

Infrastructure Program Executive Summary

Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Area, The Nature Conservancy, FY 24-25

Project Background

The Project is a multi-benefit storm water management and habitat enhancement demonstration project along the LA River.

Project Objectives:

- Improve stormwater quality
- Enhance L.A. River habitat
- Provide benefits to both nature and people
- Complement existing and planned projects improving water quality and restoration of the L.A. River

Project Status: Currently in Design phase. Requesting SCW funding for long-term operation and maintenance.

Total Funding Requested: \$1,833,790

Project Overview

 Why was the Project Location selected? How was the Project developed?

The project location was one of ten sites analyzed in a conceptual study led by The Nature Conservancy in 2016. The Bowtie Demonstration Project's location was most ideal for demonstrating how habitats along the LA River can be enhanced while providing co-benefits of stormwater management and increased public access to the River. The project concept was developed by Studio MLA and Geosyntec with The Nature Conservancy and State Parks. The project design is being developed by Stantec Consulting Services, under The Nature Conservancy.

Project Overview (continued)

• Which regional water management plan includes the proposed project?

The project was approved for the Upper Los Angeles River subregion of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in August 2020.

The project has received support from the ULAR EWMP Watershed Management Group for its contribution towards the compliance efforts of the EWMP.

Description of benefits to municipality/municipalities

The project will capture and treat dry-weather stormwater flows from a highly industrial and commercial area within the Upper Los Angeles River watershed area. The project will address the primary and secondary pollutants of concern: bacteria (fecal coliform), copper (dissolved and total) and zinc (dissolved and total).

Description of how the Feasibility Study or Project Concept will provide Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits

The project is in and surrounded by disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. The project will improve urban runoff water quality entering the Los Angeles River. The project will provide the following benefits to the community.

- Creates, enhances, and restores park space, habitat, and wetland space
- Improves public access to waterways
- Creates and enhances new recreational opportunities
- Reduces heat local island effect and increase shade
- Increases shade and the number of trees and vegetation at the site location



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The Bowtie Demonstration Project is a 3.4-acre portion of the 18-acre Bowtie Parcel. The Bowtie Parcel is an undeveloped industrial land within Taylor Yard, the former headquarters of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The rail operations shut down in the 1980s and in 2003, California State Parks bought the Bowtie Parcel to preserve the land for nature conservation and support efforts to restore the Los Angeles River. The Bowtie Demonstration Project is being led by The Nature Conservancy and California State Parks.

The proposed project will treat dry-weather flows from a 2,775-acre drainage area across the City of Los Angeles and Glendale. The project will divert from a Los Angeles County Flood Control District Storm Drain, and includes pretreatment systems, including a hydrodynamic separator and a media filter System, and a constructed wetland. The project will utilize native plants, boardwalks, and educational signage to encourage public access to the Los Angeles River.

Completed site investigations include site surveys, a geotechnical investigation, a hydrologic analysis, and a preliminary utility search.



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Project Location



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| Preliminary Score | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|--|--|--|
| Benefit | Score | Description | | | |
| Water Quality | 40 | Primary mechanisms will include divert, capture, treat and either reuse or release 100% of Dry Weather Flows and part of the Wet-Weather Flows will be treated Drainage Area = 2,775-Acres Water supply benefits are not claimed as part of the proposed project. Treated stormwater will be reused onsite as irrigation. | | | |
| Water Supply | N/A | | | | |
| Community Investment | 5 | The project will provide the following community investment benefits: 1. create, enhance, or restore park space, habitat, or wetland space, 2. improve public access to waterways, 3. enhance or create new recreational opportunities, 4. improve public health by reducing local heat island effect and increasing shade, 5. improve public health by increasing the number of trees and/or other. | | | |
| Nature Based Solutions | 10 | The project will implement 1. The Use of Native Vegetation 2. The Creation & Restoration of Riparian Habitat and Wetland 3. The Enhancement of Soil. | | | |
| Leveraged Funds | 3 | • 31.53% of funding was matched | | | |
| Community Support | 4 | Outreach involves sharing information and maintaining project transparency through active participation of neighborhood council meetings and engaging with community organizations. Engagement will include an amenities survey in the design phase. | | | |
| TOTAL | 62 | | | | |

| Project Cost & Schedule | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Phase | Description | Cost | Completion Date | | | |
| Planning | Includes Feasibility Studies and Concept Designs and Planning Phase Community Outreach & Engagement | \$305,631.00 | 04/2022 | | | |
| Design | Includes Engineering Design Drawings, Permitting and Design Phase Community Outreach & Engagement | \$1,494,369.00 | 09/2023 | | | |
| Bid/Award | Includes Bid and Award Process (5% of construction costs) | \$450,000.00 | 11/2023 | | | |
| Construction | Includes Mobilization/Demobilization, Construction of Project Components, Construction Management, Escalation Costs and Unallocated Contingencies. | \$9,000,000.00 | 12/2025 | | | |
| TOTAL | | \$11,250,000 | | | | |

• Annual Maintenance Cost = \$240,251, Annual Operation Cost = \$90,000, Annual Monitoring Cost = \$46,151

Project Life Span = 30 years

| Funding Request | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Year | SCW Funding Request | Phase | Efforts during Phase and Year | | | | |
| 1 | \$376,402 | 0 & M | Operation and Maintenance of Project, 2025 - 2026 | | | | |
| 2 | \$375,953 | 0 & M | Operation and Maintenance of Project, 2026 - 2027 | | | | |
| 3 | \$349,222 | 0 & M | Operation and Maintenance of Project, 2027 - 2028 | | | | |
| 4 | \$356,933 | 0 & M | Operation and Maintenance of Project, 2028 - 2029 | | | | |
| 5 | \$375,280 | 0 & M | Operation and Maintenance of Project, 2029 - 2030 | | | | |
| 5+ | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$1,833,790 | | | | | | |