

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP MEETING #19

Thursday, November 2, 2017 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Expo Arts Center, 4321 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On November 2, 2017, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of the 63rd Assembly District and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (RMC) co-hosted the nineteenth meeting of the Working Group for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The purpose of the meeting was to: review final concepts for some of the signature concepts; discuss members' perspectives on the planning and engagement processes' effectiveness; receive recommendations for a management structure to oversee implementation efforts; finalize the alternative for the Rio Hondo Concept; and preview elements of the Draft LLARRP.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The nineteenth meeting of the Working Group occurred on November 2, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Expo Arts Center, 4321 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach. Approximately 25 Working Group members and 20 community members participated in the meeting (Attachment B).

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer of the RMC opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and explaining the purpose and objectives of the meeting. He provided updates regarding State legislation that will potentially provide resources for river revitalization. Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc., served as meeting facilitator and provided an overview of the agenda (Attachment A) and meeting format before asking for self-introductions from all participants. Dan Sharp of LA County Department of Public Works—Flood Control District, presented a refined and final set of concept options for the Rio Hondo Confluence, as well as the Community Stabilization Toolkit, both of which the Working Group unanimously endorsed. Mr. Iacofano facilitated a Working Group discussion of their perspectives of the strengths and challenges they perceived from the planning and engagement processes. Ira Artz of Tetra Tech presented the Implementation Committee recommendations for a Management Committee to oversee implementation of the LLARRP. Finally, Mr. Galang showcased elements of the Draft LLARRP including the layout, look and feel, and example imagery.

Following each agenda item and presentation, Mr. Iacofano facilitated discussions with Working Group members and other participants to address questions and comments. During these discussions, Andy Pendoley of MIG recorded key outcomes and discussion points on a

wall-sized piece of paper, or “wallgraphic.” A summary of the discussion points is provided in the following sections, and a copy of the wallgraphic is included in the appendix to this report.

SIGNATURE CONCEPTS: TEMPLATES AND PROJECTS

Rio Hondo Confluence

Mr. Sharp presented the final proposed configurations for the Rio Hondo Confluence. He noted that both configurations would move forward for more analysis. Working Group members asked questions, with project team responses in *italics*, as follows:

- Which alternative is assumed from I-710 Corridor Project? – *Alternative 5C seems likely, yet all options proposed for the Rio Hondo Confluence are also compatible with Alternative 7.*
- Would terracing of the river occur with use of a rubber dam? – *Yes, the terracing would extend higher than the dam height.*
- Could both options be implemented? – *The project team has determined that such a configuration might compromise safety down river.*
- Contiguous trail connections are important at this point in the river
- Share the slide deck with the Working Group after the meeting.

Cudahy River Road Park

Mr. Galang presented the final proposed configurations for the Cudahy River Road Park. Working Group members provided the following comments:

- Correct the location of the school site
- Ensure there’s connectivity of the trails on the east side of the river. The proposed bridge park is an important connector
- Improve the bikeway design on the west side of the river for enhanced safety
- Highlight the stronger connectivity to neighboring areas as provided by the project.
- Improve the identification of underpasses and crossings in the graphics and drawings
- Improve safety designs for bicycle and pedestrian crossings at roadways

LA River at Willow Street

Mr. Galang presented the final proposed configuration for the LA River at Willow Street. Working Group members provided comments and asked questions, with project team responses in *italics*, as follows:

- Address the potential impacts to the soft bottom due to a trail adjacent to the river
- Indicate the appropriate number of allowable trees in the graphic
- Consider additional access options that are ecologically appropriate
- Improve the depiction access ramp designs.

- Is there in-river access at this location? – *The focus is on improving access points that are currently used today.*

Community Stabilization

Mr. Sharp presented the final proposed community stabilization toolkit. Working Group members provided comments and asked questions, with project team responses in *italics*, as follows:

- Develop and include equity metrics to measure progress
- Consider identifying and providing additional legal services to support implementation
- Emphasize providing outreach support to communities in need of the toolkit
- Include the Long Beach Conservation Corps as part of workforce development
- Create a working group and advocacy alliance to support implementation modeled on local examples
- Translate the toolkit into Spanish language
- Support a holistic approach that pursues public-private partnerships, assesses feasibility, and maintains a focus on goals

DISCUSSION: WORKING GROUP FEEDBACK

Mr. Iacofano opened a discussion with Working Group members about their experiences, impressions and perceptions about the planning and engagement processes. Working Group members provided comments, as follows:

Accomplishments

- Strong facilitation
- Diversity of interest and voices
- Staff and technical consultants
- River Segment Committees

Challenges

- Meeting fatigue and frequency
- Community engagement
 - Coordinating logistics and schedules among partners
 - Maintaining consistency
 - Reaching under-represented groups
 - Linking the technical and engagement processes in an iterative approach
- Breadth and depth of ideas
- Unique governance needs

- Coordination of major projects

UPDATE: IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Artz presented the recommended Management Committee roles and responsibilities, structure and immediate next steps. Working Group members provided comments, as follows:

- Include a team similar to “Riverworks” (e.g., the “County River Projects Office”) that is in the communities and engaging communities of interest
- Explore stronger implementation authority
- Include local jurisdictions on the committee to move projects efficiently, and secure land commitments
 - A joint powers authority could be a longer-term structure
 - Include a separate sub-group of staff

PREVIEW: ELEMENTS OF DRAFT LLARRP

Mr. Galang presented the elements of the Draft LLARRP including the layout, look and feel, and example imagery. Working Group members provided comments, as follows:

- Include process documentation from the Working Group
- Add a bibliography of sources and data

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Iacofano concluded the meeting by thanking Working Group members and reviewing upcoming meeting dates and agendas, which are listed on the project website.

The public release of the Draft LLARRP is anticipated for mid-December.

The next Working Group meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, December 7, 2017, Cudahy
- Thursday, January 4, 2018, South Gate