FUNDING MEMO

To:	Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project, Construction	Date:	November 27, 2023
Project Lead:	City of Long Beach	Call for Projects Year:	Round 5 FY24-25
Watershed Area:	Lower San Gabriel River	Project Location:	7550 E. Spring St. Long Beach, CA 90815

Reference: Leverage Funding Memo for El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project, Construction

Leveraged funding is a key program goal in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance (Chapter 18.04). This and other Funding Memos are generated for all eligible newly submitted Safe, Clean Water Program Infrastructure Program projects in Round 5 FY24-25. The intent of this funding memo is to strengthen the identification of leverage funding sources and support WASCs in funding priorities and partial funding decisions. Below is a summary of the project benefits, overview of the funding request, potential sources of leverage funding for this project, and an assessment of funding competitiveness in those programs.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Project Application describes the proposed project in this way:

> The El Dorado site is a part of the El Dorado Nature Center that is owned and operated by the City of Long Beach and has been identified as a key Regional Project in the Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Management Program (LSGR WMP). Runoff within this corridor drains through the upstream storm drain system, into the Artesia-Norwalk Channel, Coyote Creek, the San Gabriel River, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. The proposed project includes a 20 CFS diversion from the Artesia-Norwalk Channel into the B-1323C Channel and another 20 CFS diversion from B-1323C to the project site. The Artesia-Norwalk diversion goes to a pretreatment unit and then is pumped into the existing storm drain network which outflows to B-1323C. Once flows reach the project site, diverted flows from B-1323C go to a pretreatment unit and then to the three vegetated pond pools (storage totaling to 10.3 ac-ft). From the vegetated pond pools, flows are pumped and exit to the LACSD system or outflow through a 7.84 CFS filter system into Coyote Creek. The project seeks to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff flows conveyed through capture, storage, and filtration before returning flows to Coyote Creek.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project Application describes the following benefits will be provided by the project:

- Water Quality: Water quality/MS4 compliance is a primary need that the El Dorado Project is addressing. El Dorado Park was listed as a potential site for future targeted control measures in

Lower San Gabriel River watershed in order to meet the LSGR WMP volume reduction goals to achieve required pollutant reductions.

The LSGR WMP's Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) used the LACFCD Watershed Management Modeling System to demonstrate that the activities and control measures outlined in the WMP will achieve applicable Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs) and/or Receiving Water Limits (RWLs) with any compliance deadlines during the current MS4 Permit term. Modeling was performed to quantify necessary load reductions to achieve the milestones. Based on these load reduction targets, a pollutant reduction plan was established that outlines the types and sequencing of BMPs for each jurisdiction to achieve milestones according to the schedule. The RAA provides a detailed list of the capacities needed for BMPs over time, incorporating the existing BMPs and control measures identified in the WMP. These recommendations serve as goals for each jurisdiction to seek opportunities for implementation over time.

The limiting pollutant in the LSGR WMP was determined to be zinc as elaborated in Section 4.1 of the LSGR WMP and Section 5.3.1 of the RAA. Reductions of zinc during WMP implementation are expected to drive reduction of other pollutants by emphasizing sediment control and retention/infiltration.

El Dorado Park was modeled using zinc as the limiting pollutant and is expected to capture over 912 pounds of zinc on an annual average basis, as well as other water quality priorities such as organics and E. coli. Section 3.2 discusses how the project contributes to overall WMP goals in addressing the water quality priorities listed in Section 3.1.1.

- Water Supply: The project will divert up to 163 ac-ft of captured flows to the LACSD where it will be treated at the neighboring Water Replenishment District site and be used to replenish the groundwater aquifers, including the Central and West Coast Basins. This will provide added supply to all who utilize the aquifer.

- Park Space, Habitat, or Wetland Space: The creation of 3 new vegetated pond pools within the project area will increase natural habitat for wildlife as well as additional vegetation diversity. The new paths surrounding and connecting the vegetated pond pools will create further walking paths for community members who enjoy walking in the park.

- Public Access to Waterways: The area is presently closed off to visitors of any kind. The project proposes to allow escorted tours and birding within the series of connected vegetated pond pools with accessible walking pathways for parkgoers.

- Recreational Opportunities: The project includes a series of three connected vegetated pond pools within a network of pathways for recreational activities for park visitors such as walking, birding, and butterfly observation. Additionally, the final project may include recreational amenities such as trails and habitat for wildlife as part of the proposed El Dorado Nature Center.

- Urban Heat & Shade: The open space currently has limited tree canopy with the majority of the area being shrubs and grasses. Per the landscape plan, several species of trees (including coast live oak, desert willow, western redbud, and western sycamore) will be planted on site. The initial estimated proposed canopy is an additional 10,676 square feet and 34 new trees. The trees will shade the access roads and walking paths within the park area. The vegetated ponds will also lower the land albedo and increase cooling effects with a thicker vegetation and brush material.

- Shade & Vegetation: Existing vegetation at the project site includes grasses and shrubs. To promote a more natural biome, native trees and vegetation that are part of the post-construction

landscape plan will contribute to increased tree count and shade for the space. The project anticipates the net addition of 32 trees throughout the impacted areas to increase the shade canopy within the access ways. The new vegetation is anticipated to sequester approximately 0.22 lbs of CO2 per year (assuming 1.13 lbs/ac/yr). The new tree locations can be found on the conceptual plans shown in Attachment E.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project, Construction is currently requesting $9,346,718 of Safe, Clean Water Program Round 5 funding for FY24-25. The Project is tentatively requesting a total of $37,386,870 of Safe, Clean Water funding through FY27-28 for Construction. The Project's total cost is $39,181,079 (Planning, Design, and Construction).

The Project previously received $300,000 in FY20-21 of Safe, Clean Water Program Technical Resources Program (TRP) funding.

As disclosed in the Project application, the Project Proponent has not leveraged external funding outside of the Safe, Clean Water Program.

- **Total SCW funding requested for FY24-25:** $9,346,718
- **Total SCW funding awarded to date:** $300,000 (TRP)
- **Total SCW funding requested:** $37,386,870 (Infrastructure Program – Construction)
- **Total Infrastructure Project cost:** $39,181,079 (Infrastructure Program – Planning, Design, and Construction)
- **Cost share and/or existing funding already leveraged:** None

	Year 1 – Current Ask	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Future Funds	Total Request
Request	$9,346,718	$9,346,718	$9,346,717	$9,346,717	$ --	$ --	$37,386,870
Phase	Construction	Construction	Construction	Construction	N/A	N/A	

Status and schedule of project:

- **Date of completion of Project planning and design**: 03/2024
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 09/2026

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the El Dorado Regional Stormwater Capture Project, Construction. Funding/grant program opportunities are categorized into topic areas based on the claimed project benefits in the Safe, Clean Water Program project application. Each funding/grant program listed includes an assessment of the project's funding competitiveness in its description.

Funding competitiveness assessments will fall under three levels:

- Strong: The Project has a strong potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project provides numerous benefits and aligns strongly with the funding program's goals and priorities.
- Moderate: The Project has a moderate potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features some benefits that align with the funding program's focus.
- Low: The Project has a low potential to be competitive for program funding. The Project features a benefit that aligns with the funding program's focus but does not directly align with funding priorities.

HABITAT RESTORATION

California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) General Grant funds planning, implementation, acquisition, technical assistance, and scientific studies projects that provide one or more of the following benefits: 1) protected or enhanced biodiversity; 2) climate change resiliency and connectivity; 3) support State Wildlife Action Plan priority habitats; 4) conserved or enhanced working landscapes; 5) conserved or enhanced water-related projects; or 6) enhanced public access. The application cycle is continuous, and it is recommended applicants first consult WCB staff prior to completing a Pre-Application. Award amounts vary based on current available funds and the application pool. Funding amounts are determined by the WCB voting board and grants manager. There is no cost-share requirement.

El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project has a ***strong potential*** to be competitive for the WCB General Grant. The Project's three new vegetated pond pools will increase natural habitat and vegetation diversity, and increase public access, as claimed in the Safe, Clean Water Program Application, which aligns strongly with the WCB Grant Program's priorities.

URBAN GREENING

California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention's (CAL FIRE) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program is an annual program approved by the Budget Act each fiscal year. Program cycles may have a specific focus, such as the FY22-23 cycle focus on green schoolyards. This grant program funds planning and implementation projects for urban forest planting projects with multiple benefits, that give special attention to greenhouse gas reduction, energy conservation, air quality improvement, stormwater management, water quality, or improvement of public health outcomes. Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program grants require a 25 percent cost share. Funds may be sourced from state funding from agencies other than CAL FIRE. Projects that meet disadvantaged/low-income requirements are eligible to waive cost share requirements.

El Dorado Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project has a ***moderate potential*** to be competitive for the CAL FIRE grant, depending on the grant program's future funding round focus areas.

RECREATION

Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Community-Based Park Investment - Measure A Annual Allocations Grant Program funds development, acquisition, planning, design, and construction projects that promote community-based park investments. Project types can include but are not limited to: community and local parks (including pocket parks, playgrounds, and park equipment), community recreational centers, park safety, greenspace and greenway development, gardens, and urban canopy development. This RPOSD grant program is part of Measure A Annual Allocations and is funded annually by 13% of the Measure A expenditure plan. Allocations are calculated for each Study Area. Funds are replenished each fall with a rolling grant application period. There is no cost-share requirement.

The El Dorado Park Stormwater Capture Project has a ***moderate potential*** of securing funding through this RPOSD program. The Project aligns with green space, urban canopy, and recreational priorities.

Funding programs change frequently. The above identified funding opportunities are initial recommendations, and further research should verify project-specific eligibility requirements, latest funding levels, and appropriate timelines. Use the links above to research these programs further. If you are unsure about your project eligibility or competitiveness, reaching out to program coordinators via contact emails or webinars is a good way to get your questions answered. The California Grants Portal and California Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fairs can serve as resources to identify additional funding opportunities.

Questions can be asked of the Watershed Coordinator or the Regional Coordination Team.