

DATE: January 28, 2019

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 9D: Liaison and Activities Report

RMC ACTIVITIES

Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530):

With the completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) held its first meeting on August 22, 2018 at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra. The purpose and charge of the IAG is to:

- 1) provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects/programs related to the Lower LA River;
- 2) Ensure proposed projects/programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan; and
- 3) Maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits by encouraging collaboration among the many project proponents and organizations in the project area.

In its role as an advisory body, the IAG will provide guidance on issues presented before them, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will continue to have decision-making authority. The IAG members and committees will work together to further define the roles and guidelines of the IAG in the upcoming months.

The IAG will include four sub-committees, including:

- 1) Programs & Policies;
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure;
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement; and
- 4) Future Committee TBD (as-needed).

The committee meetings will first be comprised of members of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan Working Group; however, the committees may choose to invite representatives of other agencies and organizations as needed to address committee needs.

Steering and sub-committee meetings will be held quarterly. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 20th at the Gateway COG offices in Paramount. The sub-committee meetings are scheduled for:

- 1) Programs & Policies
 - a. Chair, Antonio Hicks, Public Counsel
 - b. Vice Chair, Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
 - c. Meeting and Facility: Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Conservation Corps of Long Beach, 340 Nieto Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure
 - a. Chair, Kayla Kelly-Slatten, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
 - b. Vice Chair, Kelsey Jessup, The Nature Conservancy

- c. Meeting and Facility: Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Conservation Corps of Long Beach, 340 Nieto Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement
 - a. Chair, Laura Cortez, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
 - b. Vice Chair, TBD
 - c. Meeting and Facility: Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EYCEJ Community Room, 5117 Kinsie Street, Commerce, CA 90040

All committees are continuing to work on establishing a project review process and will discuss how each committee can support the development and implementation of projects, programs, policies, and efforts. Regarding a review process, the two main objectives for the sub-committees will be to:

- 1) Allow projects that have been submitted for funding to present and retain feedback, which will then be delivered to a governing Board/reviewing body for consideration, and
- 2) Allow developing projects the opportunity to gain feedback on concepts and ideas, as well as to find additional partners and funding.

RMC is scheduling proposed project presentations by RMC grant applicants before the appropriate IAG committees to allow Lower LA River stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed projects before they are recommended for funding to the RMC Board. Any comments received on projects will be included in recommendation reports.

The IAG consists of the District as the chair, the RMC, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the fifteen Lower LA River cities and the chairs of the committees. The IAG and the committees will each meet quarterly. All meeting materials and schedules will be posted on the website – www.LowerLARiver.org

River Ranger Program (AB 1558- C. Garcia)

Since February 2018, The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and their respective JPA's (WCA and MRCA) have been collaborating jointly on the implementation of the River Ranger Plan Development, intended to develop a framework for a network of River Rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The bill was enacted in 2017 to address the limited contact with and responsibility for the river by communities, working in coordination with current revitalization programs to encourage engagement with the river as a welcoming community resource.

Under the bill, the program is intended to do the following: Establish a Los Angeles River identity; Improve public safety for visitors; Foster collaboration among those with jurisdiction over the river; Protect parks, open space, and other public space; Engage communities in the protection and preservation of the River and its resources; Promote diversity and inclusion; Promote equal access and equity among all communities along the River with regard to the development and placement of improvements along the river; Monitor the physical conditions, environmental health, and development of green space along the River, and Coordinate the work of river rangers with programs and services.

A total of 4 Stakeholder meetings have taken place since 2018, consisting of all 23 cities that are located along the 51-mile length of the LA River, and NGO's representing water, environment, youth, and natural resources. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2019, where the framework for the plan will be presented including a potential pilot program. A final River Ranger Plan will be submitted to the Assembly Committee for Water, Parks & Wildlife and the Senate Committee for Natural Resources and Water by June 30, 2019. More details below including WCA's involvement.

South & Southeast LA School Water Equity School Project (SLAWESP)

A new water equity project for South LA and Southeast Schools is underway with a group of water solutions advocates and funders. On January 4, 2019, advocates came together for a strategic planning session to define the project and create a framework around elementary and high schools within the Southeast LA and South LA region. Discussions included: Building Community Awareness, Rebuilding the Water Infrastructure, Building Careers, and Creating Jobs and Business Opportunities. The working meeting also highlighted several challenges and opportunities for school sites. For example, schools may soon have to comply with MS4 requirements (they're currently exempt) such as capturing "first flush" stormwater on-site. Such challenges provide opportunities to leverage park, green infrastructure, and open space agencies, planning efforts and funds (local, state, and federal) to support these efforts. RMC will continue to follow and engage school equity projects. The next meeting will take place on February 6, 2019 at CD Tech in Los Angeles. The meeting outcomes will include:

- 1) Identifying pilot schools/strategy
- 2) Identifying career exposure curricula and workforce opportunities
- 3) Identifying exemplar/potential green infrastructure/water projects
- 4) Framework for community engagement.

RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (RMC14003): 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.

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.

Work began on this project in September 2018 with grubbing of the site. The LACC will continue the grading and move on to construction of a fence line, retaining wall, and landscaping for a targeted project completion in June 2020.

View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001): The View Park and Recycled Water Development Project is underway. Project 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.

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, a working model of the San Gabriel River, eco-friendly garden, 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 and is now known as the ARC Project.

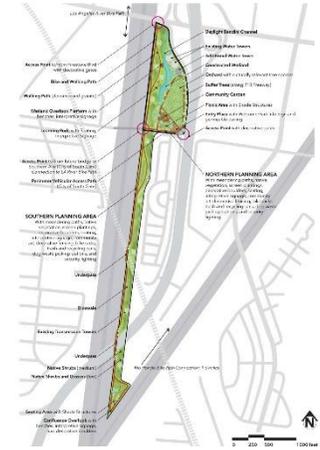
The WRD has requested a timeline extension through December 2019, due to a delay resulting from rain storms in 2017 that occurred when earth work was taking place at the construction site. In addition, compliance with American Iron and Steel requirements mandated by the project's financing, made it necessary to change the source for some construction products. However, the project is scheduled to be completed in early July 2019. WRD is working with a non-profit partner, Amigos de los Rios, to complete the interpretive signs and material for the outdoor spaces. WRD has requested additional time to close out the grant through December 2019.

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.

Amigos has finalized an agreement with the school district and has worked with County Public Works to present plans and work with the school district. Amigos continued site preparation including grass kill within the field; continued to refine construction documents, refining grading plan, bioswale system, and BMP swale landscape details; and continued to water and care for trees planted in last quarter.

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 30-acre park 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 7 acres park 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. The City continues to host public workshops to receive input from the community for this project and has also received grant funds for the project implementation. The most recent community design

meeting was held on January 19, 2019 in the City of South Gate. Additional project updates are provided in RMC Board Item 10 which addresses TPL's request for a grant amendment including a 1-year performance period extension from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and reduction in project scope. TPL is requesting to extend the grant to allow sufficient time to complete 100% construction drawings for the 7 acres and the stormwater management system that includes pumping water from the Bandini Channel and obtaining permits for the constructed wetland and diversion structure from the Bandini Channel.



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 informed the RMC that they were successful in obtaining \$13 million in funds to acquire the 38.3 acres of available remaining undeveloped land. The City is working with the Coastal Conservancy to receive those funds and begin the process of land acquisition.

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. The City is 60% complete with the final design specifications and construction is expected to begin Spring of 2019.

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 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 177 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 2nd 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 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2nd 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.

LCWA received approval from the Department of General Services on an appraisal report on the Bryant Properties. They are still negotiating with the land owner to acquire the properties.

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 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 to complete the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

A meeting with the Steering Committee, two Technical Advisory Meeting, and two public meetings have been held to solicit comments about an Optimized Restoration Plan, which is a hybrid alternative from the CRP's three alternatives. The CEQA approach is to complete a Programmatic EIR for the entire 500-acre property. There was a 2-month delay in initiating the CEQA process to allow for a simultaneous project, known as the Beach Oil and Mineral (BOM) Project, to be heard in front of the Coastal Commission to be permitted at their December meeting. The BOM project overlaps the LCWA's plan in some areas, thus there was a need to wait for a decision to be made about the BOM project before initiating LCWA's CEQA process. A Project Description is currently being developed, and once submitted, would initiate LCWA's CEQA process. Technical studies are continuing to occur.

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 multi-objective 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.

Significant invasive removal has been completed, with the monitoring, treating, and removing of previously removed areas continuing. 1205 shrubs and 105 trees have been planted. Tree stakes were installed for trees previously planted; shrubs cared for. Regarding the retrofit of Peck Park's parking lot and creation of a bioswale adjacent to the parking lot, Amigos has submitted a parking lot concept plan to LA County Department of Public Works' Flood Control District and Army Corps of Engineers for review and approval. Amigos continues to host regular Emerald Necklace stewardship events, provides weekly updates to their base of supporters (through email and Facebook) to boost awareness of green infrastructure work at Peck Road Park as well.

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 city.

Phil and Nell Soto Park (RMC17018):

On September 27, 2018, the City of Pomona conducted the official groundbreaking for the Phil and Nell Soto Park in the City of Pomona. The 1.76 acre park will provide for active and passive recreation opportunities and includes a variety of California native plants and trees throughout the park, a butterfly habitat, and a bird sanctuary.

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy provided a grant for the acquisition of this park and the City has recently accepted an additional grant in the amount of \$1 Million for the park construction from Proposition 1 (water bond). The park design includes natural systems to treat urban stormwater runoff, infiltration and retention of stormwater to mitigate flooding. The park was designed by Architerra Design Group and the Construction will be managed by CEM Construction. Completion is anticipated in Summer 2019.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

Duck Farm Project: Project team is finalizing schedule of values with General Contractor to enter into agreement to construct the project which was authorized by the Board at the October 2018 meeting. Los Angeles County Regional Planning completed their Site Plan reapproval which was provided to LA County Building and Safety's Grading section for use in their approval of the grading permit. WCA received certification from the State of California this month to finalize the RMC's gap funding award of \$1.2 Million to complete construction.



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.

Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project: Staff will prepare a design & build RFP to forward the implementation of the Project in the coming months. Additionally, staff will draft grant application(s) for proposition 68 funds in Spring/Summer 2019, as call for projects come available, to complete the funding need for the project which includes exterior building renovations and potential small indoor resource visitor center.



Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes. Images above show an aerial view of the project site and a concept illustration of strategies.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: WCA has entered into agreement with LA County Flood Control District to begin Phase I (Master Plan Development) for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network. The LACFCD requires detailed Task Orders to issue a Notice to Proceed. WCA is currently in conversation with LAFCD to develop an initial Task Order that will span January – June 2019. The draft Task Order proposal in progress includes Level of Service support, facilitation of Project Team meetings, review and comment on third-party consultant scope of work, literature review to identify gaps in existing planning efforts and to refine the focus of proposed outreach, macro-scale mapping to ensure broad stakeholder representation, and collaboration with stakeholders to develop a strategy for more detailed outreach efforts that are anticipated to commence in July 2019.

Emerald Necklace: No change to status this period. In September 2018, Supervisor Hilda Solis' office wanted to start hosting Emerald Necklace team meetings to forward priority projects on the 4th Wednesday of every month in the South El Monte SD1 Office—meetings have yet to be convened. WCA will continue to follow up with the Supervisor's office to pursue implementation of Emerald Necklace and will make sure it's included in the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network planning study. Funding opportunities including Prop 68, Measure A, and future bond measures will be discussed at upcoming meetings. Individual agencies and non-profits also continue to pursue funding opportunities to implement the Emerald Necklace Plan elements.

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 the Westside Multi-Use Trail is to provide a safe, scenic, and accessible trail for all users along the Rio Hondo. The trail will connect existing trails and provide access to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources.

- 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 Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Fuller Blvd.

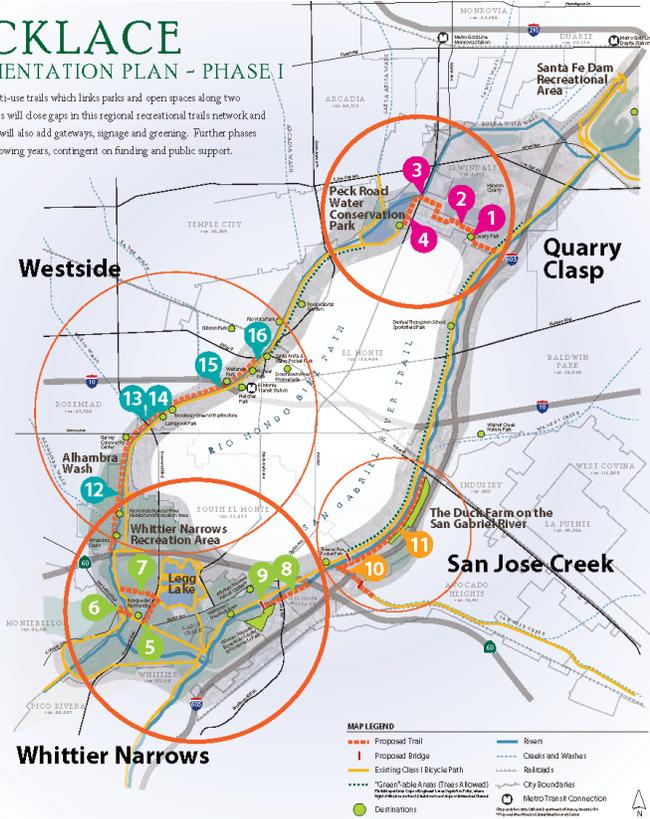
Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will provide access to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Bosque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signalized Crossing, Signage, & Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake through the Southern California 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

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will provide access to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources.

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

San Jose Creek Regional Access:

Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will provide access to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources.

- 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 staff is currently applying some elements of the in-progress plan to pursue acquisitions in the foothills. Limited staff capacity at project partner Trust for Public Land has delayed finalization of the draft report, although TPL has continued to advise on acquisition prioritization and processes. WCA plans to meet with TPL in the next month to schedule and advance next steps and will report updates in the next Liaison and Activities Report.

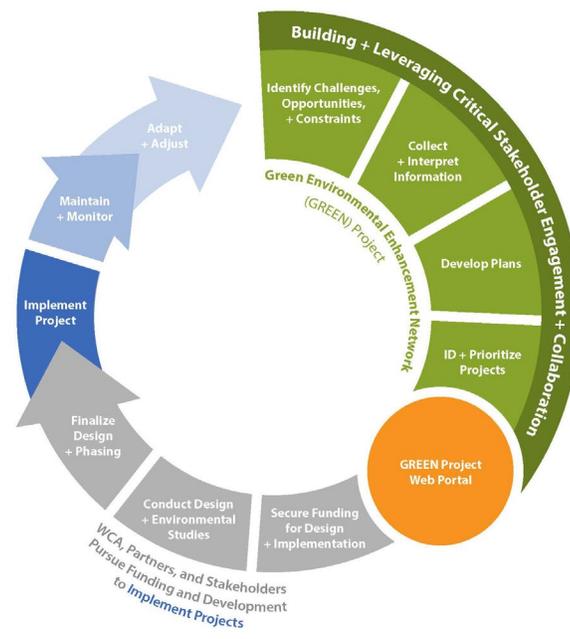
The RMC grant funding the Master Plan also supports acquisition activities including negotiation, legal counsel, due diligence review, and procurement of reports including appraisals and title review. WCA, in consultation with TPL has planned to acquire recreation and habitat open space from the Glendora Community Conservancy totaling over 600 acres in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains above Glendora. These lands are anticipated to be transferred to WCA in January and March of 2019.

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, 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.

GREEN Project: WCA staff has been developing the functionality and structure of the GREEN project portal in conjunction with the content of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan, which relies on the GREEN portal structure. Most recently the Authority has been working towards consistent visual design elements on the site as part of a closeout of a web design consultant's work. Future additional web mapping consultants have been considered for the next iteration of the portal.

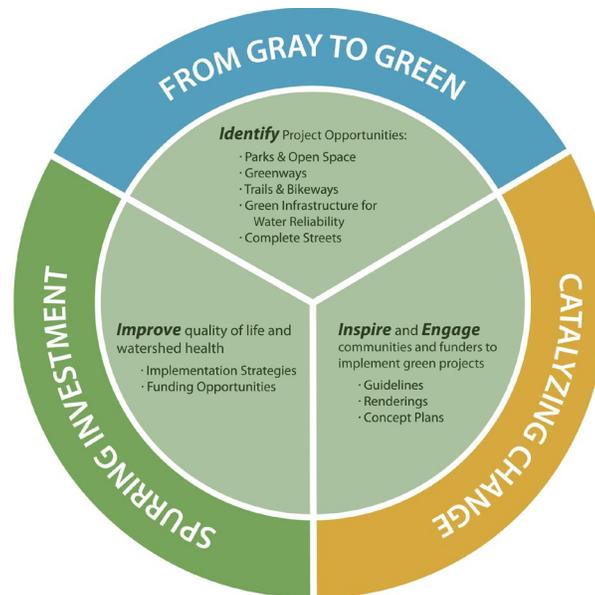
Staff continues to use GREEN Project funding to support the coordination of existing and future urban greening projects among stakeholders and project proponents in WCA's jurisdiction.



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: Conceptual design and imagery for the Greenscape tool is underway with all 12 greenscapes in production. Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the GREEN portal website. Additionally, the results of mapping analysis from CalPoly Consultant Dr. Lee and internally generated are received and being reviewed for inclusion in the targeted soft launch slated for Spring 2018. These data products will be incorporated into siting analysis for urban greening strategies and for a series of priority routing networks for stormwater management strategies. The design and development of the web portal is also ongoing in coordination with consultants who are expected to complete work in February. Staff is in the process of scheduling meetings with city representatives 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.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held April 16th 2019. In addition to targeted stakeholder outreach, WCA will present the Gateway Greening Project to sub-committee meetings of the Lower LA River Implementation Advisory Group in January 2019.



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: The Eagle Scout project, to install kiosk and Dedication sign, is tentatively scheduled for January 26th pending weather conditions. The project must be completed by March 1, 2019 to fulfill the requirements of the Eagle Scout program. Site enhancements include the permanent installation of the Mt. Baldy Preserve dedication sign surrounded by native plants, as well as, construction of an educational kiosk for site specific displayed material. A separate Convert-a-Can event is scheduled for February, pending weather.

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.

Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning: After completing the collection of existing resources and data, the Crystal Lake project team, including US Forest Services, WCA, BlueGreen, and other consultants held the first major stakeholder meetings in November 2018. These meetings at Angeles National Forest Headquarters and WCA presented existing conditions and engaged stakeholders to identify opportunity areas. With existing data collection complete and outreach ongoing, including user surveys, the team is also moving forward with analysis to better understand the lake water dynamics.

The current partial shutdown of the US Government has impacted the Forest Service and Angeles National Forest severely. The project is currently progressing more slowly while the project team is furloughed.

Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning, authorized by U.S. Forest Service under a Supplemental Project Agreement with WCA, to implement a redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources.

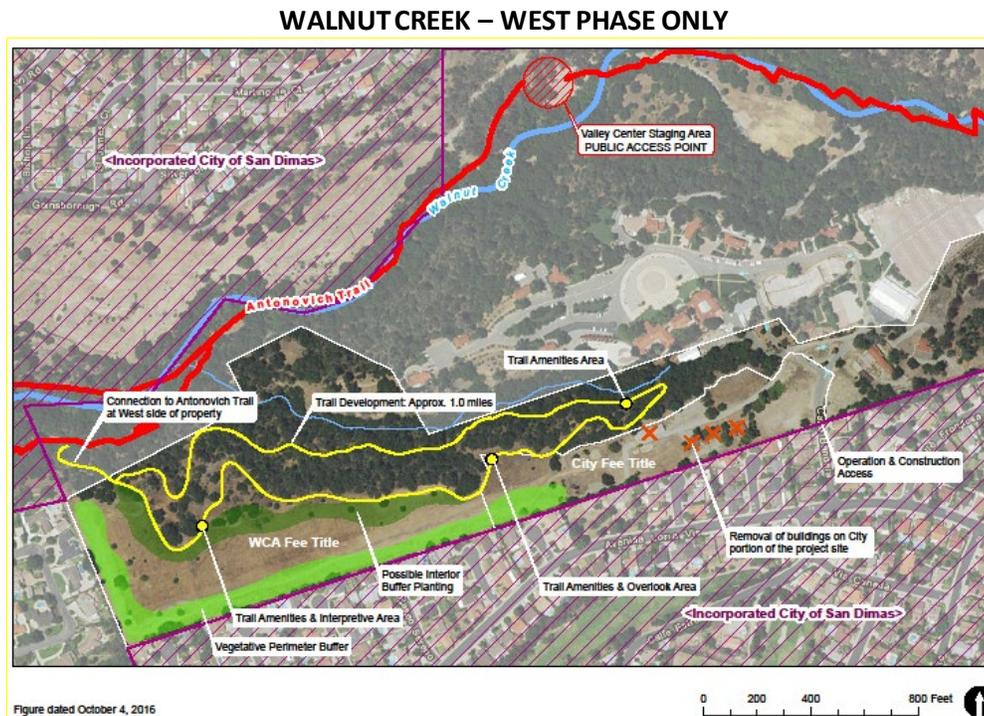
River Wilderness Park: California Conservation Corps began early site preparation work for the overlook as a requirement of their ATP funding for the project. In December, crews cleared debris and non-native materials from the project site location. Staff is working with the City, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. Preliminary feedback, is that Caltrans initial staff selections for ATP projects for Cycle 4 does not include the roundabout project. There is one more opportunity to be chosen through SCAG but the outlook is not promising at this stage for funding to be awarded for this work. To date, \$2,752,860 of the estimated cost of \$6,495,000 has been secured. Staff will prepare Prop 68 grant applications and will pursue other grant opportunities for which the project can be competitive.



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 recording of the Final certified EIR was completed in October 2018 and project is in the process of being closed out. U.S. Forest Service will post the final EIS to the Federal Register on March 2019. A decision on the project is expected Spring 2019. Items 21 -23 on today's agenda are related to this project's current status.

Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: Landscape designers BlueGreen received their Notice to Proceed at a pre-design meeting held January 10th, 2019. The designs are expected about six weeks after the contract is executed. Meanwhile, the City of San Dimas held a bid day December 20th, 2018 and awarded trail construction in early January. Once the design is complete, the City is expected to implement landscaping while trail construction is ongoing.

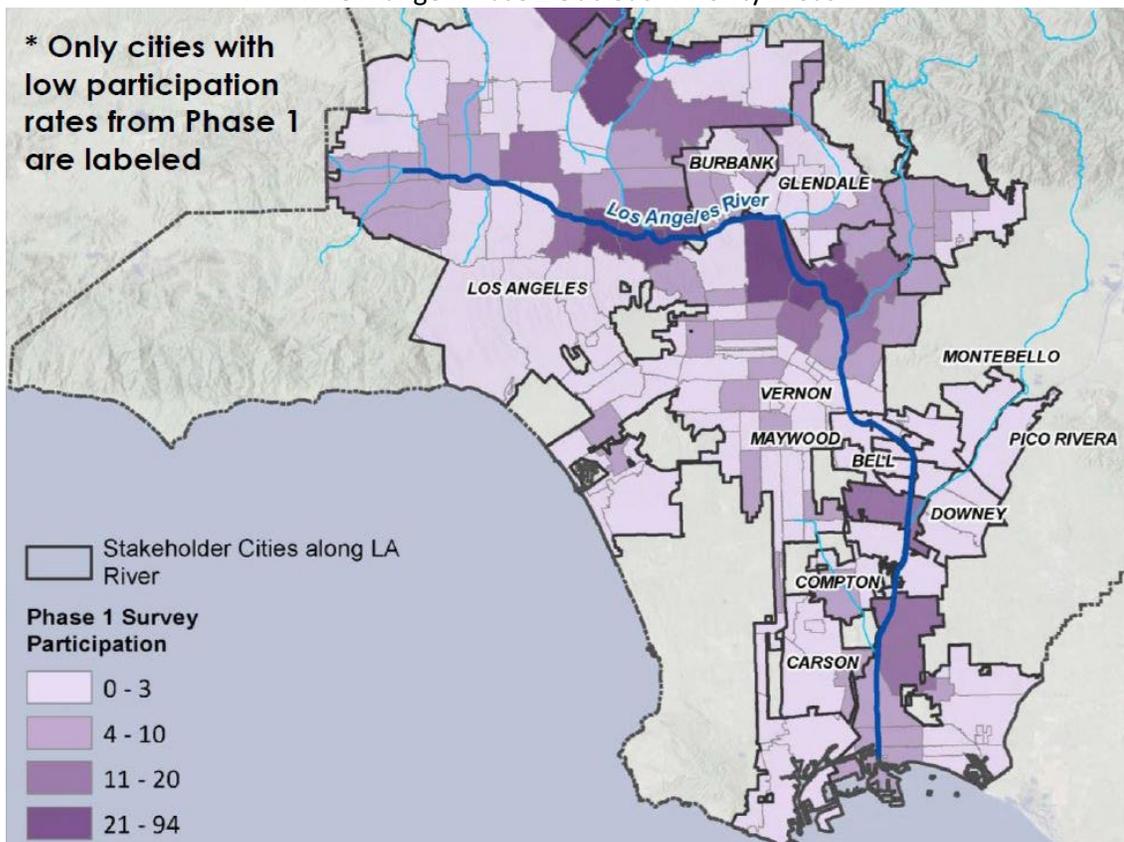


Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.

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.

River Ranger Program Implementation Project: Since the WCA approved the project on October 15, 2018, WCA has contracted with Placeworks as the main consultant to complete the River Ranger Plan by March 30, 2019. WCA has also contracted with several Non-profit organizations to conduct public outreach about the program, including Mujeres de la Tierra, Amigos de los Rios, From Lot to Spot, and Trails 4 All. A Stakeholder Meeting with attendees from LA River and Tributaries adjacent cities and Non-profit partners occurred on December 6, 2018, and the WCA received feedback on the type of programming stakeholders would like to see along the river. The next step of the planning process is to incorporate community and stakeholder feedback into the Plan.

River Ranger Phase 2 Outreach Priority Areas



These are the target cities for Phase 2 Outreach conducted by Non-profit partners to increase the number of community responses to the River Ranger Program, such as what is the role of a River Ranger, what are some of their safety concerns, and how do they recreate in the River currently.

OTHER PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

San Gabriel National Monument:

Forest Service released the Final version of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan and Land Management Plan amendment on April 20th, 2018, initiating the 45-day Objection Period. A 45-day Objection resolution period (where changes would be incorporated into the final EIS) was extended through September 2018 due to delays caused by fire season and changing of FS staff. According to Forest Service’s Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), a Record of Decision (ROD) was expected on the Monument Plan in October of 2018. It’s unclear at this time (because of the government shutdown) if a ROD was signed.