



INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PROJECT FUNDING ASSESSMENT

To:	Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee	From:	Safe, Clean Water Program Regional Coordination Team
Project:	Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project	Date:	October 20, 2025
Project Lead:	Los Angeles County	Call for Projects Year:	FY26-27 (Round 7)
Application Type:	Design/Construction/O&M		
Watershed Area:	Rio Hondo	Location:	Sierra Madre Blvd between Michillinda Ave and Washington Boulevard Pasadena, CA 91107

Reference: Funding Assessment for Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project

Leveraged funding is a key program goal in the Safe, Clean Water Program Implementation Ordinance (Chapter 18.04). This and other Funding Assessments are generated for all eligible newly submitted Safe, Clean Water Program Infrastructure Program projects in FY26-27 (Round 7). The intent of this Funding Assessment 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 City of Pasadena has been working to enhance Sierra Madre medians for years as they are currently an underutilized public asset that offers minimal ecological value and little functionality beyond landscaping. Improving the medians aligns with city goals around sustainability, urban greening, and stormwater management. The project scope was developed with these goals in mind and aims to improve ecological value, capture and treat stormwater, and improve the aesthetic of the neighborhood. The proposed dry well system captures and treats dry weather regional flows diverted from both the Sierra Madre Villa Channel and the New York Storm Drain. Green Stormwater Infrastructure is also being proposed throughout the medians that will capture and treat surface flows, create habitat, and improve the local landscape. The project scope aligns with the efforts of the Upper Los Angeles River [(ULAR)] Watershed Management Program [(WMP)] and delivers regional benefits by improving water quality. Outreach events held during the design phase allowed community members to provide feedback and guide the scope of the project, influencing decisions such as design layouts and planting palettes.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project claims to provide the following benefits, as copied verbatim from the Project Application Metrics and Measures Section:



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Key Metrics and Measures	
Improve Water Quality	
Zinc Load Reduction	--- lbs/yr
Total Phosphorous Lead Reduction	--- lbs/yr
Increase Drought Preparedness	
Average Annual Stormwater Captured	0.0 acre-ft/yr
Average Annual Stormwater Captured and Recharged	67.04 acre-ft/yr
Improve Public Health	
Net Area of Park Created, Enhanced, or Restored	0 acres
Net Change in Canopy at Maturity	6.32 acres
Net Area of Green Space Created	5 acres
Net Area of Green Space at Public or Private Schools or Co-Located with a Youth-Based Education Program Created	0 acres
Net New Area Cooling and Shading Surfaces	11.32 acres
Net Change in Hardscape	0 acres
Leveraged Funding & Invest in Research & Development	
Leveraged Funds	\$8,500,000
Additional Benefits	
Does the Project provide benefit to disadvantaged communities?	No
Is the Project within a disadvantaged community boundary?	No
Promote Green Jobs & Career Pathways	52.28 Annual FTE Jobs Created

Additional information on Project benefits can be found in the Project Application.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING NEED FOR PROJECT

The Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project is currently requesting \$11,679,000 of Safe, Clean Water Regional Program Round 7 FY26-27 funding for Construction. The Project is tentatively requesting a total of \$12,481,400 of Safe, Clean Water funding through FY 30-31 for Construction,



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Operations & Maintenance (O&M), and Monitoring. The Project's estimated capital cost is \$13,029,000 (Planning, Design, and Construction).

The Project previously received \$300,000 for Technical Resources Program funding in FY21-22 to develop the project concept.

As disclosed in the Project application, the Project Proponent has leveraged \$8,500,000 from Caltrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program, Financial Contribution Only Program. A commitment for these funds has been received.

	FY26-27 Year 1 – Current Ask	FY27-28 Year 2 – Projected	FY28-29 Year 3 – Projected	FY29-30 Year 4 – Projected	FY30-31 Year 5 – Projected	Future Funds	TOTAL REQUEST
Request	\$11,679,000	\$200,600	\$200,600	\$200,600	\$200,600	\$ --	\$12,481,400
Phase	Construction	O&M; Monitoring	O&M; Monitoring	O&M; Monitoring	O&M; Monitoring		

Status and schedule of project:

- **Anticipated date of completion of Project design:** 10/2025
- **Anticipated date of completion of Project construction:** 09/2026

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding/grant program opportunities align with the Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project. 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.

URBAN GREENING

[San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's \(RMC\) Consolidated Grant Program](#) awards grants and interagency agreements with the aim toward creating open space,



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habitat restoration, expanding green space in disadvantaged communities, and protecting the watersheds of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers, Dominguez Channel, and Catalina Island. Projects must be consistent with RMC's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, Division 22.8), Common Ground, its Environmental Justice and Tribal Consultation Policies, and existing and adopted river and flood control projects/plans. Projects should create, expand, and/or improve public open space throughout the region by improving access, habitat quality, water security, and wildfire resilience, as well as promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement and long-term maintenance that will encourage environmental, social, and economic benefits. Acquisition, planning, and implementation projects are eligible for funding. The Consolidated Grant Program is funded from various sources, such as Proposition 1 and 68, in addition to non-bond priorities grant programs, including the Wildfire Prevention Grant Program, Climate Resilience Grant Program, and Lower Los Angeles-Urban Streams and Rivers Program. Applicants do not need to specify the specific funding source for their project. Eligible applicants include State and Federal agencies, Tribal entities recognized by the US Federal Register or as a California Native American tribe, local public agencies (including water districts and school districts), local conservation corps, nonprofit organizations, and Joint Powers Authorities. The Grant Program has an ongoing, rolling application period. Applications will be submitted in two phases: a concept proposal and a full application. The concept proposal will first be reviewed by RMC staff before selecting which proposals will move forward to submit a full application.

The Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project has a ***moderate potential*** of securing funds through this grant program for the construction phase. The Project aligns with some green space and watershed protection aspects of the grant program. While disadvantaged community benefits are not a requirement of this grant program, projects that provide those benefits may be more competitive. According to the Project Applicant, this project does not provide disadvantaged community benefits and thus may not be as competitive compared to other submissions.

[Los Angeles County's Regional Park and Open Space District's \(RPOSD\) Maintenance and Servicing Program](#) funds annual maintenance costs such as recurring labor, contracts, services, and supplies necessary to preserve and extend the longevity, accessibility, and usability of grant-funded improvements. Maintenance & Servicing Funds are allocated annually based on revenue received by September 15th of each year. Eligible applicants include public agencies, Joint Powers Authorities, and non-profit organizations.

The Sierra Madre Boulevard Median Enhancement Project has a ***low potential*** of securing funding through this program. The RPOSD Maintenance and Servicing Program only funds O&M for projects that have been previously funded by RPOSD. Given that this Project has not disclosed receiving previously receiving funding from RPOSD, they will be ineligible to apply for this Program.

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 and the Regional Coordination Team](#).