

# LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP MEETING #5

Thursday, September 8, 2016 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
South Gate Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, CA 90280

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

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### INTRODUCTION

On September 8, 2016, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (RMC) co-hosted the fifth meeting of the Working Group for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The purpose of the meeting was to review outcomes of the first meetings of the Plan Element Committees and to discuss the process for convening the River Segment Committees.

### Meeting Format and Agenda

The fifth meeting of the Working Group occurred on September 8, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at South Gate Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate. Approximately 24 representatives participated, and approximately 27 members of the public and staff from participating agencies also attended to listen and learn (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 then introduced Mayor W.H. "Bill" De Witt of the City of South Gate, who provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the City. 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.

Mr. Iacofano then introduced Gary Hildebrand, Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) for the Water Resources Core Service Area. Mr. Hildebrand provided the Working Group with an update on the status of requesting authorization from the County Board of Supervisors to update the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The update process and outcomes will include the outcomes of the LLARRP.

During the meeting, Mr. Iacofano included PowerPoint slides to support the review of agenda items and discussion points (Attachment C). Representatives of the Plan Element Committees provided oral reports of the outcomes of their first meetings. During these reports, Andy Pendoley of MIG recorded key points break out sessions on a wall-sized piece of paper, or "wallgraphic." A summary of the presentations and discussion points are provided in the following sections, and a photo-reduced copy of wallgraphic is included as Attachment D.

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The following sections provide a summary of presentations and discussions among Working Group members. Topics included: update on the Los Angeles River Master Plan; update on AB 530 process; process and schedule for River Segment Committees, presentations from Plan Element Committees; and next steps.

### Update: Los Angeles River Master Plan

Mr. Hildebrand provided a brief update on the status of the proposed update to the Los Angeles River Master Plan. As background, he noted that the current plan facilitated completion of over 50 projects in the past 20 years, and spurred creation of multiple plan elements.

Now, DPW is developing a proposal to the County Board of Supervisors for authorization of funding to develop an update to the Master Plan. The planning process and outcomes are envisioned to include close engagement with stakeholders to address gaps in improvements and infrastructure in the reaches and along the river. Additionally, partnerships and MOU's are anticipated to leverage and share resources among public, non-profit and private entities along the river. DPW staff anticipates receiving direction from the Board in the coming months.

After providing this update, Mr. Hildebrand opened the floor for questions from the Working Group as listed below, with Mr. Hildebrand's responses in *italics*.

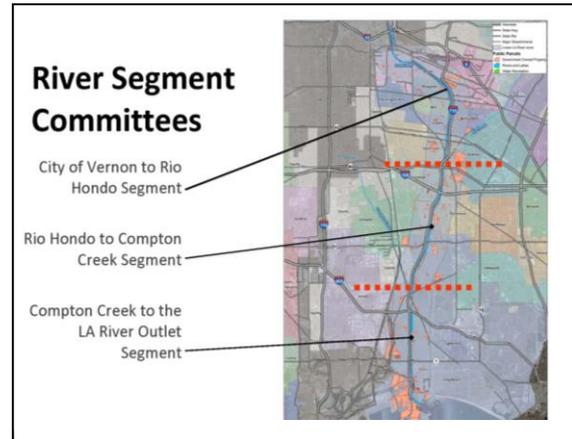
- How will the County's Water Resilience Plan link to the updated Master Plan? – *We will consider any recommendations from the Working Group and similar organizations on linking related plans with the Master Plan.*
- How will the Master Plan integrate LLARRP outcomes, if at all, including CEQA? – *The LLARRP is anticipated to be completed in advance of the Master Plan, and will be integrated into the Master Plan. CEQA will be analyzed for the updated Master Plan.*

### Update: AB 530 Process

Mr. Iacofano reviewed progress to date on the AB 530 process as depicted in the "Conceptual Planning Process Roadmap" featured on PowerPoint slides 5-8 (Attachment C). He explained that the process is in the early stages, focusing on collecting data and cataloging existing conditions. He also explained that the Plan Element Committees and River Segment Committees are integral to the technical planning throughout the process by assisting the technical team in identifying existing conditions, issues, opportunities, policies, projects, and programs. Essentially, the committees' work--in concert with the technical analysis and community engagement outcomes--will produce the chapters and content of the LLARRP.

## River Segment Committees: Process and Schedule

Mr. Iacofano also recapped the outcomes of Working Group Meeting #4, where participants organized into breakout sessions to begin identifying existing conditions, issues and opportunities within three River segments: City of Vernon to Rio Hondo Channel, Rio Hondo Channel to Compton Creek, and Compton Creek to the L.A. River Outlet. He noted that the meeting summary report and additional summary maps provided in the Working Group agenda packet catalogue the outcomes of those sessions and the reports back from the breakout sessions.



Mr. Iacofano explained that the River Segment Committees will convene prior to Working Group Meeting #6 on October 6, 2016. DPW and RMC staff will provide Working Group members with the schedule and meeting locations for the committees in the coming days, and will also provide staff support.

## Presentations: Plan Element Committees

Mr. Iacofano recapped the roles and responsibilities of the committees. Primarily, the committees direct the development of chapters that will be incorporated in the AB 530 Plan and/or the outreach to support the development of the AB 530 plan, including:

- Identify issues, opportunities, and partnerships
- Conduct review and analysis
- Coordinate with advocates, experts, and/or communities
- Report findings and recommendations

Mr. Iacofano then introduced representatives of the Plan Element Committees, who provided brief oral reports with accompanying PowerPoint slides (Attachment B) on the outcomes of their first meetings:

- Community Economics, Health, and Equity Committee: James Alamillo
- Community Engagement Committee: Marissa Christiansen
- Public Realm Committee: Dan Knapp
- Water and Environment Committee: Chris Solek
- Implementation: Mr. Iacofano

Following are summaries of the reports.

## ***Community Economics, Health and Equity***

### *Issues of Interest*

- Land use
- Social equity
- Economic development
- Environmental justice
- Health
- Housing
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Homelessness

### *Scope and Mission*

- Limits: Geographic based, up to 1 mile on each side of the River
- Coordinate and assist other committees address various issues
- Engage with city planner and/or elected officials
- Coordinate with Community Engagement Committee

### *Opportunities and Next Steps*

- Host small info/learning sessions for committee
  - Case studies of successful or unsuccessful park/river projects
  - Advocates and experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
- Coordinate WG tour of Lower LA River
- Conduct meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every other month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Next meeting: Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Discuss land use and zoning along Lower LA River

### *Working Group Discussion*

Working Group members asked questions of and provided feedback to Mr. Alamillo and the committee, with his responses in *italics*.

- Will this committee address gentrification from improvements to the river? – *Our committee intends to develop equity principles to address these concerns.*
- How will the committee provide updates to and engage with the community? – *Presentations and update information will be provided throughout the process. Updates to the other committees—such as this one—will also be important to sharing information and generating additional input.*
- Will this committee address water supply issues and opportunities? – *Our committee assumes the Water and Environment Committee will address this issue.*
- How will the committee address homelessness? Will it focus on removing homeless people from the river? – *Our committee added this as a new issue at our first meeting. Our intention is to identify how people who are homeless can take part in engagement, planning and implementation on the river. Additionally, we intend to identify how their service needs and safe integration into the river and surrounding communities can be supported through this planning process and future implementation. Specifically, we do*

*not support displacing or relocating people who are homeless to other communities—they are part of this community.*

## **Community Engagement**

### *Scope and Mission*

- Build database for outreach
- Develop an ongoing outreach program
- Establish community leadership committee(s)
- Develop branding for Lower LA River
- Coordinate and assist other committees collect key information

### *Opportunities and Next Steps*

- Prepare AB 530 flyers and brochures
- Develop Interim Website to survey input from residents
- Plan for quarterly public outreach meetings/events
- Establish “River Month”
- Seek partnership with other outreach organizations
- Conduct meetings on 3rd Monday of every other month from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Next meeting: Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Prepare for Kickoff Meetings

### *Proposed Kickoff Meetings (1st Quarter Meetings)*

- Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Cudahy
- Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in South Gate
- Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach or Dominguez Gap Wetlands

### *Working Group Discussion*

Working Group members asked questions of and provided feedback to Ms. Christiansen and the committee, with her responses in *italics*.

- Focus on engaging and empowering established organizations on the corridor as part of developing community leadership
- What resources will go into these efforts? – *Future consultants from the LLARRP technical team will contribute to planning and implementation. In the near-term, assistance is needed with public noticing, securing venues, creating programs, and engaging families in the process.*
- Assist and collaborate with other committees’ engagement needs.

## **Public Realm**

### *Issues of Interest*

- Safety
- Connectivity and accessibility
- Diversity of users, spaces, facilities, and programs

### *Scope and Mission*

- Limits: Geographic based, up to 1 mile on each side of the River
- Develop an inventory of existing local projects and plans
- Identify potential public realm opportunities
- Coordinate with Community Engagement Committee

### *Opportunities and Next Steps*

- Seek representation from cities' representatives
- Discuss with advocates and experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
  - Homelessness
  - Enforcement
  - Zoning regulations
- Conduct meetings on 3rd Wednesday of every other month from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - Next meeting: Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Discuss opportunities that were identified in WG Meeting #4, River Segment Committees, and existing plans/projects

### *Working Group Discussion*

Working Group members asked questions of and provided feedback to Mr. Knapp and the committee, with his responses in *italics*.

- Include cities' representatives from parks and recreation, public works, law enforcement and related departments
- Prioritize safety through increased presence of enforcement and people.
  - Consider creating safety "stations"
  - Address how to manage multi-jurisdictional enforcement efforts
  - Improve phone signals in existing "dead zones" of the river
- Study national and international best practices in public realm design
- Will new districts be created to manage and maintain the public realm? – *This needs further consideration and study to include public-private arrangements through joint power authorities, memorandum of understandings, and similar arrangements. The Implementation Committee will play an important role in setting these recommendations*
- Identify how large spaces can be used for seasonal events and programs
- Identify the range of potential amenities that would improve the user experience

## ***Water and Environment***

### *Issues of Interest*

- Ecosystem and watershed health
- Water supply and quality
- Flood management
- Green infrastructure
- Habitat restoration
- “Underutilized” areas
- Climate change and carbon footprint

### *Tenets and Principles*

- Address water and environmental issues
- Identify and meet water quality requirements and regulations
- Maintain and improve existing level of flood protection
- Utilize watershed approach
- Integrate plans/projects
- Promote multi-objective and multi-benefit projects

### *Opportunities and Next Steps*

- Seek representation from other technical experts
- Discuss with experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
- Review summaries and lesson learned from existing projects
- Conduct meetings on 2nd Wednesday of every other month from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
  - Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Discuss timeline and existing plans/projects

### *Working Group Discussion*

Working Group members asked questions of and provided feedback to Mr. Solek and the committee, with his responses in *italics*.

- How to define “healthy watershed” is a key question for the committee
- Who are the partners and experts who may advise this topic? – *Initial suggestions include the Natural History Museum, utilities, and birding advocates*
- Consider additional opportunities:
  - Review lessons learned and data from related plans and studies
  - Understand impacts to bird populations from changing water levels
  - Identify potential habitat restoration sites

## ***Implementation***

### *Scope and Mission*

- Identify funding and financing options
- Define management and operations
- Establish governance
- Integrate plans and programs
- Coordinate with cities, agencies, and communities
- Identify and establish partnership and stewardship

Mr. Iacofano explained that the Implementation Committee will be formed later in the plan development process to assist the other committees in identifying strategies and resources to implement their plan elements. He also displayed a mock-up of a tracking form that may be used to catalogue and track the policies, programs and projects identified by the Working Group. This information would be stored in a database for ongoing development and tracking by the Working Group and project staff.

Working Group members identified transportation and mobility—primarily from a systems planning perspective—as an important element for the LLARRP. While originally identified as part of the Public Realm Committee, Working Group members acknowledged that it would likely require more focused attention. Significant opportunities exist to leverage transportation funding sources and the I-710 Corridor Project.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Mr. Iacofano and Mr. Stanley concluded the meeting by thanking Working Group members and reviewing upcoming meetings. River Segment Committee meetings will occur in September, and the schedule will be shared with the Working Group by email.

The next Plan Element Committee meetings are:

- Water and Environment: Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Community Economics, Health, and Equity: Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Community Engagement: Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Public Realm: Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The next three Working Group meetings will occur on the dates at the following locations:

- Thursday, October 6, 2016, Downey
- Thursday, November 3, 2016, Maywood
- Thursday, December 1, 2016, Long Beach

**ATTACHMENT A: AGENDA**

**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING  
GROUP PROJECT MEETING No. 5**

**Thursday, September 8, 2016**  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**South Gate Auditorium**  
4900 Southern Avenue  
South Gate, CA 90280

Meeting Objectives:

1. Provide summaries of Plan Element Committee meetings.
2. Discuss River Segment Committee Process.

**A G E N D A**

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6:00 pm	I.	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview</b> Mark Stanley, Executive Officer, RMC Daniel Iacofano, Meeting Facilitator, MIG
6:05 pm	II.	<b>Update on the LA River Master Plan</b>
6:20 pm	III.	<b>Update on AB 530 Progress</b>
6:30 pm	IV.	<b>Presentations from Plan Element Committees</b>
8:00 pm	V.	<b>River Segment Committee Meeting Process and Schedule</b>
8:10 pm	VI.	<b>Social Events</b>
8:20 pm	VII.	<b>Summary and Next Steps</b>
8:30 pm	VIII.	<b>Announcements and Public Comment</b>
8:40 pm	IX.	<b>Meeting Close...and Networking!</b>

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**ATTACHMENT C: POWERPOINT**



## Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions and Overview
- Updates: LA River MP; AB 530 Progress
- River Segment Committees: Process and Schedule
- Presentations: Plan Element Committees
- Summary and Next Steps
- Announcements and Public Comments

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP PROJECT MEETING No. 5

Thursday, September 8, 2016  
 8:00 am - 9:00 pm  
 South Gate Auditorium  
 4900 Southern Avenue  
 South Gate, CA 90260

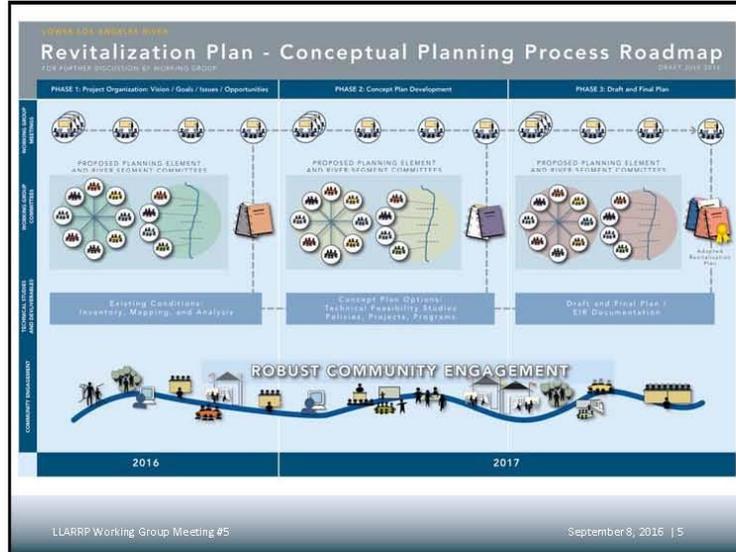
Meeting Objectives:  
 1. Provide summaries of Plan Element Committee meetings.  
 2. Discuss River Segment Committee Process.

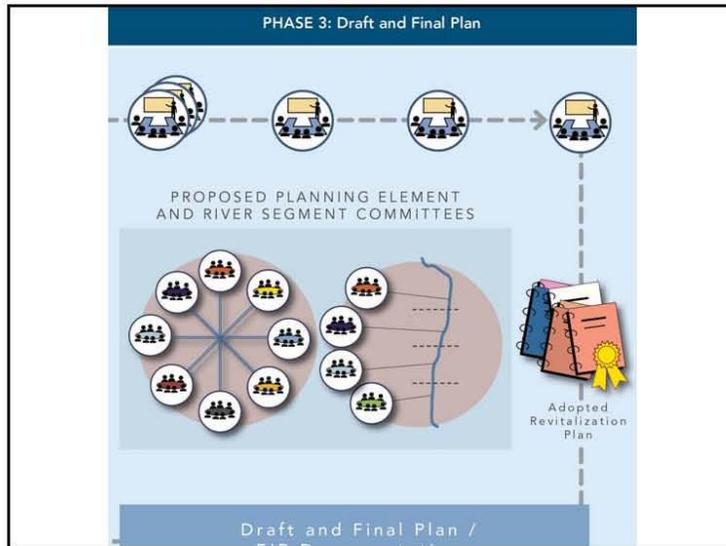
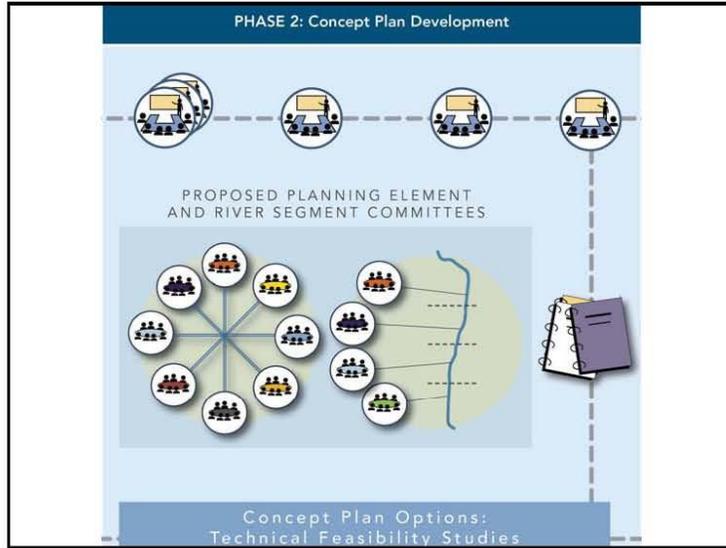
A G E N D A

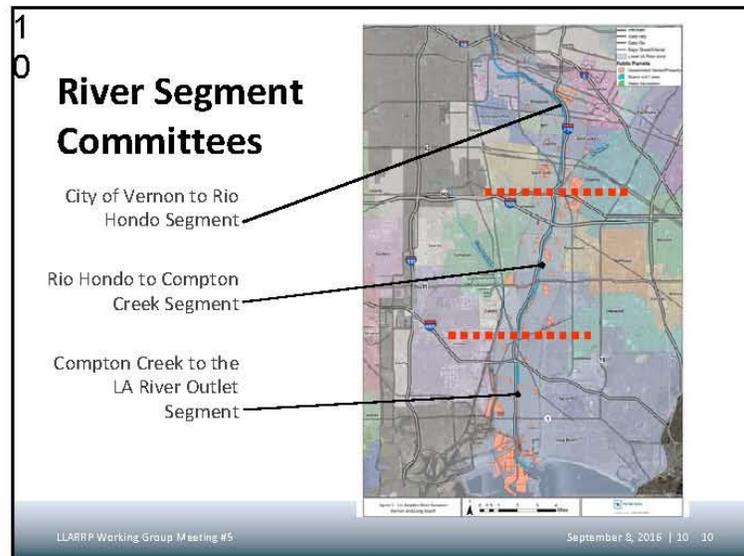
8:00 pm	I.	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview <i>Mark Jensen, Committee Chair, RR, David Isard/Chris Manning, FART/SLAR, M&amp;J</i>
8:05 pm	II.	Update on the LA River Master Plan
8:20 pm	III.	Update on AB 530 Progress
8:35 pm	IV.	Presentations from Plan Element Committees
8:50 pm	V.	River Segment Committee Meeting Process and Schedule
8:55 pm	VI.	Social Events
8:58 pm	VII.	Summary and Next Steps
9:00 pm	VIII.	Announcements and Public Comment
9:05 pm	IX.	Meeting Close and Networking

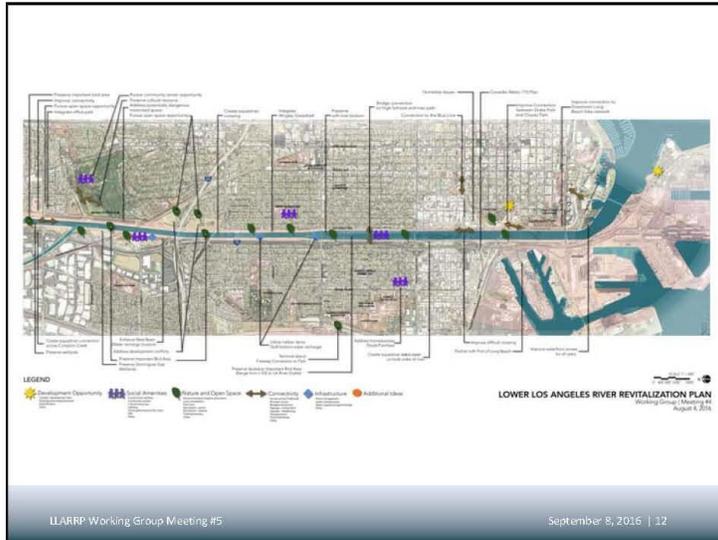
LLARRP Working Group Meeting #5
September 8, 2016 | 2











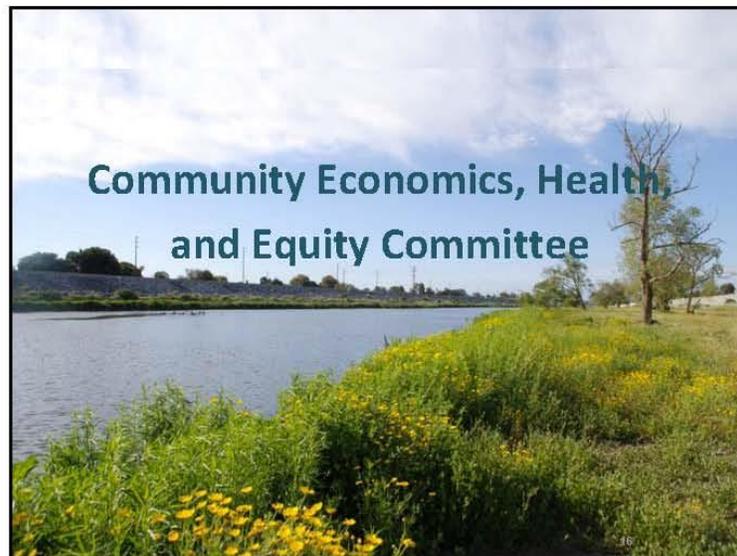


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## **Roles and Responsibilities of Committees**

- Direct the development of chapters that will be incorporated in the AB 530 Plan and/or the outreach to support the development of the AB 530 Plan
  - Identify issues, opportunities, and partnerships
  - Conduct review and analysis
  - Coordinate with advocates, experts, and/or communities
  - Report findings and recommendations

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## Community Economics, Health, and Equity Committee



**Issues of Interest**

- Land use
- Social equity
- Economic development
- Environmental justice
- Health
- Housing
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Homelessness

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## Community Economics, Health, and Equity Committee



**Scope and Mission**

- Limits: Geographic based, up to 1 mile on each side of the River
- Coordinate and assist other committees address various issues
- Engage with city planner and/or elected officials
- Coordinate with Community Engagement Committee

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## Community Economics, Health, and Equity Committee

**Opportunities and Next Steps**

- Host small info/learning sessions for committee
  - Case studies of successful or unsuccessful park/river projects
  - Advocates and experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
- Coordinate WG tour of Lower LA River



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## Community Economics, Health, and Equity Committee

Meeting schedule: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every other month from 10AM – 12PM

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Discuss land use and zoning along Lower LA River

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## Community Engagement Committee



**Scope and Mission**

- Build database for outreach
- Develop an ongoing outreach program
- Establish community leadership committee(s)
- Develop branding for Lower LA River
- Coordinate and assist other committees collect key information

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## Community Engagement Committee

**Opportunities and Next Steps**

- Prepare AB 530 flyers and brochures
- Develop Interim Website to survey input from residents
- Plan for quarterly public outreach meetings/events
- Establish “River Month”
- Seek partnership with other outreach organizations

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## Community Engagement Committee

**Proposed Kickoff Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meetings)**

- Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Cudahy
- Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in South Gate
- Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach or Dominguez Gap Wetlands



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## Community Engagement Committee

Meeting schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every other month  
from 3PM – 5PM

Next Meeting:

- Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Prepare for Kickoff Meetings

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## Public Realm Committee



**Issues of Interest**

- Safety
- Connectivity and accessibility
- Diversity of users, spaces, facilities, and programs

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## Public Realm Committee



**Scope and Mission**

- Limits: Geographic based, up to 1 mile on each side of the River
- Develop an inventory of existing local projects and plans
- Identify potential public realm opportunities
- Coordinate with Community Engagement Committee

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## Public Realm Committee

**Opportunities and Next Steps**

- Seek representation from cities representatives
- Discuss with advocates and experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
  - Homelessness
  - Enforcement
  - Zoning regulations



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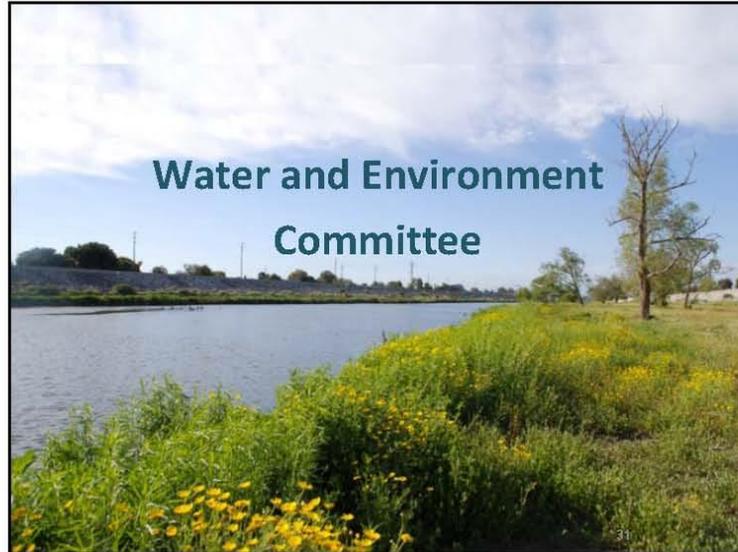
## Public Realm Committee

Meeting schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month from 2PM – 4PM

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Discuss opportunities that were identified in WGM#4, River Segment Committees, and existing plans/projects

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## Water and Environment Committee

A stylized illustration of a stream flowing through a landscape. The stream is blue with white-capped waves. It flows from a grey bridge with a semi-circular opening. The banks are decorated with various rocks in shades of brown, grey, and red, and small green plants.

**Issues of Interest**

- Ecosystem and watershed health
- Water supply and quality
- Flood management
- Green infrastructure
- Habitat restoration
- “Underutilized” areas
- Climate change and carbon footprint

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## Water and Environment Committee



**Tenets and Principles**

- Address water and environmental issues
- Identify and meet water quality requirements and regulations
- Maintain and improve existing level of flood protection
- Utilize watershed approach
- Integrate plans/projects
- Promote multi-objective and multi-benefit projects

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## Water and Environment Committee

**Opportunities and Next Steps**

- Seek representation from other technical experts
- Discuss with experts on different issues (as-needed basis)
- Review summaries and lesson learned from existing projects



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## Water and Environment Committee

Meeting schedule: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every other month from 1PM – 3PM

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Discuss timeline and existing plans/projects

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## Implementation Committee



**Scope and Mission**

- Identify funding and financing options
- Define management and operations
- Establish governance
- Integrate plans and programs
- Coordinate with cities, agencies, and communities
- Identify and establish partnership and stewardship

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## Implementation Committee

Meeting schedule: TBD

- Committee to meet later in the plan development process

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## Next Plan Element Committee Meetings

Date	Plan Element Committee
Wednesday, October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1PM – 3PM	Water and Environment
Thursday, October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 10AM – 12PM	Community Economics, Health, and Equity
Monday, October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 3PM – 5PM	Community Engagement
Wednesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2PM – 4PM	Public Realm

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Lower LA River Working Group: Projects, Policies, Programs September 8, 2016

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY	SOURCE*	PROJECTS	POLICIES	PROGRAMS	FUNDING	NOTES
<b>Community Economics, Health and Equity</b>						
CE 1: Buildings and businesses disengaged from the River	PEC, RSG		Zoning and building standards			Create model ordinances
CE 2: Jobs for local residents	PEC, RSG		Local hire policy	Workforce development		Align LBUSD high school academies and community college curriculum
CE 3: Affordable housing	PEC		Inclusionary housing requirements	Housing trust fund		
CE 4: Toxic clean-up	PEC			Land remediation program	EPA	
CE 5: Local business development	PEC			Technical assistance; Micro-lending program; SBA	SBA; HUD Office of Economic Development	

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## Meeting Schedule

- First Thursday of each month
- 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Through at least **February 2018**
- Next meetings:
  - Thursday, October 6, 2016, Downey
  - Thursday, November 3, 2016, Maywood
  - **Thursday, December 1, 2016, ???**

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ATTACHMENT D: WALLGRAPHIC

