



## **Independent Study into the Feasibility of Acquiring the Last Significant Open Spaces along the Lower LA River for the Development of Public Green Space**

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Riverpark Coalition Board Member

2 March 2021

On 2 February, 2021, the Long Beach City Council voted to task the City Manager with identifying potential funding sources for the acquisition of lands along the LA River that could potentially become public parklands in accordance with the City's Riverlink Plan of 2001 and 2015. Acquiring the last remaining open spaces along the LA River for public park space is crucial, because Long Beach suffers from extreme park inequity, with its north and west sides having very low access to green spaces while simultaneously suffering from some of the worst air pollution in the nation. Specifically, west and north Long Beach have fewer than 1 acres of green space for every 1,000 residents (as of 2002), while residents of east Long Beach enjoy 16.7 acres of green space for every 1,000 residents. People living in west and north Long Beach experience substantially higher rates of asthma, cancer, and COVID-19 deaths than those in east Long Beach. They also suffer from significantly lower life expectancies among people of all classes and races. These stark disparities cannot be addressed by substantially expanding the green spaces in west and north Long Beach alone; however, a serious effort to rapidly acquire extensive lands to be planted with trees and turned into recreational green space in these parts of the City must be part of any realistic attempt to address the air quality, quality of life, and health disparities suffered by Long Beach residents along the Diesel Death Corridor of the I-710.

The largest and most significant of the remaining open spaces within the Diesel Death Corridor in Long Beach are the approximately 50 acres comprising 3701 Pacific Place, the adjoining MacDonald Trust parcel, and the Oil Operators Inc. properties. Together these properties straddle the I-405 at the point that it crosses the I-710. The report that follows will focus on these three parcels. All of these properties are privately owned at present, and as yet none of the owners have formally indicated their willingness to sell. To address the problem of severe pollution and park inequity along the I-710's Diesel Death Corridor, the present lack of agreement from the owners and commercial developers underscores the need for the City, the community, the site owners, and environmental planners to collaborate extensively in creating a workable and fair plan for meeting need for green space.

The most important steps that the City of Long Beach can take to make willing sellers of the present owners is to reverse their previous course of easing the way for the would-be developers as they seek to build. The more difficult it is for the developers to build on these open lands, the more willing they will become to sell them to the public for the development of the green space that residents desperately need. The City's role here ought to be clear: use its jurisdictional powers to create the urban spaces that its citizens require. To date, the City of Long Beach has made it far too easy for the would-be developers by agreeing to change the 2019 Land Use Element designations for these parcels from Open Space to Neo-industrial and Commercial



Storage (thereby giving past landowners the green light to sell these parcels to commercial developers or to build on the parcels themselves). The City Planning Commission has also eased the way for developers at 3701 Pacific Place to go forward without first completing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) into the toxic history and substances on the site. They have instead approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), which requires far less time and resources for the would-be developer to complete. Paving the way like this for these developers is a dereliction of the City's duty to its residents within the Diesel Death Corridor.

If the City reverses its course and chooses to require the developer to undertake an EIR instead of an MND, the City will be able to significantly slow the progress of the would-be commercial developers at 3701 Pacific Place and make it less amenable and profitable for them to spoil the public's last chance for acquiring and greening significant space in west Long Beach. Short of the City of Long Beach throwing up any and all bureaucratic roadblocks that it has at its disposal—LUE designations, zoning changes, EIRs, permitting, etc.—the City cannot claim that it has done all that it could in attempting to acquire and green these last remaining open parcels on behalf of the residents of west Long Beach and people throughout Los Angeles County that care about the revitalization of the LA River.

The Riverpark Coalition has tasked its Grants Committee with conducting an independent feasibility study into all available funding for purchasing these “last chance” parcels in west Long Beach. The Riverpark Coalition proposes working in collaboration with the City Manager and the Trust for Public Land to access funding for the purposes of acquisition, cleanup and site safety, and development of these biologically and culturally important open spaces along the lower Los Angeles River.

What follows is a working list of funding opportunities that the Riverpark Coalition's Grants Committee has identified as of 2 March, 2021 organized into four subsections: Property Acquisition, Site Safety, Park Development, and Operations and Management.

## **Property Acquisition Funds**

### **Regional Parks and Open Space District**

#### ***Measure A***

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/measure-a/>

Measure A was drafted to meet current and future park needs, and its content reflects the findings of the PNA. Generating more than \$90 million per year for the county's local parks, beaches, and open space areas, Measure A is an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of improved property, and includes both formula-based allocations to Study Areas and competitive grants that are open to public agencies, non-profit organizations, and schools. Unlike Proposition A, Measure A does not have an expiration date.

Measure A Goals:

- To provide funds to benefit property and improve the quality of life throughout the Regional Parks and Open Space District by preserving and protecting parks, safe places



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to play, community recreation facilities, beach, rivers, open spaces, water conservation, youth and veteran career development, and the urban tree canopy.

- Fund projects consistent with or similar to those identified in the 2016 Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

**Evaluation:** Given the biological and cultural—both tribal and equestrian—importance of the land parcels in question as well as the designation of the surrounding area as “high need” or “very high need,” the land parcels in question and the proposed use as open space, habitat restoration, and water conservation make this grant not only feasible, but an ideal use for these designated funds. Measure A Technical Assistance Grants are available to help cover the cost of planning.

### **Regional Parks and Open Space District Proposition A**

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/manage-your-grant/>

The 1996 Prop A was approved by the voters on November 5, 1996, approving a second assessment for RPOSD with a term of 22 years, adding an additional assessment to each parcel in the District. The expenditure of the revenues generated by the two assessments are described in detail in the two propositions and were focused in the following ways:

- 1) Capital Park Projects- funds for park projects that were built, refurbished or acquired.
- 2) Maintenance and Servicing- funds to subsidize the cost of maintaining and operating these newly built, refurbished or acquired park projects.
- 3) Administration- funds for the administrative operations of the District, ensuring that the County or other public organization would not need to fund the District from their budgets.

**Evaluation:** Given the cultural (tribal and equestrian) and biological importance of the land parcels in question as well as the potential land uses of connectivity, natural lands, river restoration, equestrian, hiking, and walking trails, wildlife habitat, and tree planting, the land parcels in question and the proposed use as open space, habitat restoration, and water conservation make this grant not only feasible, but an ideal use for these designated funds.

### **California Department of Parks and Recreation Statewide Parks Program**

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=29939](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29939)

INTENT: Statewide Park Program (SPP) competitive grants will create new parks and new recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities across California.

Proposition 68 Funding

- \$650,275,000 will be distributed throughout multiple rounds.
- Use this Application Guide for each round.

LEGACY: Previously, Proposition 84 (2006 Bond Act) funded two rounds:

- \$2.9 billion was requested. \$368 million was awarded.



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- Over one hundred new parks were created, and twenty existing parks were improved throughout California. SPP legislation is found in Public Resources Code §§5640 through 5653. Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act) continues this program's legacy.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- Cities
- Counties
- Districts (as defined on page 71)
- Joint powers authorities (one member of the Joint powers authority must be either an eligible district, City, or County)
  - Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status

TYPES OF PROJECTS: A project must involve either development or a combination of acquisition and development to:

1. Create a new park, or
2. Expand an existing park, or
3. Renovate an existing park.

**Evaluation:** The timeline on the current year is quickly closing, as this grant application would be due on March 12th, however this remains a viable program for next year's cycle. According to the required Community FactFinder data, none of the North parcels are eligible for the grant due to the park acreage per 1000 residents being above 4. However, the 712 Baker St. parcel meets all qualifications. A consultation with the regional grant officer revealed that this parcel and the intended use are ideal for this grant, making it a feasible funding source.

### **Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**

#### ***Lower Los Angeles River Prop 68***

<http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/>

Over \$30 Million is available for RMC's Lower LA River Prop 68 Open Call for Projects. RMC's Lower LA River Grants are specific to the Lower LA River corridor, considered within 1.5 miles of the main stem of the Lower LA river. 80% for implementation, 10% planning, and 10% technical assistance (20% must serve Disadvantaged Communities). Projects should be consistent with the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan.

**Evaluation:** For the purposes of this grant, "implementation" does indeed include acquisition, and according to the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, the parcels are in areas designated as "high" or "very high" need. These parcels have repeatedly been identified by the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, the LA River Master Plan, and the Long Beach Riverlink Plan as biologically, ecologically, and culturally important, both to tribal and equestrian interests. For these reasons, this is a very feasible funding source.

### **Rivers and Mountains Conservancy**

#### ***Lower Los Angeles River Prop 1***

<http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/>



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Over \$30 Million is available for RMC's Lower LA River Prop 1 Open Call for Projects. RMC's Lower LA River Grants are specific to the Lower LA River corridor, considered within 1.5 miles of the main stem of the Lower LA river. 90% for Implementation and 10% planning. Projects should be consistent with the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan.

**Evaluation:** Given the proximity of the parcels to the River (all within 1.5 miles) and the watershed potential of the land, this fund is quite appropriate and more than feasible for acquiring and developing these parcels into riparian habitat.

### **California Wildlife Conservation Board** ***California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program***

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-riparian-habitat-conservation-program-3/>

**Purpose:** The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (Program) is accepting concept proposals for projects that provide meaningful and sustainable improvements to riparian habitats.

**Description:** Projects located in southern California (south of San Luis Obispo County) will be prioritized, as well as projects that advance the California Biodiversity Initiative (Executive Order N-82-20). Concept proposals should be for:

- Implementation of a capital improvement project that restores or enhances riparian habitats and functions, or
- Design and planning of a riparian habitat restoration project which leads directly to implementing a capital improvement project.

Shovel-ready implementation projects that have a completed CEQA document will be prioritized. The following project types will be emphasized:

- Restoration of native riparian vegetation biodiversity, habitat complexity and structure, and habitat for species of special concern.
- Re-establishing floodplain connectivity
- Contouring degraded, incised, or undefined streams to restore natural hydrology
- Upper watershed improvements that will benefit on-site and downstream riparian resources

Secondary funding priorities include planning projects and projects located in central and northern California.

**Evaluation:** Federal, state, and local government entities, non-profit organizations, and public districts are eligible to apply for riparian grants. The Program does not provide funding for maintenance activities or mitigation projects. Preference will be for projects that have matching funds.

### **California Wildlife Conservation Board** ***Land Acquisition Program***

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Acquisitions>

The acquisition program is administered pursuant to the Board's original enabling legislation, "The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947" (Fish and Game Section 1300, et seq.) and land



acquisition is a component of all Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs. The WCB acquires real property or rights in real property on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and can also grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property.

All acquisitions are made on a "willing seller" basis pursuant to a fair market value appraisal as approved by the Department of General Services (DGS). The acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with the CDFW, which generally entails CDFW evaluating the biological values of property through development of a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE; used for a single property) or Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP; used for multiple properties). Once these evaluations are completed, they are submitted to CDFW's Director for review and approval and then sent to the WCB with a recommendation to fund. Typically, this process can take anywhere from 6 to 12 months. Concurrent to this the WCB regularly meets with CDFW to help evaluate and set acquisition priorities as new opportunities present themselves.

**Evaluation:** A recent consultation with this region's grants officer revealed that the properties in question have immense ecological importance to the LA River, to fish and wildlife, and to migrating birds and butterflies. Acquiring these parcels for the purpose of creating riparian habitat is exactly in alignment with the purposes set forth in this fund, making it a feasible source of funding.

## **California Department of Parks and Recreation Regional Park Program**

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=29940](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29940)

**Intent:** The Regional Park Program will create, expand, or improve regional parks and regional park facilities. This program is funded by Proposition 68 (2018 Bond Act) which is found in Public Resources Code §80065(a).

**Eligible Applicants:**

- Counties
- Regional Park Districts, Regional Open-Space Districts, and Open-Space Authorities formed pursuant to Public Resources Code Division 26 (commencing with Section 35100)
- Joint Powers Authorities where at least one of the members is otherwise eligible on this list
- Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

**Eligible Projects**

- Acquisition for new or enhanced public access and use
- Development to create or renovate:
  - Trails, with preference given to multi-use trails over single-use trails
  - Regional sports complexes
  - Visitor and interpretive facilities
  - Other types of recreation and support facilities in regional parks



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**Evaluation:** The Wrigley Heights Park, as rendered on the Long Beach Riverlink Plan and other plans, meets many of the eligibility criteria listed in the grant guidelines: multi-use (equestrian, hiking, and walking) trails, a potential tribal cultural facility, and riparian habitat restoration. This grant is a feasible funding source.

### **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

#### ***Land and Water Conservation Fund***

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21360](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21360)

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants provide funding for the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians. Since 1965, over one thousand parks throughout California have been created or improved with LWCF assistance.

**Evaluation:** Available to cities, counties, joint powers authorities, and nonprofit entities, this fund would support the acquisition of land and development into riparian habitat, multi-use trails (equestrian, hiking, and walking) that promote health and wellness, and vital watershed support for the LA River. This is a feasible funding source for these reasons.

### **Site Safety Funds**

#### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

##### ***Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund***

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/revolving-loan-fund-rlf-program/>

The DTSC RLF Program establishes a revolving loan fund that provides loans to help developers, businesses, schools, and local governments clean-up and redevelop brownfields. This is a brownfields clean-up loan program administered through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

**Evaluation:** Despite its name, this fund does indeed issue property cleanup grants. The fund is designated for entities with no fiscal responsibility for the cleanup. Riverpark Coalition, backed by a fiscal sponsor, can assume this role, thereby making this grant feasible. Clarification is needed, however, on this land's designation as a brownfield site.

#### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

##### ***Targeted Site Investigation Program***

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/brownfields-funding/#tsi>

Since 2004, the TSI Program has been part of DTSC's CERCLA 128(a) State and Tribal Response Program Grant, funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). DTSC provided environmental services to local governments, school districts, and nonprofits to facilitate the return of brownfields to safe and productive uses. The program



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focused on properties with a clear need for redevelopment, strong redevelopment potential, real or perceived contamination, and municipal/community support for redevelopment. DTSC has provided assessment, investigation, and cleanup planning services to over 100 projects, in 68 cities, and 30 counties, throughout the State of California.

**Evaluation:** The sites that are the focus of this report have a clear need for redevelopment, strong redevelopment potential, are most definitely contaminated, and have community support for redevelopment into riparian habitat and open space for the “very high-need” Long Beach community residents. Assuming that the parcels are still designated as brownfield sites, this fund is a very feasible funding source for site cleanup.

### **California Water Boards State Water Resources Control Board** ***Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund***

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ustcf/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/)

The Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanup Fund (Fund) provides a means for petroleum UST owners and operators to meet the federal and state requirements of maintaining financial responsibility to pay for any damages arising from their tank operations. The Fund assists a large number of small businesses and individuals by providing reimbursement for expenses associated with the cleanup of leaking USTs. The Fund also provides money to the Regional Water Boards and local regulatory agencies to abate emergency situations or to cleanup abandoned sites that pose a threat to human health, safety, and the environment, as a result of a UST petroleum release.

**Evaluation:** Although more investigation is necessary to determine if the underground storage tanks are in fact leaking, this is an important funding source to track in case leaky storage tanks emerge as a problem with the parcels in question. This fund is potentially feasible.

### **California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)** ***Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants***

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Funding/>

This is a small grant program designed to assist non-profit organizations. The City might be able to partner with a non-profit organization to access the funding. The EJ Small Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. A minimum \$1 million in grant funds is available for the 2021 grant cycle. The maximum amount of a grant provided is \$50,000. As previously stated, the City must partner with a non-profit as these funds are strictly limited to a non-profit entity. Additionally, an applicant's project must address EJ small grant program goals in communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, or are especially sensitive to environmental pollution due to socio-economic factors.



**Evaluation:** Given that the Riverpark Coalition, a non-profit with a fiscal sponsorship, is willing to partner with the City to acquire this grant, this is a feasible funding source, although the award amount is very low.

### **CalEPA, State Water Resource Control Board**

#### ***The Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF)***

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water%20issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml)

The Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF) is a grant program within the Division of Financial Assistance. OSCF provides financial assistance to eligible applicants for the cleanup of sites contaminated by leaking petroleum underground storage tanks (UST) where there is no financially responsible party, and the applicant is not an eligible claimant to the UST Cleanup Fund. The OSCF grants are available for response actions that characterize, assess, and investigate an unauthorized release from a petroleum UST. Assessment grants may also provide funding for UST system removal, free product removal, and soil excavation, not to exceed 500 cubic yards at the eligible site. Effective September 25, 2014, SB 445 (Hill), made changes to the OSCF. The law changed the eligibility criteria for OSCF so that it is no longer limited to funding brownfield sites; the maximum amount of grant monies available for an eligible occurrence is \$1 million for any grant application filed on or after January 1, 2015.

**Evaluation:** Given that the OSCF grant program seeks to provide financial assistance for the cleanup of petroleum USTs, it may be a potential funding source for the property cleanup of the Subject Property. However, it should be noted that available funding from this program is very low.

## **Park Development Funds**

### **California Conservation Corps**

#### ***Proposition 1- Water Bond***

<https://ccc.ca.gov/what-we-do/funding-opportunities/proposition-1-water-bond/>

Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 requires the services of the California Conservation Corps or a local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps be used, whenever feasible, for restoration and ecosystem protection projects. Corps programs increase the public benefit of these projects by creating workforce development opportunities for young adults.

Organizations seeking funds for a Proposition 1 Chapter 6 project should carefully read the administering agency's guidelines and then consult with representatives of the CCC or the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) to determine the feasibility of a corps' participation. The CCC provides supervised crews of 10-15 young adults trained and equipped to work safely on a wide variety of environmental projects related to the priorities of Prop 1.



**Evaluation:** Services are available to any entities that are eligible to receive Prop 1 funds, including non-profits and cities. The development of a habitat park falls well within the scope of work of the Conservation Corps.

### **California Conservation Corps** ***Proposition 68- Parks and Water Bond***

<https://ccc.ca.gov/what-we-do/funding-opportunities/proposition-68-parks-water-bond/>

Proposition 68's Section 80016 gives preference, to the extent feasible, for receipt of a grant to those who use the services of the California Conservation Corps and certified local conservation corps. Additionally, use of the corps also increases the public benefit of these projects by creating workforce development opportunities for young adults, which may assist an applicant's ability to comply with Proposition 68 Section 80001(b)(5).

Grant applicants are encouraged to contact the CCC or a certified local corps during the development of project proposals to determine how a corps program can be included. Organizations seeking funds for a Proposition 68 project should carefully read the administering agency's guidelines and then consult with representatives of the CCC or the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) to determine the feasibility of a corps' participation. The CCC provides supervised work crews of 10-15 young adults trained and equipped to work safely on a wide variety of projects related to the priorities of Proposition 68.

**Evaluation:** Services are available to any entities that are eligible to receive Prop 68 funds, including non-profits and cities. The development of a habitat park on 3701 Pacific Place, the MacDonald Trust parcel, and the Oil Operators, Inc. parcel at Baker and Golen falls well within the scope of work of the Conservation Corps.

### **California Wildlife Conservation Board** ***Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program***

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Habitat-Enhancement>

When the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was created by the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947, it was authorized to acquire and restore California lands to protect wildlife values and provide wildlife-oriented public access. The Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program (HERP) was WCB's first program and incorporated all restoration projects until other WCB programs were initiated in 1990.

HERP continues to support a wide variety of restoration projects that fall outside WCB's other mandated programs. HERP projects are distributed throughout California and all habitat types. Broad categories of HERP projects include, but are not limited to:

- Habitat restoration (e.g., coast, forest, desert, wetland, grassland)
- Wildlife corridors
- Fisheries enhancements (e.g., fish ladders, barrier removal)



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Most HERP funding is provided by the Habitat Conservation Fund and various voter-approved bonds. HERP projects must receive a recommendation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and provide for long-term maintenance following project completion.

**Evaluation:** The parcels in question, with the proper planning into developing the land into riparian habitat that provides continuity between the Dominguez Gap Wetlands and the Wrigley Greenbelt, are ideal for this fund. One barrier to accessing this and many development grants is that there is not a tangible plan nor budget for these areas. This barrier can come down if the city partners with Riverpark Coalition, the Trust for Public Land, and the community to develop a plan. That would make this funding source feasible.

### **Port of Long Beach**

#### ***Community Grant: Trees and Landscaping***

<https://www.polb.com/community/community-grants-program/#community-grant-opportunities>

The goal of this Grant Program is to reduce port-related impacts on the community associated with air quality, noise, traffic, and water quality. To that end, the Program funds upgrades at facilities serving sensitive populations that reduce the exposure to or health impacts associated with port-related air pollution and noise pollution and/or reduce, avoid, or capture greenhouse gas emissions.

All applicants must be facilities that serve sensitive populations within the Priority Zone. Sensitive populations are children, pregnant women, the elderly, the chronically ill, and individuals with respiratory and/or cardiopulmonary disorders and illnesses. Examples of eligible facilities include daycare centers, schools, after school programs, youth centers, senior centers, recreation centers, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, adult daycare facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospice facilities, and other related facilities licensed under the California Health and Safety Code. Public and private agencies are eligible to apply.

**Evaluation:** Since park planning is still not solidified, there is room to develop a youth or afterschool center that hires local Long Beach residents--a Native American Cultural Center, for example--on the park site. Such a facility is not only culturally responsible, but would open up the park site(s) to many more funding sources. This is a feasible funding source, although award amounts can be low.

### **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

#### ***Recreational Trails Program***

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24324](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324)

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects. The RTP is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It is administered at the State Level by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Active Transportation Program (ATP).



**Evaluation:** Assuming that a lack of planning can be addressed in a timely manner, this program would fund any multi-use trails—equestrian, hiking, and walking—that are integrated into the plan. This is a potentially feasible source.

### **Rose Foundation**

#### ***Los Angeles Community Water Justice***

<https://rosefdn.org/grant-seekers-2/apply-for-a-grant/los-angeles-community-water-justice-grants-program/eligibility-and-priorities>

**Projects Supported:** Projects must be designed to benefit groundwater or surface water quality in the Los Angeles Region, including the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, along with very small portions of Kern and Santa Barbara.

**Applicant requirements:** Projects must benefit underserved, vulnerable, or otherwise disadvantaged communities and should demonstrate a high degree of community support and community involvement. Projects that benefit public health in addition to water quality are especially encouraged.

**Evaluation:** The parcels in question meet the criteria established by the grant in that they are part of the LA River watershed. The public has demonstrated their high level of interest and involvement in decades of planning for these areas. This is a feasible source, although the grant amounts are extremely low.

### **California Environmental Protection Agency**

#### ***Environmental Justice Small Grants***

<https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/funding/>

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants Program offers funding opportunities authorized by California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 1 to assist eligible non-profit community organizations and federally-recognized Tribal governments address environmental justice issues in areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and hazards. The EJ Small Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

**Evaluation:** The Riverpark Coalition, as a nonprofit with fiscal sponsorship, and in partnership with the City is eligible to receive and manage this grant. This is a feasible funding source, although the grant amounts are low.

### **California Wildlife Conservation Board**

#### ***Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program***

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Pollinators>



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The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program (Program) was created by Assembly Bill 2421, and signed into law in 2018 becoming effective immediately. The Program was created for the purpose of recovering and sustaining populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators. To achieve these purposes, the bill authorizes the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to provide grants and technical assistance, as prescribed. The bill requires WCB to develop and adopt project selection and evaluation guidelines, in coordination with the Department of Food and Agriculture, before disbursing these grants. The bill establishes the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Fund Account in the State Treasury, and authorizes expenditure of monies in the account, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of the Program.

The Enabling Statute created the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Fund Account (Fund) in the State Treasury. Monies in the Fund became available, upon appropriation, for the purposes of the Program including:

- Provide grants for the restoration or enhancement of California prairie and other appropriate breeding habitat for monarch butterflies and pollinators on private and public lands.
- Provide grants for the restoration or enhancement of overwintering monarch butterfly habitat on private and public lands.
- Provide technical assistance to grant recipients, including farmers and ranchers, regarding restoration and enhancement of breeding, overwintering, and other appropriate monarch butterfly habitat.
- Provide grants for seasonal or temporary habitat improvements.
- Provide block grants in which suballocations are made by the grant recipient, with the approval of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

**Evaluation:** Riparian habitat and Monarch butterfly habitat are not mutually exclusive, so depending on the level of careful planning, this is a potentially feasible funding source.

## Operations and Maintenance Funds

### **Watershed Conservation Authority**

*Joint Powers: Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and LA County Flood Control District*

<https://www.wca.ca.gov>

WCA serves communities in our region through the conservation and preservation of open space and through the improvement of access to parks and trails. By working with nature in our plans and projects we seek to enhance local water resources, native plant habitats, wildlife, and to advance the overall quality of life in both our natural and urban communities.

**Evaluation:** More in-depth discussion is necessary to determine the feasibility of this option, as it would require close coordination between the City of Long Beach and the Watershed Conservation Authority.



## **Regional Parks and Open Space District**

### ***Measure A***

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/measure-a/>

M&S funds may only be used by recipients to offset the increased maintenance and servicing costs resulting from projects that received funding from RPOSD's Measure A or Proposition A. M&S funds allocated to the County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) shall be used for projects that repair and replace facilities impacted from high user activity and weatherization from being located near the ocean, such funds shall be used to supplement existing levels of service. An agency will not apply for M&S funds until the project has been completed and the grant has been closed (see Section 3.4.5 for details about grant closeout). However, if the grant consists of a project with several phases, acquisition and development, or acquisition of land from several land owners, some M&S funds may be claimed if eligible expenses are incurred prior to the grant closeout.

**Evaluation:** 15% of Measure A funds are designated for long-term management of the land, as allocated to the City of Long Beach. Additionally, the Riverpark Coalition, as a non-profit partner, can apply for additional management funds. This is a feasible funding source.

## **Regional Parks and Open Space District**

### ***Proposition A***

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/manage-your-grant/>

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- 1) Capital Park Projects- funds for park projects that were built, refurbished or acquired.
- 2) Maintenance and Servicing- funds to subsidize the cost of maintaining and operating these newly built, refurbished or acquired park projects.
- 3) Administration- funds for the administrative operations of the District, ensuring that the County or other public organization would not need to fund the District from their budgets.

**Evaluation:** 15% of Prop A funds are designated for long-term management of the land, as allocated to the City of Long Beach. Additionally, the Riverpark Coalition, as a non-profit partner, can apply for additional management funds. This is a feasible funding source.

This is not an exhaustive list of all possible operations and maintenance arrangements. There is also the possibility of establishing a special district for managing the park.