

# CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 17, 2023

**TO:** Jessica Medina, Project Manager

**FROM:** Paddy Taber, Senior Management Analyst II

**SUBJECT:** Flint Canyon Wash Trail Restoration Project Summary Report  
ULART Working Group Meeting

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### BACKGROUND:

The Flint Canyon Trail is the most significant connector trail in the City's 23 miles of trails. The Trail is administered by three government entities; Pasadena from Oak Grove Drive up to ¼ of a mile in, the City of La Cañada Flintridge for approximately 450 feet and the County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation 2 ¼ miles to the entrance of Cherry Canyon. It connects with Pasadena to the east, Glendale to the west and is part of the twelve-mile City trail network that extends into the Angeles Crest Forest. The trail runs along the Flint Canyon wash resulting in the effects of erosion at the toe of the slope. Efforts have been made by the City in the past to secure the top of the slope where the trail exists. Now, the City was looking for a long-term solution to address the overall issue of water issue and prevent the further degradation of the trail for years to come. This new effort led to the City pursuing grant funds.

The City of La Cañada Flintridge received a \$300,000 grant from Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the purpose of preliminary engineering (survey, topical base mapping, geotechnical investigation and design alternative analysis). This grant also included the costs for plans, specifications and estimates. In late 2020, the City became aware of the opportunity to apply for construction funding through the SMMC. At the time of the application (December 2020), the City had received initial plans but no estimates for the proposed solution to stabilize the toe of the slope. In lieu of an estimate City relied on past reports to come up with an construction estimate of \$6,000,000 when applying for a construction grant. The City's application requested 50% or \$3,000,000 funding.

In February 2022, the City was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$3,000,000. Later that spring the City was provided with a project estimate of \$12,000,000. This cost estimate was arrived at primarily as a result of the approach to install very expensive "soldier pile walls" as a solution. At this price the project was no longer feasible. The City approached the consultant and requested the project plans more inline with the need to protect the toe of the slope from erosion vs. a more formidable solution. An alternative, more appropriate approach to the issue

was presented in the form of rock filled gabion baskets. The City was pleased with the solution and even more pleased at the revised estimate of \$3,000,000 for construction that would now fund the entire project, not just 50%.

The CEQA documents comprised of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration were prepared and circulated for public review. The process of rescoping the project was achieved over months resulting in a project that could now move forward. The Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA) was adopted at the City Council meeting held on June 6, 2023. With the project's CEQA adopted, the obligations of the initial SMMC grant of \$300,000 had been met and staff moved the project into Phase II, consisting of preparation final plans, specifications, estimate, and required permits. At the September 19, 2023, City Council meeting, the Council approved the agreement for this work. Staff is working with the Consultant to award the construction contract in February 2023.

This project exists within the boundaries of a blue line stream, allowing only the months of April 15- October 15 (outside the rainy season) as a suitable period for construction.

The City is planning to go into construction April 15 and is expecting the project to be completed in six months or by October 2024. This results in a schedule that will require a 10-month extension for the grant, advancing the project completion date to December 31, 2024.

The City has submitted a project deadline extension to cover the additional time needed to complete the project.