

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
State Coastal Conservancy
GRANT AGREEMENT
Grant - Rev 11/20

AGREEMENT NUMBER G25-061	AM. NO.
TAXPAYERS FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 95-6000769	

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this 8th day of April, 2026 in the State of California, by and between:

AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy	and
GRANTEE'S NAME City of Riverside	

Pursuant to Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, the State Coastal Conservancy ("the Conservancy") hereby grants to the City of Riverside ("the grantee") a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand dollars), subject to this agreement.

Continued on the following pages.

The provisions on the following pages constitute a part of this agreement.
This agreement has been executed by the parties as shown below.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA	GRANTEE
AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy	GRANTEE (If other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership, etc.) City of Riverside
BY (Authorized Signature) 	BY (Authorized Signature) 
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer	PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Pamela M. Galera, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER 1515 Clay Street, 10 th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 286-1015	ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER 3900 Main Street Riverside, CA 92522 Phone: (951) 826-2055

AMOUNT ENCUMBERED BY THIS DOCUMENT \$ 75,000.00	PROGRAM/CATEGORY Local Assistance	FUND TITLE/PROP NO. Prop 4 – Santa Ana River			
PRIOR AMOUNT ENCUMBERED FOR THIS AGREEMENT \$ -0-	FUND ITEM 3760-101-6093-0001(E)(B1105PJ) = \$75,000.00	CHAPTER 6/25	STATUTE 2025	FISCAL YEAR 25/26	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCUMBERED TO DATE \$ 75,000.00	PROJECT NAME Rooted in Riverside				
I hereby certify upon my own personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for the period and purpose of the expenditure stated above.					
NAME AND SIGNATURE OF <u>ACCOUNTING</u> OFFICER 		DATE 4/8/2026			

I certify that this agreement is exempt from Department of General Services' approval.



Erika Gomez
Procurement and
Contracts
Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Attest: _____
City Clerk

By: 
Susan Wilson (Jun 18, 2026 17:31:58 PDT)
Deputy City Attorney

I. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

The grantee shall use these funds granted under this agreement to complete the following Explore the River project, Rooted in Riverside (“the project”).

The project consists of four day-long field trips and one overnight camping experience for approximately 1,200 total participants. The grantee will outreach to and involve participants from under-resourced communities. The grantee will work with partner organizations to create family-oriented trips that promote environmental stewardship, leadership development, and family engagement through interactive activities related to the Santa Ana River including hands-on habitat restoration and education, fly fishing, foundational outdoor skills, guided nature walks, campfires, and cultural education.

The grantee shall carry out the project in accordance with this agreement. The grantee shall provide any funds beyond those granted under this agreement that are needed to complete the project.

II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This agreement will take effect when signed by both parties and received in the office of the Conservancy together with the resolution described in section III. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROJECT AND DISBURSEMENT. This agreement may be signed electronically using a process specified by the Conservancy.

The grantee shall complete all work by February 28, 2028 (“the completion date”).

The grantee shall deliver a final Request for Disbursement to the Conservancy no later than March 31, 2028.

This agreement terminates on May 31, 2028 (“the termination date”).

Standard Explore the Coast Provisions

III. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROJECT AND DISBURSEMENT

The grantee shall not commence the project and the Conservancy shall not be obligated to disburse any funds under this agreement until the following conditions precedent have been met:

1. The authorized body of the grantee has adopted a resolution designating positions whose incumbents are authorized to negotiate and execute this agreement and amendments to it on behalf of the grantee.
2. The Executive Officer of the Conservancy (“Executive Officer”) has approved in writing:
 - a. The work program for the project as provided in the “V. WORK PROGRAM” section, below.
 - b. If grantee intends to retain contractors, the names and qualifications of all contractors retained in connection with the project.
 - c. A plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding.
 - d. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Executive Officer.
3. The grantee has provided to the Conservancy:
 - a. Evidence the grantee has provided for required insurance coverage, as described in the “XV. INSURANCE” section, below.
 - b. A complete project budget that identifies the estimated costs to complete the project and all sources of funding for the project.

IV. AUTHORIZATION

The signature of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy on this agreement certifies that at its February 19, 2026 meeting, the Conservancy adopted the resolution attached as Exhibit A. This agreement is executed under that authorization.

V. WORK PROGRAM

Before beginning the project, the grantee shall submit a detailed work program to the Executive Officer for review and written approval of its consistency with the purposes, and other provisions, of this grant agreement. The work program shall include:

1. The specific tasks to be performed.
2. A schedule of completion for the project, specifically listing the date for completing each project component and showing that the project will be completed by the completion date.
3. A budget that identifies how the grantee will use the funds granted under this agreement, broken down by task and indirect costs (“work program budget”).

If all or any part of the project to be funded under this agreement will be performed by third parties (“contractors”) under contract with the grantee, the grantee shall submit to the Executive Officer for review and approval the names and qualifications of the contractors.

The work program will have the same effect as if included in the text of this agreement. However, the work program may be modified without amendment of this agreement upon the grantee’s submission of a modified work program and the Executive Officer’s written approval of it. If this agreement and the work program are inconsistent, this agreement will control.

The grantee shall carry out the project in accordance with the approved work program.

VI. PROGRESS REPORTS AND FINAL REPORT

The grantee shall submit regular Progress Reports as described in the X. COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS section below. Progress Reports should use ETC-specific progress and final report templates (available from the Conservancy or at <https://scc.ca.gov/grants/resources-for-current-grantees/>). Progress Reports should be provided in electronic format. When the project is complete, the grantee shall submit a Final Report. The Final Report should be provided in electronic format.

VII. PHOTO RELEASE

The Conservancy encourages grantees to share photographs and other media demonstrating the benefits of Conservancy grants with the Conservancy. If the grantee provides any photographs of participants to the Conservancy, the grantee shall, at a minimum, ensure that participants (or the guardians of participants under the age of 18) are informed that photographs may be taken and used for any non-commercial purpose.

VIII. COORDINATION AND MEETINGS

The grantee shall coordinate closely with Conservancy staff and other involved entities, including local, state, and federal agencies, and shall participate in meetings and other communications as necessary to ensure coordination.

IX. WORK PRODUCTS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONSERVANCY SUPPORT

All material, data, information, and written, graphic or other work produced, developed or acquired under this agreement is subject to the unqualified and unconditional right of the Conservancy to use, reproduce, publish, display, and make derivative use of all such work, or any part of it, free of charge and in any manner and for any purpose; and to authorize others to do so. If any of the work is subject to copyright, trademark, service mark, or patent, the Conservancy is granted and shall have a perpetual, royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to use, reproduce, publish, use in the creation of derivative works, and display and perform the work, or any part of it, and to grant to any third party a comparable and coextensive sublicense.

The grantee shall include in any contract with a third party for work under this agreement terms that preserve the rights, interests, and obligations created by this section, and that identify the Conservancy as a third-party beneficiary of those provisions.

The grantee shall not utilize the work produced under this agreement for any profit-making venture or sell or grant rights to a third party for that purpose.

In order to acknowledge the Conservancy's support of the project, the grantee shall mention the Conservancy's support in its project-related press releases, contacts with the media, and social media postings, and on its website.

X. COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

When the Conservancy determines that all conditions in section III. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROJECT AND DISBURSEMENT have been fully met, the Conservancy shall disburse to the grantee a total amount not to exceed the amount granted under this agreement, in accordance with the approved work program and this section.

A. Timing of Disbursement

The Conservancy will disburse funds after the grantee has incurred costs and expenses, upon the grantee's satisfactory progress under the approved work program and upon the grantee's submission of a complete, fully executed "Request for Disbursement" form. The Conservancy

will not disburse the final five percent of the funds granted under this agreement until the grantee has complied with section XII. PROJECT COMPLETION and the Conservancy has accepted the project.

B. Eligible Costs and Expenses

The only costs and expenses that are eligible to be paid with funds granted under this agreement are the following costs and expenses if incurred to carry out the project:

1. Grantee's staff time, provided that hourly rates for grantee's staff time billed to the Conservancy may not exceed the actual compensation paid by grantee to employees, which may include employee benefits. The grantee shall require its employees to keep records of their time spent on the project for purposes of documenting the employee time billed to the Conservancy.
2. Grantee's travel and related expenses in accordance with the rates set forth in "SCC Travel Reimbursement Rates for Grants and Contracts," as posted on the Conservancy's website at scc.ca.gov. Grantee's travel and travel-related expenses must be necessary to the project and documented by appropriate receipts.
3. Costs charged to the grantee by its contractors.
4. Other necessary direct costs that are reasonable in nature and amount, taking into account the nature of the project, its location, and other relevant factors.
5. Grantee's indirect costs as identified in the work program budget and up to a total maximum of 20% of the grant amount.

The following list of costs is ineligible to be paid with the funds granted under this agreement:

- a. commemorative items;
- b. gifts;
- c. prizes;
- d. travel stipends;
- e. gift cards;
- f. gas cards;
- g. event stipends;
- h. bikeshare passes;
- i. generally, bus passes; or
- j. purchase of cars, vans, or trailers.

After the grantee has satisfied the conditions precedent to commencement of the project set forth in section III. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROJECT AND DISBURSEMENT, the grantee may request reimbursement, and the Conservancy may

reimburse grantee, for grantee's eligible costs and expenses incurred to satisfy the conditions precedent.

C. Requesting Disbursement

The grantee shall request disbursements by submitting to the Conservancy a complete "Request for Disbursement" form (available from the Conservancy). A Request for Disbursement form will be considered complete and fully executed only after the Conservancy has reviewed the form for compliance with this agreement, the grantee has corrected any deficiencies identified by the Conservancy, and the grantee's authorized representative has signed the signature page that is provided to the grantee following Conservancy review.

The grantee shall include in the Request for Disbursement its name and address, the number of this agreement, the date of the submission, the amount of the invoice, the period during which the work was actually done, and an itemized description, including time, materials, and expenses incurred, of all work done for which disbursement is requested. The form must be limited to work performed, including work performed by contractors, in a Conservancy fiscal year, which is July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Work that spans two Conservancy fiscal years must be separated into two Requests for Disbursement, one for each fiscal year. The form must also indicate cumulative expenditures to date, expenditures during the reporting period, and the unexpended balance of funds under the grant agreement.

Each Request for Disbursement form must be accompanied by:

1. All receipts and any other source documents for direct expenditures and costs that the grantee has incurred, including receipts for travel and travel-related expenses.
2. Invoices from contractors (showing work only for one Conservancy fiscal year) and any receipts and any other source documents for costs incurred and expenditures by any such contractor, unless the Executive Officer makes a specific exemption in writing.
3. A progress report summarizing the current status of the project and the work for which the grantee is requesting disbursement.

The grantee shall submit requests for disbursement no more frequently than monthly and no less frequently than quarterly. The grantee's failure to submit timely, complete and fully executed Requests for Disbursement in accordance with this section, will relieve the Conservancy of its obligation to disburse funds to the grantee unless and until the grantee corrects all deficiencies.

D. Advance Payment Program

1. Request for Advanced Funds

If the Conservancy determines that the grantee has demonstrated a need to obtain funds in advance, the Conservancy may elect to disburse a portion of the funds to the grantee before the grantee has incurred costs and expenses that qualify for payment under this agreement (“advanced funds”). To obtain advanced funds, the grantee shall submit the Conservancy’s Request for Disbursement form, with all the first page information filled out and the word “Advance” written by grantee on the first line of the Task section along with the total budgeted grant amount, amounts disbursed to date, advance payment request, and remaining balance if the request is approved. Page 2 should be left blank, and no attachments are needed.

2. Deposit and Tracking Advanced Funds

Grantee shall hold the advanced funds in a federally-insured, interest-bearing account for which deposits, including interest, and withdrawals will be tracked (“advance payment account”). The grantee shall hold the advanced funds in the advance payment account until expenditure, and the grantee must minimize time in between receipt and expenditure of advanced funds. The grantee shall ensure the advance payment account is in the grantee’s name, and not in the name of any of its directors or officers. All interest earned by funds in the advance payment account is deemed advanced funds subject to the terms of this agreement. The grantee shall spend advanced funds solely on eligible project costs and expenses consistent with the work program. The grantee shall maintain records and receipts that demonstrate how advanced funds were spent.

3. Documentation of Use of Advanced Funds

No more than monthly and no less than quarterly, the grantee shall submit a completed “Documentation of Advanced Funds” (DAF) to the Conservancy for review and approval, using the form provided by the Conservancy. The grantee shall attach to the DAF the invoices, receipts, a progress report for advanced funds spent, and other backup documentation that demonstrate use of the advanced funds. If the Conservancy finds that advanced funds were used for ineligible costs or expenses, it will notify the grantee in writing that it has disapproved the DAF, and the grantee shall submit a revised DAF.

If the grantee fails to provide a completed DAF at least quarterly or fails to revise and resubmit a disapproved DAF, the Conservancy will not disburse additional advanced funds, the Conservancy may not approve advanced payments on future projects, and the Conservancy may refuse to disburse amounts withheld as described in this section X. COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

4. Maximum Amount of Each Advance

Generally, no disbursement of advanced funds will exceed 25 percent of the total grant amount. The Conservancy may exceed the 25-percent limit if the Executive Officer determines that the project requires a larger advance, and the grantee provides sufficient justification and documentation for a larger advance.

5. Multiple Disbursements of Advanced Funds

After advancing funds, the Conservancy may disburse additional advanced funds if the grantee demonstrates: (a) it spent at least 50% of the most recent disbursement of advanced funds; and (b) it spent 100% of the advanced funds disbursed prior to the most recent disbursement of advanced funds. However, if the grantee has met the requirements in (b) of this subsection (100%), but not the requirements in (a) of this subsection (50%), the Executive Officer may approve an additional advance if the Executive Officer determines that a plan is in place to ensure the expenditure of those funds in a timely manner.

6. Final 5 Percent of Total Funds

The Conservancy will not disburse the final five percent of the funds granted under this agreement until the grantee has complied with section XII. PROJECT COMPLETION and the Conservancy has accepted the project.

7. Unused Advanced Funds

If upon project completion, the grantee has any unused advanced funds, the grantee shall repay those funds to the Conservancy. The term “unused advanced funds” means the amount that is equal to the difference between the total amount of funds disbursed as advanced funds and the total amount of funds documented in DAFs approved by the Conservancy. The grantee shall repay all unused advanced funds within 15 days of completion of the project. If the grantee has not repaid all unused advanced funds as required, the Conservancy is not obligated to disburse any withheld amounts as provided in this section X. COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

XI. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDING AMONG BUDGET ITEMS

No increase in the total amount of funds granted under this agreement will be valid unless set forth in a written amendment to this agreement. The grantee shall expend funds granted under this agreement consistent with the work program budget. Expenditure on items contained in the work program budget, other than indirect costs, may vary by as much as ten percent per item without prior approval of the Executive Officer. Any deviation that is greater than ten percent for a budget item or that affects indirect costs, requires written approval of the Executive Officer and a revised work program budget. The Conservancy may withhold payment for items that

have not received the required approval. Any increase in the funding for a budget item will mean a decrease in the funding for one or more other budget items unless there is a written amendment to this agreement.

XII. PROJECT COMPLETION

The grantee shall complete the project by the completion date provided in the “TERM OF AGREEMENT” section, above. Upon completion of the project, the grantee shall supply the Conservancy with evidence of completion by submitting the following electronically by the final Request for Disbursement date set forth in the “TERM OF AGREEMENT” section:

1. Any work products, including monitoring and evaluation reports, specified in the work program for the project. Work products should be provided in digital format unless another format is approved by the Executive Officer.
2. Documentation that the grantee has implemented and completed the approved plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
3. A fully executed final “Request for Disbursement.” A “final Request for Disbursement” means a Request for Disbursement that includes the withheld amounts and all remaining amounts for which grantee is entitled to seek payment, if any, pursuant to this agreement.
4. A Final Report using the Final Report Template provided by the Conservancy.

The Conservancy shall determine whether the grantee has satisfactorily completed the project. If so, the Conservancy shall issue to the grantee a letter of acceptance of the project. The project shall be deemed complete as of the date of the letter.

XIII. EARLY TERMINATION, SUSPENSION AND FAILURE TO PERFORM

A. Early Termination Prior to Commencement

Before the project has commenced, either party may terminate this agreement for any reason by giving the other party seven days’ prior notice.

B. Early Termination or Suspension Without Cause

Before the project is complete, the Conservancy may terminate this agreement for any reason by giving the grantee thirty days’ prior notice. Before the project is complete, the Conservancy may suspend this agreement for any reason by giving the grantee seven days’ prior notice. In either case, upon receipt of the notice, the grantee shall prepare to stop work under the agreement and shall take all reasonable measures to prevent further costs to the Conservancy. The Conservancy shall be responsible for any reasonable and non-cancelable obligations incurred by the grantee in

the performance of this agreement prior to the date of termination or suspension, but only up to the undisbursed balance of funding authorized in this agreement. Within 15 calendar days of the date of termination or suspension, the grantee shall return any unused advanced payment funds that are not required for reasonable and non-cancelable obligations incurred by the grantee in the performance of this agreement prior to the date of the termination or suspension. Any notice suspending work under this agreement will remain in effect until further written notice from the Conservancy authorizes work to resume.

Before the project is complete, the grantee may terminate this agreement for any reason by giving the Conservancy seven days' prior notice and repaying to the Conservancy all amounts disbursed by the Conservancy under this agreement. The Conservancy may, at its sole discretion, consider extenuating circumstances and allow early termination without repayment for work partially completed.

The grantee shall include in any agreement with any contractor retained for work under this agreement a provision that entitles the grantee to suspend or terminate the agreement with the contractor without cause on written notice and on the same terms and conditions specified in this section.

C. Early Termination or Suspension for Cause

If the grantee fails to: (a) make satisfactory progress toward completing the project; (b) carry out the project consistent with the approved work program; (c) use the funds granted under this agreement consistent with the approved work program; (d) submit a complete and fully executed Request for Disbursement or Documentation of Advanced Funds; (e) deposit, timely use, and manage advanced funds in accordance with the requirements of this agreement; or (f) comply with other requirements of this agreement, the Conservancy may suspend or terminate this agreement for cause.

Prior to suspending this agreement for cause, the Conservancy shall provide the grantee with notice identifying the noncompliance and providing an opportunity to correct the noncompliance of at least 30 calendar days, except in exigent circumstances. Exigent circumstances include imminent risk of misuse of grant funds or instances with no reasonable cure. If the Conservancy suspends this agreement for cause, the Conservancy will not be obligated to provide additional funds under this agreement, and the grantee shall return all unused advanced funds within 15 calendar days of the suspension date. The suspension will remain in effect until further written notice from the Conservancy.

Prior to terminating this agreement for cause, the Conservancy shall provide the grantee with notice identifying the noncompliance and providing an opportunity to correct the noncompliance of at least 30 calendar days, except in exigent circumstances, as defined above. The Conservancy may terminate for cause without first suspending this agreement. If the Conservancy terminates this agreement for cause, the grantee shall: (a) within 15 calendar days of the termination date, return all unused advanced funds; and (b) within 90 calendar days of the

termination date, reimburse the Conservancy for all amounts disbursed by the Conservancy under this agreement. The Conservancy may consider extenuating circumstances and not require reimbursement for some or all amounts disbursed by the Conservancy under this agreement. The Conservancy may pursue all other available remedies for breach of this agreement.

D. Work Products

On or before the date of termination of the agreement under this section, whether terminated by the grantee or the Conservancy, the grantee shall provide the Conservancy with all work, material, data, information, and written, graphic or other work produced, developed or acquired under this agreement (whether completed or partial), in appropriate, readily useable form.

E. Consequential Damages

The parties expressly agree to waive, release and relinquish the recovery of any consequential damages that may arise out of the termination or suspension of this agreement under this section.

F. Notice

Notices provided under Section XIII must be in writing and either a) personally delivered, b) sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, or c) sent by overnight courier service, addressed to the addresses shown on the first page of this agreement.

A notice provided pursuant to this agreement will be deemed to have been given on: a) the date of delivery if provided by personal delivery, b) 48 hours after deposit with the US mail, or c) one business day after the date of deposit with an overnight courier service.

XIV. INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

The grantee shall be responsible for, indemnify and hold harmless the Conservancy, its officers, agents and employees from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, or costs, including without limitation litigation costs and attorneys' fees, resulting from or arising out of the willful or negligent acts or omissions of the grantee, its officers, agents, contractors, subcontractors and employees, or in any way connected with or incident to this agreement, except for the active negligence of the Conservancy, its officers, agents or employees. The duty of the grantee to indemnify and hold harmless includes the duty to defend as set forth in Civil Code Section 2778. If the grantee is a public entity, this agreement supersedes any right the grantee may have as a public entity to indemnity and contribution as provided in Gov. Code Sections 895 *et seq.*

The grantee waives any and all rights to any type of express or implied indemnity or right of contribution from the State, its officers, agents or employees, for any liability resulting from, growing out of, or in any way connected with or incident to this agreement.

Nothing in this agreement is intended to create in the public or in any member of it rights as a third-party beneficiary under this agreement.

XV. INSURANCE

The grantee shall procure and maintain insurance, as specified in this section, against claims for injuries to persons and damage to property that may arise from or in connection with any activities of the grantee or its agents, representatives, employees, volunteers, or contractors associated with the project undertaken pursuant to this agreement.

As an alternative, with the written approval of the Executive Officer, the grantee may satisfy the coverage requirement in whole or in part through: (a) its contractors' procurement and maintenance of insurance for work under this agreement, if the coverage otherwise fully satisfies the requirements of this section; or (b) the grantee's participation in a "risk management" plan, self-insurance program or insurance pooling arrangement, or any combination of these, if consistent with the coverage required by this section.

The grantee shall maintain property insurance, if required below, throughout the term of this agreement. Any required errors and omissions liability insurance shall be maintained from the effective date through two calendar years after the completion date. The grantee shall maintain all other required insurance from the effective date through the completion date.

1. Minimum Scope of Insurance. Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

- a. Insurance Services Office ("ISO") Commercial General Liability coverage, occurrence basis (Form CG 00 01) or comparable.
- b. Automobile Liability coverage: ISO Form Number CA 0001, Code 1 (any auto). If the project will utilize multiple-passenger commercial vehicles, such as bus or van (i.e. common carrier vehicle(s)): coverage consistent with California Public Utilities Commission General Orders 101E, 115F and 160A and minimum limits below.
- c. Workers' Compensation insurance as required by the Labor Code of the State of California. If applicable, grantee shall provide a Maritime Coverage Endorsement, and any other endorsements required by federal and state law and regulations, associated with watercraft utilized for this project.
- d. If the project will utilize watercraft, coverage must be in place through a commercial general liability endorsement or a separate Watercraft/Protection and Indemnity Insurance Policy to cover activities to be performed under this Agreement. Such insurance must cover liability arising out of the maintenance and use of any watercraft covering owned vessels of any size and non-owned vessels over 26 ft. The certificate of insurance must evidence that all owned vessels and non-owned vessels over 26 ft. are covered.

2. Minimum Limits of Insurance. The grantee shall maintain coverage limits no less than:

a. General Liability: <i>(Including operations, products and completed operations, as applicable)</i>	\$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage.
b. Automobile Liability:	\$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage. If the project will utilize multiple-passenger commercial transportation vehicles, such as bus or van (i.e. common carrier vehicle(s)): \$5,000,000 per vehicle or such lower limits as are allowed by the applicable CPUC General Order.
c. Worker's Compensation:	Worker's compensation as required by law.
d. Watercraft Liability (for private vessel) Coverage, if required in l.d., above:	In the following amounts: a. Vessels under 26 ft.: \$1,000,000 combined single limit. b. Vessels over 26 ft. or vessel involved in research: \$2,000,000 combined single limit.

3. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions. Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Waiver of Subrogation. The grantee hereby grants to the State of California, its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers, a waiver of any right to subrogation which any insurer of the grantee may acquire against the State of California, its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers, by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurance. Grantee agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to affect this waiver of subrogation, but this provision applies regardless of whether or not the grantee has received a waiver of subrogation endorsement from the insurer.
5. Acceptability of Insurers. Insurance shall be placed with insurers admitted to transact business in the State of California and having a current Best's rating of "B+:VII" or better or, in the alternative, acceptable to the Conservancy and approved in writing by the Executive Officer.
6. Verification of Coverage. The grantee shall furnish the Conservancy with original certificates and amendatory endorsements, or copies of the applicable policy language, effecting coverage required by this clause. All certificates and endorsements are to be received and approved by the Executive Officer before work commences. The Conservancy

may require, at any time, complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements affecting the coverage.

7. Contractors. The grantee shall require each contractor to provide and maintain coverage consistent with the requirements of this section.
8. Premiums and Assessments. The Conservancy is not responsible for premiums and assessments on any insurance policy.

XVI. AUDITS/ACCOUNTING/RECORDS

The grantee shall maintain financial accounts, documents, and records (collectively, “required records”) relating to this agreement, in accordance with the guidelines of “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles” (“GAAP”) published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The required records shall include, without limitation, evidence sufficient to reflect properly the amount, receipt, deposit, and disbursement of all funds related to work under the agreement, and time and effort reports that permit tracing from the request for disbursement forms to the accounting records and to the supporting documentation.

The Conservancy or its agents may review, obtain, and copy all required records. The grantee shall provide the Conservancy, California State Auditor, Department of Finance, their officers, employees, or its agents with any relevant information requested and shall permit the Conservancy or its agents access to the grantee’s premises upon reasonable notice, during normal business hours, to interview employees and inspect and copy books, records, accounts, and other material that may be relevant to a matter under investigation for the purpose of determining compliance with this agreement and any applicable laws and regulations.

The grantee shall retain the required records for a minimum of three years following final disbursement by the Conservancy. The records will be subject to examination and audit by the Conservancy and the California State Auditor during the retention period.

If the grantee retains any contractors to accomplish any of the work of this agreement, the grantee shall first enter into an agreement with each contractor requiring the contractor to meet the terms of this section and to make the terms applicable to all subcontractors.

The Conservancy may disallow all or part of the cost of any activity or action that it determines to be not in compliance with the requirements of this agreement.

XVII. NONDISCRIMINATION

During the performance of this agreement, the grantee and its contractors shall not deny the agreement’s benefits to any person on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital

status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status. The grantee shall ensure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination. The grantee and contractors shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code §12900 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §11000 et seq.), the provisions of Article 9.5, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code (Gov. Code §§11135-11139.5), and the regulations or standards adopted by the Conservancy to implement such article. The grantee shall permit access by representatives of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the Conservancy upon reasonable notice at any time during the normal business hours, but in no case less than 24 hours' notice, to such of its books, records, accounts, and all other sources of information and its facilities as said Department or the Conservancy shall require to ascertain compliance with this clause. The grantee and its contractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §11105.)

The grantee shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all contracts to perform work under this agreement.

XVIII. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

By signing this agreement, grantee certifies that it is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, (42 U.S.C., 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as all applicable regulations and guidelines issued pursuant to the ADA.

XIX. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The grantee's signature on this agreement constitutes the certification required by Government Code Section 8355 (Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990), which requires that all state grantees provide a drug-free workplace by doing all of the following:

Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the person's or organization's workplace and specifying actions that will be taken against employees for violations of the prohibition.

Establishing a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about all of the following:

The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace.

The person's or organization's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.

Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs.
The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

Requiring that each employee engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the drug-free workplace statement and that, as a condition of employment on the grant, the employee agrees to abide by the terms of the statement.

XX. EXECUTIVE ORDER N-6-22 – RUSSIA SANCTIONS

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. The EO directs state agencies to terminate contracts with, and to refrain from entering any new contracts with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the Conservancy determine the grantee is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this agreement. The Conservancy shall provide the grantee advance written notice of such termination, allowing the grantee at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the Conservancy.

XXI. INDEPENDENT CAPACITY

The grantee, and the agents and employees of the grantee, in the performance of this agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the State of California.

XXII. ASSIGNMENT

Without the written consent of the Executive Officer, the grantee shall not assign this agreement in whole or in part.

XXIII. TIMELINESS

Time is of the essence in this agreement.

XXIV. AMENDMENT

Except as expressly provided in this agreement, no change in this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties to the agreement. No oral understanding or agreement not incorporated in this agreement shall be binding on any of the parties.

XXV. SURVIVAL

The obligations in the “WORK PRODUCTS” and “INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS” sections, above, shall survive the termination of this agreement.

EXHIBIT A

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

February 19, 2026

EXPLORE THE RIVER GRANT PROGRAM 2026

Project No. 25-048-00

Project Manager: Rodrigo Garcia

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$225,000 to two nonprofit organizations and one government agency for three projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the Santa Ana River. Participants will visit locations along the Santa Ana River and various tributaries in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties.

LOCATION: Various locations along the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Photos](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) to two nonprofit organizations and one government agency for three projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the Santa Ana River. The Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy may authorize modifications to one or more of the three projects if the projects continue to promote the goal of facilitating and enhancing the public's opportunities to explore the Santa Ana River. The three grantees and projects are as follows:

- City of Riverside: seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to provide overnight and day-long camping experiences to approximately 1,200 participants from Riverside County with interactive activities related to the Santa Ana River.

- Inland Empire Waterkeeper: seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to provide no-cost field trips to approximately 800 youth from Riverside and San Bernardino counties with a hands-on learning experience in the Santa Ana River and within its watershed.
- TreePeople: seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to provide no-cost field trips to approximately 560 youth and their families with a comprehensive experience in the natural environments of the Santa Ana River and within its watershed.

Prior to commencement of each project, the grantee for the specific project shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Executive Officer.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Conservancy resolution is effective only if legislation is enacted that exempts program guidelines and selection criteria for the disbursement of funds from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 ("Proposition 4"), Public Resources Code Sections 90000-95015, from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act at Government Code sections 11340-11361.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Inland Empire Waterkeeper and TreePeople are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize a \$225,000 grant to two nonprofit organizations and one government agency for three projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the Santa Ana River under the Santa Ana River Conservancy program's Explore the River (ETR) grant program. Participant numbers stated in the project summaries are approximate and may vary up to 25%. Additionally, project specifics may need to be changed due to unexpected circumstances such as closures of particular segments of the Santa Ana River or unanticipated costs, so the recommended authorization includes authority for the

Executive Officer to approve project changes as long as the modified projects continue to promote the goal of the program.

The purpose of the ETR grant program is to provide experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the Santa Ana River and its tributaries (ETR Priority Communities). ETR Priority Communities include, but are not limited to, lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, indigenous communities, immigrant communities, foster youth, and other historically excluded communities who face societal challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the river. ETR projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities: provides an enjoyable experience at the river; reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the river; or inspires an ongoing river resource stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

Staff recommends funding the following three projects for the 2026 ETR grant program. Each individual project summary identifies the grant applicant, project name, recommended funding amount, a brief project description, geographic location, and grant applicant qualifications.

ROOTED IN RIVERSIDE

\$75,000

City of Riverside

Riverside County

The City of Riverside will host four day-long field trips and one overnight camping experience at Fairmount Park in the City of Riverside for approximately 1,200 participants from under-resourced neighborhoods in the city, including those living near the Santa Ana River corridor. The family-oriented trips will offer a thoughtfully designed outdoor experience that promotes environmental stewardship, leadership development, and family engagement through different activities led by partner organizations. Activities will include hands-on habitat restoration and education, fly fishing, foundational outdoor skills, guided nature walks, campfires, and cultural education.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: The City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department provides innovative recreational experiences and social enrichment opportunities to address the changing needs for people of all ages and cultures. It has successfully managed previous Conservancy grants, delivering projects on time and within budget.

**RIVER KATS: KIDS ACTIVISM TOGETHER WITH
SCIENCE (KATS)**

\$75,000

Inland Empire Waterkeeper

San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange Counties

Inland Empire Waterkeeper will host approximately 20 field trips to various parts of the Santa Ana River, at no cost, for approximately 800 youth from Title 1 schools and community youth groups throughout San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The program will provide an ecological education catered to the youths' grade level before bringing the youth to a local waterway destination or a combination of destinations, which may include wastewater treatment plants, ecological reserves, wetlands, lakes, the natural portions of the Santa Ana River, its riparian forest, and its outlet to the ocean. Participants will engage with nature

through activities such as field investigations, guided hikes, optional clean ups, and wildlife observations. Through an interdisciplinary approach, participants will get first-hand experiences with the mental and physical benefits of spending time outdoors while simultaneously learning how to care for these spaces.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: Inland Empire Waterkeeper was established by the Orange County Coastkeeper in 2005 and for over 20 years has carried out its mission to protect and enhance the water quality of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed through programs of advocacy, education, research, restoration, and enforcement. Inland Empire Waterkeeper has successfully hosted the River KATS program since 2006 in addition to many other projects that provide safe outdoor recreation, hands-on environmental education, public engagement, and long-term preservation of the Santa Ana River and its tributaries.

**CREATING NATURAL CONNECTIONS TO THE
SANTA ANA RIVER**

\$75,000

TreePeople

San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange Counties

TreePeople will provide 16 no-cost field trips for youth and their families, with a comprehensive experience in the natural environments of the Santa Ana River and within its watershed. Approximately 560 participants in the cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, and Colton will explore natural areas in the Santa Ana River watershed, such as Lytle Creek and Big Bear Lake through this program. TreePeople will include students who live in historically underserved communities of color. Field trip activities will focus on connecting to nature, self-discovery, and exploration rather than academic requirements. While on the trip, TreePeople will provide environmental information for context that highlights the biodiversity of the region, and issues in the region that affect the health of the watershed. Instruction will take the form of hands-on learning and equip participants with tools to take action on these issues. Food and materials will be provided to allow participants to fully focus on enjoyment of the experience.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: TreePeople has been serving southern California since 1973 by bringing the community to plant trees, harvest rain, and renew the region's landscapes. It has coordinated field trips for decades and has offered hundreds of trips that brought thousands of youths to the coast and natural areas to learn about conservation.

Site Description: The Santa Ana River watershed is the largest coastal watershed in Southern California and flows through several highly urbanized areas. The river is a vital natural and recreational resource for communities near the river, providing a key water source for many residents and opportunities for accessing open space. The recreational opportunities provided by the river are critical to adjacent communities in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange counties.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Strategic Plan" section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The proposed projects reflect good investments of state resources as they will provide a lifelong benefit of promoting stewardship for the Santa Ana River and its tributaries to approximately 2,500 individuals through educational and recreational activities at no cost to participants.

The proposed projects are consistent with the following goals of the 2018 *Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan* prepared by the Conservancy:

- Goal 2 – Create physical and figurative connections between the river corridor and surrounding communities and destinations. The proposed project will foster a connection between program participants and their communities with recreational areas along the river corridor.
- Goal 5 – Provide a diversity of opportunities for people to learn about the river corridor and its resources. The proposed project will provide educational and recreational opportunities for participants to experience nature.

The proposed projects will provide recreational and educational experiences to approximately 2,500 southern California residents with the added lifelong benefit of promoting environmental stewardship.

3. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

The proposed projects aim for their participants to build a connection with the Santa Ana River, and the natural environment in general. A newly developed appreciation for the Santa Ana River can lead to more respectful recreation or support for conservation efforts at a minimum. Potentially, participants with stronger inclinations for stewardship may contribute through volunteering, pursuing careers in conservation or provide financial support.

4. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

The ETR grant program creates a funding avenue for local community groups and government agencies to expose their communities to the joys of the Santa Ana River and the unique recreational and ecological opportunities it provides. The program aims to minimize barriers that have prevented systemically excluded communities from accessing this resource. The recreational, educational, and even professional development benefits of the program will potentially provide long lasting impacts on the participants.

5. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

The proposed projects utilize a broad network of community partners that allow them to provide these grant programs at no cost to the participants. These networks also support them in providing effective outreach to engage with priority communities.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$225,000
Project Total	\$225,000

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding for these projects is a fiscal year 2025-2026 appropriation to the Conservancy from the “Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024,” also known as the 2024 Climate Bond or Proposition 4 (Public Resources Code, Section 90000-95015). Public Resource Code section 91032(d) allocates funds to the Conservancy for the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program for projects that protect and restore rivers, wetlands, streams, lakes, and watersheds, which includes actions to improve access to public open-space areas, or actions to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural, cultural, and historic resources. These projects are consistent with this funding source because they will increase public access to the Santa Ana River and facilitate enjoyment of the river’s natural resources. These projects are also consistent with the goals of the Santa Ana River Conservancy program, as discussed in the Consistency with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation section below.

Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding and in-kind contributions described above are estimates. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The projects are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31170-31180 regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program. Section 31173 states that the Conservancy may undertake projects and award grants to nonprofit organizations to help achieve the goals of the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, including “Recreational opportunities [...] in the Santa Ana River for all beneficial uses, [and] related educational use,” (Section 31173 (a)), and “public access to, enjoyment of, and enhancement of recreational and educational experience on, program lands in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources,” (Section 31173(b)). The proposed projects will help achieve these goals by taking youth and their families to multiple locations along the Santa Ana River for recreational and educational experiences and will foster a sense of environmental stewardship in participants.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

Consistent with **Goal 1.1, Commit Funding to Benefit Systemically Excluded Communities**, the three projects directly benefit one or more systemically excluded communities by offering participant recreation and educational field trips to the Santa Ana River at no cost.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed projects are categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), which exempts the regular operation of existing facilities and topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed projects consist of the regular operation of existing facilities and topographical features that will be visited with negligible or no expansion of existing use.

Upon approval of the projects, Conservancy staff will file Notices of Exemption.

Exhibit 1: Project Location Map

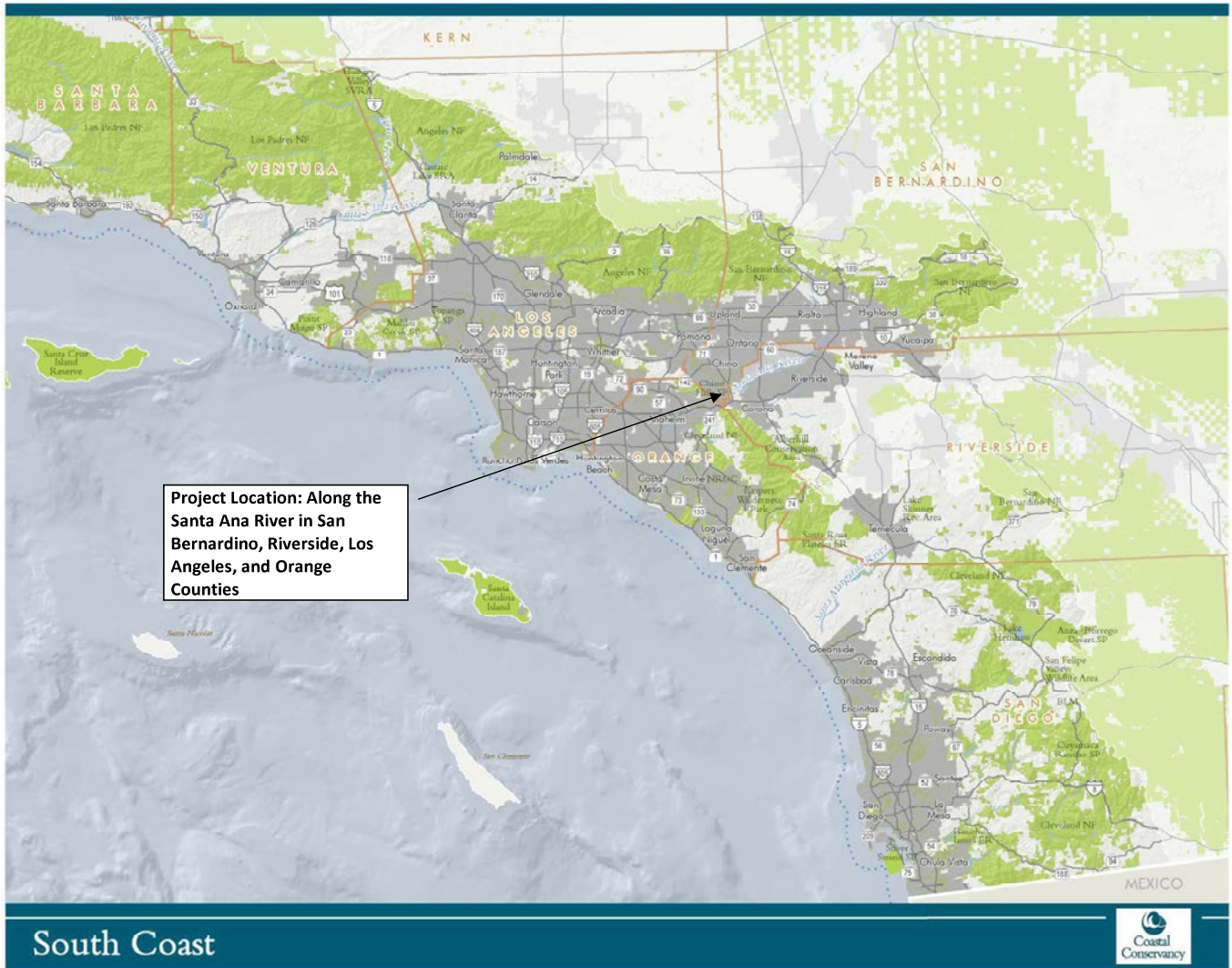


Exhibit 2: Project Photos



Participants visiting the Southern California Montane Botanic Garden at Oak Glen Preserve. (TreePeople)

Exhibit 2: Project Photos



Participants observing wildlife. (TreePeople)

Exhibit 2: Project Photos



RiverKATS participants. (Inland Empire Waterkeeper)

Exhibit 2: Project Photos



RiverKATS participants. (Inland Empire Waterkeeper)

Exhibit 2: Project Photos



Participants visiting butterfly garden. (City of Riverside)

Exhibit 2: Project Photos



Fishing Derby at Fairmount Lake Evans. (City of Riverside)



City of Riverside, California
Office of the Mayor
PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON



July 31, 2025

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-1401

**RE: LETTER OF STRONG SUPPORT - SANTA ANA RIVER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM
"EXPLORE THE RIVER" GRANTS - SANTA ANA RIVER CAMPOUTS AT FAIRMOUNT PARK**

Ms. Hutzel:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I am pleased to write a letter in strong support of an application by the City's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PRCS) to offer a series of interpretive overnight camps along the Santa Ana River in Riverside at Fairmount Park. These camps would serve to "reintroduce" the river to a new generation of low-and-moderate income Riverside residents, using education and fun to make the case for the river as a cultural and ecological resource.

The Santa Ana River is the namesake of the City of Riverside, and its 11-mile span in the city is an ecological spine that binds together Riverside's neighborhoods and landmarks. It is also a "diamond in the rough" for local residents who may not know about how the Santa Ana River has added to the history and natural beauty of a city where 318,000 people call home. For our City, the Santa Ana River is a past, a present, and a (hopefully vibrant) future.

As Mayor and Chair of Riverside's Santa Ana River Working Group, I am pleased to strongly support PRCS's grant application. Campouts funded by the California State Coastal Conservancy will become part of a vital effort to tell the story of the Santa Ana River and build support for its future. Please contact Pamela Galera, Director of PRCS, at 951-826-2055 with any questions regarding the City's support.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
VALERIE TERMINI, Acting Director



January 14, 2026

Subject: Support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's RiverKATS Program

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's education program, River KATS (Kid's Activism Through Science). This program is a vital component of our regional efforts to protect coastal resources through a comprehensive watershed-based approach.

The Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNBER) is located in Newport Beach and one of the few remaining estuaries in Southern California. It provides critical habitat for several endangered species, as well as a rich diversity of birds, mammals, fish, invertebrates, and native plants. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) manages UNBER and runs the Back Bay Science Center (BBSC), a site that operates year-round watershed and wetland education programming. The BBSC's mission is, "to provide a hands-on facility where students and the public can study and enjoy the estuarine ecology of Newport Bay and the marine ecology of the ocean, and to promote natural resource conservation and stewardship throughout the watershed." As a key supporting partner to the BBSC, SARWEP plays an integral role in helping CDFW fulfill this mission.

Since 2005, Waterkeeper have enabled thousands of students to engage in water quality and ecosystem monitoring at the BBSC. These field experiences help students make meaningful connections between their everyday actions and the health of their watershed, particularly the impacts of urban runoff on marine life in Upper Newport Bay. RiverKATS provides students—many of whom would not otherwise have access to such experiences—with a unique opportunity to connect with nature and be inspired to become environmental stewards.

CDFW considers Waterkeeper to be dependable, long-term partners whose staff consistently deliver engaging, relevant, and impactful educational programming. We deeply value this collaboration and look forward to continuing our shared efforts to provide watershed and wetland education to local schools, especially those serving systemically underserved communities.

I strongly recommend that the California Coastal Conservancy support the RiverKATS program through the Explore the River Grant. This funding will help ensure that more students can benefit from this transformative educational experience and contribute to the long-term protection of our coastal ecosystems.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

29626910E2F84A5...

Robin Madrid
Northern Lands Supervisor
South Coast Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Jurupa Valley High School

January 14, 2026
Chairman Doug Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St. Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

Support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's RiverKATS Program

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of Jurupa Valley High School, I am proud to express my strong support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's RiverKATS (Kids Activism Together with Science) program as a meaningful and impactful effort to protect our local waterways. This program has provided our students with authentic, hands-on learning experiences that connect science, environmental stewardship, and civic responsibility, beyond the traditional classroom.

Our students have had the opportunity to engage directly with their environment by testing water quality, learning about ecosystems, and participating in clean-up efforts. An Honors Biology teacher at our school shared, "I really liked how they showed the students that maintaining an ecosystem is crucial for the organisms to thrive in their respective ecosystems. Students also learned the negative effects of not maintaining ecosystems through testing water quality through tests like nitrogen testing." These experiences reinforce academic content while making learning real and relevant.

Students themselves echo this impact. One student reflected, "As a student I enjoyed learning more about testing water as well as helping clean our coastal system." For many of our students, this is their first opportunity to explore natural spaces in this way, to see science in action, and to understand how their choices affect the world around them. The program gives them ownership over their learning and shows them that they can be part of meaningful change in their own community.

Jurupa Valley High School values Inland Empire Waterkeeper as a dependable, long-term partner with a team that consistently delivers engaging and relevant educational experiences.

We look forward to continuing this partnership to ensure that students in systemically underserved communities have access to high-quality watershed and ocean education.

Therefore, it is without reservation that I strongly encourage the California State Coastal Conservancy to support the RiverKATS program through the Explore the River grant.

Phillip Ramirez
Phillip Ramirez

TSA Community Schools
Jurupa Valley High School
951-360-2600

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS



THE GROVE SCHOOL

Our Mission: *The Grove School is a public Montessori community that guides adolescents in their work of self-construction, as they become engaged and respectful world citizens.*

January 19, 2026

Chairman Doug Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St. Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's RiverKATS Program

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of The Grove School, I am pleased to express my support for Inland Empire Waterkeeper's RiverKATS (Kids Activism Together with Science) program as a vital part of the local effort to protect our local waterways from a watershed approach.

Since 2005, Waterkeeper has been an active leader in the community, implementing programs in research, restoration, education, enforcement, and advocacy. As a community-based organization, they have prioritized engaging the community in their work, both through public volunteerism and through meaningful partnerships.

The RiverKATS program provides opportunities for youth to learn about local waterways in their area and understand the value that watersheds offer their communities. Additionally, outdoor activities allow youth to explore natural spaces and build stronger relationships with the environment. During field trips, students make that important connection between their own actions in their watershed and the impacts of urban runoff on marine life. The RiverKATS program provides students with a first-hand connection with water resources, which they would not experience otherwise, and provides a valuable opportunity to inspire students to be stewards of their watershed. By engaging directly with the RiverKATS program, students develop a deeper understanding of the Santa Ana River and its tributaries that shape their community; areas many would never encounter without this experience. This hands-on connection strengthens their scientific literacy, nurtures curiosity, and provides meaningful context for classroom learning and meeting the Next Generation Science Standards.

The Grove School, specifically the Environmental Science and Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes, counts on Waterkeeper as a dependable, long-term partner, with a staff that strives to make their educational programs engaging and relevant to local environmental efforts. We look forward to a continued partnership with Waterkeeper in providing watershed and ocean education to local schools that are systemically underserved.

I strongly recommend that the California State Coastal Conservancy support the RiverKATS program through its Explore the River grant.

Sincerely,

Tina O'Brien
Environmental Science, AP Environmental Science, Anatomy and Physiology, and Senior Seminar
ASB and Environmental Club Advisor, Senior Project Coordinator
The Grove High School





A. B. Miller High School

6821 Oleander Avenue • P.O. Box 5085 • Fontana • California • 92336-5085 • (909) 357-5800

January 24th, 2026

To the Explore the River Grant Committee:

I am pleased to write in strong support of Inland Empire Water Keeper and their team to earn the Explore the River Grant. I have partnered with Johanna and her team for several years as a teacher, bringing groups of students from the Inland Empire to the river- and coastal-focused programs she coordinates. During that time, I have come to know Johanna well through multiple excursions, workshops, and follow-up activities organized in collaboration with Inland Empire Waterkeeper and Johanna's staff. I have observed the staff over the course of these experiences and can attest to their commitment, organization and leadership in environmental stewardship.

The Inland Empire Water Keeper programs are specifically designed to help Inland Empire students see both their connection and the impact they have on—local waterways, rivers, and the ocean. Many of the students I bring with me have never visited these places and are not aware of how their daily choices influence water quality, habitat health, and coastal ecosystems, despite living only an hour from the ocean. Through the structured field experiences and hands-on workshops Johanna and her team organizes, students in my classes have been given the rare opportunity to visit these environments, participate in monitoring and evaluation activities, and engage directly in meaningful, place-based learning.

The Inland Empire Water Keeper team are excellent communicators and exceptionally well organized; their capacity to design experiences that are both educational and memorable is a significant reason my students leave these programs motivated and informed. The workshops are scaffolded to support students with varying prior knowledge, which allows my students to grow their understanding steadily and to begin synthesizing technical concepts with real-world observations. It has been gratifying to watch how those experiences have expanded my students' perspectives and influenced their decision-making: creating a recycling program at our school, and several students pursuing further study or work related to environmental science and outreach.

I recognize that programs of this quality do not run without the support of grants and partner organizations. I am confident that Johanna and her team will employ Explore the River Grant funds with integrity and clear impact in mind—extending these formative experiences to more students, deepening curricular connections, and creating pathways for participants to continue their engagement. The grant will enable Inland Empire Water Keeper program to broaden students' views, encourage more environmentally informed choices, and potentially inspire careers in conservation, monitoring, and environmental education.

Respectfully,

Sandra Braga
Marine Biology Teacher

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Adam P. Perez
Angel Ramirez
Mary Sandoval
Marcelino "Mars" Serna

Miki R. Inbody
Superintendent

A. B. MILLER HIGH

Dr. Barbara Kelley
Principal

Edward Pascual
Marco Torres
Lisa Jass
Assistant Principals

Michael Pfeiffer
Athletic Director

Monique Gutierrez
ASB Director

Alma Chavez
Nina Dela-Paul
Denise Key-Igbinosun
Adelina Lavoie
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Guidance



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Alejandro Gutierrez Chanvez
Executive Director

Ulises Rodriguez
Associate Director

—

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Kathryn Ervin
Board Chair

Dr. Anne Viricel
Board Treasurer

Sandra Espadas
Board Secretary

Board Members

Christine (Kiki) Seror
Dyami Ruiz-Martinez
Kerry Neal
Victor Suarez

Dear Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman,
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

22 JANUARY 2026

RE: Letter of Support for *Expanding Natural Connections to the Santa Ana River - Explore the River Proposal*

Dear Chair Bosco,

On behalf of Arts Connection – The Arts Council of San Bernardino County, I strongly support TreePeople's Explore the River grant proposal, "*Expanding Natural Connections to the Santa Ana River-Explore the River.*" This project provides students and families in the Inland Empire with rare opportunities to engage directly with nature, build environmental awareness, and explore creative expression through the arts.

Over the past year, TreePeople and Arts Connection have partnered on three Explore the River projects, giving students and families immersive, nature-based learning experiences across the Santa Ana River watershed. Arts Connection has brought artists into these programs to guide participants in connecting with their environment creatively, further deepening engagement and understanding. These experiences strengthen family connections to local ecosystems, foster environmental stewardship, and help youth overcome barriers to accessing green space caused by economic inequities and disproportionate exposure to air and water pollution.

TreePeople's approach goes beyond recreation, combining hands-on ecological learning with artistic exploration to nurture curiosity, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Continued funding will allow TreePeople to expand these opportunities to even more underserved youth and families, amplifying both educational and community benefits.

Arts Connection urges your full support for this grant, helping strengthen connections between the Santa Ana River, local communities, and the next generation of environmental and cultural stewards.

Sincerely,

Ulises Rodriguez

Associate Director
Arts Connection - The Arts Council of San Bernardino County
P.O. Box 1181
San Bernardino, CA 92402

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7210
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4029

DISTRICT OFFICE
301 E. VANDERBILT WAY
SUITE 400
SAN BERNARDINO CA 92408
TEL (909) 888-5360

California State Senate

SENATOR
ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
RULES

February 7, 2026

Chair Doug Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for “Expanding Natural Connections to the Santa Ana River – Explore the River” Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for TreePeople’s Explore the River proposal, “Expanding Natural Connections to the Santa Ana River.” This project will connect more than 500 low-income youth and families to no-cost outdoor recreation and educational day trips throughout the Santa Ana River watershed—opportunities that are too often out of reach for residents of San Bernardino County.

Project outreach will occur throughout the communities I represent, with a focus on San Bernardino, Highland, Colton, Rialto, and Bloomington. This heavily urbanized region is among the most underserved in California and faces disproportionate exposure to air and water pollution, extreme urban heat, and limited access to natural open space. All communities served through this project are designated as disadvantaged or low-income under the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Map and accelerating warehouse and industrial development—compounded by climate change—continues to intensify these challenges.

K–12 students in these communities deserve meaningful opportunities to step outside their urban environment and connect with the natural landmarks that define the Santa Ana River watershed. This project will provide access through immersive, educational day trips to destinations such as the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park, Seven Oaks Dam, and Hidden Valley Nature Center, all informed by authentic community engagement.

Expanding Natural Connections to the Santa Ana River advances critical state and federal goals to uplift underserved communities while fostering environmental stewardship and youth engagement with California's natural resources. I respectfully encourage the California State Coastal Conservancy to support TreePeople's proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (909) 888-5360.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise Gómez Reyes', with a stylized, cursive script.

ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
Senator, District 29

EGR:mb

PRCSD_STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY_GRANT AGREEMENT_314414

Final Audit Report

2026-06-22

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