

El Monte Union High School District

3537 Johnson Avenue • El Monte, California 91731
(626) 444-9005



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May 25, 2021

Watershed Area Steering Committee
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed
Joshua Nelson, Chair

Re: Support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Nelson and members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

The El Monte Union High School District would like to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program by the City of El Monte.

The renovation of Zamora Park was initiated by community members in 2017 who approached the El Monte City Council and Department of Recreation and Parks to renovate their 50+ year old neighborhood park. Since then over nine community meetings have been held to design the park, with additional meetings held and attended by project staff to inform neighbors and community members about the project.

The Zamora Park Renovation is a multi-benefit project that will address ongoing community access, water quality, and quality of life issues. The park is located in the crowded River East neighborhood of El Monte, a community bounded by the 10 Freeway to the south, 605 Freeway and San Gabriel River to the east, and the major thoroughfares Ramona Boulevard and Peck Road to the north and west. The urban development in this dense area creates high levels of impervious surfaces, leading to ponding water and local flooding, and leaves residents vulnerable to air pollution and urban heat island impacts.

Nearly 16,000 residents live within a half-mile of Zamora Park, and there are no other public green spaces in the community. Zamora Park is underused due to outdated and deteriorating amenities, lack of walking paths, and safety concerns due to inadequate lighting. Park neighbors report driving to parks in other cities just to find outdoor recreation space they feel safe enjoying with their families.

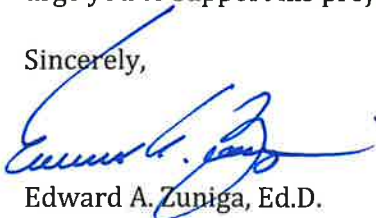
The renovation will transform the 4.48-acre Zamora Park into a multi-benefit green infrastructure project that captures stormwater on site using nature-based solutions that mimic natural stormwater management and infiltration processes by diverting runoff from adjacent impervious areas and roofs into a subterranean infiltration basin, bioswales, and natural planting areas. Updated community-requested amenities like a new playground and splash pad, as well as walking paths and lighting, will draw people into the park and create a safe place to recreate.

The project will add over 100 new trees, as well as shrubs and groundcover where there is currently only turf. All plantings will be native or drought-tolerant, and will not only aid in stormwater capture, but will also create shade, native habitat, and improve the overall experience of Zamora Park, bringing pride and honor to the community.

The project will employ Los Angeles Conservation Corps members, providing job skills training, education, and work experience to young adults 18-25 years old – many of whom come from disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities – which lead to industry recognized credentials and certifications, thereby increasing their opportunities for success.

The Zamora Park Renovation Project meets the Safe Clean Water Program stormwater and community benefit goals. It will create desperately needed accessible green space to enhance recreation, community gathering, and overall health for residents of El Monte, a critically underserved community. It will create tangible, positive stormwater management impacts, and we urge you to support his project.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Zuniga, Ed.D.
Superintendent
El Monte Union High School District

Watershed Area Steering Committee

Upper San Gabriel River Watershed

Joshua Nelson, Chair

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Dear Mr. Nelson and members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

Para Los Niños would like to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program by the City of El Monte.

We believe in the children, youth, and families we serve. Our model fosters pathways to success through excellence in education, powerful families, and strong communities for children and youth to thrive.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Drew Furedi".

Drew Furedi
President & CEO





LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Transforming Youth. Enhancing Communities.

Mailing Address

P.O. BOX 861658, LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-1658

May 24, 2021

Watershed Area Steering Committee
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed
Joshua Nelson, Chair

Re: Support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Nelson and members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps would like to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program by the City of El Monte.

The renovation of Zamora Park was initiated by community members in 2017 who approached the El Monte City Council and Department of Recreation and Parks and to renovate their 50+ year old neighborhood park. Since then, over nine community meetings have been held to design the park, with additional meetings held and attended by project staff to inform neighbors and community members about the project.

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Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Bo Savage

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Bo Savage
Deputy Director of Operations
Los Angeles Conservation Corps



May 21, 2021

Watershed Area Steering Committee
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed
Joshua Nelson, Chair

Re: Support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Nelson and members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

Amigos de los Rios would like to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program by the City of El Monte.

Amigos de los Rios is committed to increasing public access to multi-benefit natural infrastructure that improves public health, water quality, air quality, and quality of life. Our mission is to create an “Emerald Necklace” green infrastructure network of parks, trails, river greenways and green schools throughout the Los Angeles Basin to connect the ‘Mountains to the Sea’; and in doing so, improve access to recreation and link Southern Californian communities to nature and each other, expand access to safe non-vehicular transportation, create culturally meaningful public spaces within blighted communities, and protect urban communities from the harmful effects posed by climate change.

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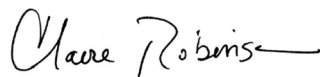
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Robinson" with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Claire Robinson
Managing Director
Amigos de los Rios



May 26, 2021

Watershed Area Steering Committee
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed
Joshua Nelson, Chair

Re: Support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Nelson and members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

Pacoima Beautiful would like to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program by the City of El Monte.

Pacoima Beautiful is a grassroots environmental justice organization that provides education, impacts local policy, and supports local arts and culture in order to promote a healthy and sustainable San Fernando Valley.

The renovation of Zamora Park was initiated by community members in 2017 who approached the El Monte City Council and Department of Recreation and Parks and to renovate their 50+ year old neighborhood park. Since then over nine community meetings have been held to design the park, with additional meetings held and attended by project staff to inform neighbors and community members about the project.

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Sincerely,



Veronica Padilla
Executive Director



May 26, 2021

Mr. Joshua Nelson, Chair
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee
Safe Clean Water Program

RE: Support for Zamora Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Nelson and Members of the Upper San Gabriel River Watershed Area Steering Committee,

The Council for Watershed Health (CWH) is pleased to express our strong support for the Zamora Park Renovation Project proposal submitted by the City of El Monte to the Safe Clean Water Program. The Zamora Park Renovation Project (Project) is aligned with CWH's mission to advance the health and sustainability of our region's watersheds, rivers, and habitat - both in natural areas and urban neighborhoods.

This Project will transform the 4.48-acre Zamora Park into a multi-benefit green infrastructure project that uses nature-based solutions to divert runoff from adjacent impervious areas and roofs into landscape areas with subsurface infiltration basins and vegetated bioswales. Landscape areas that capture stormwater will include native and drought-tolerant plants that support bird and pollinator habitat. Additionally, 100 new trees will be planted, providing much needed shade.

Community members initiated the renovation of Zamora Park and have been working with the City of El Monte to educate and engage their neighbors about the benefits of the project. Included are community-requested amenities like a new playground and splash pad, as well as walking paths and lighting that will draw people into the park and create a safe place to recreate. Along with the substantial storm water benefits, the Project will create desperately needed green space for recreation and community gathering, as well as provide opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of residents of El Monte, a critically underserved community.

We urge your support of the Zamora Park Renovation Project, which achieves the Safe Clean Water Program vision for robust community engagement and nature-based solutions that capture and treat stormwater, while providing significant community investment benefits.

Sincerely,

Eileen Alduenda
Executive Director
eileen@watershedhealth.org



Public Comment Form

Name*: Stuart Wood Organization*: Sustainable Claremont
Email*: stuart@sustainableclaremont.org Phone*: (909) 802-8983
Meeting: Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting Date: May 27, 2021

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

*Per Brown Act, completing this information is optional. At a minimum, please include an identifier so that you may be called upon to speak.

Phone participants and the public are encouraged to submit public comments (or a request to make a public comment) to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov. All public comments will become part of the official record.

Please complete this form and email to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov by at least 5:00pm the day prior to the meeting with the following subject line: "Public Comment: [Watershed Area] [Meeting Date]" (ex. "Public Comment: USGR 4/8/20").

Comments

Good afternoon,

My name is Stuart Wood, and I am the Executive Director at Sustainable Claremont. I am writing in to express my support for the City of Claremont's request for funding under the Safe Clean Water Program. The proposed Larkin Park Stormwater Infiltration Project reflects the city's commitment to a more sustainable environment for a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable community. And importantly, the City has a demonstrated track record of successfully incorporating stormwater management best practices in multiple, recent major developments. The proposed project by the City of Claremont seeks to achieve cleaner water and a cleaner environment, a more reliable local supply of water stored in the aquifer, and provides a public benefit as defined by the Safe Clean Water Program. The project will have adjacent and secondary benefits as well, including the implementation of nature based solutions utilizing climate appropriate vegetation, trees, and healthy soils as the tools for cleaning and capturing water from one of the park's parking lots. Because the project will improve water quality, water supply, and have additional public and community benefits, it has my full support.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Carolina Sanchez Organization*: Six Basins Watermaster
Email*: 6bwm@westyost.com Phone*: 949-600-7504
Meeting: USGR Date: 5/27/2021

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

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Comments

The Six Basins Watermaster wants to express its support of the Larkin Park and Fairplex project. The implementation of these projects will result in new stormwater recharge relative to existing conditions. This may increase the yield of the Six Basins, which would benefit the pumpers in the Six Basins. The East San Gabriel Valley Watershed (ESGV) group has been collaborating with the Watermaster and its individual Parties for the past four years. In these four years, the ESGV group has discussed these and other stormwater capture projects with the Watermaster during the Board's public meetings.



Public Comment Form

Name:* Edna Robidas Organization*: The Trust for Public Land
Email*: edna.robidas@tpl.org Phone*: 323.240.0362
Meeting: Upper San Gabriel River WASC Date: 5/27/2021

LA County Public Works may contact me for clarification about my comments

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Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the Zamora Park Renovation Project. My name is Edna Robidas, I am a project manager at The Trust for Public Land; we've been working with the City of El Monte and community members since 2018 to realize the vision of a safe, accessible, and greener Zamora Park.

This project is an exceptional multi-benefit project, with deep community and local support. It exemplifies multiple goals of the Safe Clean Water Program, including improving water quality by capturing and infiltrating all stormwater on site, improving public health by increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities most affected by climate change mitigate and adapt to its effects by increasing shade and resilient landscaping, leveraging multiple funding sources through over a 200% match in city, state, and federal funding, prioritizing nature based solutions at a neighborhood scale, providing benefits to a disadvantaged community, and promoting green jobs and career pathways by partnering with and hiring Los Angeles Conservation Corps corpsmembers during construction.

The project will also be complete within two years from now, allowing the Safe Clean Water Program to point to concrete examples of its successes quickly.

Projects like the Zamora Park Renovation Project are what voters had in mind when passing Measure W, and I ask that you prioritize the project for funding. Thank you.