

**DATE:** June 22, 2015  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 7D: Project and Liaison Activities

**Regional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning:** With the California Department of Water Resources having announced an additional round of Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grants the Greater Los Angeles County Sub-regional Committees requested local agencies and organizations to submit their project proposals. The sub-regions are in the process of holding meetings to score and rank projects against the State guidelines. High scoring projects from each region will be submitted to the Leadership Committee for final selection, inclusion in the regional submission to the Department of Water Resources. Final selection took place on the May 27, 2015 meeting.

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** Following the October 10, 2014 Presidential Proclamation establishing the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, two separate planning processes have been initiated. The first is the preparation of an amendment to the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan, referred to as the Monument Management Plan. When complete, the resulting planning document will guide management of monument resources for the next 10 to 15 years. The process to develop that plan includes public input as mandated by the 2012 U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule, which requires transparent, thoughtful and frank deliberation and engagement of diverse perspectives and interest. In formally initiating this planning process, the Angeles National Forest as announced a first series of public meeting that will be held on June 22-June 26, 2015. These meetings will provide the public, agencies, and other groups an opportunity to learn about the Monument, talk directly with Forest Service staff, and provide input into the Management Plan. Further details about these meeting are provided below.

 United States Department of Agriculture	
<b>Angeles National Forest &amp; San Gabriel Mountains National Monument</b>	
<b>PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS - June 22 - 26, 2015</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 22, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Pacific Community Center, 501 S. Pacific Ave., Glendale, CA 91204</b></li> <li>• <b>June 23, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Palmdale Legacy Commons Senior Center, 930 East Avenue Q9, Palmdale, CA 93550</b></li> <li>• <b>June 24, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Public Library, 140 S. Glendora Ave., Glendora, CA 91741</b></li> <li>• <b>June 25, 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Pico House, 424 N. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012</b></li> <li>• <b>June 26, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Big Pines Lodge, 24537 Big Pines Highway (at Hwy 2 Junction), Wrightwood, CA 92397</b></li> </ul>	
Meetings are open to the public between 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Meeting are conducted in an open house format. <small>USDA is an equal opportunity service provider and employer</small>	
<b>USDA Forest Service</b>	
The Angeles National Forest will hold five public meetings to discuss the development of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan and how you can participate in the process. The official comment period will be open from June 12—July 27, 2015 for a 45 day comment period.  The Forest is required to have the Monument Plan completed with the next three years from the October 10, 2015 designation. The plan, once developed and approved, will guide how Monument resources and uses will be managed until the plan is revised.  During the official comment period you may attend one of the five open house style meeting, comment through email or contact the Forest service for more information or a hard copy of the scoping letter by calling (626) 574-5278 and ask for Justin Seastrand, Forest Planner or visit our website at: <a href="http://lfs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46964">http://lfs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46964</a>	
*Additionally if you are planning to attend one of the public meetings and are in need of sign language interpretation, please let us know so we can make arrangements.	
	
 Pacific Southwest Region	Angeles National Forest & San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
Public Open House June 2015	

The second planning activity involves the establishment of a San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative. An emerging purpose for this Community Collaborative is to represent diverse stakeholder perspectives in identifying, prioritizing, and advocating for investments, management objectives, and values that sustainably benefit the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and all the communities throughout the region. Facilitated by the National Forest Foundation, the collaborative is currently formulating its membership structure and policies. While the Community Collaborative includes RMC and LACFCD representation, the WCA is currently requesting that it have its own representation on the Collaborative.

**San Gabriel National Recreation Area:** The RMC continues to track (Chu): San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act. The bill was introduced to Congress and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation on June 12, 2014. However, no further action was taken during the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Co-sponsors included Congressman Tony Cardenas (D-CA29) and Adam Schiff (D-CA28). Proposed Wilderness additions and Wild and Scenic River designations within the Angeles National Forest are also being tracked by the RMC staff.

Although Congresswoman Judy Chu released draft legislation earlier this year for public comments, we are not currently aware of any public meeting or activities related to this topic. Staff will continue to monitor.

### **RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS**

**Azusa Geology Park (RMC10009):** The City of Azusa, in cooperation with California Resource Connections (CRC) developed a City owned parcel into a geology interpretive park. The park is approximately 0.5-acre located east of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail and will create new access to the San Gabriel River regional bike trail connecting it to a quarter mile of underutilized City trail enhanced with native landscaping and interpretative signage. Construction was completed on December 30, 2013 but the City of Azusa and RMC are working together to complete the project and close out the grant by August 30, 2015. In addition, the City of Azusa has assured the RMC that the Geology Park will be accepted at their next City Council meeting and assure the new park is added to their Parks and Recreational Department.

**Coyote Creek-Los Alamitos Improvement Project (RMC3318):** The City of Los Alamitos is in the process of working with LA County Flood Control District to update the existing Use Agreement for the bikeway to include operation and maintenance of the Coyote Creek river trail that runs through the city's limits. The update to the Use Agreement will support the planned bike way upgrade (paving, striping, and signage/gates) proposed by the City to complete the balance of the approved park project. The City of Los Alamitos is planning a Grand Opening for the trail improvements on July 21 at 4:30pm

# Coyote Creek Park Grand Opening

**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**



The City of Los Alamitos City Council cordially invites you and your family to join us at the Grand Opening of Coyote Creek Park as we celebrate "Parks Make Life Better" month

**Tuesday, July 21st  
4:30 p.m.**

The Coyote Creek Park project focus was to create a passive recreation area with landscaping composed of native plants of significant ecological value to the region to attract habitat and restore the site into a passive greenway park along the Coyote Creek Channel.



**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**

[www.cityoflosalamitos.org](http://www.cityoflosalamitos.org)  
**(562) 430-1073**

**Parks  
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Life  
Better!**

**De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006):** The RMC approved a grant amendment at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting for the City of Long Beach to amend the scope of work, timeline, tasklist and budget given the bids exceeded the funding available for this project. Currently the City of Long Beach is coordinating with their grantor agencies, the Coastal Conservancy and the Natural Resources Agency to determine and approve the revised scope of work will indeed fulfill the intent of the grant funds.

**Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail (RMC 13005):** RMC provided funding for the development and enhancement of Camp Fire's urban forest and a new trail at Camp Shiwaka which includes extensive native landscaping, interpretive signage, improved ADA accessibility and additional improvements to the outdoor amphitheater. Currently Camp Shiwaka is requesting additional funds to complete their trail improvements as part of the Long Beach Bike Trail and with matching funds from the LA County Prop A funds, please see Item 9.

**Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (14003):** The RMC will be providing a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The LACC applied for an Urban Greening Grant through the Strategic Growth Council and was awarded the full request in the amount of \$798,815.

This project includes the creation of a ½ mile permeable walking path and 2,700 linear foot by 6 foot riprap swale constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek. Other funding partners include the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2<sup>nd</sup> District). Matching funds provided by the funding partners and the grant funds received by the Strategic Growth Council bring the total project cost to \$1,698,815.

**San Gabriel River Trail Signage Improvements (RMC12002):** The outcome of this project is to improve interpretive signage along the San Gabriel River bike trail throughout the City of Azusa and include areas south of the Azusa Geology Park to the current trail end along Highway 39 near the entrance to the Azusa River Wilderness Park. The project elements will include; 1. Placement of mileage reference signage to key locations and features along the trail, 2. Re-design and replacement of insufficient interpretive signage along the San Gabriel River bike trail and 3. Installation of a "staging area" signs visible from Highway 39. Currently the grantee has completed design work of the interpretative signage but has requested a timeline extension through July 30, 2015 to close out the grant.

**El Dorado Nature Center South Lake Restoration Project (RMC13004):** The project is located at the El Dorado Nature Center in the City of Long Beach and includes an improved arrival experience with a new entry statement and signage, improvements to the outdoor amphitheater for educational sessions and events and an ADA compliant pedestrian bridge and trails leading from the parking lot entrance to the El Dorada Nature Center building. The City of Long Beach has completed the design work and will place the contract out to bid this fall.

**Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project (RMC14002):** This project is located in the City of Long Beach at intersection of Studebaker Road and Westminster Avenue. The grant agreement was recently amended to revise the scope of work and include: (1) development and improvements of trail network in and around Los Cerritos Wetlands specifically at Zedler Marsh, (2) install interpretive signage and associated native landscaping and (3) remove trash, debris, non-native plants, improve fencing and gates, install temporary irrigation and improve the native plant nursery through development of an outdoor laboratory and classroom.

## **WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Azusa River Wilderness Park Project:** Azusa River Wilderness Park (RWP) is an approx. 75.7 acre property which is slated to provide a unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon: engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for both the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Based on the 2012 adopted RWP Master Plan, staff is currently perusing the design development of the RWP Entry Improvements. Key benefits of the RWP Entry Project include conserving and enhancing open space, preserving ecologically significant land for the public, encouraging outdoor activity, and providing facilities to cultivate awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our natural resources. A proposed open-air pavilion and interactive nature play area embody these benefits as central parts of the plan to draw people into the park, providing enriching spaces to experience, and to engage the public in exploration.

Design consultants working on the design development of the RWP Entry Improvements are in the process of preparing 90% construction documents. Throughout this design process WCA staff and the design team are continuing to coordinate with permitting and regulatory agencies that have purview of the project, including Caltrans and the City of Azusa. Updated CEQA analysis and documentation is also underway that will incorporate the proposed improvements on the Canyon Inn Property that have not been previously reviewed under the existing RWP Mitigated Negative Deceleration.

To fund these proposed improvements, WCA staff has also prepared and submitted two grant proposal since the last RMC Board meeting. These include an application to the 2015 Californian Active Transportation Program for the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gap Closure, Roundabout and Park Entry Improvements Project to fund the construction of 1,750 feet of Class I bike trail and a safe crossing and roundabout on State Route 39, closing the gap between the River Wilderness Park and the San Gabriel River Bikeway. Additionally, another grant application was submitted to the Proposition A Countywide Competitive Grant Program to fund interactive nature play area and pavilion.

An in-depth presentation from the WCA staff on the RWP Entry project has been scheduled for the July 27<sup>th</sup> RMC Board meeting.

**Citrus Grove Heights Bike Stop:** Two conceptual design options for the bike stop have been prepared and WCA staff is actively engaging stakeholders to develop a final plan option and move the project forward. Feedback and preliminary approvals have supported bikeway access into the site, a bike service station, shade structure, on-site storage, hitching posts, interpretive site elements, and landscaping.

Key stakeholders include the RMC, City of Pico Rivera, City of Whittier (due to adjacent water conveying infrastructure), Los Angeles County Flood Control District, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bike Coordinators, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Planning Division, BikeSGV, Equestrian Joint Council, and the Puente Hills Habitat Authority.

**Duck Farm Project:** Willdan Consulting is finalizing their review of the updated plan sets for quality control and to confirm the plans are ready for resubmittal to each agency for review, approval and issuance of permits or consent as applicable. To date, plans have been transmitted to both Caltrans and SCE for review and approval.

WCA staff will work with first District representative and Watershed Division in the resubmittal of updated plans to County departments. Upon receipt of agency approvals, a construction set will be issued and a Request for Bids notice will be posted.

WCA staff has identified an individual to provide enhanced security and maintenance activities on the property services in exchange for living on the property. The person, has been hired as a part-time, project hire park host/caretaker employee.

**Emerald Necklace:** The WCA is managing the Emerald Necklace Feasibility Study and Implementation Planning Project with the purpose of identifying trail connection and urban greening projects throughout the 17-mile network. This work is being conducted in collaboration with members of the Emerald Necklace Coordination Committee, which includes staff from the RMC, Amigos de los Rios, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles Flood Control District, and County of Los Angeles First Supervisorial District.

The Implementation Report is scheduled to be completed by late summer of 2015, and the final Program EIR is scheduled to be certified in 2016. These activities will complete the Feasibility Study and Implementation Planning Project initiated in 2011. This final report will detail the necessary steps in constructing a suite of priority projects identified out of the previously completed feasibility study, while the EIR will outline the cumulative environmental impacts of these projects at a programmatic level and identify further steps that must be taken to meet the CEQA Statute and Guidelines. Priority projects focus on development of trail connections to and within Whittier Narrows Regional Park, trail development along the Rio Hondo, and development of a 'Quarry Clasp' trail connection.

An in-depth project update and presentation from WCA staff has been scheduled for the July 27<sup>th</sup> RMC Board meeting.

**Gateway Cities Greenways and Rivers Master Plan:** The grant will develop a greenway and green infrastructure plan for the missing middle section of the Los Angeles River and surrounding Gateway cities region. The goal of the project is to provide a planning document and tools to allow cities and the region to move projects forward and be successful in attaining funding from a variety of sources to improve health and the environment through green infrastructure, parks, trails, greenways and river linkages within the Gateway Cities and along the Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.

Drafts of master Plan framework, Advisory Committee and Data Management structure have been developed and were shared with Gateway COG representative. WCA has hired a new Associate Project Manager assigned to this project and will begin data collection and outreach activities. WCA, in collaboration with UCLA's Luskin Center is holding a joint community outreach workshop within the next 30 days to introduce the Urban Greening Master Plan Project and begin to collect community input. This collaboration is part of a larger effort to work with other NGO's and interested parties working in the Gateway Cities and adjacent region on the sharing of open source data supporting the establishment of a region-wide planning tool that is consistent to the larger watershed and greater LA region.

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** The Cattle Canyon Project seeks to address unsustainable recreation practices, which includes habitat disturbance and increased risk to human health from water contact recreation. Other goals of the project seek to improve safety, and to enhance the visitor experience and quality of recreational amenities provided along the river.

The current Phase 1 of Cattle Canyon Project includes both a planning study and an outreach program focused on the prevention of specific harmful recreational behaviors through an information campaign meant to build awareness among site users.

The planning study, includes a comprehensive site assessment and conceptual planning process that has identified opportunities for physical improvements, as well as to a lesser extent, management considerations that will improve site conditions.

On June 12th the planning and design consultants, BlueGreen Consulting, presented three schematic design options layouts that depict a range of feasible opportunities to address sustainable recreation at the project site. Based on comments from the advisory committee, as well as target stakeholder outreach, the concepts presented within these alternatives will be refined into a preferred conceptual site development plan and final concept planning report.

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** This project is awaiting North East Trees, as the landscape architect of record, to complete updates to the permit packages as required per comments received from permit agencies. Following securing permits, WCA staff will coordinate with Willdan to begin the construction bid process. Parallel to the completion of the design work, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District is in process of evaluating options in its consideration to permit project to utilize their water line to irrigate the proposed park during its establishment period before being released from supplemental water in the future.

**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. It is located directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA. The City's portion is directly adjacent to the Loma Vista Park, creating a continuous property that will enlarge the park and open it up to the natural open space area.

After completing a conceptual development plan for the site in coordination with the City of San Dimas, the City secured Prop A funding begin phase 1 development including trail development and public access. The City and WCA are continuing to collaborate through the CEQA review and documentation process, in which the WCA is acting as the lead agency.

A Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Deceleration document has been prepared that addresses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the project. This environmental documentation and supporting analysis were subject to a public review period from May 12th to June 10th. During this review, agency and public comments relative to environmental issues were collected and will be part of the recorded document. Consideration of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration by the San Dimas City Council, acting as a responsible agency, will take place on June 23rd and consideration of adoption of the document by the Watershed Conservation Authority, acting as lead agency, is scheduled for the July 23rd Board meeting.

Lastly, the WCA continues to work with the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, an adjacent property owner, to address potential lot-line adjustments, land swaps, and utility easement concerns.

### **SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY**

**San Gabriel River Discovery Center:** The SGRDCA Governing Board meeting took place on December 17, 2014. The Board approved a preferred alternative for the construction of the SGR Discovery Center, acceptance of funding and services provided for information dissemination, approval of an audit services contract, acceptance of Open Space District funds from the County of Los Angeles, adoption of an updated project workplan for SGRDCA SEP fund expenditure, approval of an agreement for delivery of EcoVoices program services and approval of budgetary expenditures.

**LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY**

The LCWA hired Moffatt & Nichol to complete the restoration feasibility study for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands and the anticipated completion date is early Fall 2015. The final Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) is tentatively scheduled for completion in mid-late July with the LCWA Board adoption of the CRP at their August 12<sup>th</sup> LCWA Board Meeting. Several technical studies such as the Biological Resources and Watershed Impacts Reports have been completed and are posted on the CRP website, <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>. Currently the LCWA is restoring Zedler Marsh through several grants that were awarded in 2014 including the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, Fourth Supervisorial District Prop A Funds and RMC Trails Grant. In addition, the LCWA has also entered into contract with Orange County Flood Control District to provide Wetland Restoration Services and Supplies. Following are the upcoming public events for Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program.



July- December 2015  
Public Event Calendar



**ALL PUBLIC EVENTS MEET AT THE CORNER OF 1<sup>ST</sup> & PCH IN SEAL BEACH**  
See map on reverse for location

**Upcoming Public Events**

**Wetlands Habitat Restorations:**

LCW Land Trust & Aquarium of the Pacific sponsor Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration and maintenance events

10:30am-12:30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month

Upcoming dates: Sat. Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

Participants are eligible to win a free ticket to the Aquarium of the Pacific and other prizes!

**Guided Nature Walks:**

LCW Land Trust sponsors monthly Land Tours

8:00 am – 10:00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

Contact [ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org) for tour details.

Upcoming dates: Sat. Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

**El Dorado Audubon Bird Walks:**

El Dorado Audubon sponsors a monthly Bird Walk at Los Cerritos

Starting at 8:00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

Contact [eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com) for tour details.

Upcoming dates: Sat. July 11<sup>th</sup>, Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

**Wetlands Kayak Tours:**

LCW Land Trust sponsors our Kayak Tour program

9:00am – 12:00pm on certain weekend days each month

Contact [ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org) for tour details.

Participate in the **exploration** and **ecological restoration** of 200 acres of coastal habitat at **Los Cerritos Wetlands**

Service-learning credits are provided at all events.

The wetlands are wildlands; please dress accordingly. **Closed toed shoes required.** We encourage reusable water containers.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

To learn more about the habitats and animals of Los Cerritos Wetlands, please check our websites:

[www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org](http://www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org)

[www.lcwetlands.org](http://www.lcwetlands.org)

**saveloscerritoswetlands on Facebook**

To request a restoration or education event for your group or organization, please contact:

[iwanttohelp@](mailto:iwanttohelp@)



[.com](http://.com)

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