Agenda Report

November 17, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF PASADENA, SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, 17 PUBLIC AGENCIES AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND COST SHARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING AND THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $389,283**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) proposed herein to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Title 14 Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8, actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment; and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances, and no other exceptions to the exemption apply; and

2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between City of Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), 17 other public agencies and Los Angeles County Flood Control Division (LACFCD) regarding the administration and cost sharing for implementation of the Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) and the Watershed Management Program (WMP) for the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Area (WMA) for an amount not-to-exceed $389,283.

BACKGROUND:

Under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program regulates the discharge of pollutants into waterways. The Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, which became effective on December 28, 2012, established water quality compliance requirements for 84 cities, unincorporated Los Angeles County, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). Although each agency is individually responsible for meeting its permit requirements, the MS4 Permit allows agencies to collaborate through a Watershed Management Program (WMP) to achieve compliance more efficiently and cost-effectively.

As a result, the City of Pasadena along with 17 public agencies and LACFCD elected to create the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group (ULAR WMG) and collectively pursue the development of a WMP. Partnering agencies in the ULAR WMG include the following cities of Alhambra, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills, La Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Montebello, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Marino, South El Monte, South Pasadena, Temple City, County of Los Angeles, and LACFCD. Attachment A contains a map of the ULAR WMG and their attributable percentage of the WMA.

Since its formation, the ULAR WMG has worked collaboratively to develop and implement watershed management and monitoring programs to meet MS4 Permit requirements. On December 13, 2013, the City Council approved the City's initial MOA to establish this partnership and develop the Watershed Management Program (WMP) and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP). The WMP was subsequently approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) on February 20, 2014.

The City Council has since approved two additional MOAs, on June 11, 2018, and July 10, 2023, to continue the regional partnership and jointly fund the required monitoring, reporting, and other compliance activities. The City of Pasadena's share of the three previous agreements totaled to the following amounts of $417,959, $241,098, and $244,588, respectively. Over this period, the City of Los Angeles has served as the lead agency, with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) assuming responsibility for administering cost-sharing payments beginning with the 2018 agreement.

The ULAR WMG has now prepared a fourth MOA covering Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029 to continue these collaborative efforts. Under the proposed agreement, the City of Los Angeles will continue serving as the lead agency responsible for coordinating and managing the group's technical activities, while SGVCOG will administer the agreement and collect participating agencies' cost-sharing contributions.

The proposed MOA provides for the continued watershed monitoring, regulatory reporting, updates to the WMP, implementation of trash monitoring requirements, development of strategies to address bacteria pollution, and other studies necessary to

comply with the MS4 Permit. Monitoring activities will include field sampling, laboratory analyses, and reporting consistent with the approved CIMP.

The total cost of the proposed MOA is estimated at $8,711,192, of which the City of Pasadena's share will total to an amount not-to-exceed of $389,283. The agreement shall remain in effect for three years from the date of execution or through June 30, 2029, depending on which date provides the longer term, and may be extended for an additional three-year term by amendment.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This project is consistent with the City Council's goals to increase conservation and sustainability and the General Plan Land Use policy to encourage and promote the stewardship of Pasadena's natural environment, including water conservation and protection of water quality and natural open space.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

This project has been determined to be exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(9); Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3, Article, 19, §15308, Class 8, Actions By Regulatory Agencies For Protection Of The Environment) and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances, and no other exceptions to the exemption apply. Section 15308 exempts actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The proposed project, authorizing the City Manager to execute the MOA regarding the administration and implementation of the CIMP and WMP for the Upper Los Angeles River, would result in actions to maintain, restore, enhance, and protect the environment. Therefore, the project is exempt from environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City of Pasadena's total share cost for the Memorandum of Agreement is $389,283, with payments due annually over the three upcoming fiscal years, from 2026 through 2029, on July 1 of each fiscal year. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing appropriations in the LA County Safe Clean Water Program Municipal Annual Return (Measure W) - FY 2026-2029. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

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