Project upgrades drain pipes and grates, replaces 1.1 miles of existing impervious surface with sustainable; permeable materials which reduces runoff into the Ballona Creek, and creates a more comfortable user experience. It installs cameras and solar-powered lights for public safety, plants 116 drought-tolerant native trees for shade/wildlife habit, and improves signage and markings.

TASK / MILESTONE	COST ESTIMATE	COMPLETION DATE
1.Project Management	$ 145,000	12/31/2021
2.Site Preparation	$ 57,000	4/30/2021
3. Green Elements – Planting 116 Trees	$ 530,000	12/31/2021
4. Class I Bike Path	$1,813,600	12/31/2021
5. Contingency	$ 254,560	N/A

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

NAME: Heba El-Guindy, Manager, Mobility and Transportation Engineering Division

SIGNATURE: *Heba El-Guindy* DATE: August 31, 2020

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Need for the project.

Ballona Creek runs through the heart of Culver City, literally and figuratively. At the physical level, its diagonal path connects both Culver City “critically underserved” park-poor residents in the area, and Los Angeles disadvantaged communities near the eastern terminus of both the Bike Path and the Project, at National Blvd. (Syd Kronenthal Park) to a plethora of employment, recreational, entertainment, educational, shopping and civic engagement opportunities.

Culver City is a compact community with relatively high rates of walking and cycling. The City has three major off-street multi-use paths that form the backbone of the bicycle network namely the Ballona Creek path, the Culver Boulevard path, and the Exposition corridor path. Since the adoption of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan in 2010, the City has worked to connect these paths with on-street bicycle facilities to form a more connected network. It should be noted that about one-third of the students attending schools in Culver City walk or bike to schools.

Many years of planning activities, conducted in and by the area’s community residents, volunteer organizations and elected officials and public servants employed by these communities, have resulted in surfacing community needs and solutions that intersect around these themes:

- The Ballona Creek Bike Path is an important community asset that must be maintained and upgraded for mobility, commuting and recreational purposes.
- Restoration of the Ballona Watershed is a shared inter-jurisdictional goal of all Creek-side communities
- Community requests for extending and upgrading the Bike Path have occurred over the last 20 years, most recently in the comments received during an extensive public engagement process conducted by the City to support its June 8, 2020 adoption of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan.

This urban greening Project is one of the actions called out in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan!

The 1.1-mile segment of the Ballona Creek Bike Path that is proposed for the intensive set of enhancements described above is in a condition where it constitutes a "safety, accessibility and comfort gap” between two hiking and biking entrances to the Bike Path which, though utilized, could be used by a greater number of bicyclists and hikers, if these improvements are implemented. Many users will come from adjacent disadvantaged communities, with immediate access at the National Blvd. Gateway. The southern terminus of the Project’s 1.1-mile extent, Duquesne Avenue, connects to the

Park-to-Playa Trail where bicyclists and hikers can gain access to the Baldwin Hills Parklands. Use of the many facilities within the Parklands will improve public health and environmental awareness by bringing more people into touch with nature. Given the limited parking in the parks themselves, there is a need for more non-motorized access from this segment of the Bike Path.

This upgrade of the last segment of the Ballona Creek Bike Path has been decades in the making. Years of collaborative, sustained efforts to revitalize the Creek and the surrounding habitat, and to install the Bike Path as it exists now, have advanced restoration not only of the watershed, but restoration of disparate parts of our communities as well. Both the effort of planning, funding and building the Bike Path and the use of it as it has come into being, has helped reconnect people from diverse neighborhoods and socioeconomic levels, and united those from all ages and stages of life, as we re-engage with nature. The outcomes in terms of increased public health, physical activity, active transportation use on and off the path, and celebration with festivals and public educational art along the Bike Path, have been satisfying to all observers.

Despite this progress, and the commitment of multiple agencies, businesses and volunteer groups over man years, we still need to improve conditions along this trail segment. The City's proposed Greening the Greenway Project would improve the eastern-most 1.1-mile segment of the 6.7-mile Ballona Creek Bike Path: The National Blvd/Jefferson Blvd. Gateway, at Syd Kronenthal Park, and the Duquesne Avenue Gateway. It would replace existing broken, uneven concrete pathway with permeable surface material that would reduce runoff into Ballona Creek. The Project also would improve the comfort and attractiveness of the Bike Path to a wider range of users by planting 116 native trees that will provide 50% shade canopy over the Path, as well as new habitat for wildlife.

Solar lighting and lighting under three bridges will improve safety, and expand the hours of use for the path, especially in darker winter months.

Improved signage, American with Disabilities (ADA) access improvements at the trailheads, and benches, trashcans and fence replacements will add to accessibility and user comfort and safety.

The community wants this to happen! As the network gets built out, the gap created by inadequate facilities on this northernmost 1.1 miles of the Bike Path become more problematic. As part of community outreach for the Culver City Bicycle & Pedestrian Action Plan, residents asked for protected bike lanes and better lighting on the Ballona Creek Bike Path and improved connectivity to the Metro E (Expo) Line Culver City Station (light rail) near the National Blvd. Gateway.

Additionally, there is support for pushing the Bike Path farther east, into the Fairfax area, extending the Regional Greenway, and the environmental and public health benefits it generates. This potential only heightens the urgency to complete the upgrades in the proposed Project, because it would provide the connection to these next-in-line segments. For those using the Bike Path as a commuter mobility option, that extension and this Project, are critical to expanding key employment opportunities for more area residents.

B. Goals and objectives.

There are multiple goals and objectives shared by the City of Culver City and surrounding jurisdictions, that are addressed through implementation of this Project. These are in alignment with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Strategic Plan priority for urban greening projects.

Overall, the Project has two sets of related goals for community access and regional transportation, and for the environment. These are is intended to expand utilization of the entire Bike Path, by improving this segment that connects to key potential users in disadvantaged communities, and in areas severely underserved by access to parks (but for the Bike Path itself!)

Goals, actions, outcomes include the following:

- Goal: Increase use of the Bike Path, as measured by net new users, higher frequency and longer trips by existing users. Such an increase would lead to additional, related outcomes and benefits that accrue to the individual users and/or society and the environment:
    - Outcome: Improved mobility for those without access to a car.
    - Outcome: Decreased cost of transportation for all, especially low-income households.
    - Outcome: Greater access to jobs and other destinations.
    - Outcome: Decreased vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG and criteria pollutant emissions.
    - Outcome: Increased access to Baldwin Hills Parklands and coastal recreation areas and trails.
    - Outcome: Increased livability, walkability and neighborhood safety.
- Goal: Replace old concrete with eco-friendly permeable paving
    - Outcome: Reduced runoff of contaminated water into Ballona Creek, thus improving water quality.
    - Outcome: Greater storage of rainfall, improving groundwater recharge.
- Goal: Expand the urban forest through planting drought-resistant native trees to provide at least 50% tree canopy and shade the trail
    - Outcome: Increased carbon storage.

    - Outcome: New habitat for birds and other wildlife.
    - Outcome: Reduced heat island impacts and provision of needed shade/cooling for trail users and for Creekside environment.
    - Outcome: Improved air quality through reduction of particulates and criteria emissions.
    - Outcome: Enhanced beauty along the trail, to attract users.
- Goal: Replace missing or damaged grates to avoid catching bicycle tires, or cause missteps for hikers.
    - Outcome: Increased safety for users.
- Goal: Install activated lighting along the Path, and install timed lighting under (or abutting to) the three bridge overpasses.
    - Outcome: Increased neighborhood and Greenway safety and security for users, especially women and children.
    - Outcome: Activated solar lighting reduces energy use and light pollution.
- Goal: Improve ADA access and signage at trailheads.
    - Outcome: Greater use by all, as wayfinding is improved and accessibility is expanded.
- Goal: Replace some sections of the fence
    - Outcome: Increased safety for users.

C. Site Description.

The Greening the Greenway Project is located on the easternmost 1.1 miles of the 6.7-mile Ballona Creek Bike Path, between National Blvd (Syd Kronenthal Park) and the next Gateway to the west, at Duquesne Avenue.

The Bike Path is located along the northern bank of Ballona Creek, and the Baldwin Hills Parklands area is immediately adjacent on the south side of the Creek to the segment proposed for improvements. The Parklands which can be accessed at the Duquesne Gateway, via the Park-to-Playa Trail.

The Project will replace the existing concrete surface of the segment between the eastern terminus of the Project at with permeable materials. The existing concrete is uneven, especially at areas where patches have been necessary, and the two access points at the National and Duquesne Gateways pose difficulties to those with mobility impairments, as there are abrupt edges and tight access pathways. It should be noted that although the Bike Path is relatively flat, the ramps down from street level are steep, and cannot feasibly be modified. Thus, many persons with disabilities might require assistance on the ramps themselves. However, the Project will address barriers at the street/trailhead interface.

There are no trees along the 1.1-mile Project segment, and the heat gain from the concrete surface of the bike path as well as the retaining walls is significant, and likely deters users during mid-day, and during the hot summer months.

There is currently no lighting in this area, and there are places where the fencing requires replacement. (Note that the City is contributing this element to the project, as it properly included as maintenance of the Bike Path, rather than an upgrade or modification.)

A number of parcels near the Path and gateways will benefit from the sustainability, safety and accessibility enhancements to the Ballona Creek Bike Path, though they do not have direct access to the path. Coordination with the owner of the Bike Path, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, has been taking place and the City already has a maintenance agreement with the County. It should also be noted that the City's Ballona Creek Revitalization Project has conducted a comprehensive community consultation process including with the surrounding developments/parcels.

D. Specific Tasks.

The specific tasks listed below will result in a successful, sustainable set of improvements to the Ballona Creek Bike Path. The City of Culver City has long experience with these types of public work projects, and has improved the remainder of the Bike Path within its jurisdiction, in a similar fashion. Experienced and dedicated project engineers and managers, the City Arborist and other staff will be tasked to see the project through on schedule and within budget.

Table 1: Greening the Greenway Task Descriptions

#	Task Name	Description
1	Project Management	Activities include: • Planting palette and design support • Obtaining permits/any additional or completion of CEQA • Community outreach and consultation support • Technical consulting/design support • Grants administration
2	Site Preparation	Activities include: • Conduct site clearing and mobilization • Plan and implement traffic control and management • Create and implement Stormwater Protection Plan

3	Green Elements	Activities include: • Remove damaged or diseased trees • Select and procure trees – 15-gallon minimum drought resistant, e.g., She River Oak and California Live Oak • Establish planters and retaining walls at individual tree locations • Plant 116 drought tolerant trees such as She River Oak and California Live Oak. Tree wells and retaining walls will be established to accommodate the new trees. The cost of irrigation will be avoided by watering the trees manually for the first two years until the trees establish strong roots.
4	Upgrade Class I Bike Path	Activities Include: • Break the existing PCC and recycle the concrete by using it as base material; • Install/overlay with a 4" permeable/pervious PCC paving; • Install 60 solar powered lights along the path, as well as add lighting under each of the three overcrossings to enhance sense of safety and increase the path use especially in the evening hours and during winter months; • Replace fencing sections along the Creek and at the main drain pipe for a total length of 300 feet; • Significantly improve signage and pavement markings, install reflectors, add way-finding signs on the street system • Install Prop 1 Funding Acknowledgement signs at visible locations including at the two access locations, as program requires • Improve the access locations at Duquesne Avenue and National Boulevard in order to meet ADA compliance requirements; • Replace seven drain pipes, and install missing grates for safety purposes; and, • Install customized bike racks at three selected locations in addition to benches and trash cans.

Work Products.

Major work products for this Project include:

- Plant palette and final planting design
- Final design of Bike Path improvements
- Completed installation of 116 trees, retaining walls
- Completed installation of permeable pavement, with additional above-listed amenities along the Bike Path (activated lighting, signage, etc.)
- Completed improvements for ADA access at Gateways to Bike Path.

Measuring Success.

State of Good Repair: The City of Culver City is responsible for maintaining the portion of the Ballona Creek Bike Path within its city limits. One measure of success of the sustainability of the Project will be the ongoing state of good repair of the facility itself, as determined by condition of the new surface; health of the trees that are planted as part of the project; functioning of the new activated pathway solar lighting and bridge lighting; condition and appearance of the benches, trash cans and signage; accessibility by persons with disabilities at the trailhead/gateways.

The City will be responsible for monitoring these conditions, and as part of its regular inspection of them, will note any issues that need to be addressed, and allocate resources to address them. These could range from removing graffiti and replacing damaged benches or trash cans, to issues associated with the functionality of the permeable pavement surface. The City of Culver City will closely monitor the health of the trees, through inspection each month during the first three years, as they become established.

Bike Path Utilization and Greenhouse Gas/Criteria Pollutant Reductions: A key indicator of success would be increased use of and satisfaction with the facility by bicyclists and pedestrians. The City proposes to work with a local active transportation advocate to conduct a baseline and annual comparison bike/ped count, with an intercept survey to understand more about user needs, and their trip purposes, motivations (health/no auto available, etc), trip lengths, frequency of use and major destinations. A question about how the Bike Path has affected the frequency of their non-motorized visits to the Baldwin Hills Parklands will be included. These counts and intercept surveys will establish reliable data to use in tools such as those created by California Air Resources Board to calculate reductions in vehicle miles traveled, GHG and criteria pollutant benefits.

Bird Counts: The City will coordinate with local birding advocates and clubs to ensure that the Ballona Creek Bike Path is included in annual counts, such as the voluntary

California Christmas Count. This could establish a timeline for the return of local and migrating bird species to the newly established treed area.

3. PROJECT GRAPHICS

Requested graphics are provided as **Appendix C1** (maps and plans in PDF format) and **Appendix C2** (photos in JPEG format). Additionally, we are including photos of another segment of the Bike Path on which the City has installed a permeable surface.

4. PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Fast-Tracking the Ballona Creek Bike Path—*from Start to Finish by December 31, 2021!*

The City wants to move on this Project, and has directed resources to do that. It has prepared a conceptual plan for the 1.1-mile enhancement project. City Departments and cooperating agencies and organizations have been contacted, and are in support of the Project. They have all committed to moving the Project forward expeditiously, in relation to their respective roles or interests in the Ballona Creek Bike Path, and the Ballona Watershed.

The City's Public Works Department already improved the section of the Ballona Creek Bike Path located to the west of Overland Avenue and will take a similar approach for this project segment between Duquesne Avenue and National Boulevard.

Design and construction of the project are expected to take up to 12 months. The City has allocated five months for final design, permitting and procurement. Although construction can be completed within three to four months, a period of seven months is allocated in the schedule, to allow for unexpected delay.

The project is expected to be categorically exempted as identified by the State Resources Agency and defined in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15300-15331). (See Section 4 (9) and Appendix C.) Permits from the LA County Flood Control District and the Army Corp of Engineers are expected to take three to four months that will be carried out during the design process. The City is already in contact with these agencies about the Project.

A. Budget Matrix – Greening the Greenway (Ballona Creek Bike Path)

The Table below shows allocation of costs and completion date, by task and subtask. The City of Culver City will provide 30% of the total Project cost of $2,800,160, and represents 43% of the request from the BHC Prop 1 grant. If the City’s in-kind staff contributions are included, the City’s share of funding represents 50.1% of the grant request.

Please note: the “F9” function did not work on the table below. Values were manually entered.

Table 2: Budget Matrix - Greening the Greenway (Ballona Creek Bike Path)

Task Number	Task	Completion Date	Applicant's Funding (Dev. Fees + Measure CW (Water Quality Fund)	Baldwin Hills Conservancy Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
1.0	**Project Management**	**12/31/2021**	**$55,000**	**$90,000**		**$145,000**
1.1	Planting Palette/Design Support	4/30/2021	$3,793	$6,207		$10,000
1.2	Permits/CEQA	4/30/2021	$7,586	$12,414		$20,000
1.3	Community Outreach & Consultation Support	4/30/2021	$7,586	$12,414		$20,000
1.4	Technical Consulting/Design Support	4/30/2021	$36,034	$58,966		$95,000
2.0	**Site Preparation**	**6/15//2021**	**$22,000**	**$35,000**		**$57,000**
2.1	Clearing and Mobilization	6/15//2021	$12,351	$19,649		$32,000
2.2	Traffic Control & Management	6/15//2021	$5,789	$9,211		$15,000
2.3	Stormwater Protection Plan	6/15//2021	$3,860	$6,140		$10,000
3.0	**Install Green Elements**	**12/31/2021**	**$150,000**	**$380,000**		**$530,000**
3.1	Remove Damaged or Diseased Trees	12/31/2021	$2,264	$5,736		$8,000
3.2	Native Trees-15 Gallon Min. Drought resistant, such as CA Live	12/31/2021	$9,849	$24,951		$34,800

	Oak, or She River Oak					
3.3	Planters and Retaining Walls at Individual Trees	12/31/2021	$137,887	$349,313		$487,200
4.0	**Upgrade Class I Bike Path**	**12/31/2021**	**$543,600**	**$1,270,000**		**$1,813,600**
4.1	Break Up Damaged Concrete & Use as Base	12/31/2021	$87,043	$203,357		$290,400
4.2	4" Permeable, Pervious PCC Paving	12/31/2021	$261,129	$610,071		$871,200
4.3	Solar Powered Lights Along Path	12/31/2021	$107,905	$252,095		$360,000
4.4	Lights under 3 Overcrossings	12/31/2021	$22,480	$52,520		$75,000
4.5	Replace Large Drain Pipes and Grates (if missing or requiring reconstruction due to new surface)	12/31/2021	$7,344	$17,156		$24,500
4.6	Replace Sections of Fence	12/31/2021	$5,395	$12,605		$18,000
4.7	Install Signs along the Path	12/31/2021	$2,398	$5,602		$8,000
4.8	Install Funding Acknowledgement & Wayfinding Signs	12/31/2021	$2,997	$7,003		$10,000
4.9	Striping and Markings, Symbols for Path	12/31/2021	$17,984	$42,016		$60,000
4.10	Install Benches & Trash Cans	12/31/2021	$3,597	$8,403		$12,000

4.11	Install Customized Bike Racks	12/31/2021	$1,349	$3,151		$4,500
4.12	Construct Accessibility Improvements at Both Access Points, including Accessible Ramps and Short Segments of Sidewalk Widening	12/31/2021	$23,979	$56,021		$80,000
5.0	**Construction Contingency**	**12/31/2021**	**$77,060**	**$177,500**		**$254,560**
TOTAL		**12/31/2021**	**$847,660**	**$1,952,500**	**$ 0**	**$2,800,160**

B. In-Kind Services

Staff of the City's Public Works (PW) Department (Engineering and Mobility & Traffic Engineering Divisions) will oversee and manage the project including administration of the grant fund if awarded and associated reporting. It should be noted that PW staff will personally contribute to all phases of the project including design, community consultation, and construction. For example, the referenced budgets for the design and outreach are only for consultants' support since some of the work will be carried out by City staff. Similarly costs of the traffic control, replacement of the fence, installation of bike racks, and installation of furnishings are only for materials, while the work/labor will be performed by City staff.

Public Works staff including civil and traffic engineers, analysts, and operational crew will work on this project during the different phases/tasks relevant to their functions.

The City will also be responsible for the project's construction management and inspection. It should also be noted that no budget is assumed for watering of the trees (for at least the first two years) and other maintenance operations since they will be conducted/absorbed as part of the City's regular maintenance operations.

Together, the value of the estimated in-kind contributions is $130,000, broken down as follows:

Table 3: Estimated Value of Culver City In-Kind Contributions

Culver City Contribution	Estimated Value
Grant Administration	$4,000
Project Management	$15,000
Staff Participation in Tasks (throughout)	$29,000
Traffic Control (associated with path construction activities and ADA improvements at the accesses) and installation of wayfinding signs on the road system.	$12,000
Construction Management and Inspection	$10,000
Fencing Replacement (Labor)	$6,000
Installation of Bike Racks (Labor)	$1,500
Installation of Furnishings (Labor)	$2,500
Manual Watering of Trees for two years	$25,000
Data collection and analysis of Before and After Surveys of Bike Path Users	$25,000
TOTAL VALUE	**$130,000**

6. 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.

> The Project provides localized tree canopy to reduce heat islands along the Creek. It provides an affordable non-motorized mobility option for low-income and disadvantaged communities living along or near Ballona Creek, providing access for recreational and tourist uses as well, to coastal

☐ 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.

NOT APPLICABLE

✓ 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.

> Project provides significant upgrade of a Regional Greenway (Ballona Creek Bike Path). This urban greening project provides new tree canopy and wildlife habitat, permeable surfaces to reduce runoff, and enhanced safety and comfort for area residents.

✓ Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.

> Installation of 116 drought-tolerant native trees provides new nesting habitat for birds. Trees will be low-pollen in order to reduce human health impacts and potential contamination of the watershed.

☐ Fulfill the obligations of the state of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.

NOT APPLICABLE

☐ Remove barriers to fish passage.

NOT APPLICABLE

☐ Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.

NOT APPLICABLE

☐ Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.

NOT APPLICABLE

✓ 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. **[See below]**

✓ Protect and restore coastal watersheds including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and near shore ecosystems. **[See below]**

✓ 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. **[See below]**

✓ Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, in stream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation. **[See below]**

The Project helps achieve all four Proposition 1 Goals listed immediately above, as follows: Per 'iTree' calculator, the trees will intercept up to 11.27 million gallons of rainfall, and avoid 4.2 million gallons of runoff into Ballona Creek. This may be high, however, because we are planting the trees in wells within a slanted, impervious retaining wall, and we were not able to include this factor in the spreadsheet calculator. However, that "negative" might be offset by the fact that we are also replacing 1.13 acres of concrete with a pervious surface for the enhanced Bike Path component of the Project.

The trees proposed for planting along the Bike Path will remove 20,231 lbs of ozone, avoid 82 lbs of NOX and remove 4,639.1 lbs of NOx; avoid 288.3 lbs of SOx, and remove 124.7 lbs. of SOx; avoid 801.6 lbs. of VOC, and avoid 514.6 lbs. of PM2.5 and remove 287.7 lbs. of PM 2.5

☐ Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

NOT APPLICABLE

2. Conservation Corps.

For restoration and ecosystem protection projects, Grantee to include each signed and completed **Corps Consultation Review** Document as evidence that applicant has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Attachment 1 to this application.

The City reached out to both the state and local Conservation Corps, as directed by the program guidance. The City received a response (**Appendix A**) indicating that the CCC Corpsmembers from the Los Angeles Satellite Center indicating they could assist with breaking existing PCC to use as base; constructing tree wells; planting 100+ trees; improving signage, fencing, and pavement markings; and installing grates, benches, and bike racks.

Corpsmembers from the Norwalk Energy Hub indicated they could assist with solar lighting installation.

If awarded, the City will reach out to both Corps, to discuss costs and schedule, and make final negotiations based on availability of needed skills at the time of construction.

3. Consistency with other State Plans

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

By encouraging non-motorized transportation on the Bike Path, the Project supports Action 4. “Develop a priority order for State transportation investments” which places active transportation options first on the list of mobility options. The Project supports Goal 2 (reducing petroleum use by up to 50 percent by 2030); Goal 4 (reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants). By planting 116 native, drought-tolerant shade trees, it supports Goal 5 (stewarding natural resources to ensure that they store carbon and are resilient.)

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

This Project constitutes an urban greening strategy, specifically included to reduce impacts of extreme heat events. The Project reduces heat island impacts through expanding the urban forest canopy by planning 116 drought-tolerant shade trees.

✓ **California Water Action Plan**

By replacing 1.1 miles of concrete bike path with permeable material, the Project supports Action 4 (“Protect and restore important ecosystems”) and Action 6 (“Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management”).

✓ **CA Wildlife Action Plan**

The Project aligns with the Plan's 2025 goals for increasing the percentage of acres (5% over 2015 baseline) where native species are dominant, especially for riparian and watershed areas. This is included throughout the plan, but notably in Conservation Strategy 7 (Management Planning) which directs the encouragement of appropriate site-specific native riparian plants for adjacent landscaping.

✓ **California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California**

Although the location might not be included in an essential connectivity area, the Project provides an opportunity to increase the size and continuity of urban forest canopy in the South Coast Ecoregion. This could be viewed as an enhancement action in a highly human-altered environment. The document also notes the importance of riparian corridors to maintain or restore ecological connectivity.

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

NOT APPLICABLE

4. California Water Action Plan.

✓ **California Water Action Plan**

By improving water quality by establishing 1.1 miles of urban forest and increasing groundwater storage by replacing concrete bike path with permeable material, the City's Project supports Action 2 ("Increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government"); Action 4 ("Protect and restore important ecosystems"); and Action 6 ("Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management").

✓ **Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan**

This urban greening Project improves an underutilized section of the Regional Greenway, and provides enhanced pedestrian and bicycle trail connectivity to the Baldwin Hills Parklands. It advances goals 4, 6 and 9 of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan. It is in strong alignment with the vision of the Master Plan (2002) which provides the conceptual guidance and goals for projects that impact the area, in that:

- It provides improved access to the regional resource that constitutes the urban park areas within the Baldwin Hills, especially for disadvantaged communities;

- It reduces the need for vehicle access to the Baldwin Hills Parklands, which have limited vehicle parking options;
- It improves the sustainability, functionality and attractiveness of the Ballona Creek Bike Path, a significant element in the Regional Greenway Network;
- Its design for significantly expanded shade canopy and permeable trail surfaces conserve resources and protect water quality along Ballona Creek; and
- It is responsive to recent input from park-poor communities.

✓ **Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**

The South Bay Subregion Plan notes the importance of the Ballona Wetlands and the Baldwin Hills, connected by or adjacent to the Ballona Creek Bike Path, respectively. Though upstream from restoration efforts in the Lower Ballona Ecoystem Restoration project area, the City's Project, which includes planting of 116 native trees along the Creek, will provide new habitat for birds and other wildlife.

✓ **Indicators of Climate Change in California Report (EPIC)**

The Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing non-motorized transportation as use of the improved Bike Path increases. It will reduce one of the impacts of climate change (heat) by providing 1.1 miles of new urban forest tree canopy along the Ballona Creek Watershed.

✓ **Ballona Creek Revised Enhanced Watershed Management Program (BC EWMP)**

The Project supports the EWMP by including an identified Best Management Practice (BMP) for green infrastructure deemed critical to improving water quality compliance in the Ballona Creek Watershed, i.e., permeable pavement that helps prevent runoff from leaving the Bike Path.

5. Best Scientific Practices.

In 2003, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy developed the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway Environmental and Recreational Enhancement Study. In 2004, Culver City produced the Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study. These led to the Bay Foundation spearheading the Greenway Plan in 2010, which defined four "reaches" or segments of the Creek for revitalization. and Greenway Projects in 2011 to reflect ideas of stakeholders, designed to:

1. Reconnect residents with Ballona Creek
2. Create access points and trails
3. Enhance habitat
4. Mitigate stormwater runoff

5. Redevelop land for improved watershed health
6. Increase health and sustainability of the region

The BHC Greening the Greenway Project advances important elements of the Urban Greening Plan by implementing identified Common Best Management Practices (BMPs) from that plan, including:

1. Installing pervious paving
2. Creating an urban forest and greenway landscape
3. Connecting to complete streets (with bicycle/pedestrian facilities)

The proposed Bike Path Project implements many of the recommendations coming from that effort, which have been reconfirmed by the community through a series of comprehensive public engagement processes associated with numerous plans and visioning processes in the intervening 10 years.

Thus, the replacement of impervious with permeable surfaces constitutes a best management practice for pathways along key watersheds such as Ballona Creek. The City has reviewed, and up until the time of final design and materials procurement, will continue to monitor evolving best scientific practices to guide final specifications, selection and installation of permeable pavement that will maximize performance over the longest possible lifecycle, and a design that is manageable in terms of maintenance. The City will consider lifecycle GHG and criteria pollutant factors (from cradle-to-grave, or cradle-to-cradle) along with recyclability of the material itself. The City's intention to break up and use the existing concrete pathway *in situ* as a foundation layer for the permeable surface will avoid the need to truck the concrete to a landfill.

6. New Technology.

The City is opting for tried and true best practices for improving the Bike Path, in terms of drought tolerant, native species; permeable path materials; solar lighting and other ancillary infrastructure.

7. Sustainability.

The native, drought-tolerant trees proposed for planting along the 1.1-mile segment live at least 100 years, and in the case of California Live Oak, often more than 500 years. These will provide shade, habitat and GHG s.

As mentioned above, planting of 116 California Live Oaks will sequester 1,913,946 lbs. of CO2, per the i-Tree Planting Calculator. This is using a lifetime of 40 years for Project, though the Live Oak can live easily up to 500 years or more. We feel the tool was not entirely appropriate to our project, which is along a channeled waterway, not buildings. However the shading of the Bike Path and waterway (eventually, as the 50-

foot canopy of the Live Oaks is realized) there will be significant benefit extending to shade of the actual Creek.

We have also calculated GHG reductions due to the enhancement of 1.1 miles of a Bike Path used extensively by commuters. The CARB tool estimates 1,288 metric tons of CO2e reduced over 20 years. The City proposed to validate this estimate through the use of bike/ped user counts and intercept surveys, to establish baseline and post-completion data.

8. Project and Applicant History:

Collaborative Process. The Ballona Creek Task Force, established by the City to carry out that mission of watershed restoration and enhanced use of the Bike Path, includes a dozen multi-jurisdictional public agencies; local school districts, community colleges and public and private universities; more than a dozen non-profits such as Ballona Creek Renaissance and the Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Culver City Walk 'n Rollers and Mujeres de la Terra; and significant local industry and business representation, from Apple to California Greenworks to The Culver Studios and many more.

Two of the most recent and most pertinent public engagement efforts are described below.

First, Culver City has just adopted its 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan. This update to the City's first plan (the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan) moves the City to the next level of prioritized investments in active transportation gap closures, facility enhancements and safety and accessibility improvements.

During a comprehensive community-wide public engagement process beginning in 2017 and leading up to the June 2020 adoption of the new Action Plan, the Ballona Creek Bike Path emerged as a continued highlight of public interest. Comments included requests for more and better connectivity to the Bike Path, as well as support for extending the Path farther east, into the Mid-City area. Requests for lighting and public safety concerns were also recorded. These are being addressed in this Project.

Input was provided in English and Spanish, in a variety of forums, including an innovative interactive comment map that elicited nearly 600 public comments.

Second, the Ballona Creek Revitalization Project Task Force held numerous workshops between 2018 and Fall 2019 to take the next steps in advancing an "audacious plan" to extend and restore the entire Ballona Creek watershed, from the oceanside wetlands all the way into the Fairfax area in the eastern Mid-City area.

The Task Force and many others in the community are in full support of this Project, and will contribute to design details such as the precise pervious surface to be deployed, during final design.

Respect for Tribal Voices. In consideration of "ancient demographics," the City of Culver City has wanted to demonstrate respect for the indigenous peoples displaced centuries ago, and so have made an introductory meeting with Tongva Tribal Elders, in an effort to understand and incorporate current Tongva Tribal Member concerns and desires into the future visioning of a restored watershed. The Tribal voices will be included in final design, as well.

Network Synergies. This "biking and walking" culture within the City has grown, and the new 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan (adopted June 8, 2020) moves more boldly into filling out the active transportation grid, and ensuring that the City has north/south connections to the Ballona Creek Bike Path. The revitalization of Ballona Creek and the buildout of the Ballona Creek Greenway Plan create much of the larger vision of a fully connected and revitalized Ballona Creek Watershed/Path. This Project is one identified interim step toward that vision.

Nature and Culture United on the Bike Path. As additional context, Culver City is one of the early homes of film production in Los Angeles, and hosts a vibrant Arts District, just blocks from the National Gateway to Ballona Creek Bike Path. Cultural creatives from Culver City as well as the City of Los Angeles have created beautiful murals along the Bike Path's retaining walls, which themselves have become destinations. The Proposed enhancement with native trees will complete and complement the murals' cultural adornments.

9. Environmental Review:

The proposed project…. (select the appropriate answer):

☐ 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.

The City of Culver City has determined that under Art. 19 Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), Class 1, example (c), "operation, repair, maintenance...or minor alteration of existing public or private structures..." of "Existing...bicycle and pedestrian trails" this proposed replacement of a concrete path with environmentally friendly permeable paving, and the addition of 116 drought-tolerant, native shade trees on a 1.1-mile segment of the existing Ballona Creek Bike Path is Categorically Exempt.

Please see **Appendix D,** CEQA Notice of Exemption. This completed form, which, in consultation with Los Angeles Flood Control and the Army Corps of Engineers, will be filed by the City if awarded. If the Conservancy requests, the City will proceed with CEQA document prior to award. Please note that the City has included scope, schedule and budget for this activity, as described in this application.

☐ Requires Negative Declaration, MND, or EIR. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date. Please note that the Conservancy will need to review and approve any CEQA document and cannot present a project to the Conservancy Board for funding consideration without a completed CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: **http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html**.

10. Support

The City enjoys the support of a broad range of local and regional stakeholders, and has received enthusiastic support letters from eight organizations (with a promise from US Army Corps of Engineers for a ninth letter) with wide representation within and beyond the City boundaries, as follows:

1. Ballona Creek Renaissance (representing multi-jurisdictional support)
2. Bike Culver City
3. City of Culver City, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
4. City Council and Mayor, City of Culver City
5. Culver City Unified School District
6. Walk ‘n Rollers (Culver City Safe Routes to School)
7. Women on Bikes, Culver City
8. Los Angeles County Flood Control District
9. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PENDING)

These letters are attached as **Appendix E.**

11. Regional Significance

The Ballona Creek Bike Path is a significant component of Southern California's Regional Greenway Network and is included in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted regional transportation plan, Connect SoCal (May 2020). It truly is a regional connector!

The Syd Kronenthal Park trailhead (i.e., the National/Jefferson Gateway) provides access to Disadvantaged Communities in the Mid-Cities area. This National Blvd. Gateway to Ballona Creek Bike Path opens up a world of recreational access for urban-dwellers. Heading to the Duquesne Gateway, bicyclists or hikers can reach the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, the Stoneview Nature Center, local and state parks, via the

Parks-to-Playa Trail system connecting South Los Angeles to Culver City and the beaches.

In addition to delivering habitat and sustainability benefits for the Ballona Creek Watershed, the proposed enhancements allow more bicyclists and walkers to enjoy the extensive connections afforded by this major Regional Greenway multi-use trail, which links to a wide array of important destinations and mobility hubs. For example, at the Project's National Gateway, located in both critically underserved and disadvantaged communities, there are connections to the Metro Expo Bike Path, the Metro E Line light-rail station at Culver Blvd., Culver City and Metro bus stops, Syd Kronenthal Park and Baldwin Hills Elementary School. This Gateway is also within a short walk to the Culver City Arts District and the historic Helms Bakery District.

At the western end of the proposed 1.1-mile Project, the Duquesne Gateway, the Path connects to the Baldwin Hills Parklands via the Park-to-Playa Trail. Here, users can enter a complex of parks including the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, the Stoneview Natura Center, the Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Center and Culver City Park. These trails and parks are also accessible from the disadvantaged communities, via La Cienega Blvd. This is particularly important for residents of Culver City and the City of Los Angeles in surrounding census tracts which have significantly fewer than 3.0 useable acres of parks per person.

Alternatively, a Bike Path user could turn north on Duquesne Ave., and reach the walkable Downtown Culver City area and civic center, featuring extensive employment and commercial opportunities. Heading father down the Bike Path to Overland Ave., there are, K-12 schools and West Los Angeles Community College, the popular Julian Dixon Public Library, and the Culver City Transit Center (via a planned Overland-to-Transit Center Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection).

Ultimately, the Ballona Creek Bike Path continues west through the Ballona Wetlands, and terminates at Marina del Rey, where it conjoins the 22-mile Marvin Braude Coastal Bike Trail. From that trail, users can cycle or ride north to Santa Monica and south to Torrance.

To improve one segment of this regional system of trails and bike lanes, connected to transit, employment and major parks and schools, is to light up the whole network.

We call out the significant environmental education facilities at the Stonewall Nature Center, providing respite and stirring new appreciation for nature from young people and their parents who spend too much time in a harsh, urbanized environment. Stonewall Nature Center not only helps foster respect and reverence for our natural environment, but Center programming also encourages young people to pursue

environmental careers, through exposure to inspiring professionals who are helping keep the green space green.

Source Facebook Page at https://www.communitynatureconnection.org/event-details/bipoc-in-environmental-careers-panel?fbclid=IwAR226IrjDyDAe7pLphrpx2cbq7szIe2tfwDgovNfp8633Z9bFk97nPw7EIo

12. Disadvantaged Communities

This Project benefits a disadvantaged community (income) and critically underserved areas (park-poor areas that would benefit by the improvements in the facility proposed herein). The City has included three California State Parks FactFinder Reports which, collectively, account for the residential areas immediately adjacent to the two Ballona Creek Bike Path gateways within the Project Area. The three reports are included in **Appendix F** and are discussed below.

According to the California State Parks Community FactFinder Report, the three half-mile radius areas around both trailhead access points, or "Gateways" to the Ballona Creek Bike Path qualify as "critically underserved" because they have less than the threshold for severely underserved, defined as fewer than 3.0 park acres per 1,000

residents. As Table X shows, the park acres per 1,000 residents ranges from 0.74 to 1.65.

This area at the south/eastern end of the Project (also the current eastern terminus of the entire Ballona Creek Bike Path), the half-mile around the National Blvd. Gateway (accessed through Syd Kronenthal Park) is also a Low-Income Community, with a per capital income of $38,022, and includes two census tracts at the trailhead which are also defined as SB 535 disadvantaged communities in CalEnviroScreen 3.0. and low-income under AB 1550.

The area around Duquesne Gateway, at the eastern terminus of the PROJECT Area (not the Bike Path) City residents suffer from a relative lack of recreational space—only 0.74 acres per 1,000 population, compared to 8.10 acres for LA County. (ThinkHealthLA.Org).

Obviously, neither of these calculations include the access to the Park-to-Playa – Ballona Creek Connection that creates both communities' access to the Baldwin Hills parks and trails that lies between Culver City, Mid-City LA and South LA. But this relative paucity of parks for area residents heightens the importance of a safe active transportation facility that gives 28,848 people in the immediate Project Area cycling/walking access to the extensive recreational opportunities at Baldwin Hills, via the Ballona Creek Bike Path. Additional recreational facilities and the fabulous California coast and its beaches and docks, are accessible at the western terminus of the Bike Path.

Particulates pose a health risk for area residents. The entire Project Area registers 82nd percentile for PM2.5—the small particulates that damage lungs (especially in children, the elderly and the health-compromised) most. Although Culver City enjoys the relative benefit of ocean breezes that help lower its pollution burden, the majority of every ton of particulates, ROG, NOx, SOx and CO generated in Culver City blows inland to add to the burden of its neighbors. Culver City, like all communities, requires a built environment that invites bicycling/walking and ensures the safety of all ages of active transportation users. The Project will reduce vehicle miles traveled and thus particulates and other criteria pollutants—benefits which will accrue to those inland to Culver City.

The Project also benefits users of the Bike Path by planting 116 native trees that actually help avoid 514.6 lbs. of PM2.5 and remove 287.7 lbs. of PM 2.5, and this will be a localized benefit to the users of the Bike Path as they are breathing deeply during physical activity.

Table 4 summarizes key demographics in the areas around the two Bike Path gateways, and Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the distribution of low-income areas. Note

that all three areas include pockets of disadvantaged communities, and one of the three includes severely disadvantaged communities.

Intended users include all residents of the communities within bicycling or walking distance of the two Bike Path Gateways (at National Blvd., and at Duquesne Ave.) At a minimum this includes the populations summarized in **Table 4**. The table shows that 4% of households (1,286 households) and this group (and others) may well use the 6.7-mile Bike Path as a commuter route and/or a recreational route.

We are also targeting those accessing the Gateways by light rail or bus, through the addition of wayfinding signs that highlight the intermodal active transportation routes that are newly possible as transit and bicycle lanes are introduced more intensively in the area.

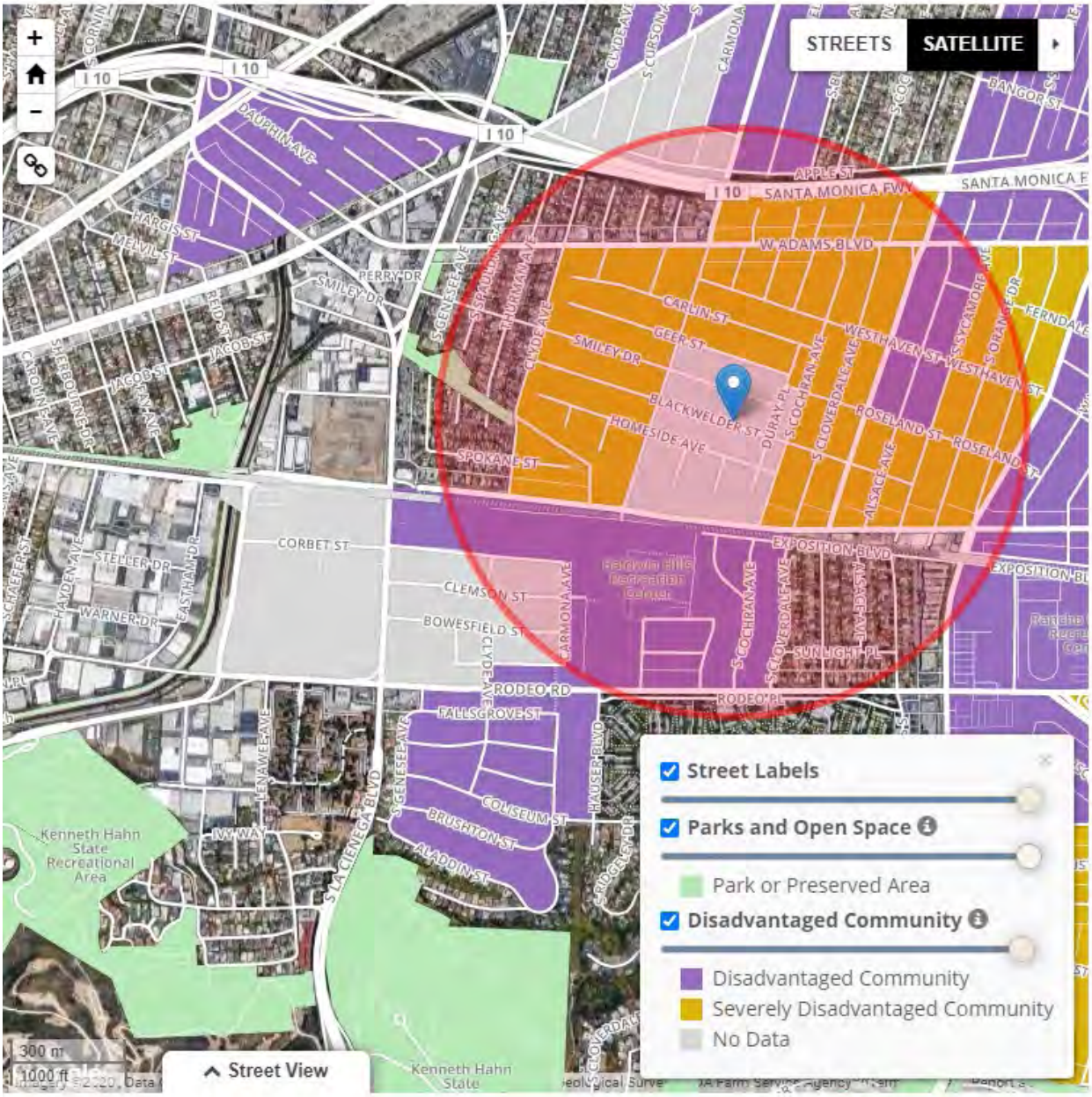
With a youth population of nearly 5,000 and another 5,100 living in poverty, additional access to a low-cost transportation option that provides health benefits as well, rises in importance.

Table 4. Disadvantaged Community Metrics at Ballona Creek Bike Path Gateways

California State Parks Community FactFinder Report Summary: Culver City "Greening The Greenway" Project											
Ballona Creek Bike Path Gateway Access	**California State Parks Report Project ID**	**City**	**Total Population**	**Youth Population**	**Senior Population**	**Households without Access to a Car**	**Number of People in Poverty**	**Median Household Income (MHHI)**	**Per Capita Income**	**Park Acres**	**Park Acres per 1,000 Residents**
***(National Boulevard (South/East)**	12237	Los Angeles	11,845	2,615	1,129	436	3,530	$50,168	$28,831	12.91	* 1.09
National Boulevard (North/East)	12238	Culver City	6,302	865	785	300	585	$85,060	$44,927	10.38	* 1.65
Duquesne Avenue	12240	Culver City	10,701	1,392	974	550	987	$88,670	$57,294	7.91	* 0.74
Total			28,848	4,872	2,888	1,286	5,102				
Percent of Total Population				17%	10%	4%	18%				
* Disadvantaged Community per California State Parks definition of MHHI between $42,737 and $56,982											
* Critically Underserved Communities - defined as those whose residents have fewer than 3.0 park acres per 1,000 residents											

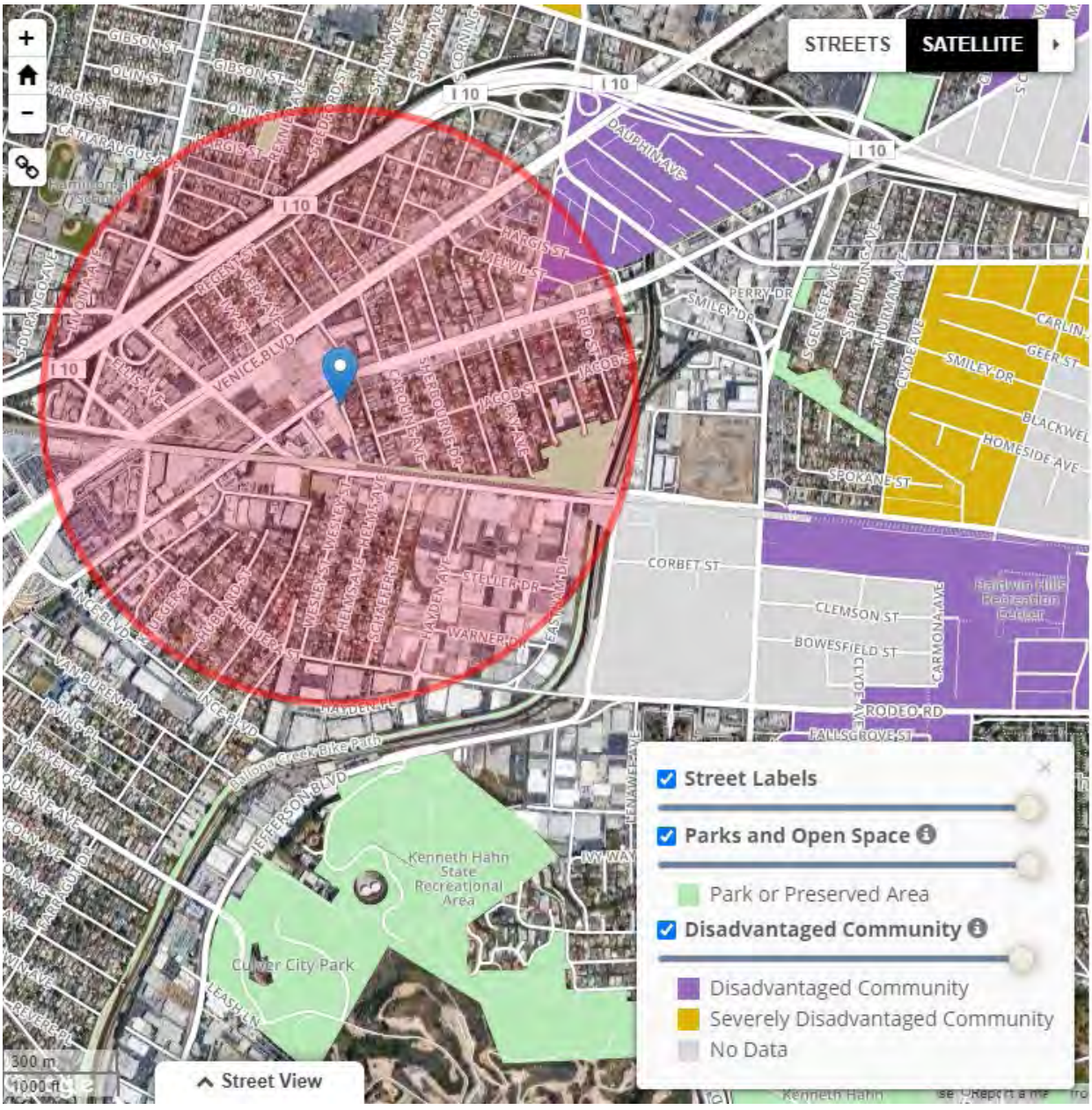
Source: https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities Data

Figure 1. Community FactFinder Map—Ballona Creek Bike Path-National Gateway, South/East (City of Los Angeles)



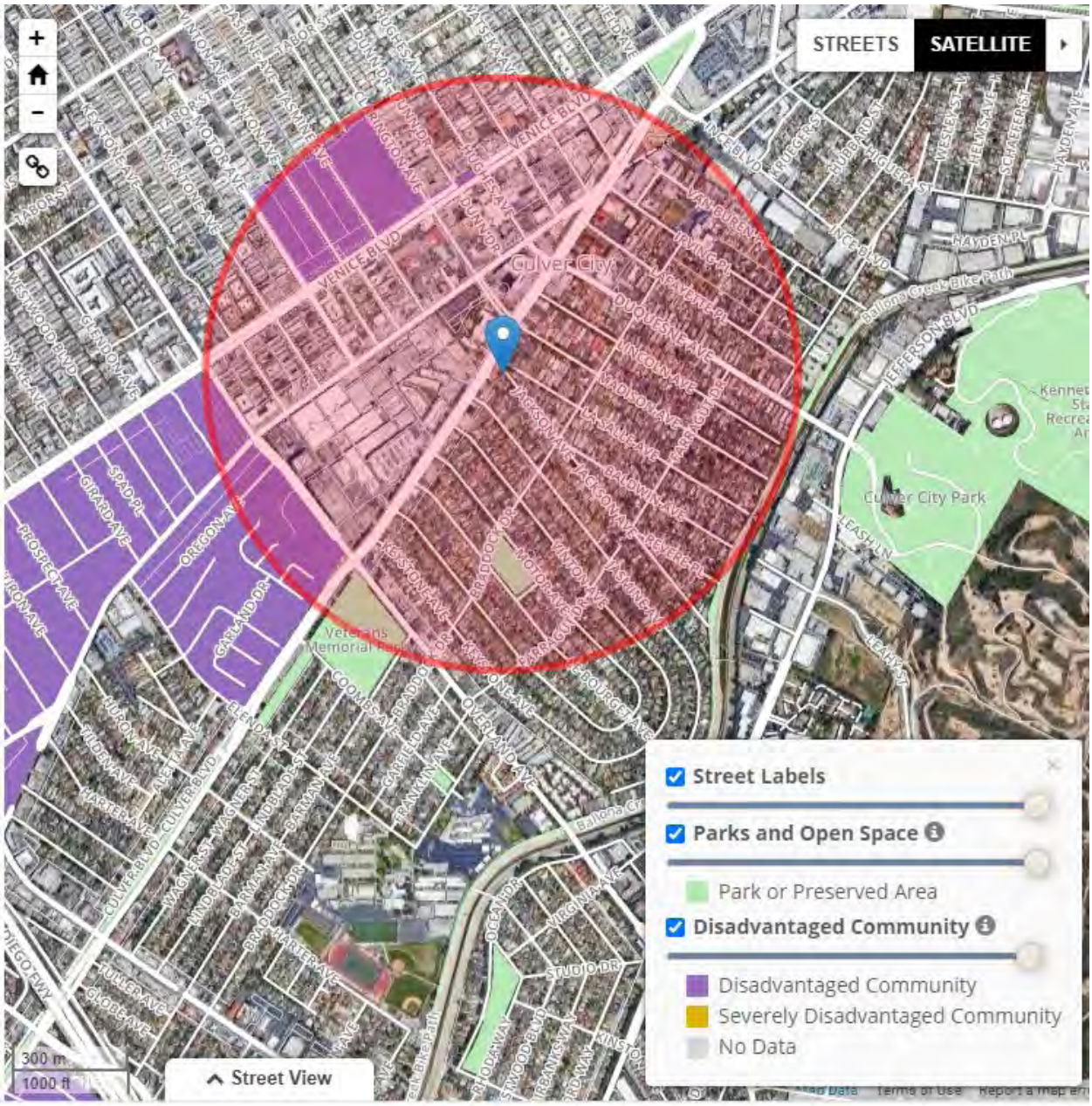
Source 1 https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities

Figure 2. Community FactFinder Map: Ballona Creek Bike Path- National Gateway – North/East (Culver City and Los Angeles)



Source 2https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities

Figure 3. Community FactFinder Map: Duquesne Gateway (Culver City)



Source 3https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities

13. Need for Conservancy Funds

Without Conservancy funds, this Project could not go forward. This last 1.1 miles of the Ballona Creek Bike Path have long been planned, and with COVID-19 impacts to local tax and fee revenues, this critical gap closure project could languish, thus denying needed access to disadvantaged (median household income) and critically underserved (park access per 1,000 residents) communities.

The City has been gradually collecting development fees from development projects that are abutting to, or near the Ballona Creek Bike Path. As shown in the Engineering Cost Estimates, the City's Public Works Department will leverage the BHC Prop 1 grant fund with development fees in all phases of the project. Additional leverage fund will be paid using Measure CW fund. Measure CW was placed on the ballot (November 2016) by the City Council of the City of Culver City to create a dedicated source of funding to pay for water quality programs that will prevent pollution from reaching the region's waterways, beaches and the Ballona Creek Estuary.

Without the Greening the Greenway Project, the City, and the region, will not reap the full benefits of a restored and upgraded Bike Path in this segment, which constitutes the east-west Class I bicycle/pedestrian facility for the entire mid-cities and west side cities area. Thus, without the proposed improvements, the following competed, funded and/or planned investments will not realize their potential:

- The City has invested in Ballona Creek Bike Path Ramp at Higuera Street (access to Hayden Tract and Culver City);
- The City has applied for a Caltrans Active Transportation Program grant to complete a north-south connection on Overland, Playa St. and Hannum Avenue that connects Mar Vista’s bicycle boulevard on Venice Blvd to the Transit Center at Hannum and Slauson. This Project brings a protected Class IV Bike Lane right up to the Overland Gateway to the Ballona Creek Bike Path.

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

California, including project areas such as this one, albeit within a coastal area, is vulnerable to drought. The City is addressing this in two ways. First, the plant palette will include only drought-resistant trees, thus reducing potential risk of tree loss during the life of the project. Further, the City will hand water the trees during the first years, as they become established. The City Arborist will determine when the trees are strong enough to stop supplemental watering, though emergency watering will always be an option to maintain the health of the trees during extreme heat or drought events.

Second, the City is selecting trees that will establish significant canopies, casting shade on the path and providing some amount of cooling, as well as nesting bird habitat, thus mitigating climate change impacts in those respects.

15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:

This Project results in reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The Ballona Creek Bike Path is not only a regional recreational attraction, it is also a significant bicycle commuter pathway, connecting residential neighborhoods, including many disadvantaged communities on the east end of the Bike Path, to jobs-rich areas in Culver City (e.g., the Hayden Tract and downtown

Culver City, accessible at Duquesne, and the Westfield Mall, accessible at the Overland Gateway) and in the beach communities accessible from the western terminus of the Bike Path.

Additionally, bicycle commuters can access Metro Rail E Line adjacent to the National/Syd Kronenthal Park to the Bike Path, and the Culver City Transit Center at Slauson and Sepulveda. Both light rail and bus connections permit bicycles on board, and thus extend the reach of the Ballona Creek Bike Path to the entire regional transit network, along with all the employment, recreational, civic and social destinations in Southern California. This further reduces VMT and GHG emissions.

Planting of 116 California Live Oaks will sequester 1,913,946 lbs. of CO2, per the i-Tree Planting Calculator. This is using a lifetime of 40 years for Project, though Live Oaks can easily live 100 years, and typically reach the ages of 200-500 years.

No irrigation is planned as part of this project in order to reduce the overall cost of the project and increase the likelihood of its implementation. However, it is critical that thte trees be supported as they become established, and that diseased or damaged trees be replaced, in order to achieve the desired carbon sequestration benefits over time. For the first couple of years, City staff will water the trees as part of the regular maintenance to ensure their survival and growth. Following the first couple of years, these trees are expected to require less maintenance. However, the City's Arborist and Public Works crew will continue to monitor the condition of the trees beyond the first couple of years and maintain them as needed.

We feel the tool was not entirely appropriate to our project, which is along a channeled waterway, not buildings. However, the shading of the Bike Path and waterway (eventually, as the 50-foot canopy of the Live Oaks is realized) will provide significant benefit by extending shade of the actual Creek.

We have also calculated GHG reductions due to the enhancement of 1.1 miles of a Bike Path used extensively by commuters. The CARB tool estimates 1,288 metric tons of CO2e reduced over 20 years.

16. Willing Seller

Not Applicable.

Appendix A: California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps

Appendix B: City of Culver City Resolution

Appendix C1: Project Graphics – Maps and Plans

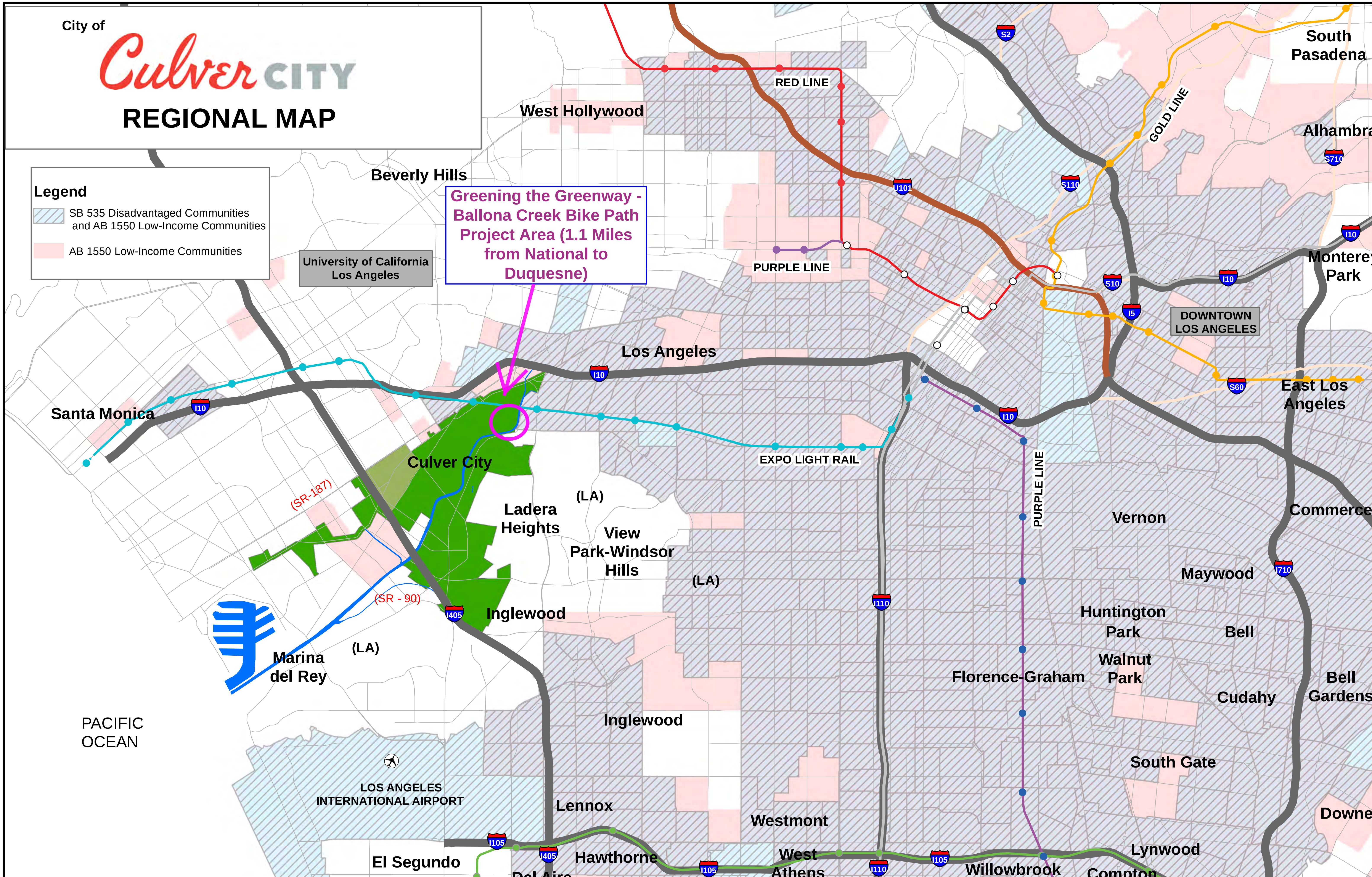
Appendix C2: Project Graphics – Photos of Project Area (JPEGs)

Appendix C3: Project Graphics – Photos of Adjacent Bike Path Segments (JPEGs)

Appendix D: California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption

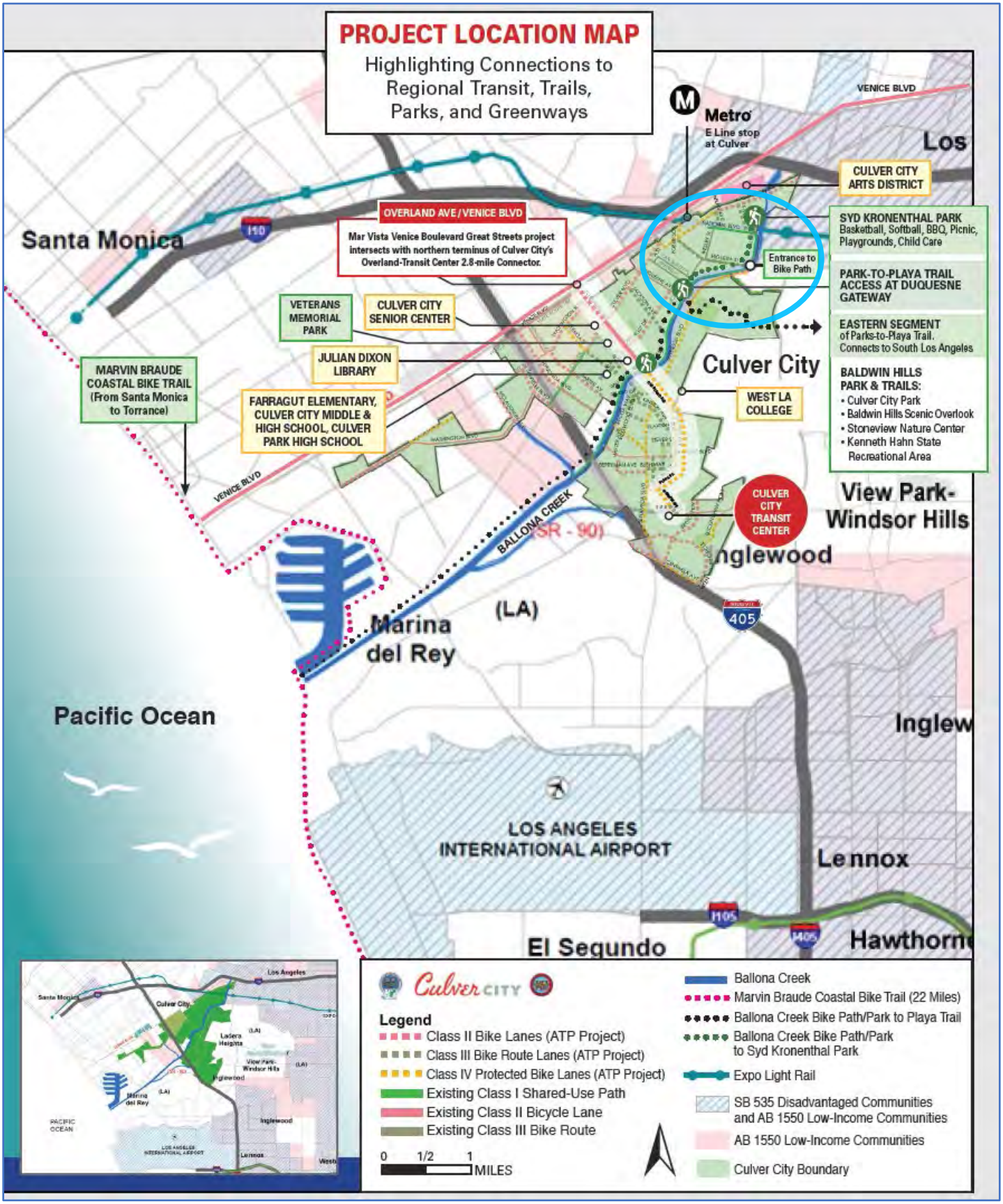
Appendix E: Support Letters

Appendix F: California State Parks Community FactFinder Reports

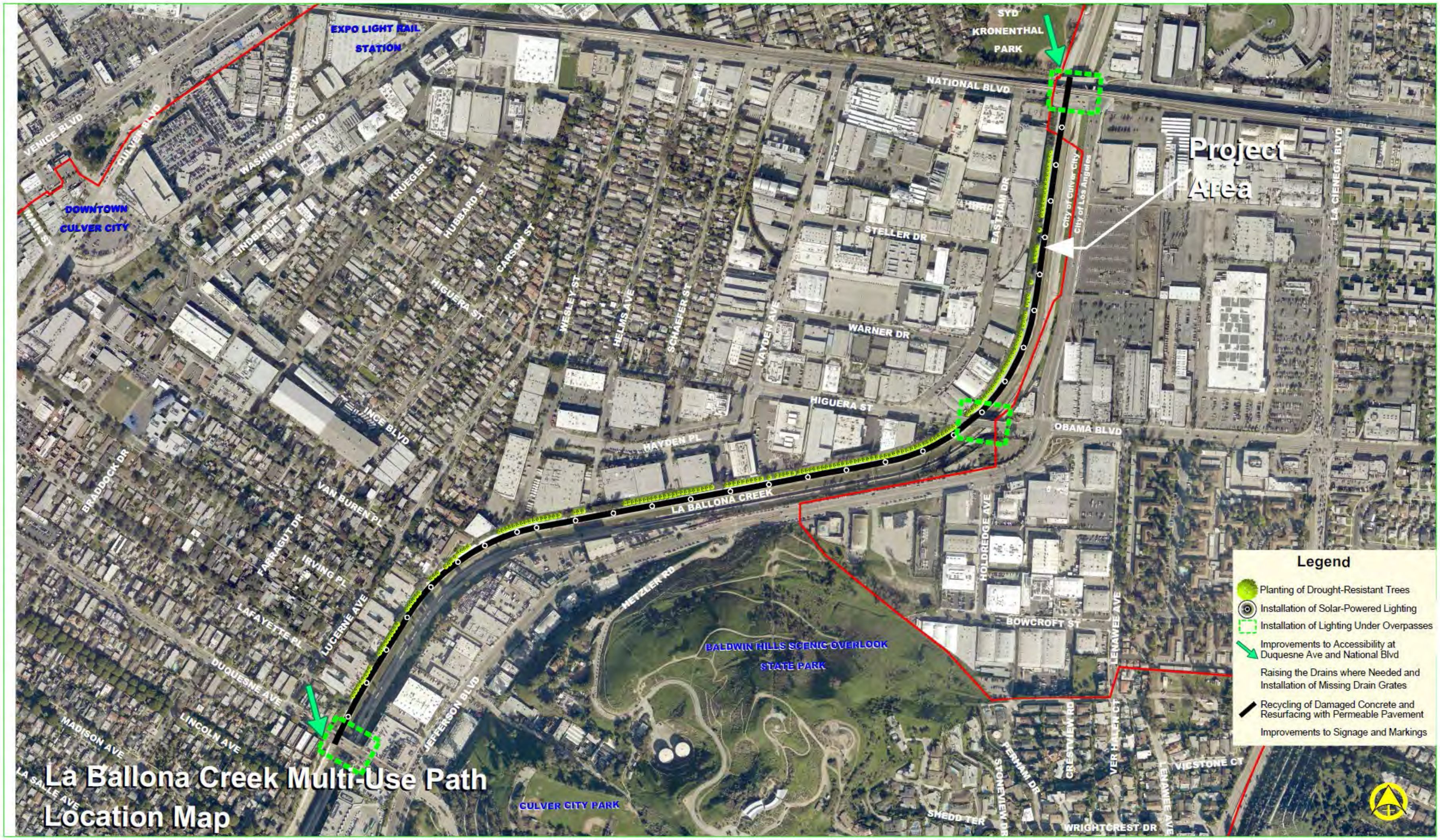

City of
Culver CITY
REGIONAL MAP
Legend
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and AB 1550 Low-Income Communities
AB 1550 Low-Income Communities
Greening the Greenway - Ballona Creek Bike Path Project Area (1.1 Miles from National to Duquesne)
University of California Los Angeles
West Hollywood
Beverly Hills
Santa Monica
Los Angeles
Culver City
Ladera Heights
(LA)
View Park-Windsor Hills
(LA)
Inglewood
Marina del Rey
(LA)
(SR-187)
(SR - 90)
PACIFIC OCEAN
LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
El Segundo
Lennox
Inglewood
Hawthorne
Del Aire
Westmont
West Athens
Willowbrook
Compton
Lynwood
Florence-Graham
Walnut Park
Huntington Park
South Gate
Cudahy
Bell Gardens
Bell
Maywood
Vernon
Commerce
Downey
East Los Angeles
Monterey Park
Alhambra
South Pasadena
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES
RED LINE
PURPLE LINE
PURPLE LINE
GOLD LINE
EXPO LIGHT RAIL
I10
I10
I10
I10
I10
I405
I405
I105
I105
I105
I110
I110
I110
I5
I710
S2
S10
S60
S110
S710
U101

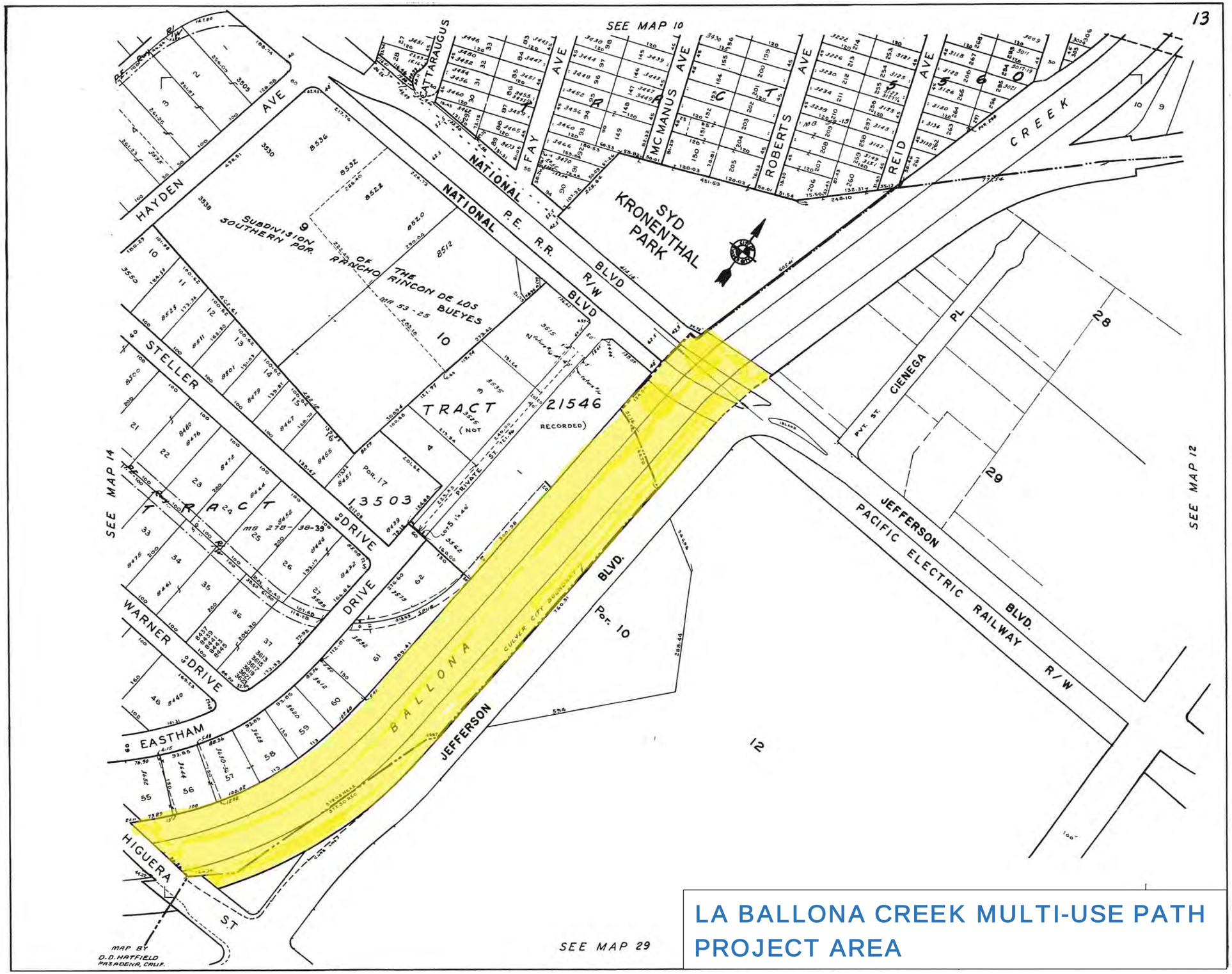
City of Culver City – Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Program Application
Greening the Greenway: Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability, Safety, and Accessibility Enhancements

Location Map Shows Connectivity to City's Proposed Overland-Transit Center Class IV Bicycle Lanes

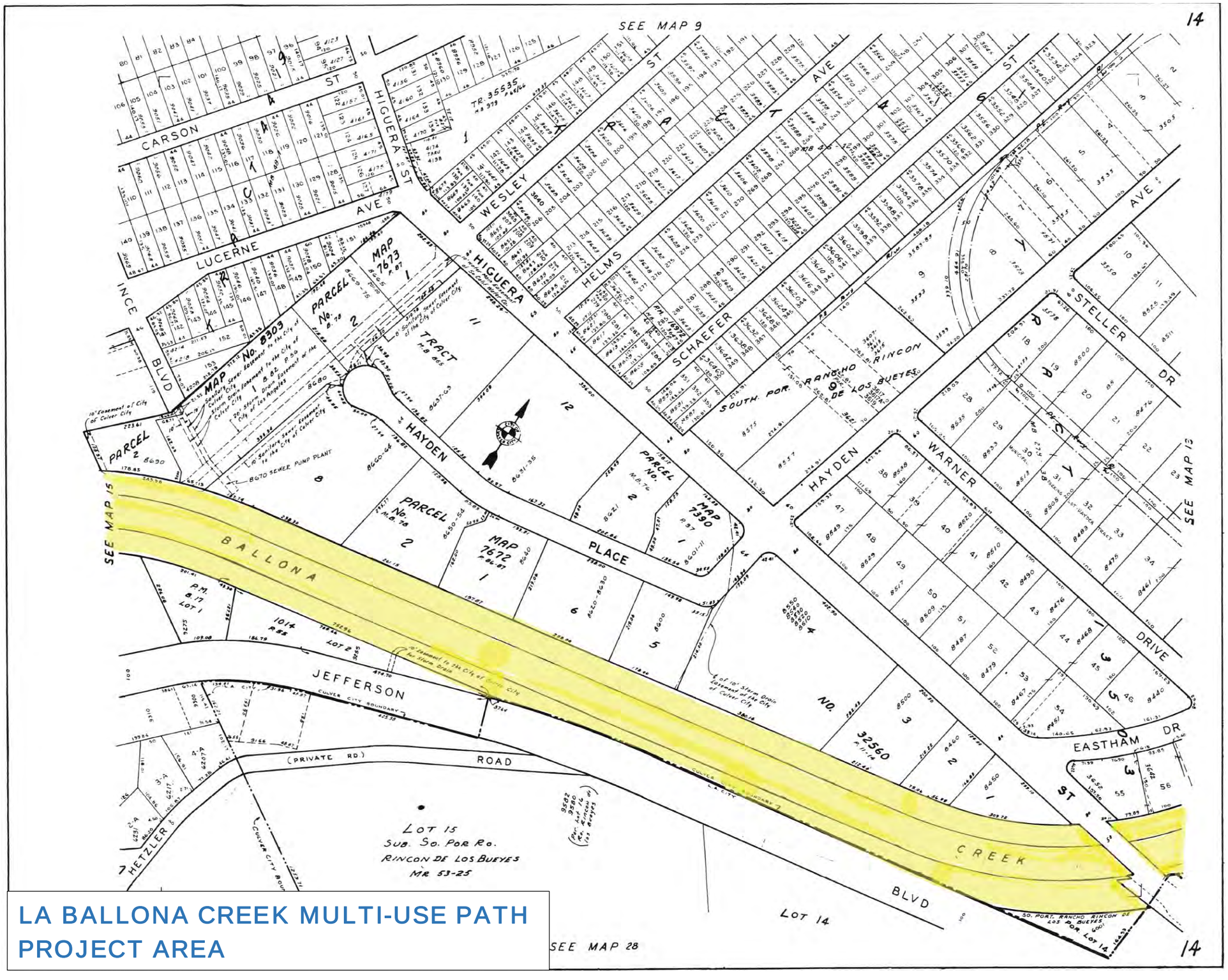


GREENING THE GREENWAY: BALLONA CREEK BIKE PATH SUSTAINABILITY, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS

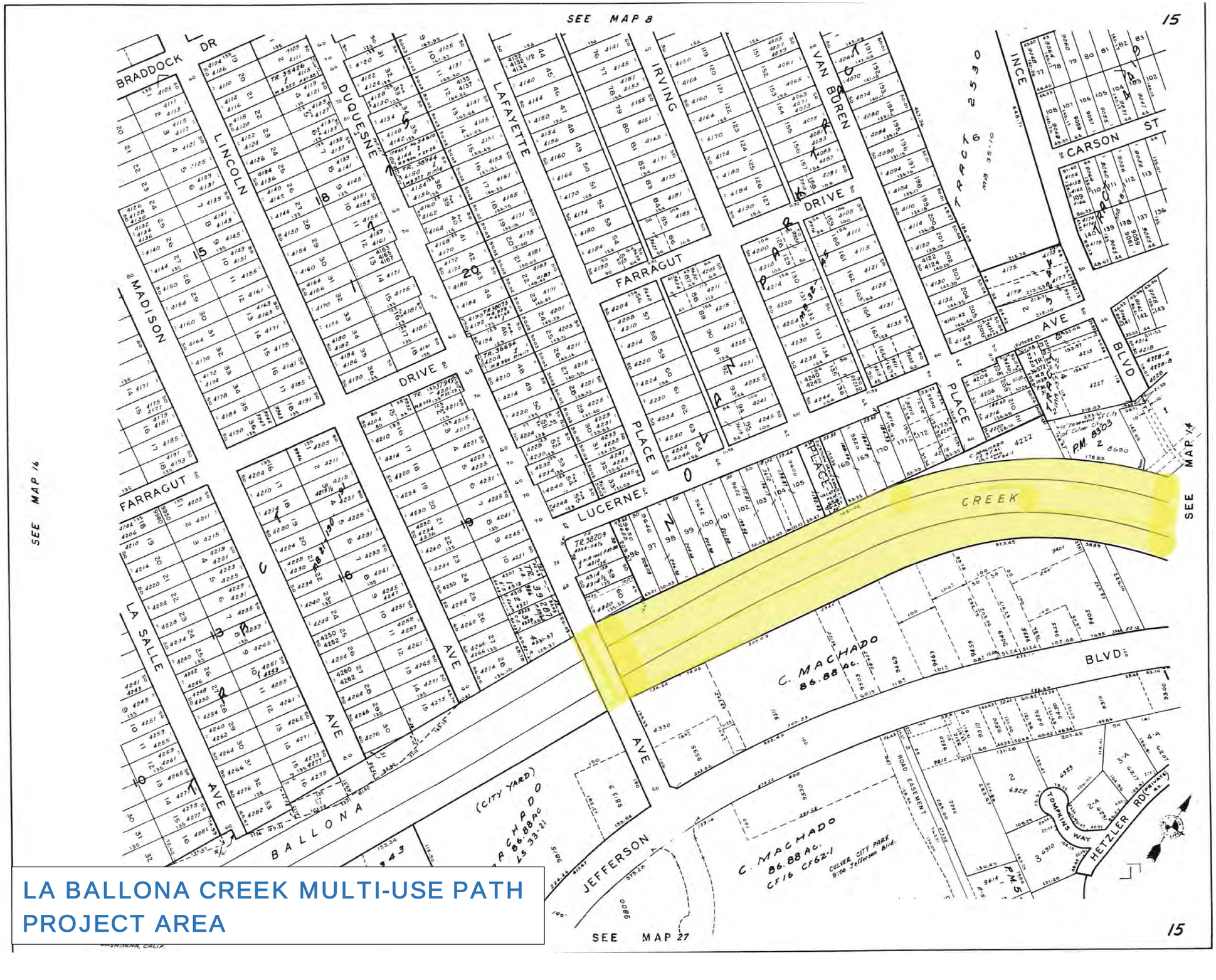




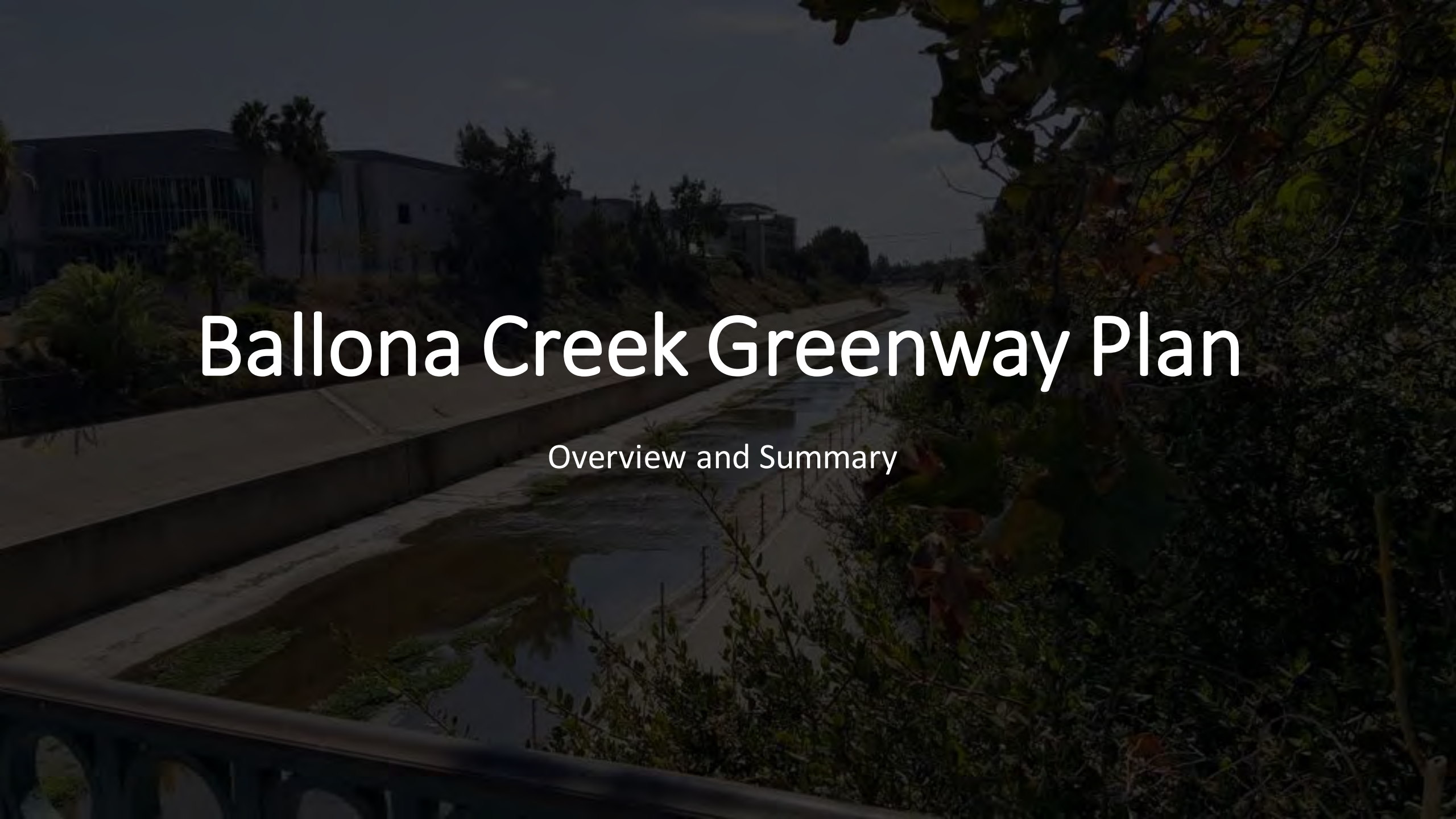
LA BALLONA CREEK MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT AREA



LA BALLONA CREEK MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT AREA



LA BALLONA CREEK MULTI-USE PATH
PROJECT AREA



Ballona Creek Greenway Plan

Overview and Summary

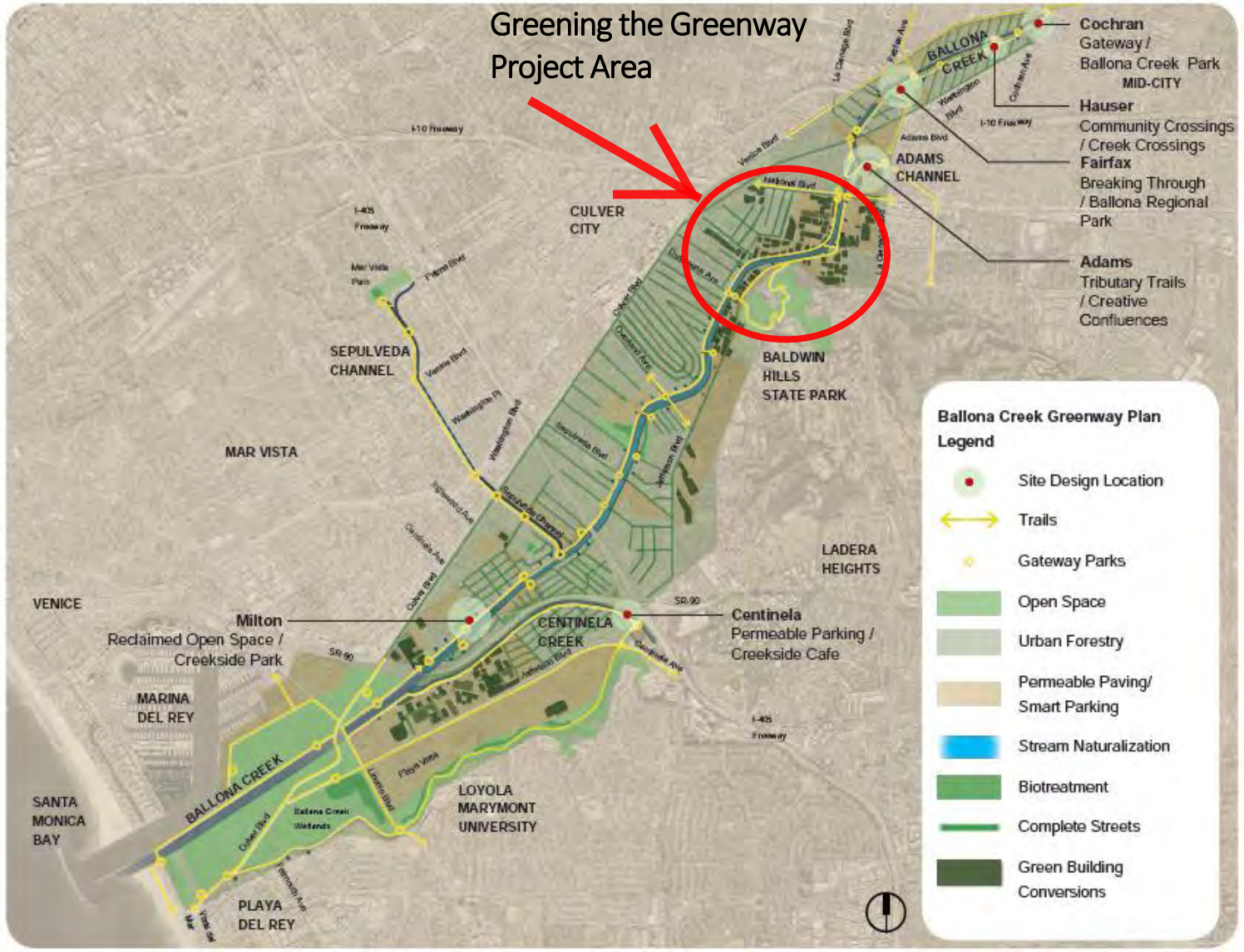
Introduction

- The Bay Foundation created the Greenway Plan in 2010 and Greenway Projects in 2011 to reflect ideas of stakeholders
- The Greenway Plan describes opportunities to:
  1. Reconnect residents with Ballona Creek
  2. Create access points and trails
  3. Enhance habitat
  4. Mitigate stormwater runoff
  5. Redevelop land for improved watershed health
  6. Increase health and sustainability of region

Common Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Pervious Paving
- Biotreatment
- Urban Forestry and Greenway Landscape
- Channel Naturalization
- Complete Streets
- Street Narrowing
- Smart Parking
- Green Building Conversions
- Channel Design
- Hydraulic Modeling

Map of Ballona Creek Greenway Plan



Map overview of recommended enhancements along Ballona Creek

Reach 3: Culver City

- Greenway Committee endorses Culver City's Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study (BCTFSS) projects
  - Beyond BCTFSS, Greenway Plans will increase creek access points and park connections to prevent riders from being isolated
  - Also, will balance access with privacy
- High school field to infiltrate runoff from surrounding community
  - Cleans stormwater runoff along with permeable paving and bioswales
- Loop trail around Adams Channel near La Cienega/Jefferson Expo station
  - Increases natural areas and recreational activity in isolated area

Reach 3: Culver City

Recommended bike path extensions and park connections in Culver City

Reach 3: Culver City

Legend

1. Ballona Creek Bike Path
2. Biotreatment
3. Pedestrian Bridge
4. Loop Trail
5. Solar Panels
6. Enhanced Crossing
7. Trail to Ballona Creek at Fairfax Ave
8. Park
9. Trail to Baldwin HIlls

Early Action Plan of Adams Channel loop trail and wildlife corridor

Ballona Creek Greenway Projects: Adams Channel

- Next phase of planning and design following the Greenway Plan to create a recreational nature walk
- One-quarter of a mile to Expo station makes nature walk accessible and attracts visitors

- Revitalizes and naturalizes channel bottom to:
  1. Re-create riparian habitat
  2. Enhance nature viewing and recreation
  3. Attract visitors
  4. Potentially connect Ballona Creek Bike Path
  5. Meet flood control standards
  6. Enhance water quality

- Estimate of construction cost: $4.9 to $6.3 million (2011) or $5.7 to $7.3 million (2019)

City of Culver City – Proposed Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop 1 Grant
"Greening the Greenway: Ballona Creek Bike Path Sustainability, Safety, and Accessibility Enhancements"

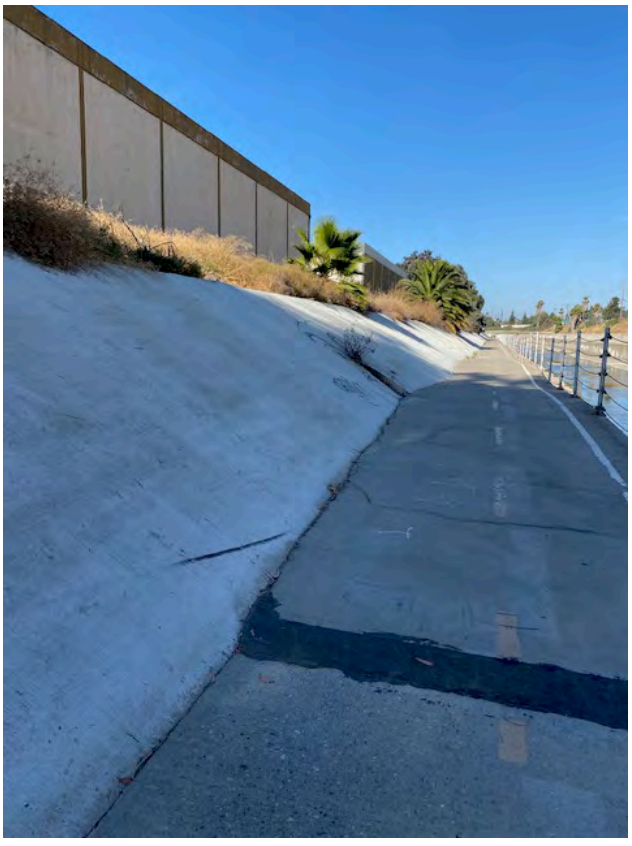
Identified Deficiencies: Missing and Damaged Fencing and Barriers

Associated Project Improvements: Installation of Missing Fencing

Replacement or Repair of Damaged Fencing and Barriers

Identified Deficiencies: Limited-to-No Tree-Shade and Stark Conditions

Associated Project Improvements: Plant Drought Resistant Shade Trees on the Platform and in Planters within the Retaining Wall as Appropriate

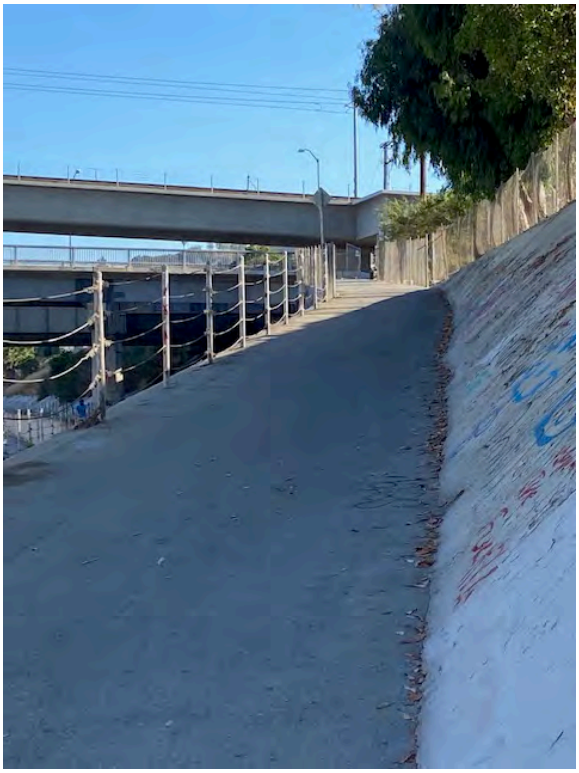


Identified Deficiencies: Missing and Damaged Signage and Pavement Markings

Associated Project Improvements: Installation of Traffic Control Signs and Markings, and Way Finding Signs

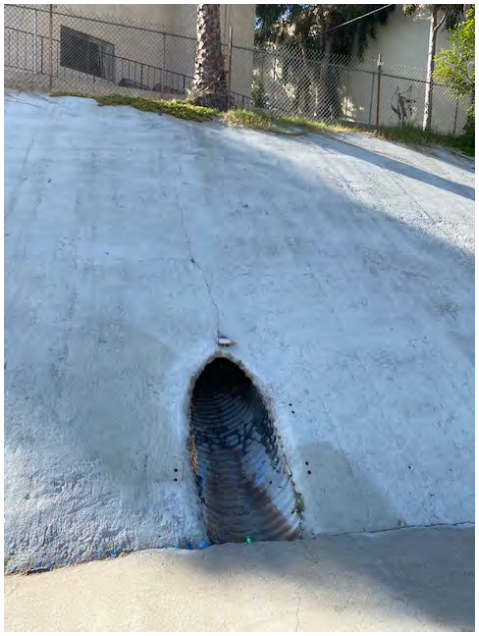
Identified Deficiencies: Missing Signage, Pavement Markings, Rough Patches

Associated Project Improvements: Replace Non-Permeable Concrete with Permeable Surface, Provide Signage and Pavement Markings



Identified Deficiencies: Missing and Damaged Grates, and Sunk Drains

Associated Project Improvements: Replacement of Grates, and Lifting Drains where Necessary



Identified Deficiencies: Total Lack of Lighting along the Path, and under all Road Over Crossings

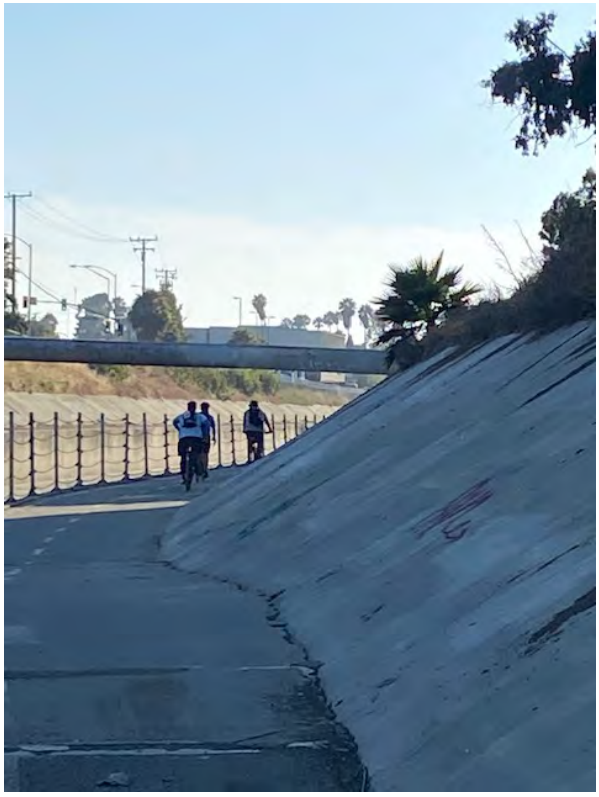
Associated Project Improvements: Installation of Solar Powered Lights along the Bike/Ped Path,

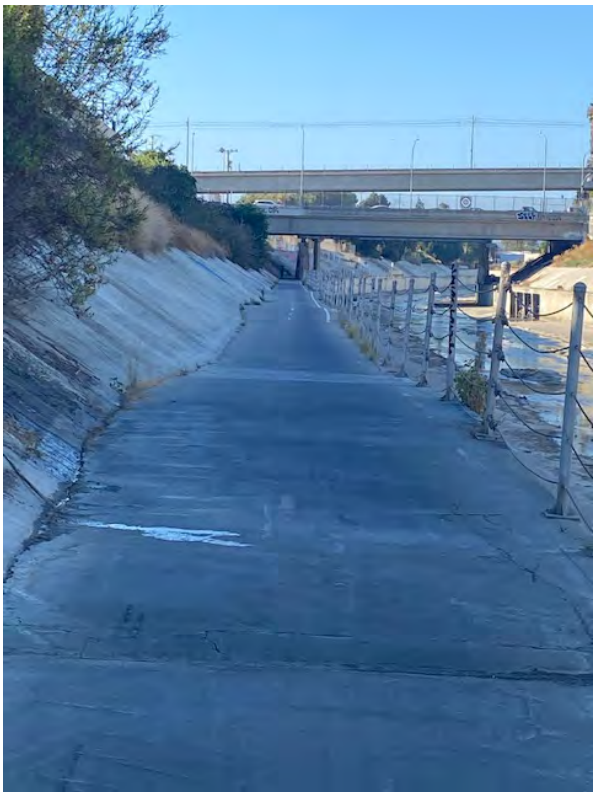
And Add Lighting under all Bridges


Duquesne

Identified Deficiencies: Uneven Concrete and Poor Surface and Permeability Conditions

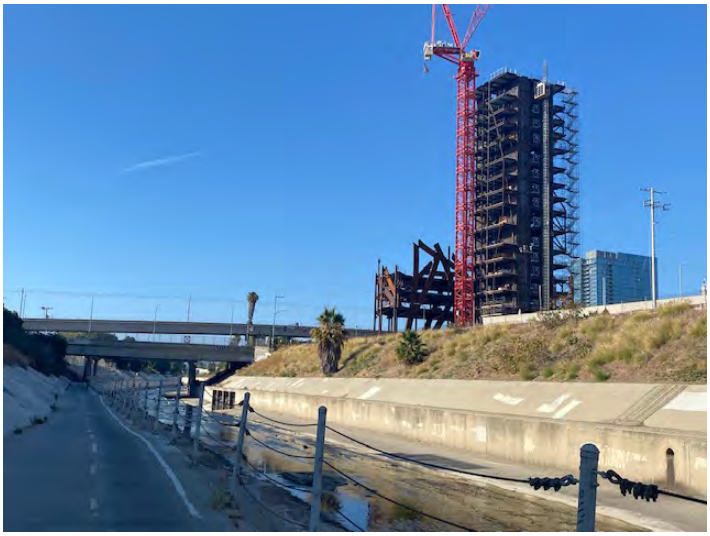
Associated Project Improvements: Breaking the Concrete and Using it as Base Material, and Adding 4" Permeable Pavement





Identified Deficiencies: ADA Compliance Issues, and Safety and Convenience Issues at Access Points

Associated Project Improvements: Accessibility Upgrades, and Improvements at All Path Access Points to Support and Encourage Commute Bike/Ped Trips from the Adjacent Developments



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

Memorandum

To: Governing Board

From: David McNeill, Executive Officer

Date: September 25, 2020

Re: Item 4: Consideration of Resolution # 20-10 Authorizing a BHC Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant, in an Amount Not to Exceed $1,027,640, to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 20-10, authorizing a grant of up to $1,027,640 in BHC Prop 1 funds to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project.

Background:

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps has submitted a proposal for a 7-acre ecological restoration, trail, and slope repair to improve watershed function at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. The design-build project includes installation of native coastal sage scrub habitat along with woodland species that will align with the first-order drainages on the site. These improvements will replace weedy invasive vegetation and address erosion issues with the existing trail system. The proposed project has the following goals and objectives that will be pursued with the overarching purpose of workforce development and community involvement to benefit the region's youth and families.

Project Goals. Improve ecosystem health of Ballona Creek watershed, provide conservation benefits, and increase climate resiliency through restoration of native vegetation on the north facing slope of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Objective 1. Design and implement planting strategies and other techniques to eliminate erosion conditions within 0.5-acres at targeted locations within the site. These interventions are necessary to increase the resilience of the trail system to the heavy use that it receives and its vulnerability to damage from extreme rain events. Significant suspended sediment loads currently enter the storm drain system from the problem areas that we propose to enhance.

Objective 2. Restore soil conditions within a 7-acre area of weedy vegetation by developing and implementing a weed management plan for two years. Successful restoration of native habitats requires substantial site preparation to restore soil conditions so that native plants can establish. The seedbank of nonnative plant species must first be depleted before native species can be planted.

Objective 3. Plant and establish trees and shrubs along drainage areas within 7-acrerestoration zone. The project will plant 748 native trees and small trees/large shrubs along drainages within the project area. Tree species will be established as container plants, including walnut, elderberry, and toyon. Locations and species will be chosen with close attention to the site topography and soil moisture.

Objective 4. Plant and establish native scrubland from seed within 7-acre restoration zone. Seed-based scrub restoration can transform the landscape once the soil invasive seedbank has been depleted. The project will use symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi to further repair the soil and establish a beneficial network within the soil that will help the newly established plants. When re-seeded, native shrubs and perennial grasses will be spaced approximately 6-feet over the project area, calculated as 11,661 target plant specimens after three years.

If approved, the end result would be a transformation of annual weedy grassland to native shrubland improving the stability of the steep northern slopes, and increasing the resilience of the slope system to the impacts of climate change. The project would restore urban watershed health by improving stormwater management, reducing greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration, while also protecting life and property. Long-term benefits include site monitoring and reporting along with an incremental reduction of pollution flows to Ballona Creek and the region's coastal waters.

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

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.

PRC 32565.5 (b) The Conservancy shall establish policies and priorities within the Baldwin Hills area, and conduct any necessary planning activities in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32555.

PRC 32565.5 (c) The Conservancy shall give priority to related projects that create expanded opportunities that provide recreation, aesthetic improvement, and wildlife habitat in the Baldwin Hills area.

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: (B) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California’s communities and ecosystems; (H) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks and promote watershed health; (I) 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. (K) 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.

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.

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.

d. 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.

e. Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area

LACC and Los Angeles Audubon Society are partners on the Scenic Overlook Stairs Restoration and Rehabilitation Project currently being implemented at the State Park. These partners have recently demonstrated project program expertise through the decommissioning of unsanctioned trails and revegetating of habitat zones along new trail improvements; management of erosion along the sides of the re-constructed steps; and training of at-promise youth student stewardship throughout the restoration process. The proposed project is a logical extension of that work on ecological restoration and environmental education.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

f. Leverage

The applicant has submitted a budget that specifies their ability to provide 26% in other funds totaling $353,556, which includes $72,000 of in-kind services and $118,000 from private foundations. *(See Attachment #1, Preliminary Budget and Schedule, pg.22.)*

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

Multi-Benefits of the project include, but are not limited to:

- Reduced stormwater runoff and improved stormwater quality through conversion from annual weeds to native shrublands with riparian elements.
- Increased geological stability through deeper root systems creating greater resilience to future extreme rain events associated with future climate conditions.
- Increased native plant and wildlife biodiversity through restoration of rare coastal scrubland.
- Increased aesthetic values through introduction of diverse species and careful placement of vegetation to enhance visitor experience.
- Reduced fire risk through replacement of weedy annual species with native perennial species.
- Increased carbon sequestration through aboveground and belowground accumulation of biomass in plants, fungi, and invertebrates, in addition to carbon fixation by fungi below ground associated with roots of native plants.

i. Readiness

Los Angeles Conservation Corps staff and their partners are positioned to start the project in a timely manner. (*See Attachment #1, Specific Tasks, Page 16)* Specific Tasks are outlined from the Schematic Design development through implementation and project monitoring. The schedule would be initiated in the Fall of 2020 and would be completed in the Spring of 2023.

j. Realization of prior BHC goal

Previous BHC-funded projects, such as the Prop 40 Jefferson Streetscape project, Prop 84 BHSO Trail & Stormwater Restoration Project have created flood management and ground water recharge systems in the existing State

Park. This project will build on those efforts by providing additional storm water capture and habitat restoration on the 50-acre site. It will also provide park users with an opportunity to gain environmental education during their visits to the Parklands.

k. Cooperation

The project is a collaboration with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Land IQ, California State Parks and Studio-MLA. (*Letters of Support: LAAS, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Ballona Creek Renaissance, Land IQ, Studio-MLA)*.

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY (BHC)

RESOLUTION 20-10

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS (LACC) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,027,640 OF BHC PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS FOR THE BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK SLOPE RESTORATION 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, LACC is a non-profit 501c (3) organization with experience in project coordination with multiple partners in the Baldwin Hills; and

WHEREAS, the LACC has a proven record of completing grant projects utilizing various funding sources within each project's stated budget and performance period end date; and

WHEREAS, the LACC has submitted an application for BHC's Prop 1 local assistance grant program for the BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK SLOPE RESTORATION PROJECT in the Conservancy territory consistent with the funding source and grant requirements adopted by the BHC in May of 2015; 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 Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems. Now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE BHC GOVERNING BOARD:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES A GRANT AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,027,640 OF BHC PROP 1 FUNDS TO LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS (LACC) FOR THE BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK SLOPE RESTORATION PROJECT.

2. ADOPTS THE STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 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 September 25, 2020

_____

Keshia Sexton (Chair)

ATTEST: _____

David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project

Proposal to:
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
Proposition 1
Fall 2020

Prepared by:
Los Angeles Conservation Corps (prime)
California State Parks (landowner)
Studio MLA (landscape design)
Land IQ (restoration ecology)
Los Angeles Audubon Society (outreach, education, and community-based monitoring)

LA CONSERVATION CORPS
Transforming Youth. Enhancing Communities.

LAND IQ

STUDIO-MLA

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON

Table of Contents

State of California — Natural Resources Agency
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME	**GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED**
Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project	$1,027,640
APPLICANT *(Org. Name and Address)*	**TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT**
Los Angeles Conservation Corps 1400 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012	$1,381,196

APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (Name, Title, Phone)
Bo Savage, Deputy Director of Operations, 213-210-7619
PROJECT ADDRESS *(Including Cross-Street)*
6300 Hetzler Rd., Culver City, CA 90232 (Hetzler Rd. and Jefferson Blvd.)

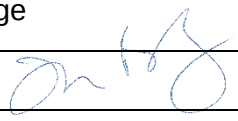
COUNTY	**SENATE DISTRICT**	**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**
Los Angeles	30	54

PERSON W/ DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILY FOR PROJECT (Name, Title, E-mail, Phone)
Robert Skillman, Director of Conservation Programs, rskillman@lacorps.org, 213-284-1740
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The proposed project would restore 7 acres of native coastal sage scrub habitat along with woodland species along appropriate first-order drainages to replace existing weedy vegetation and to address erosion issues with the existing trail system. The project complements and is coordinated with other trail repair and restoration work currently ongoing in the park and has a multi-benefit ecosystem restoration project would: 1) reduce the impacts of climate change from extreme rainfall events; 2) restore urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, improve stormwater management, and sequester greenhouse gases; and 3) reduce pollution of streams and coastal waters.

TASK / MILESTONE	**COST ESTIMATE**	**COMPLETION DATE**
1. Trail repair and erosion control	$427,764	November 30, 2022
2. Soil restoration through weed depletion	$583,164	October 30, 2022
3. Plant and establish riparian species	$98,684	September 30, 2023
4. Seed and establish coastal scrub	$271,583	September 30, 2023

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

NAME: Bo Savage

SIGNATURE:  **DATE:** August 28, 2020

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

(Required when receiving payment from the State of California in lieu of IRS W-9)

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003)

1

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all information on this form. Sign, date, and return to the State agency (department/office) address shown at the bottom of this page. Prompt return of this **fully completed** form will prevent delays when processing payments. Information provided in this form will be used by State agencies to prepare Information Returns (1099). See reverse side for more information and Privacy Statement.

NOTE: Governmental entities, federal, State, and local (including school districts), are not required to submit this form.

2

PAYEE'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME (Type or Print)
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

SOLE PROPRIETOR – ENTER NAME AS SHOWN ON SSN (Last, First, M.I.)

E-MAIL ADDRESS
info@lacorps.org

MAILING ADDRESS	BUSINESS ADDRESS
PO Box 861658	1400 North Spring Street
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE**
Los Angeles, CA 90086-1658	Los Angeles, CA 90012-1924

3

PAYEE ENTITY TYPE

CHECK ONE BOX ONLY

ENTER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN): 95-4002138

- ☐ **PARTNERSHIP**
- ☐ **ESTATE OR TRUST**
- **CORPORATION:**
  - ☐ **MEDICAL** (e.g., dentistry, psychotherapy, chiropractic, etc.)
  - ☐ **LEGAL** (e.g., attorney services)
  - ☑ **EXEMPT** (nonprofit)
  - ☐ **ALL OTHERS**
- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL OR SOLE PROPRIETOR ENTER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:** ___-___-____

(SSN required by authority of California Revenue and Tax Code Section 18646)

NOTE: Payment will not be processed without an accompanying taxpayer I.D. number.

4

PAYEE RESIDENCY STATUS

- ☑ California resident - Qualified to do business in California or maintains a permanent place of business in California.
- ☐ California nonresident (see reverse side) - Payments to nonresidents for services may be subject to State income tax withholding.
  - ☐ No services performed in California.
  - ☐ Copy of Franchise Tax Board waiver of State withholding attached.

5

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided on this document is true and correct. Should my residency status change, I will promptly notify the State agency below.

AUTHORIZED PAYEE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (Type or Print)	TITLE
Wendy Butts	Chief Executive Officer
SIGNATURE Wendy A. Butts	**DATE** 07/09/2020
	TELEPHONE (213) 362-9000

6

Please return completed form to:

Department/Office: Baldwin Hills Conservancy

Unit/Section: Grant Program

Mailing Address: 5120 W. Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290

City/State/Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90056-1283

Telephone: (323) 290-5270 **Fax:** (323) 290-5276

E-mail Address: info@bhc.ca.gov

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

STD. 204 (Rev. 6-2003) (REVERSE)

1	**Requirement to Complete Payee Data Record, STD. 204** A completed Payee Data Record, STD. 204, is required for payments to all non-governmental entities and will be kept on file at each State agency. Since each State agency with which you do business must have a separate STD. 204 on file, it is possible for a payee to receive this form from various State agencies. Payees who do not wish to complete the STD. 204 may elect to not do business with the State. If the payee does not complete the STD. 204 and the required payee data is not otherwise provided, payment may be reduced for federal backup withholding and nonresident State income tax withholding. Amounts reported on Information Returns (1099) are in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code and the California Revenue and Taxation Code.
2	Enter the payee's legal business name. Sole proprietorships must also include the owner's full name. An individual must list his/her full name. The mailing address should be the address at which the payee chooses to receive correspondence. Do not enter payment address or lock box information here.
3	Check the box that corresponds to the payee business type. Check only one box. Corporations must check the box that identifies the type of corporation. The State of California requires that all parties entering into business transactions that may lead to payment(s) from the State provide their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The TIN is required by the California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18646 to facilitate tax compliance enforcement activities and the preparation of Form 1099 and other information returns as required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 6109(a). The TIN for individuals and sole proprietorships is the Social Security Number (SSN). Only partnerships, estates, trusts, and corporations will enter their Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).
4	**Are you a California resident or nonresident?** A corporation will be defined as a "resident" if it has a permanent place of business in California or is qualified through the Secretary of State to do business in California. A partnership is considered a resident partnership if it has a permanent place of business in California. An estate is a resident if the decedent was a California resident at time of death. A trust is a resident if at least one trustee is a California resident. For individuals and sole proprietors, the term "resident" includes every individual who is in California for other than a temporary or transitory purpose and any individual domiciled in California who is absent for a temporary or transitory purpose. Generally, an individual who comes to California for a purpose that will extend over a long or indefinite period will be considered a resident. However, an individual who comes to perform a particular contract of short duration will be considered a nonresident. Payments to all nonresidents may be subject to withholding. Nonresident payees performing services in California or receiving rent, lease, or royalty payments from property (real or personal) located in California will have 7% of their total payments withheld for State income taxes. However, no withholding is required if total payments to the payee are $1,500 or less for the calendar year. For information on Nonresident Withholding, contact the Franchise Tax Board at the numbers listed below: Withholding Services and Compliance Section: 1-888-792-4900 E-mail address: wscs.gen@ftb.ca.gov For hearing impaired with TDD, call: 1-800-822-6268 Website: www.ftb.ca.gov
5	Provide the name, title, signature, and telephone number of the individual completing this form. Provide the date the form was completed.
6	This section must be completed by the State agency requesting the STD. 204.
	Privacy Statement Section 7(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) requires that any federal, State, or local governmental agency, which requests an individual to disclose their social security account number, shall inform that individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by which statutory or other authority such number is solicited, and what uses will be made of it. It is mandatory to furnish the information requested. Federal law requires that payment for which the requested information is not provided is subject to federal backup withholding and State law imposes noncompliance penalties of up to $20,000. You have the right to access records containing your personal information, such as your SSN. To exercise that right, please contact the business services unit or the accounts payable unit of the State agency(ies) with which you transact that business. All questions should be referred to the requesting State agency listed on the bottom front of this form.

SCOPE OF WORK

Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook has become an iconic destination for visitors since it opened to visitors in 2009. The park is extremely popular among visitors as a result of the development of a stairway used for exercise on its north-facing slope, a visitor's center and programming at the summit, and the extraordinary panoramic views of the Los Angeles basin from the summit. It has been developed with a visitor center and trail system and substantial effort has been made to restore native habitat within its boundaries. Large areas of the prominent north-facing slope of the park remain dominated by exotic grass species and other areas have suffered significant erosion around trail infrastructure. An underappreciated aspect of native perennial California scrublands is that their deep root systems provide greater structural stability and water infiltration than exotic, annual grasslands. Converting grasslands to native coastal sage scrub habitats would have the following benefits: 1) reducing stormwater quantity during rainfall events through interception and infiltration, 2) improving stormwater quality by reducing nitrogen loading, 3) increasing structural stability of the slope to extreme precipitation events expected to be more common under climate change scenarios, and 4) increase carbon sequestration through greater below-ground biomass accumulation. The project would support the restoration goals of the Baldwin Hills Master Plan, provide additional habitat for reintroduction of rare species such as Cactus Wren consistent with the State Wildlife Action Plan, and make the site more resilient to extreme precipitation events. The project is proposed as a design-build effort, focusing on restoration of a seven-acre zone of hillside and repair and restoration of three-quarters of an acre adjacent to trails and the park's edge. The project will incorporate herbicide-free best practices to demonstrate shrubland restoration at scale. The project will incorporate proven strategies to improve water resources and demonstrate the value of conversion of exotic grasslands to native scrublands for stormwater management and water resources as an example for other natural lands in California.

Need and Urgency

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook was acquired as a State Park as one of the first significant investments of that system in urban areas. Its purchase avoided the development of the site as luxury housing and instead protected it as needed open space for passive and active restoration and biodiversity conservation. The site had extensive disturbed areas that were dominated by invasive exotic plant species, predominantly annual grasses and mustards. During development of the park these degraded areas have been restored to native coastal sage scrub habitats in conjunction with the trail system and visitor's center. These efforts have been focused on flatter areas within the park and areas nearer trails and access roads. Such areas have greater accessibility and work on them can include volunteer efforts with minimal difficulty. There remain, however, acres of steeper slopes that are dominated by exotic grasses and other annual weedy species.

The proposed project addresses several needs within the context of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park, and habitat restoration in general. First, the ecosystem function of exotic annual grasslands is inferior to native scrublands and

grasslands. Native species and their deeper root zones stabilize the hillside and will be more resilient in the face of more intense rainfall events expected under future climate conditions. Native vegetation will reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff and reduce the amount of nitrogen and suspended sediments in that runoff. Native species support biodiversity and conservation goals for the parks. Second, the project will demonstrate vegetation reestablishment techniques that can be applied over large areas without requiring herbicides or irrigation (except for riparian species) and increase capacity within the region to apply these techniques. The restoration design will incorporate lessons learned from two decades of restoration of coastal sage scrub habitats in northern Orange County and recognized by resource agencies a new paradigm in habitat restoration (Brooks et al. 2019). Recent regulatory actions limiting the use of herbicides highlight a need for techniques that can be applied at scale and without chemical inputs. Such large-scale restoration techniques and local capacity to implement them are necessary for future projects within the territory of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy associated with existing and potential future public lands.

In addition to the benefits of ecosystem restoration in general, the project will also address very specific needs on the BHSO site to remedy ongoing erosion near the Jefferson Boulevard trailhead and the picnic area at the upper entrance. Water currently flows down and erodes the decomposed granite path and sandbags are currently placed in this area to remedy this problem. The project will address this condition through landscape design, having a direct benefit for water quality (suspended sediment) and protecting park infrastructure from future hazards.

Problems to be Addressed

The project, through the different project elements, will address the following problems:

- Substantial erosion of trails that has resulted from trail use far exceeding the designed capacity and which has resulted in water pollution in Ballona Creek.
- Ongoing elevated fire risk resulting from a predominance of annual mustards, radish, and nonnative grasses that accumulate extensive dry biomass in an area visited by thousands of visitors each week.
- Suppression of native biodiversity potential resulting from competitive exclusion by nonnative plants.
- Vulnerability of site to future slope failure under extreme rainfall events predicted with climate change.
- Excess runoff from site that could be infiltrated and used by plants that cool the local microclimate.
- Missed potential for carbon sequestration to mitigate the adverse impacts of elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Multiple benefits

Natural ecosystems provide many benefits, known collectively as ecosystem services, that can be enhanced through project design. The project is specifically designed to provide the following benefits:

- Reduced stormwater runoff and improved stormwater quality through conversion from annual weeds to native shrublands with riparian elements.
- Increased geological stability through deeper root systems creating greater resilience to future extreme rain events associated with future climate conditions.
- Increased native plant and wildlife biodiversity through restoration of rare coastal scrubland.
- Increased aesthetic values through introduction of diverse species and careful placement of vegetation to enhance visitor experience.
- Reduced fire risk through replacement of weedy annual species with native perennial species.
- Increased carbon sequestration through aboveground and belowground accumulation of biomass in plants, fungi, and invertebrates, in addition to carbon fixation by fungi belowground associated with roots of native plants.

Goals and Objectives

The proposed project has the following goals and objectives.

Project Goal. Improve ecosystem health of Ballona Creek watershed, provide conservation benefits, and increase climate resiliency through restoration of native vegetation on the north facing slope of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Objective 1. Design and implement planting strategies and other techniques to eliminate erosion conditions within 0.5-acres at targeted locations within Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. These interventions are necessary to increase the resilience of the trail system to the heavy use that it receives and its vulnerability to damage from extreme rain events. Significant suspended sediment loads currently enter the storm drain system from the problem areas that we propose to enhance.

Objective 2. Restore soil conditions within a 7-acre area of weedy vegetation by developing and implementing a weed management plan for two years. Successful restoration of native habitats requires substantial site preparation to restore soil conditions so that native plants can establish. The seedbank of nonnative plant species must first be depleted before native species can be planted.

Objective 3. Plant and establish container plants along drainage areas within 7-acre restoration zone. Tree species will thrive in the wetter zones of the north-facing slope and these will be established as container plants, including walnut, elderberry, and toyon. Locations and species will be chosen with close attention to the site topography and soil moisture.

Objective 4. Plant and establish native scrubland from seed within 7-acre restoration zone. Seed-based scrub restoration can transform the landscape once the soil seedbank has been depleted. The project will use symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi to further repair the soil and establish a beneficial network within the soil that will help the newly established plants.

These objectives will be pursued with the overarching purpose of workforce development and community involvement to benefit the local community.

Alignment with Proposition 1

First, the project is an adaptation project to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems. The slopes to be restored at BHSO are steep and are vulnerable to erosion and failure under extreme rainfall events. Higher one-day total rainfall events are predicted for Los Angeles under future climate conditions. Restoration from annual grassland to shrubland will improve the stability of the slope. The additional stability will increase the resilience of the system and adapt in a way to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Second, the project will restore urban watershed health to improve stormwater management, reduce greenhouse gases, and protect life and property. Shrublands reduce stormwater quality and improve stormwater quality compared with weedy grasslands. The restored vegetation will also increase carbon sequestration and storage on the site and underground. The deep roots of the native vegetation will protect the slope and surrounding public infrastructure from failure in future extreme rainfall events.

Third, the project will reduce pollution of Ballona Creek and downstream coastal waters and incrementally improve natural ecosystem functions with respect to flood management. The combined restoration and erosion control methods will have the effect of collecting and infiltrating more water on site at BHSO and reducing the quantity of stormwater leaving the site.

Alignment with Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets

The project will use an ecosystem-based model that incorporates plants native to the Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles, with mainly year-round leaf canopies above-ground and extensive root systems with an associated soil biome below-ground. The native plant community proposed for the project includes trees and large shrubs, as well as smaller shrubs and perennial grasses. All the planned native species have extensive deep roots that will hold the soil on the slopes above the several drainages that run through the project area, thereby reducing water run-off and soil erosion.

This specific native habitat approach will help optimize carbon sequestration to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The structure of the plant community is designed to maximize plant and soil carbon sequestration both in above ground plant canopy and below ground for the specific climate, soils, and slope aspect at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park. The plants will be chosen, in part, on their ability to form mutualistic relationships with soil symbionts (mycorrhizal fungi) that increase plant productivity and improve the carbon sequestration in both plant canopy production above-ground as well as below ground in the root biosphere. These soil symbionts, mainly mycorrhizal fungi, reduce soil carbon loss by extending root lifespan and by improving soil aggregate formation (De Deyn et al. 2008). Tree species that associate with ectomycorrhizal fungi, including native coast live oak, show a strong biomass increase in response to elevated CO_2 regardless of nitrogen availability in the soil (Terrer et al. 2016), and this translates into carbon sequestration. Carbon storage is affected by photosynthesis and soil respiration, which have been studied extensively in natural and agricultural systems. Recent studies in reclamation of coalfields showed that arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi increased carbon storage in small trees by an average of 17.2 percent

compared to controls and soil carbon also was increased significantly (Wang et al. 2016). Therefore, it is important to consider the soil biosphere when calculating carbon sequestration in this native habitat array of species.

The carbon sequestration of native species for this project is estimated based on previously published and reviewed methods. This method calculates sequestered carbon based the number of native plants to be planted by the type (tree, small tree/large shrub, and shrub) and uses actual and estimated amounts of carbon sequestered from the carbon calculator developed from the Center for Urban Forest Research Tree Carbon Calculator as applied to upland habitats by Community Conservation Solutions (2016). The project will plant 748 native trees and small trees/large shrubs along drainages within the project area. Additionally, we assume once seeded that native shrubs and perennial grasses will be spaced approximately 6-feet (estimating the triangular planting method) over the project area, calculated as 11,661 target plant specimens after three years. These plants are all evergreen shrubs and perennial grass species that have a root zone of at least one meter. Native perennial grasses have been shown to more effectively store carbon in the soil biosphere than other shallow rooted non-native grasses (Koteen et al. 2011). It is proposed that as an aggregate, considering the above and below ground carbon, the coastal sage shrub species should be calculated conservatively as approximately 4.0 percent of a small tree/large shrub, and the perennial grass understory as approximately 1.4 percent of the carbon sequestration of a small tree/large shrub for purposes of this project. The below ground roots and associated mycorrhizal fungi will be present for the species selected for the project and will sequester carbon. The existing conditions of the project are mainly shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), neither of which form a mutualism with mycorrhizal fungi, and therefore, the project will result in an increase of these important soil fungi across the area, for the overall health of native species, and increased carbon sequestration.

Tons of Carbon Sequestered by Project Native Trees/Large Shrubs over 20, 50 and 85-Year Periods.

Totals for North-West Slope Project Site, BHSO	**20-yr (tCO2e)**	**50-yr (tCO2e)**	**85-yr (tCO2e)**
Large Trees (Evergreen >25')	43	218	530
Small Trees/Tree-sized Shrubs (Evergreen >15' <25')	418	2,360	3,962
Coastal Sage Scrub Species	297	1,598	2,271
Total, N/W Slope Project Site	**758**	**4,176**	**6,763**

Native habitat is long-lived, self-perpetuating, and adapted to Southern California's hot climate, with leaf canopies and deep root systems that maximize carbon uptake. By planting a resilient natural plant community with a range of trees and small tree-sized shrubs, as well as filling the understory with native shrubs and grasses, the project also will mitigate stormwater runoff.

The proposed native habitat will help reduce urban heat island effects by replacing weedy areas of annual grasses and herbaceous weeds with a site appropriate native habitat, creating year-round shade to help offset longer-term climate change impacts. In addition to these environmental benefits, native vegetation has been associated with lower levels of asthma and obesity, and there is strong evidence that urban vegetation provides respiratory health benefits.

The native habitat approach will create permanent, functioning habitat that creates sustainable green, open space in the heart of this urbanized part of Los Angeles; support native birds, butterflies, invertebrates and reptiles, and be a functional habitat link to other regional natural areas. This approach restores native habitat lost to over a century of urban development.

Alignment with Regional and State Plans and Policies

The project is consistent with and supports the goals of the **California Water Action Plan** by restoring natural habitat, improving urban water quality, and increasing the resilience of a watershed connected to the Santa Monica Bay. The project will demonstrate an adaptation technique to climate change (restoration of deep-rooted native plants to increase soil stability in advance of future extreme precipitation events) and provide sustainable outdoor amenities for the public's enjoyment in the form of its contribution to the quality and user experience of the urban nature trail system at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Alignment with Baldwin Hills Conservancy Strategic Objectives

Proposition 1 provides funds to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy for "multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects." The **Baldwin Hills Conservancy Strategic Plan** establishes priorities of resource protection, habitat restoration, and urban greening.

The proposed project is consistent with the priorities of this plan, which direct the Conservancy to "advance the optimal management of resources in the watershed in order to achieve conservation benefits, improve ecosystem health, and increase climate resiliency." The plan further calls on the Conservancy to "Restore native habitat to improve ecosystem function and provide multi-benefit wildlife corridors, species biodiversity and other ecosystem benefits." The proposed project supports both of these goals, by providing conservation benefits (restoration of native vegetation), improving ecosystem health and function (increased stormwater infiltration, increased carbon sequestration, improved slope stabilization), increasing species biodiversity (provision of native habitat suitable for rare coastal scrub species), and increasing climate resiliency (increased water capture, increased resiliency to extreme weather events).

Site Description

The site is located within the Baldwin Hills, which are the northernmost of a series of hills located along the Newport-Inglewood fault zone (Figure 1). It lies within the Ballona Creek watershed and the project site's location is on the northern face overlooking the creek itself.

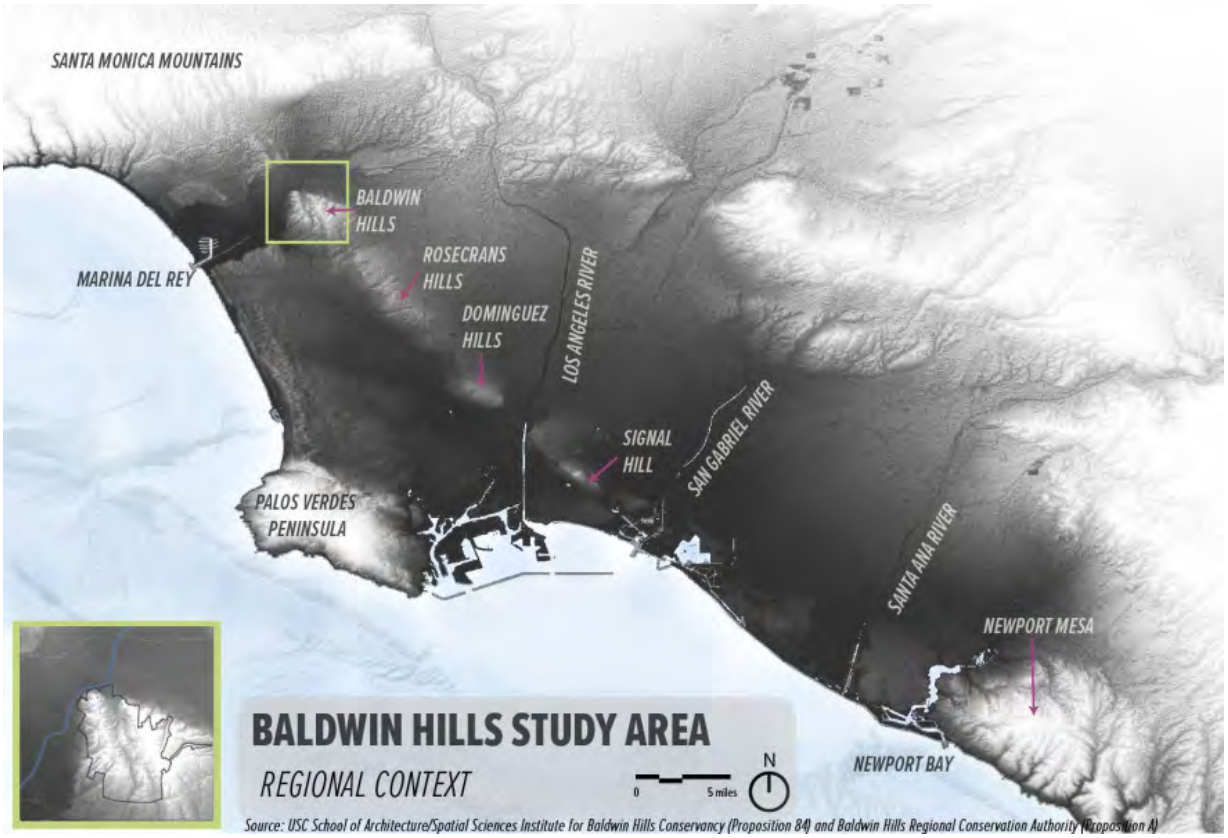


Figure 1. Regional context of the Baldwin Hills. Image from baldwinhillsnature.bhc.ca.gov

Figure 2. Map of Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park.

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park is on the northernmost north-facing terminus of the Baldwin Hills. It has slopes ranging for northeast to due north to northwest. The developed overlook at the highest park is rightfully well-known for its panoramic views of the Los Angeles basin. A set of stairs bisects the slope downward from the overlook point and these stairs are the focal point for a large number of visitors daily. Additional trails traverse the slope and an access road hugs the western edge of the park, leading up to a parking lot serving a visitor's center.

The vegetation is a combination of nonnative annual grassland, large stands of shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), restored coastal sage scrub, and stands of toyon and southern California black walnut. An understanding of the fine-scale variation in these vegetation types can be seen in an image that measures infrared light reflected off the vegetation (Figure 3). The trees show up as red (mostly toyon), scrub areas are dark brown, and annual grasses, mustards, and radish are light brown.

Figure 3. Infrared view of project area from July 2016 (US NAIP imagery). Red color indicates presence of green vegetation.

Project Approach

Project has two major components. A large-scale restoration effort on the north-facing hillside would convert 7 acres from predominantly nonnative grasses and mustard to a native scrubland with walnut/toyon woodland elements. The second element involves redesign and repair of trail portions to address ongoing erosion issues.

Hillside Restoration

We have identified an area of the northern slope of the property that remains dominated by nonnative grasses and mustard. The site has been delineated for logistical reasons to extend between landmarks on the ground. It is bounded by the stairs on the east, a concrete drainage swale long the north and west, and a trail at the south (Figure 4). The area north of the drainage channels was hydroseeded with native scrub species as part of park development and has been reasonably stable and is not included in this project.

We propose to use techniques developed at large restoration sites in southern California to control weeds and restore scrublands without herbicides or irrigation (establishment of walnuts and toyon, based on previous experience at BHSO, will require supplemental water). Our approach will develop local capacity to implement large-scale shrubland restoration by including training with professional crews that implement similar projects for large landowners and land managers in Orange and San Diego Counties.

Figure 4. Project location for hillside coastal sage scrub and walnut woodland restoration.

Erosion Repair and Design

Due to the steep slopes and extensive “volunteer” trail networks the northern face of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook shows various signs of erosion. As the site is located adjacent to Ballona Creek, it is imperative that erosion control measures are put into place to stabilize slopes and reduce the amount of sediment running into the creek system. Two areas where erosion control measures are necessary have been identified, they are the trailhead along Jefferson Boulevard and the intersection of the trail and Hetzler Rd. These areas can be identified by the sandbags that have been placed to reduce runoff velocities, extensive rilling in the trail, and evidence of slumping.

Lower Trail along Jefferson Boulevard. The trailhead shows extensive erosion due to the retaining walls that line the park entrance trail. This trail originally had a surface over the concrete that guided drainage to the slope without concentrating it in one location, but this surface has not survived and in the current condition, runoff is concentrated by the concrete footing of the retaining wall and onto a steep portion of the earthen slope between the trail and

the sidewalk along Jefferson Boulevard. As a result, this slope has been eroding, requiring remedial attention from Park staff, and discharging sediment onto the sidewalk and then into the storm drain. The storm drain now appears to be blocked.

For the erosion damage leading down to the sidewalk, we propose to use a soft retaining wall system of soil in burlap sacks to build up from the bottom, then filling in and smoothing out the slope up to the path. Planting trees, shrubs and live staking along the slope will help to stabilize the edge and create micro topographies. Other bioengineering techniques can be utilized such as placing coconut fiber wattles perpendicular to the slope to prevent stormwater from sheet flowing and retain soils over time.

Figure 5. Map showing location of two erosion control areas, at the park entrance on Jefferson and at the gate on Hetzler Road.

We then propose to resurface the entrance trail with concrete, creating a lip on the outer edge that will keep surface runoff on the trail to the bottom of the hill at the entrance of the park. This path will continue upslope for 10–15 feet past the existing retaining wall. At the park entrance, the stormwater flows will be directed into a vegetated rain garden, which then will tie into the storm drain system.

The lower main trail will also benefit from refining edge conditions by planting mature native shrubs to define circulation routes and prevent pedestrian traffic from disrupting sensitive habitat. The additional plantings and correction of the erosion conditions in this area would have the benefit of re-establishing the immersive experience of the entrance to the park and improve

screening of Jefferson Boulevard for trail users. Likely plant species to be used along the newly remediated area would be toyon, mule fat, and Mexican elderberry.

Then, as the trail curves away from the road, the edge would be further treated to by removing grass thatch, installing straw wattles, and seeding with an erosion control mix of native plants. Approximately 3–5 southern California black walnut trees would be added along this slope.

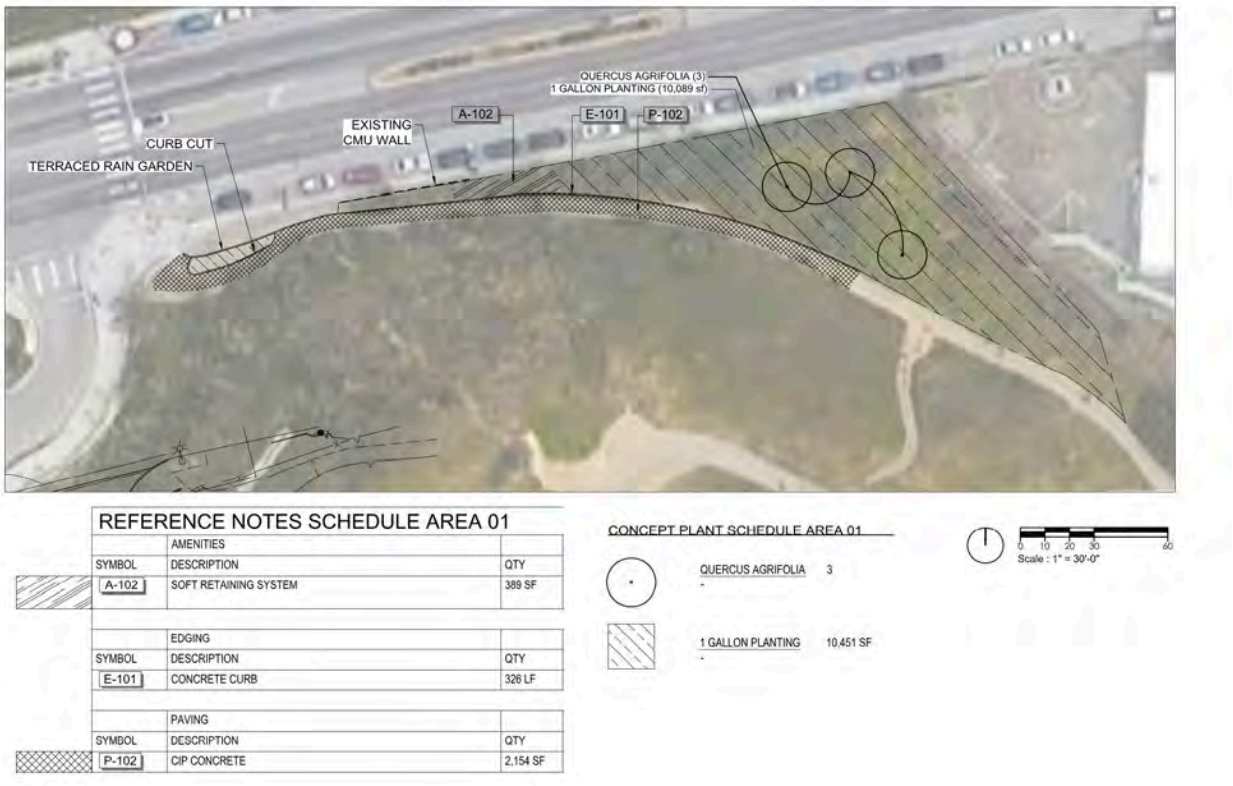


Figure 6. Concept plan to repair erosion and stabilize slopes along the entrance trail at BHSO along Jefferson Boulevard.

Upper Trailhead. The entrance to the park at the gate on Hetzler Road provides a unique opportunity to create a gateway into the park while addressing erosion issues. Current conditions show various grade changes and a wide eroded trail. Refining the trail edge and planting native species will identify the area as a threshold into the park and reduce sediment from entering the gutter system, thereby reducing the amount of sediment deposited into Ballona Creek.

The design of this entrance area is central to controlling pedestrian routes and associated impacts. To address the erosion condition, this upper area will be lightly terraced so that sheet flow is intercepted and drawn away from the main trail, so that water and people take a separate route. The redirected flows will be directed to the V-ditch along the road. Then, the erosion will be repaired around the V-ditch and the concrete entrance to the trail extended outward to the curb, which will be redesigned to allow access by maintenance equipment.

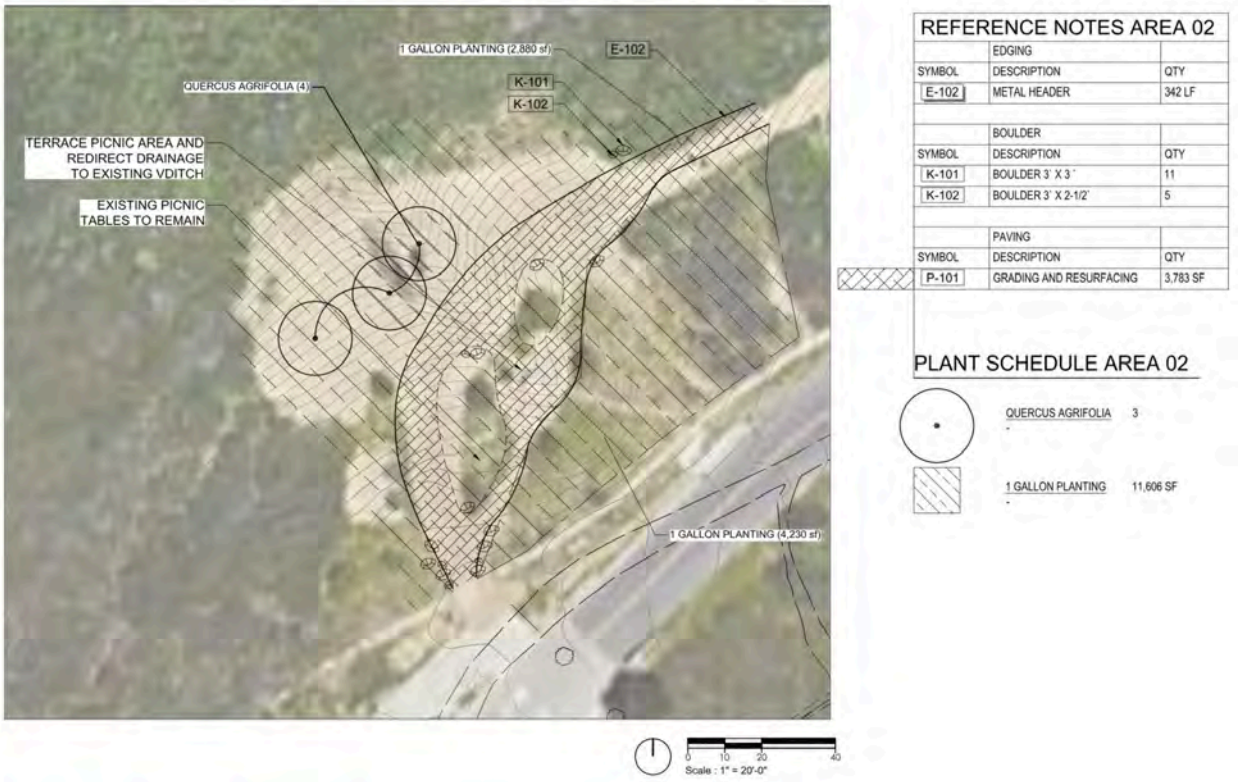


Figure 7. Conceptual design of improvements to remedy current erosion and guide foot traffic to minimize future erosion at upper entrance to BHSO.

Specific Tasks

The specific tasks for the project follow. They will be carried out by Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS), and Land IQ (LIQ), with consultation and approval from California State Parks (CSP).

#	Task Name	Description
1	**Trail repair and erosion control**	
1.1	Schematic Design	Preparation of schematic design and feedback for trail repairs and erosion. MLA
1.2	Construction Documents	Preparation of construction documents for trail repairs and erosion control. MLA
1.3	State Parks Review	Review and environmental compliance for trail repair and erosion control. CSP
1.4	Grow Container Plants	Grow container plants (California walnut, elderberry, toyon) from seed. LAAS
1.5	Trail Repair and Erosion Control Construction	Construction of trail and recontouring to reduce erosion. LACC; MLA
1.6	Fall Weed Control	Dethatch and remove weed biomass. LACC; MLA

1.7	Install Container Plants	Plant per designed plans for entry locations and erosion control. LACC; MLA
1.8	Winter Weed Control	Weed control event. LACC; MLA
2	***Soil Restoration Through Weed Depletion***	
2.1	Write Weed Management Plan	Develop specific strategy and tactics to control weeds withing slope site. LIQ
2.2	Write Restoration Plan	Develop seed mix and container plant strategy for slope site and document approach. LIQ
2.3	State Parks Review	Review weed control plan and restoration plan; address CEQA compliance. CSP
2.4	Write Monitoring Plan	Write monitoring plan for whole project area, establishing repeat photo points and vegetation transects. LIQ
2.2	Site Prep Demo	Demonstration weed control event with professional restoration contractors for corpsmembers and supervisors. LACC; Nakae
2.3	Year 1 Fall Weed Control	Dethatch and manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
2.4	Year 1 Winter Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
2.5	Year 1 Spring Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
2.6	Year 2 Fall Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
2.6	Year 2 Winter Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
2.8	Year 2 Spring Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
3	**Plant and Establish Riparian Species**	
3.1	Grow Container Plants	Grow container plants (California walnut, elderberry, toyon) from seed. LAAS
3.2	Install Container Plants	Install plants in drainages. LACC
3.3	Year 3 Fall Weed Control	Dethatch and weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
3.4	Year 3 Winter Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
3.5	Year 3 Spring Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
4	***Seed and Establish Coastal Scrub***	
4.1	Order Seeds	Purchase seeds and assure quality from vendor. LAAS
4.2	Seeding	Manual application of seeds using bellygrinder with supplement of mycorrhizal inoculum. LACC; LIQ

4.3	Year 3 Fall Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
4.4	Year 3 Winter Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
4.5	Year 3 Spring Weed Control	Manual weed control for slope site. LACC; LAAS
4.6	Design and install educational signage	Design two educational signs. Secure from vendor and install on site. LAAS; LACC

Work Products

The deliverable work products from the project fall into two categories, plans and documentation and field work.

For plans and documentation, the deliverable work products will include a:

- Erosion control design and construction documents
- Weed management plan
- Restoration plan
- Quarterly reports during the project period
- Annual reporting for 5 years post-grant

The field work will include:

- Propagation of selected native plants from on-site stock
- Site preparation, weed control, planting, seeding, and maintenance of a 7-acre restoration site
- Site preparation and construction of erosion control interventions at lower and upper park entrances
- Supervision and monitoring before, during, and after construction.
- Installation of project signage with educational component connecting habitat restoration with watershed health

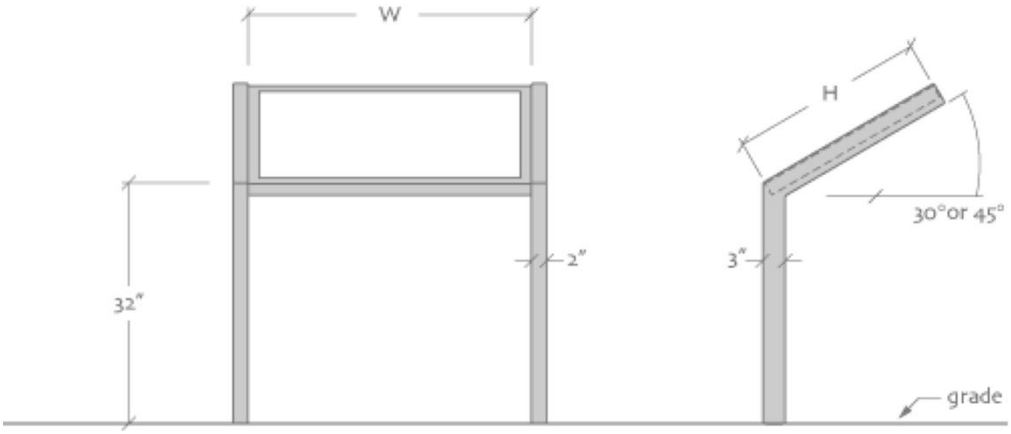


Figure 8. Example of educational signage design.

Monitoring and Reporting Plan

The project is designed with ongoing reporting and monitoring to ensure the project benefits are realized.

Performance Monitoring and Reporting

The restoration area will be monitored for performance annually following the first full growing season after installation (the second spring after planting/seeding) through the fifth year of establishment. Therefore, this restoration project timeline is for eight years from the start of site preparation through the final reporting year of establishment. This reporting period extends well beyond the grant period and the reporting services will be provided as an in-kind donation from Los Angeles Audubon Society, which maintains an active education and restoration program at the site. Reports will be prepared for the restoration areas after installation is complete in year three, with annual performance reporting in years four through eight. Each report will include qualitative data, photo documentation, and future recommendations for site maintenance. The annual performance monitoring reports in years four through eight will include quantitative data.

Annual performance monitoring will take place each year in mid-spring or as close to mid-spring as each year's rainy season permits to capture the majority of annual as well as perennial CSS species. Results from the annual performance monitoring will be used to evaluate the progress of the CSS habitat toward the ultimate goals of the project. Annual performance monitoring reports will be prepared for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Reports will be submitted annually by December 1 of the reporting year.

Performance Criteria

Restoration criteria have been developed to assess the functions and values of the CSS restoration area, to evaluate the development of the site and progress towards reaching the final

goals of the project. Thus, the restoration will be assessed as the habitat develops trends in cover, species diversity, and soil development, so that the habitat quality of the site is restored.

Performance criteria are as follows:

First-Year Monitoring

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 20 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 20 percent cover

Second-Year Monitoring

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 30 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 20 percent cover

Third-Year Monitoring

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 40 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover

Fourth-Year Monitoring

- Target percent absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 50 percent
- Target percent absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover

Fifth-Year Monitoring

- Absolute native cover should be equal to or greater than 70 percent
- Absolute nonnative cover should be no greater than 15 percent cover
- The site does not require significant maintenance during the last two years of the establishment period as documented by the Restoration Ecologists annual monitoring report
- Irrigation must be discontinued a minimum of two years
- There shall be no woody California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC's) "Invasive Plant Inventory" species present
- Soil at the site is stable and shows no significant erosion
- Most (>50%) native plant species set seed, and seedlings of at least five CSS species demonstrate recruitment in the site in the fifth year of monitoring

Monitoring Methods and Frequency

Monitoring will begin annually following the first full growing season after installation (the second spring after planting/seeding) through the final year of establishment. Quantitative monitoring will take place in years 4 through 8. The quantitative variables measured are based on the goals of the project, development characteristics of the CSS community, and the restoration criterion outlined above. Variables will include native species cover, exotic species cover, percent bare ground and litter, as well as species frequency and seedling frequency in monitoring transects. Height of shrub species will also be measured. The number of sampling transects in the

restoration area will be determined to ensure statistical confidence based on the variation over the site, but generally one transect for every two acres is sufficient. However, since the restoration area is 7 acres in size, 4 transects are recommended to provide confidence in the results.

Qualitative Monitoring Methodology

Qualitative monitoring will consist of a general description of site conditions including the community structure composition and plant health along with a complete species list of the restoration area. Additionally, a summary of the site maintenance performed to date and recommendations for future maintenance activities will be included.

Permanent photo points will be established to conduct photographic documentation of restoration progress and the development of the restoration habitat. Photo points will be established prior to implementation to provide a representative overview before restoration for comparison to “after photos” taken annually during performance monitoring. The geographic coordinates will be recorded using a sub-meter precision global positioning system (GPS) along with the general compass direction for each photo point location. Four photo point locations will be established prior to the initiation of restoration activities at appropriate representative locations within the restoration areas.

Quantitative Monitoring Methodology

Quantitative monitoring will consist of field sampling to measure native plant cover, weed cover, and plant composition to evaluate the progress and success of the restoration areas. The point intercept method following the California Native Plant Society field sampling protocol will be used to collect data (Sawyer et al. 2009). This method is well suited to measure scrub vegetation and will provide the most efficient method for estimating cover and species composition over the restoration site.

Quantitative monitoring will consist of 50-meter transects. Locations of transects will be determined randomly within the restoration area using a numbered grid system. Fifty points will be sampled at each transect along the tape at 1-meter intervals starting at 1 meter and ending at 50 meters. A one-meter long, ¼-inch round steel bar will be placed vertically at each sampling point, consistently on the same side of the tape.

All live species that contact the bar, or in the case of overhanging vegetation, intercept the upward projection of the bar are counted and recorded. If no vascular plants are intercepted at a sample point, it is recorded as “bare ground.” Plant litter will be recorded in areas of no vegetative cover but with dead vegetative matter covering the ground. Total cover is based on the number of points for each plant species (native and nonnative) and unvegetated cover types (bare ground and plant litter) recorded along the transect. Absolute cover is then calculated by dividing the total number of points for each species or ground cover by the total number of points on the transect. Since multiple species can be recorded at each point, the total absolute percent cover may be greater than 100 percent because of overlap of plants at each sampling point.

Seedlings will be identified for shrubs and sub-shrubs and will be determined by being small, having a non-woody base, and usually the result of germination during the same year as the transect reading. Juveniles and adults will be identified as definitely woody at the base of the stem, with adults in flower and/or with seed. Data on the height of the shrub species will also be recorded for all shrub contacted by the bar at each point along each transect.

Reporting

The annual reports for the restoration area will include the qualitative assessment, a summary of the site maintenance performed to date, photo point documentation, and recommendations for future maintenance.

Cover data for native, nonnative and unvegetated will be reported as absolute cover. Cover will also be reported for individual native and nonnative species. Frequency data will be reported as the percent of transects a species is reported to occur. Height data will be reported as the average height of the shrub species. Species richness will be a measure of the number of species observed within the restoration area.

Reports will be prepared and submitted by December 1 of the reporting year to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Preliminary Budget and Schedule

Task Number	Task	Completion Date	Applicant's Funding	BHC Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
1.0	Trail repair and erosion control	November 30, 2022		$121,194	$306,570	$427,764
2.0	Soil restoration through weed depletion	October 30, 2022		$549,766	$33,398	$583,164
3.0	Plant and establish riparian species	September 30, 2023		$98,684		$98,684
4.0	Seed and establish coastal scrub	September 30, 2023		$257,996	$13,587	$271,583
TOTAL				**$1,027,640**	**$353,556**	**$1,381,196**

In-kind Services and Matching Funds

The applicants propose to fund the construction portion of the trail repair and erosion control task through a Proposition 68 grant from the California Conservation Corps ($163,556). Additional funding is being sought from the Campbell Foundation ($25,000), Shell US ($75,000), and Mitsubishi ($18,000).

In-kind commitments are included from Los Angeles Audubon Society for volunteer hours and post-project monitoring ($47,000 during the project period) and California State Parks as the value of staff time for plan review, CEQA compliance, and project coordination as the landowner ($25,000).

Market Comparison

The budget for the proposed project compares favorably with rates for commercial restoration of a similar area using standard methodology and expenses. We extracted per acre costs from a recent cost estimate (2018) by a restoration contractor for a restoration using seed, container planting, and irrigation. The commercial cost estimate reflects labor paid prevailing wage per the State of California that would be required on a project funded by the State of California.

Costs for a commercial project are as follows.

a. Standard site preparation (essentially clearing old weed growth, and then two seasons of irrigated 'Grow & Kill' weeding. The initial clearance uses weed whips, haul off of weed debris; continue process for 2 seasons of site preparation weeding with weed whips: $10,060/ac.

b. Installation of temporary above ground irrigation system for grow and kill and container plants; Note: the cost does not include the cost of a water meter nor the cost of water as BHSO provides the water and connection. $15,000/ac

c. Plants and planting = $7,656/ac

d. Seed and seeding = $7,200/ac

e. Plant Establishment and Maintenance (1 year to establish planting/seeding; 5 years maintenance including two years estimated irrigation; includes irrigation as necessary for container plant establishment; hand weeding of the site to allow establishment of desired habitat = $39,098/ac

Subtotal: Cost of Restoration Implementation = $79,554/ac

f. Restoration Consultant Plan Preparation: Coordinate with client on site; site assessment including soils and existing vegetation evaluation; and oversight of plan implementation (including maintenance period) by Restoration Contractor. = $32,000 /ac

g. Restoration Consultant Monitoring and Reporting: Annual monitoring report preparation based on qualitative monitoring in years 1,2, and 4 and quantitative monitoring in years 3 and 5 once site is no longer under maintenance. $39,000 /ac

Subtotal Cost for Restoration Plan and Monitoring 5 years = $71,000 /ac

<u>Grand Total for Standard Restoration Implementation, Planning and Monitoring: $150,554/ac</u>

Total estimate for a 7-acre restoration: $ 1,053,878.

Proposed cost in this proposal for 7-acre restoration (excluding trail repair portion of project): $ 906,446.

The proposed project is more cost effective than commercial rates and has the added benefit of workforce development through LACC, community involvement through Los Angeles Audubon Society and volunteer events, and educational outreach through signage, youth participation, and volunteer events.

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.

   ☒ 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, in stream 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.** For restoration and ecosystem protection projects, Grantee to include each signed and completed **Corps Consultation Review** Document as evidence that applicant has consulted with the state and local conservation corps

and included their services if feasible. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Attachment 1 to this application.

The applicant is a local conservation corps and will provide all applicable services.

3. **Consistency with other State Plans:** If the proposed project will help to implement or promote the goals of any of the State Plans listed below, check that plan and specify which goals, objectives, priority actions, etc. will be furthered by the project. Limit your answers to 1-3 sentences per plan.

☐ California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report
☐ CA Climate Adaptation Strategy/Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk Plan

☒ California Water Action Plan

☐ CA Wildlife Action Plan

☐ California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California

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

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

The Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Program was developed under the leadership and guidance of the agencies that form the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Group—the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the City of Beverly Hills, Culver City, the City of Inglewood, the City of West Hollywood, and the City of Santa Monica. The Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Plan provides the blueprint for regional collaboration to manage urban runoff resulting in cleaner watersheds. Implementation will reduce pollutants in the watershed, improve communities, enhance aesthetics and property values, increase recreational opportunities, augment water supplies, and help to combat climate change.

The Ballona Creek Enhanced Watershed Management Plan outlines best management practices—managing pollutants, structural control measures (low-impact development, green streets, centralized downstream facilities), reasonable assurance analysis modeling, compliance, and monitoring. The project adheres to the best management practices of pollutant management and structural control measures. The project will reduce sediment runoff from the north slope of Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook into Ballona Creek, redirect stormwater runoff currently flowing across Jefferson Boulevard that carries oil and other pollutants from the street surface into Ballona Creek and increase infiltration on site at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook to support the aquifer.

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

Proposition 1, passed 2014, and the California Water Action Plan, which provided the roadmap for Proposition 1 and updated 2016, were intended to grapple with the long-term sustainability of the state's water supply. The California Water Action Plan was developed to meet three broad objectives:

- more reliable water supplies,
- the restoration of important species and habitat,
- and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection, and environment).

The project aligns with and advances the goals of the California Water Action Plan by improving infiltration and managing runoff, removing non-native vegetation and restoring native habitat, and introducing sustainable management practices to protect water resources. The project will demonstrate an adaptation technique to climate change (restoration of deep-rooted native plants to increase soil stability in advance of future extreme precipitation events). These actions improve the reliability of the water supply, restore native flora to welcome back native fauna, and increase the climate resilience of the Ballona Creek watershed.

5. **Best Scientific Practices.** Describe how the project is consistent with best scientific practices where achievable and appropriate.

As elaborated in the project description, the project uses the best available scientific practices in land management, restoration, and ecosystem restoration. A few examples highlight the support for this approach.

Seed bank management. The soil contains a "bank" of seeds (and other plant parts that can develop into plants, known collectively as *propagules*) to which there are "deposits" and "withdrawals" that determine the amount of propagules (Forcella 2003). Seed rain and dispersal by animals increases seeds, while germination, decay, and predation decrease seed number of any particular species (Liebman et al. 2001, Davis et al. 2005).

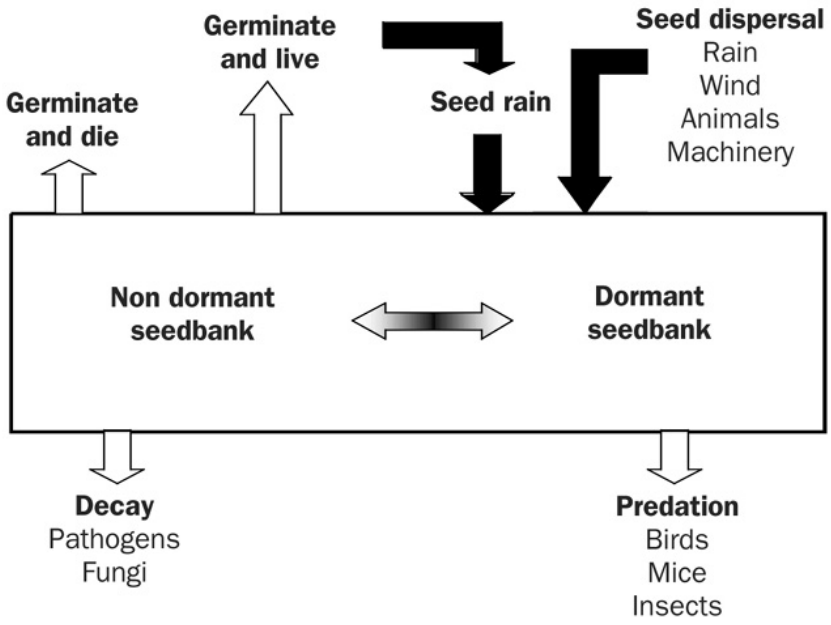


Figure 9. Flows of seeds in and out of the soil seed bank. Fabian Menalled, MSU Extension, Montana State University.

Weed seeds can be decreased through germination and then killing the weeds before they set seed again, which is the primary strategy for this proposal project. A secondary strategy is to avoid soil disturbance so that seeds that are buried deep enough that they do not receive the light cues to germinate will decay before they ever germinate. The management of the weed seed bank through such techniques was developed in organic farming through practices such as “no-till” (Liebman et al. 2001) and has spread to ecological restoration (Brooks et al. 2019).

Slope stability. The conversion of southern California’s coastal scrublands to exotic grasslands to produce pasturage for cattle is one of the major ecological shifts of the European era of occupation of these lands. Grasslands, however, have shallower root systems that are less able to hold the soil together and therefore are more prone to landslides. Researchers have shown that deeper soils can be held intact under shrublands when they would fail under grasslands (Gabet and Dunne 2002). The project area contains slope areas that exceed 28º, putting them in the range of steepness where deeper soils will be unstable and could be made more stable through restoration of native shrubland vegetation (Figure 11).

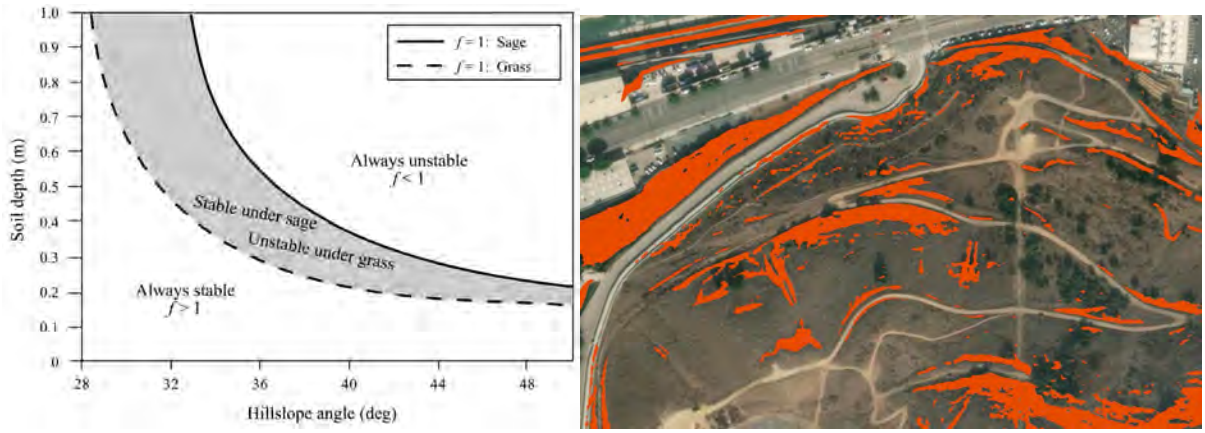


Figure 10. Left: Relationship between hillslope, soil depth, and stability under grassland and shrubland vegetation (Gabet and Dunne 2002). Right: Areas of BHSO where slope exceeds 28º and are vulnerable to failure during extreme rainfall events. Data from Esri Living Atlas.

Fire Risk of Annual Weeds. Annual grasses and other annual weeds increase fire risk because they are "flashy" fuels that dry completely and ignite easily. They carry fire and spread it easily during wind-driven fire events. Native shrubs, however, and especially larger species such as toyon retain moisture through the year and although they will burn in a wind-driven fire, they are not as prone to ignition as annual grasses and weeds. Currently, the project area has extensive annual grass and weeds. Their replacement with native shrubs and walnut woodland elements would reduce the risk of a fire ignition and spread, especially from a fire in the surrounding urban area not associated with Santa Ana winds.

Carbon Sequestration. The scientific literature is clear that chaparral both sequesters and stores more carbon than exotic grasslands (Williamson et al. 2004, Jenerette et al. 2018). For coastal sage scrub, the results are more mixed, with some studies showing lower sequestration and storage of carbon for coastal sage scrub than for nonnative grasslands (Wolkovich et al. 2010), and others showing higher soil carbon (Caspi et al. 2018) and aboveground carbon for coastal sage scrub (Wheeler et al. 2016). The north-facing slope at the Baldwin Hills site will receive a significant cover of evergreen shrubs more typical of chaparral (toyon) along with trees (southern California black walnut) and associated mesic species (elderberry). Given the superior ability of all of these species and coastal scrub species to sequester carbon aboveground, and the deeper root systems of all compared with annual grasses (Hellmers et al. 1955), we can conclude that the restored condition will provide more ecosystem functions in terms of carbon sequestration, along with other biogeochemical cycling such as uptake of nitrogen (Caspi et al. 2018, Jenerette et al. 2018).

6. **New Technology.** Does the project employ new or innovative technology or practices? If yes, describe those technologies and/or practices.

Our use of new technology can be characterized as a return to the future. First, we propose to undertake herbicide free restoration of natural ecosystems. For many years, herbicides have been used to ease the process of reclaiming landscapes from nonnative grasses and pernicious

weeds. New guidance from the County of Los Angeles points toward an emphasis on land management without herbicides in the future. Drawing on expertise from project partner Land IQ and their extensive wildland restoration efforts in Orange County, we will apply the innovations from organic farming of seed bank management to the restoration process. Although this is not a new innovation in human history, its application to shrubland restoration at the scale of acres is now being pioneered. The choice of seeds is innovative in that the seed mix will contain native annual species that are found following disturbance and are adapted to growing quickly, in addition to the larger, slower-growing species that will eventually dominate. In this manner, the restoration builds a native seedbank that will be in place and ready to grow after future disturbances. Restoration efforts that fail to include these “early succession” species are destined to become weed patches as they are subject to fires in the long run. Figure 11 shows an example of conversion of weedy slopes to native shrublands through seed-based rain-driven restoration at Crystal Cove State Park by project partner Land IQ.

Figure 11. Seed-based, rainfall-driven coastal sage scrub restoration at Crystal Cove State Park. Upper: November 2014 before thatch removal. Lower: June 2020 after restoration. Photos: Land IQ.

The seed mix will include arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) inoculum. Native plants need these fungi to form a net within the soil to aid in transport of water and nutrients. The fungi connect with the roots of the plants and then act as an extension of the root system, in exchange for sustenance from the plant. The mustards and radish on the site do not form underground mycorrhizal nets and therefore AMF is added to the seed mix to flip the soil ecology over to a condition that supports the native species. Although Land IQ personnel

pioneered this method in the 1990s, it is still not well known and constitutes an important technological innovation that has not been deployed at scale in urban restoration projects.

We also propose to use age-old technologies to address erosion issues that represent a pull-back from engineered solutions, for example the use of straw wattles and low-tech means to control both runoff and pedestrian access in a manner that will become incorporated into the living landscape. These and other approaches built into the restoration design are innovative in their simplicity and avoidance of heavily engineered solutions with high embodied carbon and single purpose (e.g., concrete drainage swales).

7. **Sustainability.** Described how the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term.

The project is designed to reduce the maintenance needed by State Parks staff and to produce a self-sustaining natural system that is resilient to future environmental conditions. These sustainable long-term outcomes are built into the project design and implementation.

Fire Hazard Reduction Through Restoration. Even though coastal sage scrub is adapted to periodic fire over the long-term, too frequent fire is detrimental and favors invasive annual weeds. Native scrublands in southern California experience too-frequent fires, so reduction in fire risk is a long-term benefit of the project. In the current conditions, the areas to be restored are dominated by invasive exotic weeds, including mustards, radish, and annual grass species. These species pose a significant fire risk through production of biomass annually that then dies and dries, leaving a landscape through which fire would spread quickly under the wind conditions that characterize the fall southern California fire season. By restoring a native shrubland (with associated riparian elements) the vegetation would be converted from annual species that die each year leaving dry fuels, to perennial shrubs and native grasses that have a far lower fire return interval. Although the eventual biomass of vegetation will increase over current conditions, it will be less fire prone because of the moisture content of live tissue of native perennials compared with the annual fuel load of dead weeds. This transformation will be particularly beneficial along the edge of the park at Jefferson Boulevard where off-site ignition sources could easily ignite fuel accumulated from weed growth along the park's edge. Restoring these areas with native vegetation will serve as a defense against fire for the park's remnant and restored vegetation.

Stormwater Management by Design. The performance of some of the engineered stormwater management systems at BHSO is suboptimal. Erosion is evident and maintenance staff must place sandbags to reduce erosion and keep sediments from leaving the site and contaminating downstream reaches of Ballona Creek. By using native plant material and other landscape interventions, the project will stabilize these areas and create microtopography that arrests the rapid flow of water, allows infiltration, and produces a living system that will reduce and perhaps eliminate the discharge of sediments from the areas targeted. Plantings will also be used to guide use of the trail system by park visitors to protect the designed functions of the restored landscape. Integration of the native restoration planting design with human enjoyment and use of the trail system is integral to the long-term sustainability of the project and its beneficial outcomes.

Seed-based Restoration. Many projects to restore coastal sage scrub vegetation rely on mulching around container plants to establish shrubs. Although this approach certainly can be effective at establishing shrub cover, results are tenuous in the longer term. Mulch does not kill the weed seed bank existing at site and weeds often germinate and grow through the mulch, requiring more mulch. When the site is eventually disturbed, weed seeds remain dominant and limited native seed is available to recover. In contrast, a project that spends two (or more) years to reduce the weed seed bank through targeted control efforts and then introduces seed for native shrub and annual species sets up a system that will be resilient to future disturbance. With this approach, the combination of a suppressed weed seed bank and introduction of native seeds that can grow quickly after disturbance (annuals) and more slowly after disturbance (shrubs) sets up the site to be dominated by native vegetation in the long term. In addition, seed-based restoration includes introduction of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), which form networks in the soil that are beneficial to native species. The presence of AMF enhances growth of native species through facilitating uptake of crucial nutrients, while inhibiting re-invasion by weeds. An example of this can be seen at BHSO, where mustard has failed to invade coastal sage scrub established through seeding along Hetzler Road.

Social Capital for Watershed Health. Explicit undertaking of erosion control activities and restoration of native trees and shrublands at scale will build social capital for watershed health. Most visitors to the park use it for recreational purposes and no signage currently educates visitors about native habitat and its value. As part of a longer-term investment in the community and its support for ecosystem services, educational displays are proposed as part of the project, pending approval from California State Parks. The project will use plants that will be grown onsite and will include training of corpsmembers by workers from a professional restoration firm. Monitoring skills will be taught in the Los Angeles Audubon Society education programs to train students who will go on to higher education and could return to the region. These investments in social capital and skills are necessary for the long-term ecosystem health of urban watersheds, cultivating the capacity and interest from within the community.

8. **Project and Applicant History:** Provide a history of the project, and any background information not provided in the project description. Is the project related to any previous or proposed Baldwin Hills Conservancy projects? If so, which ones and how are they related?

The project is consistent with the plan for the development of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, which envisions restoring the weed-dominated hills with native habitat in the heart of Los Angeles. Restoration of the north-facing slope is a logical next step building on previous restoration efforts. The applicants have coordinated the need and project description with California State Parks to ensure that the project is consistent with both trails and natural resources considerations for the park.

The current project is related to previous projects funded by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. LACC and Los Angeles Audubon Society are partners on a current project to block unsanctioned trails, restore official trails, and restore vegetation surrounding those trails at BHSO. The current project is outside of the footprint of that effort and of previous projects

funded by BHC. Los Angeles Audubon Society also previously received BHC funding for work in BHSO, and the current project is a logical extension of that work on ecological restoration and environmental education. Studio-MLA wrote the Master Plan for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

9. **Environmental Review**: Projects funded by the Conservancy must be reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). CEQA does not apply to projects that will not have either a direct or indirect effect on the environment. For all other projects, if the project is statutorily or categorically exempt under CEQA, no further review is necessary. If the proposed project is not exempt, it must be evaluated by a public agency that is issuing a permit, providing funding, or approving the project, to determine whether the activities may have a significant effect on the environment. The evaluation results in a "Negative Declaration (Neg. Dec)," "Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)," or "Environmental Impact Report."

   The proposed project…. (select the appropriate answer):

   ☐ 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.

   Project is exempt under:
   - Class 1 Existing Facilities—project repairs existing pedestrian trails and does not involve removal of a scenic resource
   - Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land—project consists of minor alterations to land and vegetation, and it does not involve removal of trees

   ☐ Requires Negative Declaration, MND, or EIR. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date. Please note that the Conservancy will need to review and approve any CEQA document and cannot present a project to the Conservancy Board for funding consideration without a completed CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: **http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html**.

10. **Support:** Obtain letters from the public agencies, identified project partners, park owner/operator non-profit organizations, elected officials and other entities and individuals that will support the project.

Letters of support attached to end of application:

- Land IQ
- Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Studio-MLA
- California State Parks
- Ballona Creek Renassiance

11. **Regional Significance:** Describe the regional significance of the project with respect to recreation (regional trails and parks, staging areas, environmental education facilities, etc.), agricultural resources, and natural resources (including listed species, identified high priority habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, and agricultural soils).

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook is a regionally popular destination to enjoy hiking, exercise, and the panoramic views of the Los Angeles Basin. As an illustration of the importance of this site as a regional destination, data collected by landscape architecture Blake Weber in 2015 are illustrative. He surveyed 250 people on one weekend day who were recreating in the park and asked them about their travel distance to the park, frequency of park use, and age. The average visitor during this period was 30 years old and 94.4% of visitors had driven to the site to exercise. Repeat visitors came to the park an average of 1.4 times a week. A map of the origin locations of those visiting the park shows high local use combined with visitors from the San Fernando Valley, San Bernardino County, and Orange County (Figure 12). A substantial portion of visitors arrived from the areas south and east of the park, which are lacking in similar outdoor recreation opportunities. These data indicate the importance of the park to the local and regional community and demonstrate potential geographic reach of educational benefits of the proposed project.

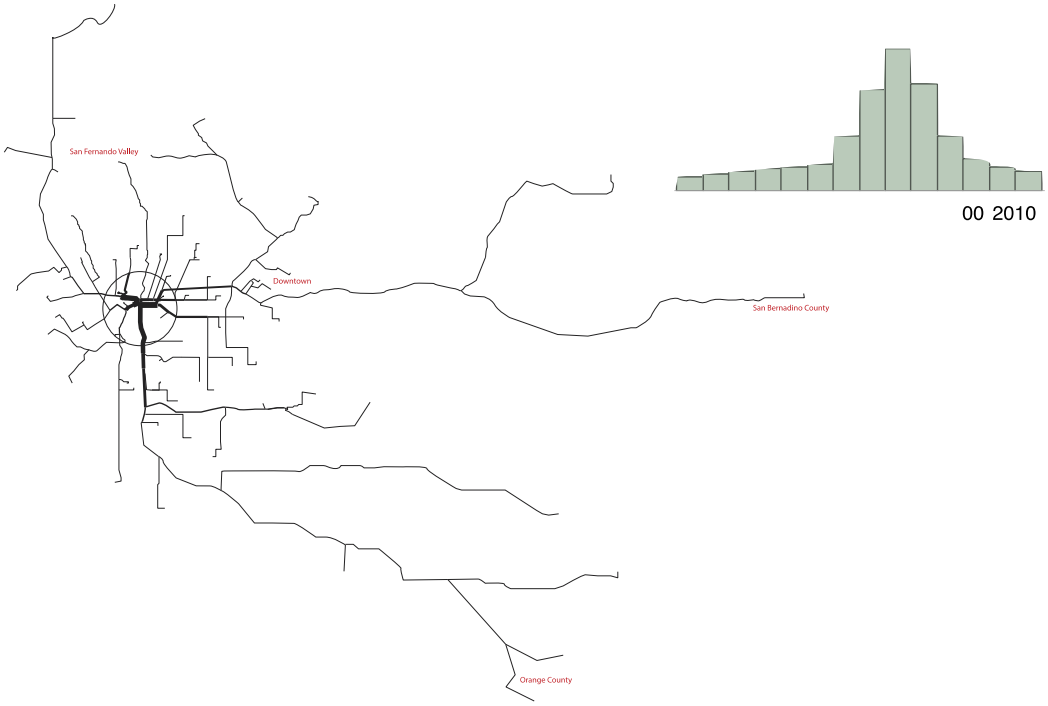


Figure 12. Distribution of visitors to BHSO on a weekend day in 2015. Width of lines indicates proportion of visitors from each ZIP Code out of 250 surveyed. Inset: Year of birth of visitors surveyed.

12. **Disadvantaged Communities.** Does the project benefit a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community? If yes, specify which community and how it will be benefited by the project.

    Disadvantaged Community (DAC) — Census block-groups with a Median House Hold Income (MHHI) less than 80% of the California MHHI. The threshold is derived from American Community Survey 5-year estimates at the block-group geographic level, per the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 75005(g).

Use the State Parks Community Fact Finder tool to determine State Median Household Income (MHHI): **http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities**

As seen in Figure 9, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook is within walking, bicycling, and public transit distance of DACs and SDACs in the Lucerne-Higuera, Baldwin Hills, West Adams, and Crenshaw neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles.

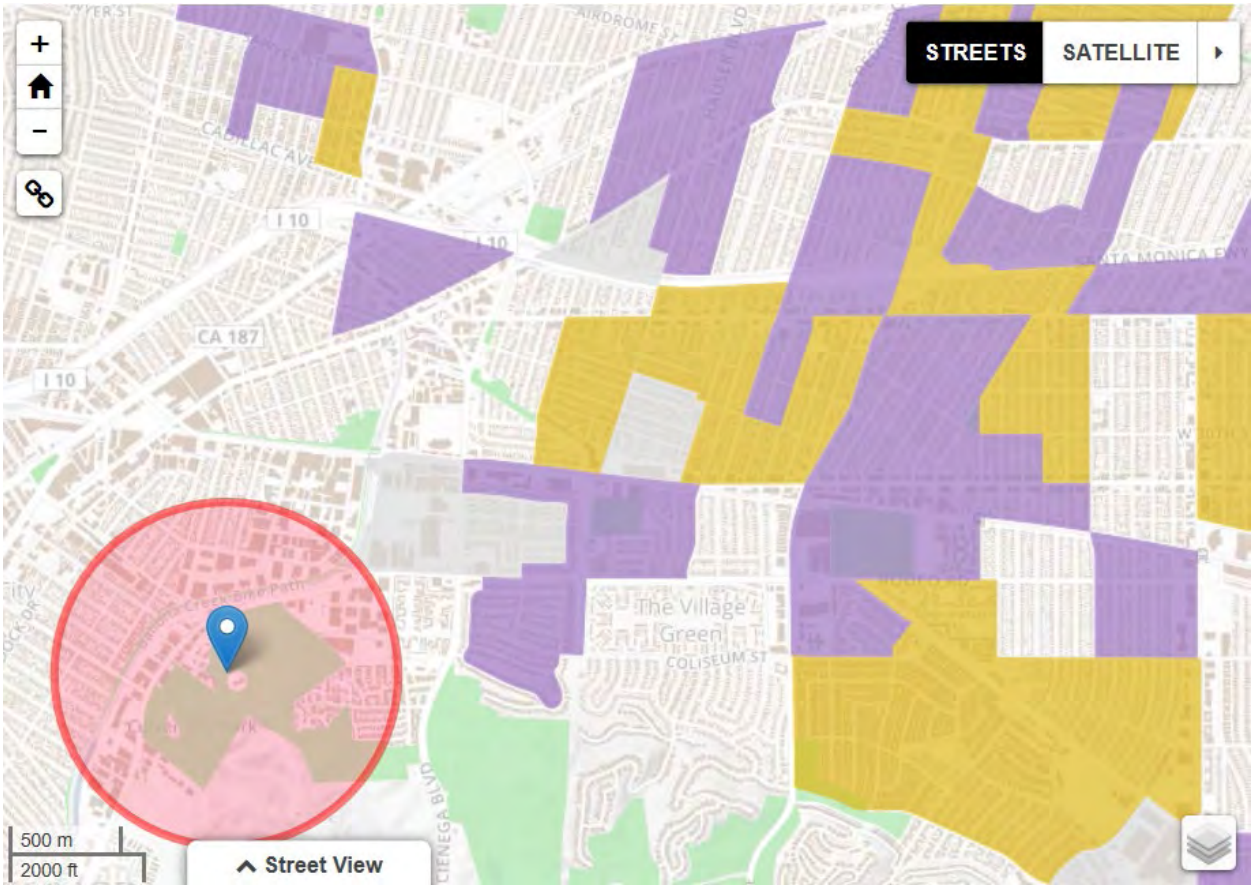


Figure 13. Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged Communities near BHSO.

Benefits accruing to residents of nearby DACs and SDACs:

- BHSO and KHSRA are the closest, no-cost, open space recreational areas available to residents of DACs and SDACs in the Lucerne-Higuera, Baldwin Hills, West Adams, and Crenshaw neighborhoods.
- Non-native vegetation removal that reduces fire fuel and greenhouse gas emissions from wildfire benefits all the residents surrounding BHSO, but particularly, vulnerable populations in nearby DACs and SDACs.
- Native vegetation installation and slope restoration that improves water quality and increases water infiltration benefits all the residents surrounding BHSO, but particularly, vulnerable populations in nearby DACs and SDACs.
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps recruits and hires Corpsmembers (out-of-work and out-of-school young adults getting paid work experience and job skills training) from these DACs and SDACs. Supporting an "earn and learn" experience working on this project reduces poverty one person at a time and will make a significant long-term impact on the economic mobility of these communities.
- Los Angeles Audubon Society educational programs reach out to these areas. Students from under-resourced schools in nearby DACs and SDACs receive increases in STEM knowledge that they would otherwise not get.

13. **Need for Conservancy Funds:** What would happen to the project if no funds were available from the Conservancy? What project opportunities or benefits could be lost and why if the project is not implemented in the near future?

The property owner is California State Parks. Notwithstanding its status as a branch of the California State government, the funding trends for State Parks does not indicate the resources are available for capital improvements such as proposed in this project. As of 2018, the State Park system had a backlog of $1 billion in maintenance needs (*Sacramento Bee*, July 16, 2018). The State Park system lacks the resources to do proactive restoration work without external funding through sources such as bond issues. Restoration to improve watershed health will not occur on this property without the contribution from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

14. **Vulnerability from Climate Change Impacts Other than Sea Level Rise:** Using the latest regional scenarios, predictions and trends, describe how the project objectives or project may be vulnerable to impacts (fire, drought, species and habitat loss, etc.) from climate change, other than sea level rise, coastal erosion or flooding. Identify design, siting, or other measures incorporated into the project to reduce these vulnerabilities.

For the Baldwin Hills, future climate change scenarios concur that extreme precipitation events will become more common by mid- to late-century. We looked at the RCP 8.5 scenario, which envisions greenhouse gases will continue to increase through 2050 and plateau by 2100. For four climate models, extreme heat days (over 91.2º or the 98th percentile of temperature for this location) are predicted to increase under all scenarios. The predictions for rainfall are not consistent, with some models showing increases and some decreases for annual precipitation.

For extreme precipitation events, however, most models predict an increase, and this is consistent with modeling about atmospheric rivers and their effect on California climate (Swain et al. 2018). Increased temperatures would increase evaporation on the site in the absence of means to infiltrate and capture precipitation. Drier conditions could lead to greater risk of wildfire.

The proposed project is responsive to these risks by design. Larger and more frequent extreme rainfall events threaten slope stability. As discussed in the project description, converting the slope from grassland to perennial shrubs and trees will stabilize the slopes and protect them in future rainfall events (Gabet and Dunne 2002). Planting trees and large shrubs on this north facing slope will also increase stormwater capture and infiltration; this shrub and tree cover will then keep the slope cooler through evapotranspiration through the dry months. The current grasses and nonnative annual species die in the summer and therefore offer no cooling effect. The restoration is therefore the ideal intervention for the predicted stability in rainfall (it will remain adequate to support the plants) while mitigating against the predicted increase in extreme heat days. This approach also reduces flashy fuels that increase fire risk.

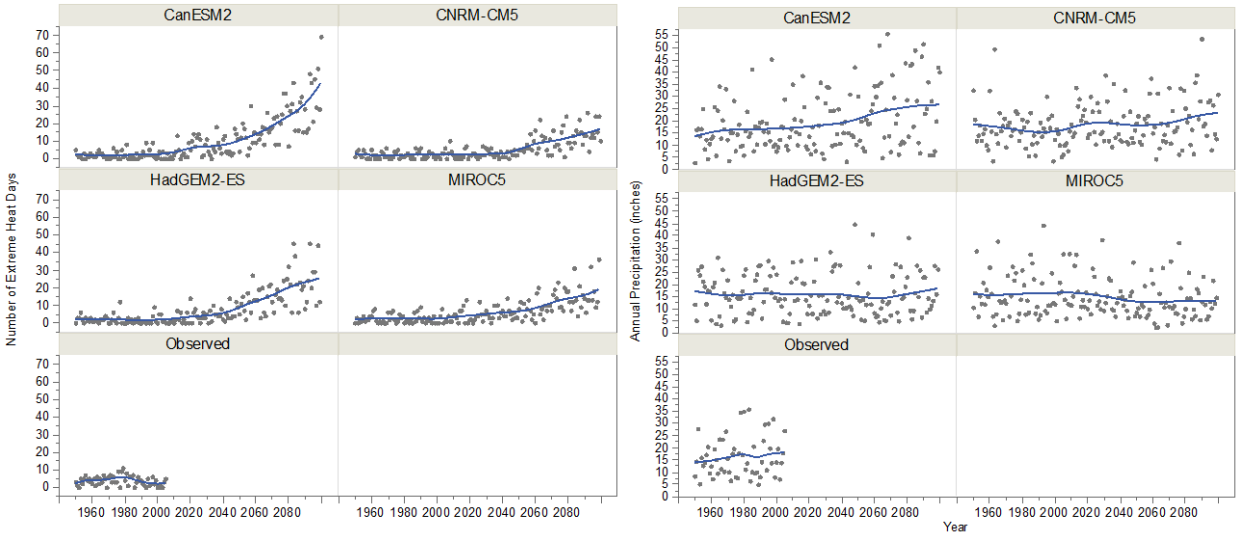


Figure 14. Extreme heat days (left) and annual precipitation (right) for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook vicinity under the RCP 8.5 emissions scenario, in which emissions increase strongly through 2050 and plateau in 2100. Results from four climate models (top two rows) and the observed historical dataset (bottom left) are plotted. Data from https://cal-adapt.org/

15. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change:** If the proposed project will result in production of greenhouse gas emissions (including construction impacts and vehicle miles travelled as part of a public access component), describe the measures your project includes to reduce, minimize or avoid greenhouse gas emissions through project design, implementation construction, or maintenance. What, if any, are the possible sources or sinks of greenhouse gases for your project, such as carbon sequestration from habitats at the site? If one of the project goals is to sequester

carbon (reduce greenhouse gas concentrations), how do you intend to ensure continued long-term sequestration while achieving project objectives? Do you have any plans to seek carbon credits for the carbon sequestration activities on the project site?

The project will involve greenhouse gas emissions as a result of travel to and from the project site by participants, operations associated with design, construction, monitoring, and reporting, and propagation of native plant materials. Emissions will be reduced through car-pooling for workers, although this will be impacted by public health requirements arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will provide carbon sequestration to offset the project's design and construction. As elaborated above, the project will sequester 758 metric tons of CO2 equivalent over the first twenty years and 6,763 metric tons over 85 years. The project will reduce the potential for carbon losses from the site through fire by reducing the fire return interval and will increase soil carbon accumulation. We do not plan to secure carbon credits for the carbon sequestration at the project site.

16. **Willing Seller:** Projects that involve acquisition of property must involve a willing seller. If your project includes property acquisition, please describe the status and expected conclusion of landowner negotiations.

The project does not propose acquisition.

LITERATURE CITED

Brooks, T., M. Griswold, T. Longcore, and M. Riedel-Lehrke. 2019. Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan Update: County of Orange Central and Coastal Subregion, Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan. Natural Communities Coalition, Los Angeles.

Caspi, T., L. Estrada, A. V. Dowling, E. Su, M. Leshchinskiy, A. R. Cavalcanti, E. J. Crane III, C. R. Robins, and W. M. Meyer III. 2018. Carbon and nitrogen in the topsoils of Inceptisols and Mollisols under native sage scrub and non-native grasslands in southern California. Geoderma Regional **14**:e00172.

Davis, A. S., J. Cardina, F. Forcella, G. A. Johnson, G. Kegode, J. L. Lindquist, E. C. Luschei, K. A. Renner, C. L. Sprague, and M. M. Williams. 2005. Environmental factors affecting seed persistence of annual weeds across the US corn belt. Weed Science **53**:860–868.

De Deyn, G. B., J. H. Cornelissen, and R. D. Bardgett. 2008. Plant functional traits and soil carbon sequestration in contrasting biomes. Ecology Letters **11**:516-531.

Forcella, F. 2003. Debiting the seedbank: priorities and predictions. Aspects of Applied Biology **69**:151-162.

Gabet, E. J., and T. Dunne. 2002. Landslides on coastal sage-scrub and grassland hillslopes in a severe El Niño winter: the effects of vegetation conversion on sediment delivery. Geological Society of America Bulletin **114**:983–990.

Hellmers, H., J. S. Horton, G. Juhren, and J. O'Keefe. 1955. Root systems of some chaparral plants in southern California. Ecology **36**:667–678.

Jenerette, G. D., I. W. Park, H. M. Andrews, and J. R. Eberwein. 2018. Biogeochemical Cycling of Carbon and Nitrogen in Chaparral Dominated Ecosystems. Pages 141-179 Valuing Chaparral. Springer.

Koteen, L. E., D. D. Baldocchi, and J. Harte. 2011. Invasion of non-native grasses causes a drop in soil carbon storage in California grasslands. Environmental Research Letters **6**:044001.

Liebman, M., C. L. Mohler, and C. P. Staver. 2001. Ecological management of agricultural weeds. Cambridge University Press.

Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. Evens. 2009. A Manual of California Vegetation. Second edition. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento.

Swain, D. L., B. Langenbrunner, J. D. Neelin, and A. Hall. 2018. Increasing precipitation volatility in twenty-first-century California. Nature Climate Change **8**:427–433.

Terrer, C., S. Vicca, B. A. Hungate, R. P. Phillips, and I. C. Prentice. 2016. Mycorrhizal association as a primary control of the CO_2 fertilization effect. Science **353**:72–74.

Wang, Z.-G., Y.-L. Bi, B. Jiang, Y. Zhakypbek, S.-P. Peng, W.-W. Liu, and H. Liu. 2016. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance soil carbon sequestration in the coalfields, northwest China. Scientific Reports **6**:34336.

Wheeler, M. M., M. M. Dipman, T. A. Adams, A. V. Ruina, C. R. Robins, and W. M. Meyer III. 2016. Carbon and nitrogen storage in California sage scrub and non-native grassland habitats. Journal of Arid Environments **129**:119-125.

Williamson, T. N., R. C. Graham, and P. J. Shouse. 2004. Effects of a chaparral-to-grass conversion on soil physical and hydrologic properties after four decades. Geoderma **123**:99-114.

Wolkovich, E. M., D. A. Lipson, R. A. Virginia, K. L. Cottingham, and D. T. Bolger. 2010. Grass invasion causes rapid increases in ecosystem carbon and nitrogen storage in a semiarid shrubland. Global Change Biology **16**:1351-1365.

Attachment 2 – Non-Profit Organization Pre-Award Questionnaire

"Nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All nonprofit organizations must complete this questionnaire and include it in their application.

CONTACT INFO

Organization	**Los Angeles Conservation Corps**		
Contact Person	Bo Savage	**Email**	bsavage@lacorps.org
Phone	213-210-7619	**Fax**	323-224-2562

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Please attach a copy of your most recent financial reports with your response to this questionnaire. FY19/20
2. Have you had a financial audit within the last three years by an independent auditor? Yes ☒ No ☐

   If yes, then provide a copy of the audit report. FY18/19
3. Does your organization have appropriate segregation of duties to prevent one individual from processing an entire financial transaction? Yes ☒ No ☐
4. Does your organization have controls to prevent expenditure of funds in excess of what is approved in your project budget? Yes ☒ No ☐
5. Does your organization have a conflict of interest policy? Yes ☒ No ☐
6. How much unrestricted money does your organization raise annually?

   ~$1,000,000
7. Is there a Finance Committee of the board of directors, or does the Board make all financial decisions?

   There is a Finance Committee, which sets financial policy and oversees financial operations, as well as an Audit Committee, which supervises independent auditor and reviews financial activity.
8. What are the Treasurer's duties?

   The Treasurer governs accounting and payroll procedures, chairs the Finance Committee, sits on the Audit Committee (without voting privileges), and works with other board members and Chief Financial Officer to revise financial policy

CASH MANAGEMENT

9. Are grant funds accounted for through segregated accounts? Yes ☒ No ☐

10. Are all disbursements properly documented with evidence of receipt of goods or performance of service? Yes ☒ No ☐

PAYROLL

11. Does your organization have a time reporting system developed to determine and explain proper labor and overhead charges billed to the grant? Yes ☒ No ☐

12. Have you developed procedures to ensure fair and competitive contracting? Yes ☒ No ☐

13. Is there an effective system of identifying expenditures for time, travel and purchase of supplies to determine relevancy to individual grant projects? Yes ☒ No ☐

~~PROPERTY MANAGEMENT~~

~~*(Complete this section, if State grants will be used to purchase physical assets.)*~~

~~14. Are detailed records of individual capital assets kept and periodically balanced with the general ledger accounts? Yes ☐ No ☐~~

~~15. Are there effective procedures for authorizing and accounting for the disposal of property and equipment? Yes ☐ No ☐~~

INDIRECT COSTS

16. Does the organization have an established methodology for calculating indirect costs or overhead? Yes ☒ No ☐

17. Is this used consistently for all grants and contracts? Yes ☒ No ☐

COST SHARING

18. Does the organization have a means to determine and document that it has met cost-sharing goals for each project? Yes ☒ No ☐

19. Do your financial records identify the receipt and expenditure of funds separately for each grant or contract? Yes ☒ No ☐

COMPLIANCE

20. Does your organization have a formal system for complying with the payment of prevailing wages? exempt Yes ☐ No ☒

21. Does your organization have a system in place to ensure it does not use contractors who may be suspended or debarred from receiving federal or state contracts? Yes ☒ No ☐

I certify that the above information accurately represents the organization of which I am a representative.

Name and title of person completing questionnaire:

NAME: Bo Savage, Deputy Director of Operations	
SIGNATURE: 	**DATE:** July 9, 2020

CORPS CONSULTATION REVIEW

To be completed by Corps:

1. This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:
   - ☐ 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, 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 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):

Authorizing Representative Name (Please Print) Signature Date

CCC and CALCC Representatives will return this form as documentation of consultation to applicant via email within five (5) business days of receipt as verification of consultation. Applicant will ***include a copy of each returned form*** as part of the project application.

If the Corps determine it is feasible to use their services on the project, applicant will coordinate with the Corps to develop estimated costs for those services for inclusion in the budget.

The Corps must be consulted each grant cycle prior to application. Submission of past consultations will not satisfy this requirement.

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
FOR PROPOSITION 1 FUNDING FOR THE
BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK SLOPE RESTORATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, voters of California passed the California Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The State Legislature has appropriated funds to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (the "BHC") for capital outlay and local assistance projects within the territory. Funds are to be awarded for reduction of pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams or costal waters, and protection or restoration of natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality or flood management consistent with the statute creating the BHC.

WHEREAS, the BHC has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Proposition; and

WHEREAS the BHC's procedures require the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (the "LA Corps") to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application(s) to the BHC; and

WHEREAS , said application contains assurances that the LA Corps must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the LA Corps will enter into an Agreement with the BHC to provide funds for acquisition and development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LA Corps Board of Directors HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an application with the BHC for Proposition 1 Funds for the above project; and

2. Certifies that the Los Angeles Conservation Corps understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and

3. Certifies that the upon project completion, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps will be delegate the operation and maintenance of the project to State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation in perpetuity; including, but not limited to land acquisitions, capital improvement projects and intellectual property-related deliverables (i.e. web-based content); and

4. Certifies that the LA Corps has the right to assign maintenance to another agency; and

5. Appoints the LA Corps Chief Executive Officer or designee, to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendment, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

APPROVED and ADOPTED the 2nd day of September, 2020.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020-12 was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

_____

Teresa Cisneros Burton, Board Secretary

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support attached:

- Land IQ
- Los Angeles Audubon Society
- Studio-MLA
- California State Parks
- Ballona Creek Renassiance

LAND IQ

July 14, 2020

David F. McNeill
Executive Officer
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
5120 W. Goldleaf Cir. Ste. 290
Los Angeles, CA 90056-1283

Dear Mr. McNeill:

The Baldwin Hills Slope Restoration Project comprises two major components: first, a large-scale restoration effort on the north-facing hillside would convert seven acres from predominantly nonnative grasses and mustard to a native scrubland with walnut/toyon woodland elements; second, redesign and repair of trail portions to address ongoing erosion issues.

Land IQ specializes in providing solutions to challenging agricultural and environmental problems throughout the world. Our areas of expertise include soil science, water quality and demand evaluation and management, agricultural systems, salinity and nutrient management, ecosystem restoration, statistics, remote sensing, geospatial analysis, land stabilization and regulatory policy. Land IQ is proud to serve as a project partner alongside Studio-MLA, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

For plans and documentation, the deliverables will include:

- Weed management plan
- Restoration plan
- Monitoring plan
- Quarterly reports during the project period

Land IQ is eager to do this work at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook to benefit the environment and the community, particularly park users from the disadvantaged communities adjacent to the park who can get no-cost recreation and exercise from this natural resource oasis in the midst of a dense urbanized setting.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
Environmental Scientist/Certified Senior Ecologist
Land IQ

Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, California 90093-1057

July 14, 2020

David F. McNeill, Executive Officer
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
5120 W. Goldleaf Cir. Ste. 290
Los Angeles, CA 90056-1283

Dear Mr. McNeill:

The Baldwin Hills Slope Restoration Project comprises two major components: first, a large-scale restoration effort on the north-facing hillside would convert seven acres from predominantly nonnative grasses and mustard to a native scrubland with walnut/toyon woodland elements; second, redesign and implementation of entry area trail portions to address ongoing erosion issues.
For plans and documentation, the deliverables will include:

- A restoration plan and implementation oversight by Land IQ.
- Annual monitoring report for five years after the grant period, to be implemented by Los Angeles Audubon Society staff and student environmental stewards.
- A design plan for erosion features by Studio-MLA with implementation by Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

The field work will include:

- Propagation of selected native plants from on-site stock by Los Angeles Audubon society staff and student environmental stewards with establishment irrigation for the planted material.
- Site preparation, weed control, planting, seeding, and establishment of a seven-acre restoration site conducted by Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

Los Angeles Audubon Society is eager to do this work at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook to benefit the environment and the community, particularly park users from the disadvantaged communities adjacent to the park who can get no-cost recreation and exercise from this natural resource oasis in the midst of a dense urbanized setting.
Los Angeles Audubon Society works to promote the enjoyment and protection of birds and other wildlife in the Los Angeles area through outdoor education programs, bird-friendly activities, and hands-on conservation initiatives. Los Angeles Audubon Society is proud to serve as a project partner alongside Studio-MLA, Land IQ, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps.
Thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
Treasurer and Past-President

DATE: 7.14.2020

David F. McNeill

Executive Officer

Baldwin Hills Conservancy

5120 W. Goldleaf Cir. Ste. 290

Los Angeles, CA 90056-1283

Dear Mr. McNeill:

The Baldwin Hills Slope Restoration Project comprises two major components: first, a large-scale restoration effort on the north-facing hillside would convert seven acres from predominantly nonnative grasses and mustard to a native scrubland with walnut/toyon woodland elements; second, redesign and repair of trail portions to address ongoing erosion issues.

Studio-MLA is a design studio that integrates landscape architecture, urban design, and planning to create places that inspire human connection, unite communities, and restore environmental balance. Studio-MLA is proud to serve as a project partner alongside Land IQ, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

For plans and documentation, the deliverables will include:

- Erosion control design and construction documents

Studio MLA is eager to do this work at Baldwin Hills Scenic overlook to benefit the environment and the community, particularly park users from the disadvantaged communities adjacent to the park who can get no-cost recreation and exercise from this natural resource oasis in the midst of a dense urbanized setting.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mia Lehrer, FASLA

President

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
1925 Las Virgenes Rd
Calabasas, Ca 91302

Gavin Newsom, *Governor*
Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*

8/6/2020

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

Dear David:

The California State Parks, Angeles District supports LA Conservation Corps' application for funding for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Slope Restoration Project. Redesign and repair of trail portions to repair erosion damage will benefit park users, and habitat restoration will benefit the environment. We are confident LA Conservation Corps, Land IQ, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and Studio-MLA can work together effectively to make meaningful improvements at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

State Parks staff may review activities under CEQA and issue a negative declaration or notice of exemption, if Baldwin Hills Conservancy requires such filing to release funding. State Parks staff will review all plans before the project partners finalize them and all time allocated to this review will count toward the grant request.

This project has the full support of the California State Parks, Angeles District. Upon completion California State Parks will be responsible for maintenance and operations in perpetuity. In addition to the great work that will be implemented in terms of natural resource restoration, we also greatly appreciate the opportunity to share in the experience the LA Conservation Corps offers to our local youth.

Sincerely,

Jerry West
Deputy District Superintendent (Acting)
Angeles District

BALLONA CREEK Renaissance
P.O. Box 843, Culver City CA 90232

August 27, 2020

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

Dear Mr. McNeill:

Ballona Creek Renaissance greatly supports the proposed project to restore habitat and reduce erosion from the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Our members are quite familiar with the project site and use the Overlook and its surrounding areas frequently. We would welcome both the habitat improvements that are proposed, including plantings of walnut, toyon, and elderberry, and the correction of erosion and drainage issues arising from the current state of the site. We are aware that the storm drain at the entrance to Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook has been clogged by sediment from the hillside and applaud the plan to correct that situation to reduce the suspended sediment and nitrogen load entering Ballona Creek.

Redesign and repair of trail portions to repair erosion damage will benefit park users, and habitat restoration will benefit the environment. We are confident LA Conservation Corps, Land IQ, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and Studio-MLA can work together effectively to make meaningful improvements at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

We understand that the project will include opportunities for volunteer involvement with restoration and are certain that our members would welcome the opportunity to participate in activities at this site in view of Ballona Creek.

Sincerely,

Amy Rosenstein
BCR President

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

Memorandum

To: Governing Board

From: David McNeill, Executive Officer

Date: September 25, 2020

Re: Item 8: Executive Officer Report

Projects Status Report

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

Fiscal Update

Please see Attachment # 2 - BHC Summary Expenditure Sheet by Fund and Attachment #3 - BHC Prop 1, Prop 40, Prop 84 and Prop 68 Bond Cash Funds. The reports correspond with the end of fiscal month eleven (12) for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

BHC Project Status Report
for 9/25/20

Project Title	Grantee	Contract ID	Fund Source	Funds Allocated	Agreement Expiration	PROJECT STATUS
La Cienega Pedestrian Bridge Project	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	BHC17003	Prop 40	$3,900,000	12/31/2020	Grading complete; Landscaping in-progress; Substantial completion planned for November 2020; Estimated project completion in December 2020; Complete project close-out expected March 2021.
Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Trail and Stormwater Improvement Project	Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC)	BHC1708	Prop 84	$830,684	12/31/2020	Preparation of the habitat restoration areas completed June 2020; Post/cable installation nearly complete in final Sections 6 & 7; Restorative planting in-progress; Plant establishment and care planned in Winter; Project completion expected December 2020; Complete project close-out expected March 2021.

BHC Project Status Report
for 9/25/20

Project Title	Grantee	Contract ID	Fund Source	Funds Allocated	Agreement Expiration	PROJECT STATUS
Water Capture Project for Yvonne B. Burke Sports Complex	California Conservation Corps Foundation (CCCF)	BHC1800	Prop 1	$1,500,000	1/31/2021	Design development in-progress; final plans expected November 2020; Grantee has requested for 5-month term extention to June 2021; Project completion expected June 2021; Complete project close-out expected October 2021.
Green Valley Connection Improvement Project at KHSRA	Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	BHC2002	Prop 1	$700,000	3/31/2026	Agreement term started June 1, 2020; Kick-off meeting and work expected November 2020; Project completion expected March 2026.
Mar Vista Community Greening Plan and Greenway Design	Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI)	BHC2004	Prop 68	$359,800	5/31/2022	Grant Agreement signed; Project work began this month; administrative and kick-off meetings expected Fall 2020; Project completion expected May 2022; Complete project close-out expected August 2022.

Cover of BHC Expenditure 19-20 FM12

As of 6/30/2020	Activity #	Original Appropriation	Remaining Appropration	EXP + ENC	BALANCE	Encumber by	Liquidate by
ELPF - #0140, Support							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-001-0140	10001	$ 375,000.00	$ 388,000.00	$ 340,547.58	$ 47,452.42	06/30/20	06/30/22
Prop 40 - #6029, Support							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6029	10005	$ 135,000.00	$ 141,000.00	$ 103,001.20	$ 37,998.80	06/30/20	06/30/22
Prop 84 - #6051, Support*							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6051	10009	$ 110,000.00	$ 111,000.00	$ 94,469.15	$ 16,530.85	06/30/20	06/30/22
Prop 1 - #6083, Support							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6083	10006	$ 111,000.00	$ 116,000.00	$ 38,954.66	$ 77,045.34	06/30/20	06/30/22
Prop 68 - #6088, Support							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-001-6088	10010	$ 184,000.00	$ 184,000.00	$ 94,070.42	$ 89,929.58	06/30/20	06/30/22
				Total Support Balance:	$ 268,956.99		

Prop 1 - #6083, Local Assistance/ Capital Outlay							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	20011	$ 1,300,000.00	$ 1,300,000.00	$ -	$ 1,300,000.00	06/30/22	06/30/24
2018 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	20009	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 2,000,000.00		$ 2,000,000.00	06/30/21	06/30/23
2017 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	20008	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 2,000,000.00	$ -	$ 2,000,000.00	06/30/20	06/30/22
2016 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	20006	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 1,500,000.00	$ 500,000.00	06/30/22	06/30/24
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6083	20004	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 473,149.28	$ 82,149.28	$ 391,000.00	06/30/21	06/30/23
				Total Prop 1 Balance:	$ 6,191,000.00		

Prop 40 - #6029, Local Assistance							
2016 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6029	20007	$ 6,025,000.00	$ 6,025,000.00	$ -	$ 6,025,000.00	06/30/22	06/30/24
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6029	20005	$ 11,604,000.00	$ 4,988,792.00	$ 2,059,087.00	$ 2,929,705.00	06/30/21	06/30/23
				Total Prop 40 Balance:	$ 8,954,705.00		
Prop 68 - #6088, Local Assistance/Capital Outlay							
2019 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6088	20013	$ 1,100,000.00	$ 1,100,000.00	$ -	$ 1,100,000.00	06/30/22	06/30/24
2018 Budget Act Item 3835-101-6088	20012	$ 1,100,000.00	$ 1,100,000.00	$ -	$ 1,100,000.00	06/30/20	06/30/22
				Total Prop 68 Balance:	$ 2,200,000.00		
Prop 84 - #6051, Capital Outlay							
2015 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6051	30004	$ 2,118,000.00	$ 1,603,972.74	$ 509,140.64	$ 1,094,832.10	06/30/21	06/30/23
2014 Budget Act Item 3835-301-6051	30003	$ 3,120,000.00	$ 795,438.00	$ 381,853.26	$ 413,584.74	06/30/20	06/30/22
				Total Prop 84 Balance:	$ 1,508,416.84		

BOND CASH FUNDS

Bond Cash - As Of 6-30-20

COMMERCIAL PAPER TE		CASH ALLOCATED	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
PROP 68:	6088	$210,000.00	$106,725.18	$33,250.61

2015 COMMERCIAL PAPER TE		CASH ALLOCATED	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE
PROP 84:	6051	$5,199,878.26	$5,145,621.39	$54,256.87
PROP 40:	6029	$24,866,054.54	$24,754,221.46	$111,833.08
PROP 1:	6083	$2,107,586.83	$1,987,221.95	$120,364.88

All figures are derived from the Agency Bonds Consolidated Reporting System v1.3 (ABCRS)