

**DATE:** January 22, 2018

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 8D: Project and Liaison Activities

### RMC ACTIVITY

Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530): Since May 3, 2016, the Lower LA River Working Group has been meeting to discuss the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The Working Group was created by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon through Assembly Bill 530. The working group's goal is to create a robust restoration plan that lays the groundwork for a revitalized Lower Los Angeles River that connects residents to the river that flows through their communities. Members of the working group were appointed by Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird and include 39 members including 12 southeast cities, 16 Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the First, Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts, the business sector and the public.

Meetings have been rotating throughout cities in the Southeast, and the most recent meeting was held earlier this month on January 4, 2018 in the City of South Gate at South Gate Park. The meeting included recommendations for signature concepts for the Rio Hondo Confluence, Cudahy River Park, Willow Street and a few others. An open discussion took place where Working Group feedback was discussed including a review of the Elements of Draft LLARP (document elements and layout). There are over 145 projects that have been identified as potential projects once the plan is completed in February 2018.



*The Working Group meetings are being facilitated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works with the assistance of the consulting firm of Tetra Tech and MIG. RMC also provides coordination assistance for the meetings and will be actively involved for the duration of this process. Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month, from 6:00- 9:00 pm and are open to the public. The last Working Group meeting will be held on February 1, 2018 in the City of Lynwood. Additional information can be found on the Lower LA River Working Group website: [www.lowerlariver.org](http://www.lowerlariver.org)*

### RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006): This project is in full construction which began in late Spring 2017 and the City of Long Beach has started construction and anticipates completion by early 2018.

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. Camp Shiwaka has received 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. Currently, Camp Shiwaka is working towards finalizing all aspects of construction from the RMC Grant funds.

Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (14003): The RMC provided 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. Additional matching funds were committed by other project partners including the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd 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.

Due to a change in staff by the Coastal Conservancy, the LACC will resubmit their funding request at their upcoming Coastal Conservancy board meeting in 2017. There have also been slight delays due to the approvals required by the Army Corps of Engineers for the construction documents, since the improvements are adjacent to the Compton Creek. Progress pending approval from Army Corps.

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.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project (RMC14002): This project is complete. The RMC \$98,000 in grant funds for the project located in the City of Long Beach at intersection of Studebaker Road and Westminster Avenue included the following enhancements: (1) development and improvements of a 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. A Grand Opening Celebration took place Saturday September 30, 2017.

Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway (RMC 17004): Grant was approved by RMC Board and the project is underway. Grant from the RMC is for \$1,000,000.

This project supports low-impact development stormwater management features, such as swales, landscaping and permeable pavements and walkways; a stormwater capture system to augment the recycled water supply and reduce flood risk. In addition, this project will create habitat for Monarch butterflies, a migratory species proposed for endangered species candidate status; and create 3.5 acres of park-like open space with public access to the San Gabriel River. The project includes many interpretive and education aspects with an outdoor amphitheater, demonstration gardens for native plants, eco-friendly gardening, stormwater and butterflies, multi-lingual signage, and other visitor facilities focused on water education, and provides multiple benefits to economically disadvantaged communities. This project is part of the

Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP), fully funded at \$119 million. GRIP broke ground in July 2016. Last than one year remains until the grand opening.

Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project (RMC 17005): Grant from the RMC is for \$652,520, project is underway. This project will enhance campus “green infrastructure”, urban habitat, and demonstrate sustainable public landscaping in terms of water use, improved infiltration, and storm water management. Bassett High School is located in underserved area of La Puente, in San Gabriel River sub watershed. The region’s impervious grey infrastructure impairs groundwater recharge and infiltration. Proposed Green Infrastructure retrofits will reduce water use on campus by systematic turf grass reduction: planting over 2700 native, drought-tolerant trees & shrubs in mulched planters to enhance biodiversity, and absorb storm water and run-off. Creating a thriving Urban Forest on campus will clean air and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Urban Heat Island Effect through shade cover. Creation of bioswales, and strategic permeable surface retrofits will collect, capture, and infiltrate storm water from campus preventing runoff from entering storm drain systems and impacting our watershed’s health. Interpretive elements will raise awareness of water resources challenges and help create the next generation of environmental stewards. The project will encourage underserved students and community residents to participate in habitat restoration and water resources protection, explore and enjoy the campus, and learn how to connect to the region’s surrounding natural areas.

City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan (RMC 17003): The City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan is underway, the RMC Planning grant is for \$ 293,000. The Plan seeks to develop a long range water conservation an park plan to establish a blueprint that will identify and create an inventory of: water efficiency, conservation, runoff, filtration, infiltration, etc. problems and solutions; and sites available for new parks or green space, including pocket parks along the Los Angeles River Bike Path bordering the eastern City boundary. The plan will act as a tool to identify future funding opportunities to perform the necessary infrastructure projects that will address the City’s water and park issues. Studies will be performed citywide to explore much needed water and park infrastructure projects. These identified projects and issues will be examined and solutions found based on existing design strategies available in the City’s drafted “Green Streets Manual” and “Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines” specific to managing wet weather and urban runoff. The Long Range Plan will work in collaboration with the LID Guidelines and Green Streets Manual.

View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001): The View Park and Recycled Water Development Project is underway, this grant to the City is for 2,000,000 which includes a wildlife corridor project in the City of Signal Hill that will establish a new 1.86 acre park and the associated construction of a recycled water system. The project will reclaim a municipally owned industrial site and provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks and the Promontory Home Owner's Association common landscaped areas, connect an urban trail system, prevent runoff pollution from contaminating the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and annually save approximately 40 acre feet of potable water.

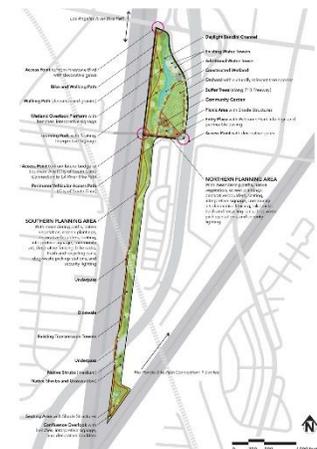
Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Project (RMC 17009): The Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Project is underway, this grant to the City is for \$2,000,000 and will improve water quality by intercepting and treating the dry weather flows and a portion of the first flush of stormwater runoff normally discharging into the Los Angeles River. The byproduct of the LB-MUST water quality treatment is recycled water which can be used to sustain proposed wetlands riparian habitat. The wetlands will be part of the total treatment train of the LB-MUST as well as function as a storage basin for the recycled water.

West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition (17007): Grant to the City is in the amount of \$2,000,000 for this acquisition. The City of Fullerton is aggressively pursuing funds to acquire 38.3 acres of available remaining undeveloped land that, when acquired, will enable 359 species to thrive and two million residents living within 10 miles to enjoy about 340 acres of the last remaining contiguous natural open space in north Orange County.

The City of Fullerton requests the maximum of \$2 million in land acquisition funding to acquire “Neighborhood 1” of West Coyote Hills. Funding for acquisition of this property would assist in purchasing 10.4 acres of open space adjacent to Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve. This acquisition provides the opportunity to preserve important urban space and contribute to additional natural lands, maintain a wildlife corridor, and restore and sustain important habitat and biological species.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties (RMC 17013): This grant to the LCWA is in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) currently owns approximately 172 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in the Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the LCWA is seeking to acquire the frontage and remaining Bryant-Dakin, LLC Properties located along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

Planning for the Urban Orchard Development (17006): Planning for the Urban Orchard Development grant to the Trust for Public Land is in the amount of \$845,000 and is an exciting project that will transform 30 acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths. Project deliverables include a detailed concept plan for the entire 30-acre site, a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate stormwater best management practices to be utilized at the site, and a complete set of construction drawings for the upper 18.2 acres of the project area that include an orchard with culturally-relevant tree species, community gathering spaces, picnic areas, interpretive elements, native plants, and walking and bicycle paths that will eventually connect with the existing bike path along the LA River.

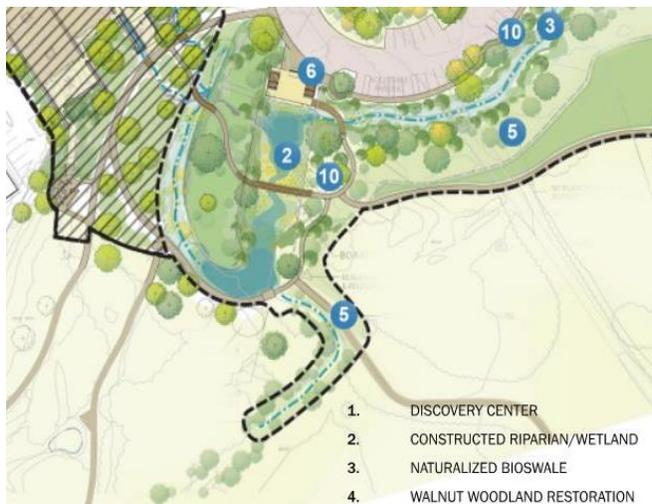


Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project (17011): The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project grant to the County of Los Angeles is in the amount of \$268,500 and includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County. A Parkway is typically defined as the area between a road’s curb and the sidewalk. Parkway basins are designed to capture and treat stormwater and dry season flow (urban runoff), utilizing urban runoff for irrigation and facilitating infiltration to groundwater. These basins are constructed by excavating and lowering a portion of parkway, then cutting an opening in the curb to facilitate the flow of water from the street. The basins contain rock reinforced slopes to prevent erosion, along with the vegetation which will detain, remediate, and help infiltrate urban runoff. When a basin is full, any additional urban runoff will be unable to enter and will continue to travel in the gutter eventually to the storm drain system. Parkway basins have been successfully constructed for many years in

numerous cities including: Tucson, Arizona; New York City; Portland, Oregon; and other municipalities. Locally, parkway basins have been constructed successfully in Panorama City and Studio City.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014): This grant is to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands is one of the last remaining estuarine systems in southern California, located in the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach. The LCWA recently adopted the Final Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) in August 2015 with the next step being environmental review of the CRP. The LCWA is seeking grants funds to complete the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental review of the CRP's three proposed alternatives or a hybrid alternative may result in joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

San Gabriel River Wetland Restoration Development (17012): This grant to the SGRDCA is in the amount of \$541,384 and is a multi-disciplinary endeavor that will enhance a wetland area, provide a regional model of stormwater best management practices, integrate educational and recreational activities, and provide for a new outdoor classroom and interpretive features. The 9-acre site is located within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area between the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo (a tributary of the Los Angeles River), and is an integral element of the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan (2006). The greater area development project entails construction on 5.9 acres featuring the constructed wetland and naturalized bioswale as well as implementation of walnut woodland restoration, habitat buffer, a covered outdoor classroom, outdoor interpretive features, vehicular access, parking, and pedestrian pathways. Project benefits of the constructed wetland and bioswales include improved water quality and capture of onsite stormwater through sustainable site hydrology improvements. Area development and landscape improvements will enhance native habitat and provide living demonstration of the benefits of natural



systems and watershed function to a large and diverse population. The project provides a regional watershed education center and serves as a destination that can be reached via the San Gabriel River Bike Trail linking communities along over 38 miles from the Mountains to the ocean. The SGRWRD, as part of the San Gabriel River Discovery Center, will reach approximately 8.5 million residents, including several disadvantaged communities. Together, this project will promote passive recreational use, spread awareness on values of watershed health and positively influence visitors to protect water resources and implement conservation improvements at home.

Currently in the permitting phase, this project has received plan check approvals from most County departments and is pending on United States Army Corps plan check approval. On October 2017, SGRDCA, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LADPR), met with the Army Corps at the County Supervisor District 1 office to discuss the project plans and the urgency of completing the permit review as the project is ready for construction. The Army Corps agreed to move forward with the review once they have addressed all concerns with the Whittier Narrows dam modification study. A second meeting with the Army Corps is being scheduled by LADPR to review the project plans now that a decision on alternatives for the Whittier Narrows Dam has been made. At this meeting, it is anticipated that the Army Corps will share their conclusion on the review of project plans for

Army Corps permit approval. As soon as SGRDCA receives Army Corps permit approval, the project will move forward into the Bidding phase for construction.

Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Project (RMC 17017):

Grant to the City of Lynwood in the amount of \$1,692,575. The Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration, and Water Quality Improvement Project will replace the parking lot asphalt at Lynwood Park with permeable pavers; establishment of green space with native plants and shrubs in the parking lot perimeter; and installation of a bio-swale along the parking lot median, to improve stormwater management. This project is part of the Gateway Cities Regional Recycled Water System Expansion Project. The City of Lynwood along with 2 other cities in the southeast area of Los Angeles County and Central Basin received a grant to complete the design for an extension of the Central Basin recycled water system. This design has been completed and includes a stub out at Lynwood Park. Additional Funding for construction is being sought by the cities.

Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015):

Grant to Amigos de los Rios in the amount of \$617,385 for this project which will enhance biodiversity, water quality, stormwater & urban run-off management along Rio Hondo Emerald necklace & within Peck Park by adding green infrastructure elements along River Parkway. This area is located within eastern Los Angeles County's underserved El Monte and is adjacent to County Bike Trail, residential areas and schools. Arterials cross the right of way and produce runoff and air pollution that negatively impacts river parkway and local ecosystems. The proposed multiobjective water quality project will improve watershed health, habitat, and trails along the Emerald Necklace's Rio Hondo River. It will remove invasive plants and restore biodiversity by planting over 1175 native & drought-tolerant trees and shrubs suited to multi-year droughts.

CSUF Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Improvement Project: The request for the RMC grant of \$1,000,000 towards the total project cost of \$3,324,655 has been withdrawn.

**WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Duck Farm Project:** A Caltrans ROW Ingress/Egress easement has been recorded and Maintenance and Operations Agreement approved for release. WCA is awaiting final plan check approval from LA County's Landscape Development Division's Roads and Streets which will complete the entitlement process and will clear the project for construction to begin and permits to be pulled.

WCA received comments from the California Department of Industrial Relations on our Labor Compliance Program (LCP) submittal. Updates were made and resubmitted for final approval of the program. Having an approved LCP is a requirement of the State Bond funding WCA was granted for implementation of this project. Information related to the LCP and prevailing wage requirements will be included in the Request for Bids notice that will be published in February in anticipation of a Spring 2018 contract award target.



*The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.*

**Emerald Necklace:** Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, LA County Department of Public Works will be hosting an on-site planning charrette for the Rosemead Complete Streets Project within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and related to EMNECK priority project #5. WCA staff will support the event and host an informational booth.

Additionally, a kick-off meeting with LA County Department of Public Works related to the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan was held with WCA and applicable County departments. DPW is drafting a board report to LACBOS to be considered in March 2018 to extend a professional services contract to WCA to support the 5-year planning effort.

# EMERALD NECKLACE

## FEASIBILITY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PHASE I

The Emerald Necklace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two waterways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and greening. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

### Westside Multi-Use Trail: A Trail for All User Groups

The purpose of this trail is to create a continuous loop around the Emerald Lake Recreation Area and provide a multi-use trail for all user groups. The route is shown in the map and is subject to change.

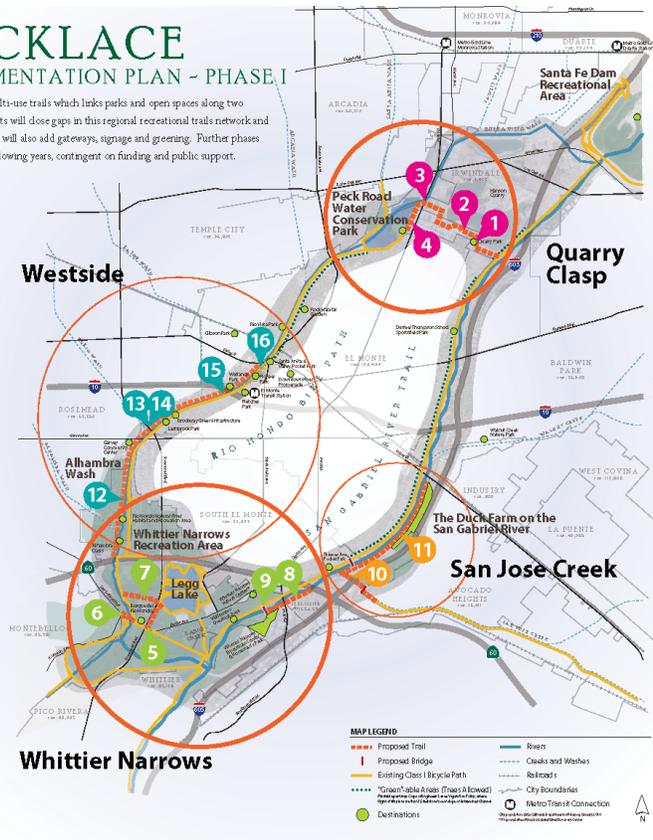
- 12 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 15 10 Freeway Underpasses
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

### Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect existing park resources and provide a multi-use trail for all user groups. The route is shown in the map and is subject to change.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Logg Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Estero del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. with Enhanced Signalized Crossing, Signage & Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Logg Lake through the Scott Born California to Edison Easement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horsman's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Horsman's Park

### PROJECT COMPONENTS



### Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Make the trail continuous from Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the San Gabriel River with access to the park from the City of Los Angeles via the San Gabriel River.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connection to Peck Road Water Conservation Park

### San Jose Creek Regional Access: Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

Trail segment and bridge connecting regional access to the Emerald Lake area and providing a multi-use trail for all user groups.

- 10 Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11 Multi-Use Trail: From San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.

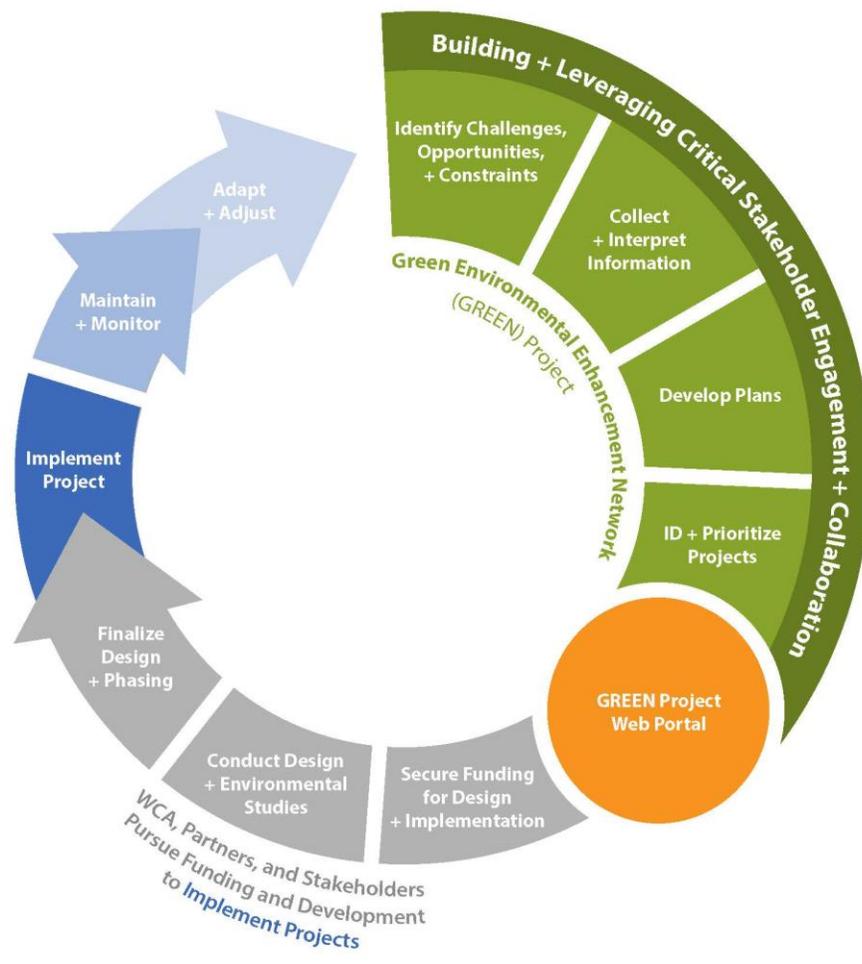
The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

**San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities:** WCA has accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, which will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve critical habitat and open space, improve watershed health and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

WCA executed a project contract with Trust for Public Land (TPL) in January to begin Phase 1 of the project (a 3-month phase), for Methodology Development. In Phase 1, a Technical Approach draft report for each city will evaluate and summarize opportunities for acquisition and feasibility of acquisition, which will identify public/private parcels and provide general market data. Prioritization of key parcels with high ecological and recreational value will be identified, as well as maintenance considerations.

Additionally, the funding will be utilized for staff and consultant costs to perform due diligence and appraisal activities related to Glendora Community Conservancy and Rainbow Ranch parcels among others.

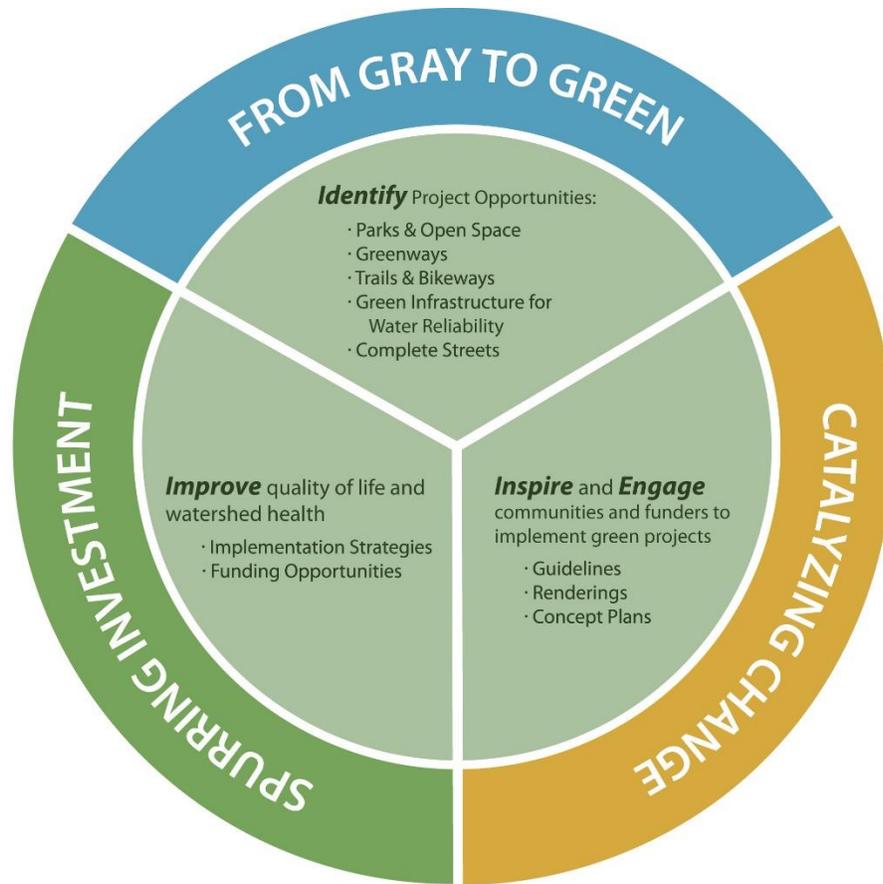
**GREEN Project:** Web developers with Sabio LA have completed their scope of work. The partially-built site will be built out by a contracted professional web developer in coordination with WCA staff for both the GREEN Project Portal and the pilot Gateway Greening Plan content. WCA is planning a soft launch of this portal within one month of the execution of the web development contract, March 2018. This framework will be built upon with additional mapping features developed with Dr. Weimin Li of Cal Poly Pomona and database features not expected for either the soft launch or the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening project scope.



*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.*

**Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan:** WCA staff along with potential contracts brought before the board or as small contracts (less than \$5,000) are working to draft and upload written content as well as visual support, renderings, and the results of mapping analysis to the Gateway Greening online toolkit in preparation for a soft launch in March, 2018. WCA continues to meet with representatives of Gateway Cities governments to workshop how the deliverable would be most useful to them and solicit project

information to include on the site. The completed content will be the final deliverable for the plan. Advisory meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, with the next meeting planned for Tuesday January 16th.



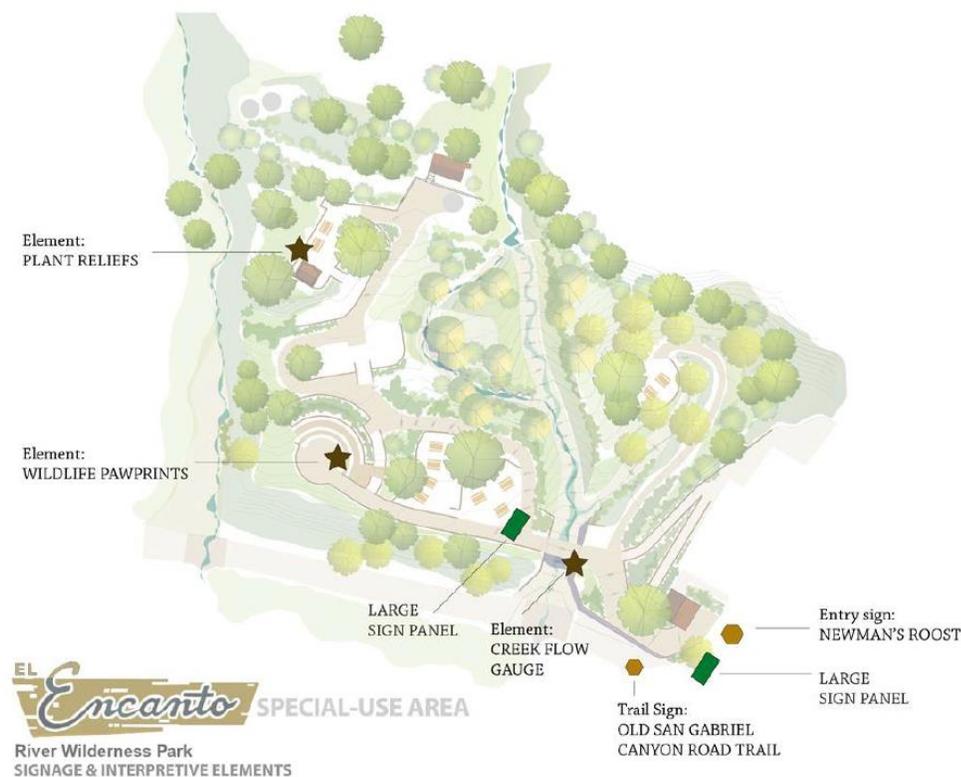
*With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.*

**Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** WCA continues to work with MRCA Rangers, County Sheriffs, residents, and volunteers to support continued on-site maintenance at the Mt. Baldy Preserve property. To further support this coordination, WCA purchased and is installing a job box on-site to facilitate equipment sharing between staff, residents, and volunteers.

*Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority’s territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.*

**River Wilderness Park:** The design for RWP Entry Improvements Project, will restart work to complete construction drawings following a to be scheduled meeting with SD1, LA County Department of Public Works and Caltrans representatives to confirm State requirements for design of Roundabout. To this end, WCA will coordinate with DPW to apply for Cycle 4 ATP grant funding program to fund Roundabout and associated trail connection and safe-crossing features. It is anticipated that DPW will manage the Roundabout portion of the project. Additionally, staff will continue to work with City of Azusa related to permitting, as well as, City of Azusa Light and Water to bring public utilities to the park.

A Staff continues to seek additional funding to complete improvements to the Newman's Roost Special Use Area (NRSUA) as well— estimated costs: \$6,495,000. The Area includes the reconstruction of an ephemeral stream, trail and bridge crossing, an outdoor amphitheater, outdoor education elements, picnic areas, and a public restroom adjacent the main office and former El Encanto restaurant—see conceptual plan below.



At the November 2017 RMC Board Meeting, WCA presented (for award of funds) the RWP Arroyos Development project (part of NRSUA), which received \$1,000,000 from the RMC Prop 1 Grant program. The project has secured \$1,752,860 in additional matching funds, and awaiting grant notifications for the Outdoor Education Grant (\$463,000) and Caltrans Shop Program (\$1,000,000).

*Property Management Note:* The Azusa RWP was closed for most of December due to increased fire risk and continued red flag warnings throughout the month. The park was recently re-opened on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. No major incidents were reported on the property between September–December 2017.



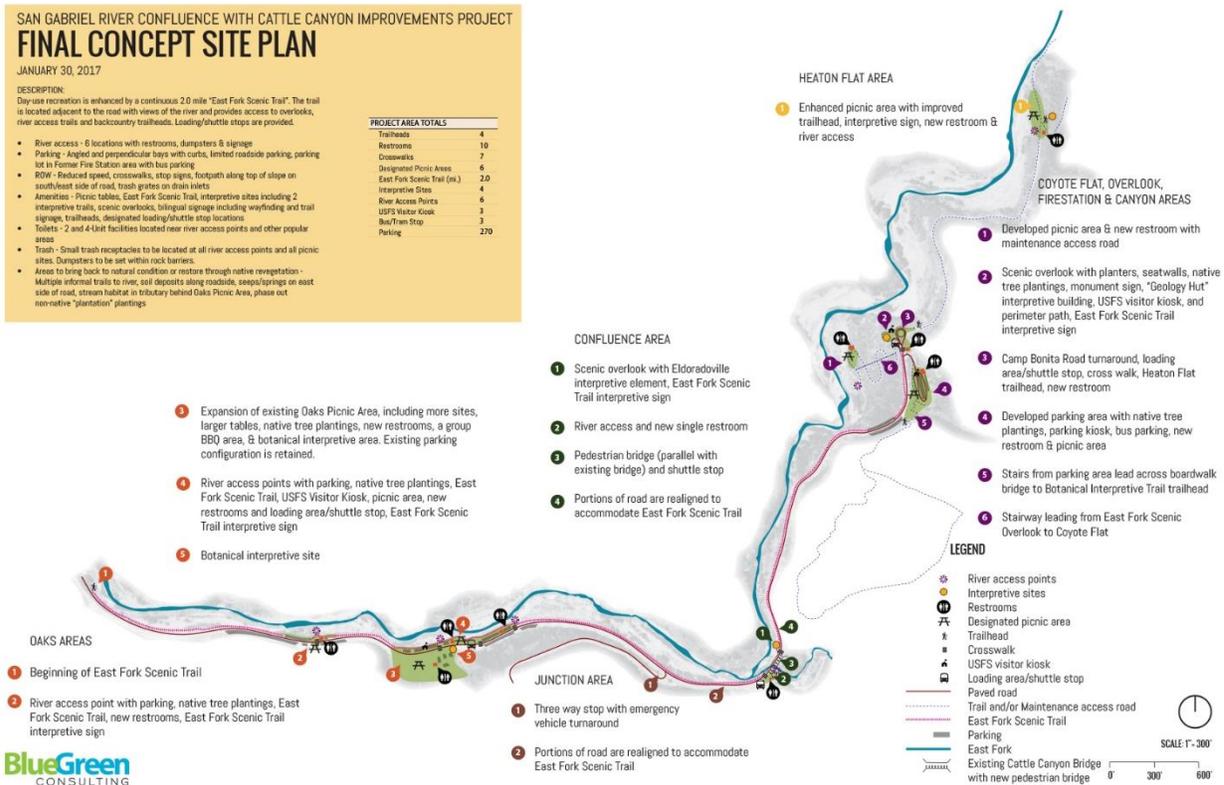
*The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.*

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** The Draft EIS/EIR was publicly released for comment on November 9, 2017 for a 45-day comment period (ended December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017). Two public meetings were held. The first public meeting was held on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at WCA's offices. The second public meeting was held on December 5, 2017 at Angeles National Forest Headquarters in Arcadia. Both meetings were well attended, each with over 50 attendees—see image below of the Deputy Monument Manager (Adrienne Dunfee) speaking at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.



During the public comment period, we received nearly 500 comments. 400 of the comments were generated using a form letter template created by Sierra Club (which is positive and highlights areas of plan improvements that their members have expressed); there are roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, will be analyzing the comments and incorporating necessary changes into a Final EIS/EIR through February.





### WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



Figure dated October 4, 2016

Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is 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.

After completing a conceptual development plan in coordination with the City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors. This will realize the improvements necessary to provide public access over a portion of the Project Site through the Antonovich Trail, accessible from four nearby County-operated trail staging areas.

### SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY

SGRDCA continues to submit monthly project progress reports to LA Sanitation Districts as the Authority continues to receive funds from the Supplemental Environmental Project for design fees and administrative costs. Remaining plan check approval for grading permit and license is dependent on obtaining Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) approval, LA County Parks and SGRDCA consultants are engaged responded to ACOE comment letter dated May 2, 2017 at a meeting with the ACOE on October 17, 2017. A second meeting with

the ACOE was held on December 7, 2017 where SGRDCA and LA County Parks was notified that the ACOE dam modification study takes precedence over all projects within the impact area. Previously, SGRDCA Board provided direction for staff to explore additional opportunities for completion of the Discovery Center Project at the May 22, 2017 Board work session. The Board review of all opportunities and decision to approve an alternative will take place at the next scheduled SGRDCA Board Meeting anticipated for January 25, 2018.



*The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Project is 5.9 redevelopment that will replace the existing Whittier Narrows Nature Center (WNNC) with the following enhancements: constructed wetland, naturalized bioswale, Walnut Woodland restoration, habitat buffer, two outdoor classrooms, interpretive center with exhibits, vehicular access and parking, pedestrian pathways and other interpretive elements. The Center's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship by providing accessible and engaging watershed and environmental education to the public.*

#### **AZUSA-RMC JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

The approval of the Authority budget for fiscal year 2017/18 took place at a special meeting on June 29, 2017. The presentation and discussion on the status of the Garcia Trail will be reviewed by the board at the next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2017 at 6:30pm in Azusa Light & Water.

#### **LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY**

The LCWA hired Moffatt & Nichol to complete the restoration feasibility study for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands and the LCWA Board adopted the Final Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) in August 2015. The Final CRP has developed several alternatives that will be further analyzed for the development of a preferred alternative through the CEQA/NEPA process. Reports have been completed and are posted on the CRP website, <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>. Currently the LCWA has received Proposition 1 Grants Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy and the RMC and has begun the selection of a final alternative and CEQA analysis.

The LCWA authorized the Executive Officer to enter into a option agreement with Los Cerritos Wetlands, LLC for the conveyance of real property.

The LCWA proposes to transfer the property commonly referred as “Offer to Dedicate” (OTD) Parcel, described as APN 7237-019-809, approximately 5.11 acres to the Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC for their property commonly referred as Steamshovel Slough, described as APNs 7237-017-010; 7237-017-011; 7237-017-012; 7237-0217-013; 7237-017-014; 7237-017-019; 7237-017-805; 7237-017-806; 7237-017-807; 7237-017-808; 7237-017-809, approximately 154 acres. The LCWA continues to negotiate with LCWLLC to ensure all the conditions are met as set forth in the Option to Purchase Agreement. Recently, the City of Long Beach in coordination with Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC hired ESA to draft the Environmental Impact Report. Please visit the LCWA website at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/> for more detailed information.

LCWA has ongoing monthly public programs at Los Cerritos Wetlands through the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program.

ALL PROGRAMS MEET  
 @ 1st Street and PCH  
 in Seal Beach!  
 See map on reverse  
 for location



## Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Events July - December 2017

### Guided Nature Walks

LCW Land Trust sponsors guided nature walks  
**8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 1st Saturday of each month**  
 Contact: [elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org) for details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd**

### Habitat Restoration Events

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm on the 1st Saturday of each month**  
 Contact: [info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com) for details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd**  
 Participants are eligible to win prizes at each event!

### Trash Clean -ups

LCW Land Trust sponsors monthly trash clean ups at Zedler Marsh  
**10:00 am - 11:30 am on third Fridays**  
 Contact: [info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com) for clean-up event details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 21st, Aug 18th, Sep 15th, Oct 27th\*, Nov 17th, Dec 15th**  
 \*Note Oct 27th is a 4th Friday

### Wetlands Kayak Tours

LCW Land Trust sponsors kayak tours of Los Cerritos Wetlands  
**8:30 am - 12:00 pm on certain Sundays**  
 Contact: [elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org) for tour details

### El Dorado Audubon Bird Walks

El Dorado Audubon sponsors 2 monthly bird walks in 2 different areas of Los Cerritos Wetlands  
**Hellman Property: 8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of each month**  
**Zedler Marsh Property: 3:00 pm on the 4th Sunday of each month**  
 Contact: [eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com) for details  
**Upcoming Dates:**  
**Hellman: July 8th, Aug 12th, Sep 9th, Oct 14th, Nov 11th, Dec 9th**  
**Zedler Marsh: July 23rd, Aug 27th, Sep 24th, Oct 22nd, Nov 26th, Dec 17th\* (\*3rd Sunday)**

**What do I need to know?**

- \*Close-toed shoes are required for all programs
- \*These wetlands are wildlands, dress accordingly
- \*We encourage bringing reusable water bottles!
- \*Service-learning credits provided at all events!
- \*Children under the age of 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult
- \*Participants receive exclusive access to explore and restore Los Cerritos Wetlands!
- \*If interested in group restoration or education opportunities contact:  
[info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com)
- \*Want to learn more about Los Cerritos Wetlands?  
 Visit our website:  
[www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org](http://www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org)  
 Facebook:  
[saveloscerritoswetlands](https://www.facebook.com/saveloscerritoswetlands)



Hellman Properties, LLC

