

Project Summary

A joint powers authority comprised of four public entities seek support for the construction of the San Gabriel River Discovery Center, an innovative, place-based educational resource that will interpret the San Gabriel River watershed, encourage exploration and increase understanding, appreciation and stewardship of a revitalized San Gabriel River region. The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority requests \$7 million for the construction of a highly sustainable 14,000 square foot interpretive building, including a lobby, exhibit areas, classrooms, support facilities and administrative offices. Separate funding will be secured to develop the other site components including a maintenance building; covered open-air classroom; parking lot and bus drop-off area; paved walkways connecting to unpaved trails and roads; and a constructed riparian/wetland area.

The Discovery Center facility will be located on an 11-acre site next to the river at the Whittier Narrows Natural Area that is part of the 320-acre Whittier Narrows Regional Park, the largest operated by the LA County. The proposed platinum LEED-certified building will replace the small, deteriorated Nature Center currently at the site.

The Discovery Center will combine the study of natural science—specifically water resources and related watershed management issues—with educational programming. Our interpretive program will identify solutions to the challenges to our water resources. By increasing awareness and knowledge, stewardship and conservation action we seek to improve public policy, individual and community behavior, and ultimately protect water resources and habitat for future generations.

This regional amenity will serve 10 million people living in the San Gabriel Valley and the LA metropolitan area. Outreach will target traditional audiences such as schools, students, families and local residents plus new audiences such as non-English speakers, low-income families and those with physical disabilities or limited transportation options.