

DATE: April 29, 2019

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 12: Consideration of resolution approving submittal of the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan to the California State Legislature in compliance with the requirements of AB 1558 and SB 1126

PROGRAM AREA: River and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Planning

JURISDICTION: Los Angeles River

PROJECT MANAGER: Sally Gee

RECOMMENDATION: That the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) authorize submittal of the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan to the California State Legislature in compliance with the requirements of AB 1558 and SB 1126.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The recommendation is for the board to approve staff to submit the Los Angeles River Ranger Establishment Plan (Plan) to the California State Legislature. The Plan will provide the framework and tools to facilitate the refinement and implementation of the River Ranger Program. The River Ranger Program presents a vision for transforming the perception and experience of the Los Angeles River. Contents of the Plan will include the core program components (mission, vision, and guiding principles), a summary of public outreach conducted, recommendations for governance and funding models, and next steps for program roll-out. A final draft plan has not been completed. Highlights from the Plan are summarized below.

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy established an agreement (RMC Resolution 18-03 and SMMC Resolution 17-80) to implement Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), also known as the River Ranger Bill introduced by Assembly member Cristina Garcia (AD 58) and approved by Governor Brown in 2017. The bill also required both Conservancies to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the entire 51-mile Los Angeles River and its tributaries, as prescribed. The program's Phase 1 planning and design study was completed on June 30, 2018, and the results were submitted to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Senate Bill 1126 (SB 1126) introduced by State Senator Anthony J. Portantino and signed by Governor Brown on September 28, 2018, extended the timeframe of AB 1558 to March 30, 2019. An executive summary of the Plan was submitted to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water on March 29, 2019 (Exhibit A – Executive Summary). The final plan will be submitted to the committees mentioned above by May 2019.

The goals of the River Ranger program are identified in AB 1558 as follows:

1. Establish an identity for the LA River as a place for its communities to enjoy recreational opportunities and learn about the River's history and environmental resources
2. Improve public safety for visitors to the Los Angeles River.
3. Foster collaboration among state and local government entities and other public agencies with jurisdiction over the LA River, and coordinate the work of these entities and public agencies with regard to the development, maintenance, and enhancement of the river and its resources.
4. Protect the parks, open space, and other public spaces adjacent to the Los Angeles River.
5. Engage communities along the Los Angeles River in the protection and preservation of the Los Angeles River and its resources.
6. Promote equal access and equity among all communities along the Los Angeles River with regards to the development and placement of improvements along the River.
7. Monitor the physical conditions, environmental health, and development of green space along the Los Angeles River.
8. Provide a system for coordinating the work of river rangers with programs and services offered by local governments and conservation corps.
9. Incorporate the findings and principles expressed in the "Presidential Memorandum—Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters," dated January 12, 2017.

The River Ranger Plan was developed by a stakeholder-driven process, intentionally designed to ensure that the River Ranger Program serves community-identified needs and has the support of stakeholder agencies, organizations, and community members. Community outreach was conducted in two distinct phases. Phase 1 activities occurred between March and June 2018, while Phase 2 activities occurred between September 2018 and February 2019.

A total of six Stakeholder Committee Meetings were held and they guided the overall development of the program framework, provided input regarding feasible governance model, supported public engagement efforts, and assisted with the development of the program components. Representatives from all 22 cities along the LA River and one mile up the tributaries (Exhibit B – Stakeholder cities map), federal, state, and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work along the River were invited to participate in these meetings. In addition, focused interviews with 12 agencies who had a jurisdictional role along the LA River were conducted to discuss collaboration and support for a River Ranger Program.

Throughout Phase 1 and Phase 2 outreach, we partnered with thirteen local NGOs to engage with community members to provide information on the River Ranger Program and to gain an understanding of how the Program could help meet community needs. Outreach activities included a survey and interactive posters presented by NGO partners at 46 community events (Exhibit C – Outreach Map). In total, 3820 surveys were completed over the course of Phase 1 and Phase 2 from communities all along the LA River and its tributaries.

Key themes emerged from the cumulative results of community and stakeholder outreach and engagement efforts (Exhibit D – Ranger Role Priorities Results)

- The protection of natural resources and proper maintenance were top concerns and both lend themselves to unique job training and career development opportunities for community members.
- Public safety was a clear priority for the use and enjoyment of the LA River. However, safety can be achieved through several mechanisms including both proper maintenance and increased presence of community members, themselves, engaged in directed programming and recreational activities.
- Increased educational programming and a greater understanding about water issues and pollution were key considerations among participants and provide a link to deep community engagement and enhancements to science education in local schools and civic organizations.

These findings are consistent with the directives of AB 1558, as well as findings from planning efforts targeting similar demographics, including the Lower LA River Revitalization Watershed Education Plan. Accordingly, they shaped the core program components (mission, vision, and guiding principles) and implementation strategies presented in the Plan.

MISSION

The mission of the River Ranger Program is to foster connections between communities, agencies and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities.

VISION

As the river is being revitalized and embraced as a community resource, the River Ranger Program will ensure safe, enjoyable and equitable access and experiences along the LA River and its tributaries by promoting equitable access, recreational and educational opportunities, community engagement, and resource protection along this vital resource. The River Ranger Program will provide opportunities to experience the River as a safe and inviting place and to participate in the enhancement of the River through volunteer or employment programs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Maintenance and Resource Management.** Natural, cultural and built resources along the Los Angeles River provide multiple environmental and community benefits; these resources will be protected, maintained, enhanced, and interpreted for the public to ensure that the River is a safe and enjoyable place to visit. Maintenance activities would include maintaining safe access to public trails and facilities, control of invasive species and revegetation efforts, and removal of litter and graffiti.
2. **Recreation, Interpretation and Education Programs.** The Los Angeles River will be an outdoor classroom that provides resources and experiences that build understanding and inspire appreciation of the river's ecology, history, and community benefits; as well as an experiential landscape that offers active and passive recreational opportunities that respond to the varying physical conditions along the River. Implementation of diverse program offerings, from guided adventures and tours,

to ecological monitoring programs and community science initiatives, will help build meaningful and deep engagement from communities.

3. **Outreach and Engagement.** All visitors will be encouraged to utilize the River and provided information and resources to ensure safe and resource-sensitive use. The Program will have a robust outreach and engagement effort to respond to socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity of LA River communities, and will include efforts to address homelessness in coordination with LA County Homeless Services Authority and other jurisdictions along the River.
4. **Public Safety.** All designated access points, trails, parks and open spaces along the Los Angeles River should be inviting and safe for visitors to enjoy. Varying communities along the River will have different public safety priorities, so it will be critical that the Program provide public safety services that respond to local community needs.
5. **Administration & Coordination.** Coordination and collaboration among agencies with jurisdiction over the river, organizations that provide services and programs, and members of the public is essential to providing dependable services that enhance the river as a natural and community resource. The River Ranger Program will act as a central conduit to bring together all parties involved.

Meeting the actual and perceived needs identified by community and stakeholder feedback and fulfilling the various service area roles described above will require a multifaceted delivery approach. This will be achieved by utilizing a tiered staffing model that include Sworn California Peace Officers (Sworn Office Rangers), Program Staff (supplemented by contracted partners), and River Stewards. River Stewards are envisioned as trainees in the workforce development program. Regardless of tier, all Staff will share responsibility for welcoming visitors, providing a public safety presence, protecting and maintaining natural resources, engaging with local communities, informing and teaching, and hosting recreation programs. Partnerships with NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) will also contribute to the impact of the River Ranger Program through both contracted and volunteer efforts. An annual cost estimate will be included in the final plan that encompasses all program elements listed above.

Realizing the vision for the LA River Ranger Program requires effective implementation strategies, including the identification of a governance structure and funding sources to support immediate and long-term implementation. Potential models of governance that were explored during the planning process included utilizing existing entity(ies), establishing a new entity, and using a piecemeal approach through an assemblage of bilateral partnerships. These models were evaluated in collaboration with Stakeholder agencies and utilizing existing entity(ies) emerged as the model that best meets the legislative intent of AB 1558 with consideration to funding and existing structures, resources, and relationships to achieve Program objectives. Governance of the River Ranger Program by cooperating entities, such as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or Park District, was generally supported by Stakeholders as a viable governance model. Governance by an existing Regional or Municipal Agency is another option that could be considered for the Program. Various funding sources are explored in the plan, which consisted of recommendations for existing funding sources from agencies and measure funds, and funding partnerships with public and private entities.

A key recommendation of the Plan is for implementation to be initiated at strategic locations referred to as REACH Zones. **REACH is an acronym for River Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat** (key services provided by the Program), and referring to these areas as “zones” builds upon the recognized concept of Los Angeles River Recreation Zones. REACH Zones may be comprised of existing publicly accessible parks, trails and open space, as well as areas adjacent the River channel that have the potential to provide public access. The purpose of initial REACH Zones is to establish small (three miles long), targeted sites to evaluate opportunities and challenges that will influence expanded programming along the entire 51-mile long River. The Plan identifies criteria for the REACH Zones as well as factors to consider when locating REACH Zones. The actual cost will be dependent on the number, size, and level of services offered within initial REACH Zones, and should be re-assessed as the initial rollout strategy is further developed.

Before initial rollout of the Program, several tasks need to be completed.

1. Continued engagement with stakeholders and community members is needed to finalize the governance structure.
2. Program costs need to be refined and finalized
3. Collaborated with agency and community partners to identify REACH Zone opportunities
4. Develop specific Program goals and metrics for initial REACH Zones for evaluation
5. Develop a community engagement plan to develop outreach, education, and engagement programs.
6. Secure funding for Program rollout
7. Formalize the standards for training and Program Staff

The River Ranger Program presents a vision for transforming the perception and experience of the Los Angeles River. This vision can be achieved over time but must begin with focused actions that will incrementally build support for the Program. The River Ranger Program Establishment Plan to be submitted to the State Legislatures will provide the framework and tools to facilitate the refinement and implementation of the River Ranger Program.

FISCAL IMPACT: On October 15, 2018, the RMC Board approved a grant of Proposition 1 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to the Watershed Conservation Authority to complete the River Ranger Program Establishment Plan in collaboration with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) (RMC Resolution 18-23). This amount matched an additional \$250,000 provided by to MRCA for a total amount of \$500,000 to fund the completion of the River Ranger Program Plan.

Funds were encumbered against the thirteen million dollar (\$13,000,000) set aside for planning and implementation of projects approved jointly by both Conservancies from Proposition 1 (water bond) Urban Creeks funding to both the RMC and the SMMC totaling one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), resulting in fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) each.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

Section 32602: There is in the Resources Agency, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is created as a state agency for the following purposes:

- (a) To acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open-space, low-impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvement within the territory.
- (b) To preserve the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River consistent with existing and adopted river and flood control projects for the protection of life and property.
- (c) To acquire open-space lands within the territory of the conservancy.

Section 32604: The conservancy shall do all of the following:

- (a) Establish policies and priorities for the conservancy regarding the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River, and their watersheds, and conduct any necessary planning activities, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (b) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.
- (d) To provide for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Section 32614: The conservancy may do all the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (f) Recruit and coordinate volunteers and experts to conduct interpretive and recreational programs and assist with construction projects and the maintenance of parkway facilities.

Further, Section 32614 provides that: The conservancy may do all the following:

- (g) Undertake, within the territory, site improvement projects, regulate public access, and revegetate and otherwise rehabilitate degraded areas, in consultation with any other public agency with appropriate jurisdiction and expertise, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602. The conservancy may also, within the territory, upgrade deteriorating facilities and construct new facilities as needed for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and interpretation, and natural resources protection. The conservancy may undertake those projects by itself or in conjunction with another local agency; however, the conservancy shall provide overall coordination of those projects by setting priorities for the projects and by ensuring a uniform approach to projects. The conservancy may undertake those projects with prior notification to the legislative body of the local agency that has jurisdiction in the area in which the conservancy proposes to undertake that activity.

Section 32614.5:

- (a) The conservancy may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of this division.
- (b) Grants to nonprofit organizations for the acquisition of real property or interests in real property shall be subject to all the following conditions:

- (1) The purchase price of any interest in land acquired by the nonprofit organization may not exceed fair market value as established by an appraisal approved by the conservancy.
- (2) The conservancy approves the terms under which the interest in land is acquired.
- (3) The interest in land acquired pursuant to a grant from the conservancy may not be used as security for any debt incurred by the nonprofit organization unless the conservancy approves the transaction.
- (4) The transfer of land acquired pursuant to a grant shall be subject to the approval of the conservancy and the execution of an agreement between the conservancy and the transferee sufficient to protect the interests of the state.
- (5) The state shall have a right of entry and power of termination in and over all interests in real property acquired with state funds, which may be exercised if any essential term or condition of the grant is violated.
- (6) If the existence of the nonprofit organization is terminated for any reason, title to all interest in real property acquired with state funds shall immediately vest in the state, except that, prior to that termination, another public agency or nonprofit organization may receive title to all or a portion of that interest in real property, by recording its acceptance of title, together with the conservancy's approval, in writing.

Section 79735:

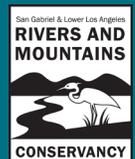
- (a) of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 79508....

RANGER PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT PLAN

March 29, 2019



Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The River Ranger Plan defines a unified program for making the Los Angeles River safer and more inviting.

The Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan (River Ranger Plan) was developed in response to Assembly Bill 1558 Los Angeles River: River Ranger Program, which required the development of a program to provide 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 river-adjacent communities' limited contact with and responsibility for the River, as well as coordinate with current revitalization plans working to enhance the River to increase its ecological, social, and recreational opportunities.

The River Ranger Plan was developed by a stakeholder-driven process. The planning process was led by two State Conservancies with Los Angeles River jurisdiction and their respective Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs). Additionally, two advisory groups were established to guide the development of the Plan: the Steering Committee and the Stakeholder Committee.

The River Ranger Plan defines a unified program that is responsive to the unique needs and conditions of the River's diverse reaches.

As the River Ranger Program is implemented, the perception of the LA River as a rich community and environmental asset will continue to grow. Furthermore, the River Ranger Program can emerge as a new model for both multi-jurisdictional collaboration and community-based revitalization around River awareness and education. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the planning process and describes recommended Program components.

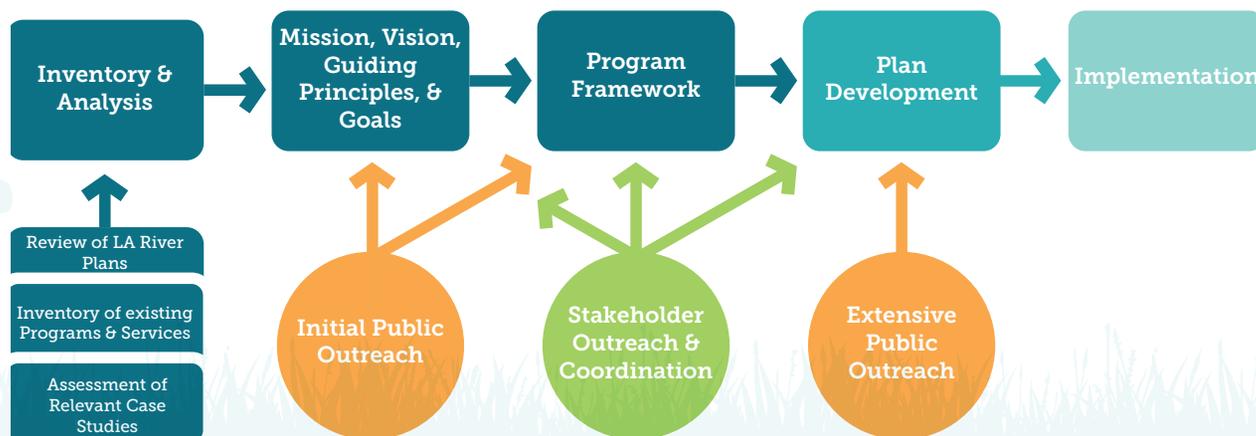
Project Leads:

- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC)

Funded by:



Planning Process





ENVISIONING THE PROGRAM

MISSION

The mission of the River Ranger Program is to foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities.

VISION

How the River Ranger Program and a revitalized river will impact communities in the future...

As the river is being revitalized and embraced as a community resource, the River Ranger Program will ensure safe, enjoyable and equitable experiences along the LA River and its tributaries by promoting equitable access, recreational and educational opportunities, community engagement, and resource protection along this vital resource. The River Ranger Program will provide opportunities to experience the River as a safe and inviting place, and to participate in its enhancement through volunteer or employment programs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1

Maintenance and Resource Management

Natural, cultural, and built resources along the Los Angeles River provide multiple environmental and community benefits; these resources will be protected, maintained, enhanced, and interpreted for the public to ensure that the River is a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2

Recreation, Interpretation and Education Programs

The Los Angeles River will continue to serve as an outdoor classroom that provides resources and experiences that build understanding and inspire appreciation of the river's ecology, history, and community benefits, as well as an experiential landscape that offers active and passive recreational opportunities that respond to the varying physical conditions along the River.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3

Outreach and Engagement

All visitors will be encouraged to utilize the River, and provided information and resources to ensure safe and resource-sensitive use.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4

Public Safety

Designated access points, trails, parks and open spaces along the Los Angeles River should be inviting and safe for visitors to enjoy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5

Administration & Coordination

Coordination and collaboration among agencies with jurisdiction over the River, organizations that provide services and programs, and members of the public is essential to providing dependable services that enhance the river as a natural and community resource. The River Ranger Program will act as a central conduit to bring together all parties involved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

The consistent, dependable presence of a River Ranger Program along the 51-mile River and its tributaries will foster a new era for the River, building upon and supporting the cumulative revitalization efforts. By ensuring maintenance and protection of natural resources and accessible features, and offering diverse recreational and educational programs that reflect community interest and unique site conditions, staff (grown from local communities) and partners will help to redefine the LA River as a safe and inviting community and environmental asset.

Meeting the actual and perceived needs identified by community and stakeholder feedback and fulfilling the various service area roles will require a multifaceted delivery approach. This will be achieved by utilizing a tiered staffing model that include Sworn California Peace Officers (Sworn Office Rangers), Program Staff (supplemented by contracted partners), and River Stewards. River Stewards are envisioned as trainees in the workforce development program. Partnerships with NGOs and CBOs will also contribute to the impact of the River Ranger Program through both contracted and volunteer efforts.



	SWORN OFFICER RANGER	PROGRAM STAFF & CONTRACTED PARTNERS		RIVER STEWARDS	
		RIVER SAFETY & MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	INTERPRETIVE & RECREATION SPECIALIST	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT/ MAINTENANCE	INTERPRETIVE
SERVICES PROVIDED (In order of time spent)	Maintenance/Resource Management	Maintenance/Resource Management	Interpretation/Education	Maintenance/Resource Management	Interpretation/Education
	Public Safety Presence & Law Enforcement	Public Safety Presence	Recreation Programs	Public Safety Presence	Recreation Programs
	Interpretation/Education	Outreach & Engagement	Outreach & Engagement	Outreach & Engagement	Outreach & Engagement
	Recreation Programs	Recreation Programs	Maintenance/Resource Management	Recreation Programs	Maintenance/Resource Management
	Outreach & Engagement	Interpretation/Education	Public Safety Presence	Interpretation/Education	Public Safety Presence



HOW DID OUTREACH INFORM THE PLAN?

Stakeholders were engaged through participation in the Stakeholder Committee as well as through participation in a series of Stakeholder Agency interviews. Public outreach and engagement efforts were designed to provide participants information on the River Ranger Program and to solicit input on how the Program could help meet community needs. Activities included a survey that 3,820 individuals responded to via electronic outreach and in-person at twenty community events attended by NGO partners, from 2018 to 2019.

14	Community Partner Organizations Supported Outreach
3820	Public Surveys Completed
46	Public Events Attended
6	Stakeholder Committee Meetings
10	Stakeholder Agency Interviews

WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC SAY?

- Resource management should be a main priority for River Rangers.
- Educational programming and well-maintained signage could help address concerns related to debris and water quality.
- 85% of respondents identified they felt unsafe when visiting the river
- Approximately 75% of respondents said that providing a "safety presence" was an extremely important role for River Rangers, while approximately 55% said that peace officer/law enforcement was an extremely important role.
- 29% of respondents indicated they were interested in future employment or volunteer opportunities.

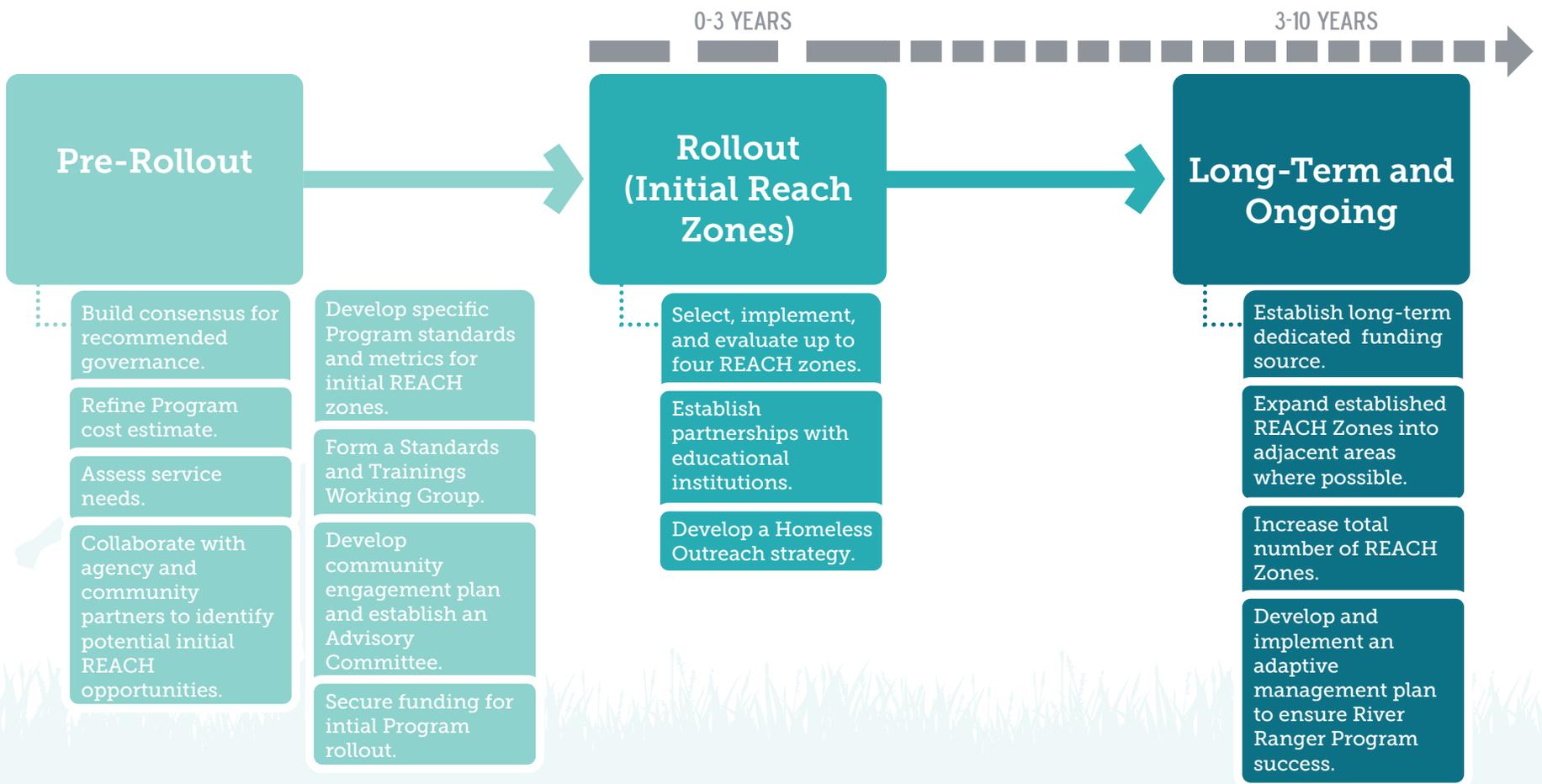
WHAT DO THE STAKEHOLDERS SAY?

- The Program should coordinate with educational agencies and community groups for watershed education programs to promote environmental science and stewardship principles.
- The Program should coordinate and collaborate with LAHSA and other jurisdictions along the River to create general response and outreach protocols.
- The Program could collaborate with local community colleges to develop curriculum and workforce opportunities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRAM ROLLOUT

The River Ranger Program presents a grand vision for transforming the perception and experience of the Los Angeles River. This expansive vision can be achieved over time, but must begin with focused actions that will incrementally build support for the Program. Program rollout, including implementation of REACH Zones (described on page 6) and other recommendations, is summarized in the diagram below.





REACH ZONES

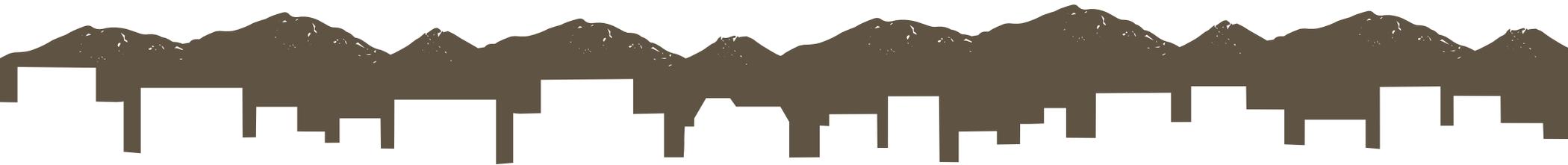
A key recommendation of the Plan is for implementation to be initiated at strategic locations referred to as REACH Zones, which are approximately 3-4 mile stretches along the River, including its tributaries. REACH is an acronym for River Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat (key services provided by the Program), and referring to these areas as “zones” builds upon the recognized concept of Los Angeles River Recreation Zones. REACH Zones may be comprised of existing publicly accessible parks, trails and open space, as well as areas adjacent to the River channel that have the potential to provide public access. The establishment of each REACH Zone will create River appreciation, the benefits rippling out into surrounding communities and revitalization efforts. The Plan identifies criteria for the REACH Zones as well as factors to consider when locating REACH Zones.

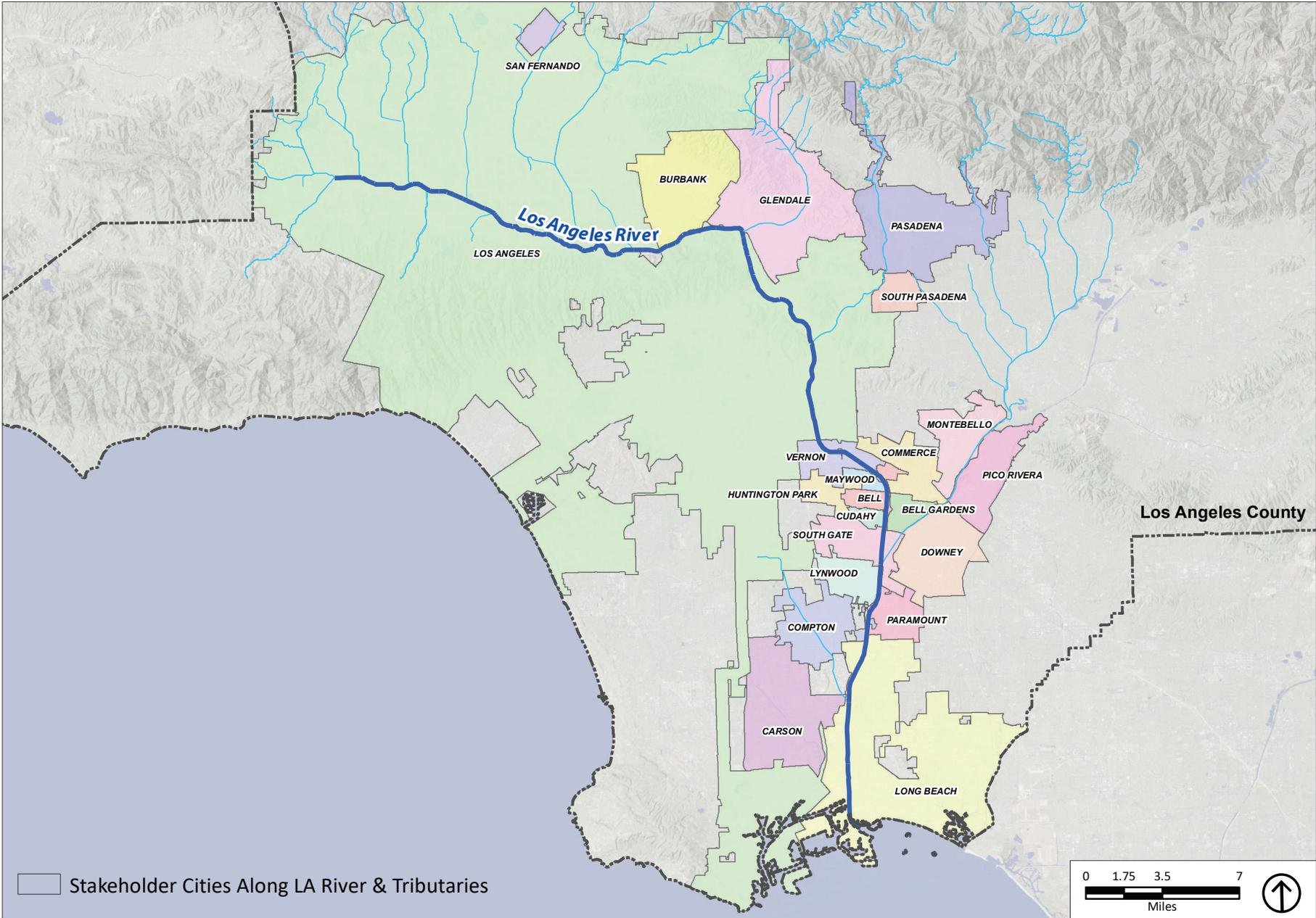
NAVIGATING THE RIVER RANGER PLAN

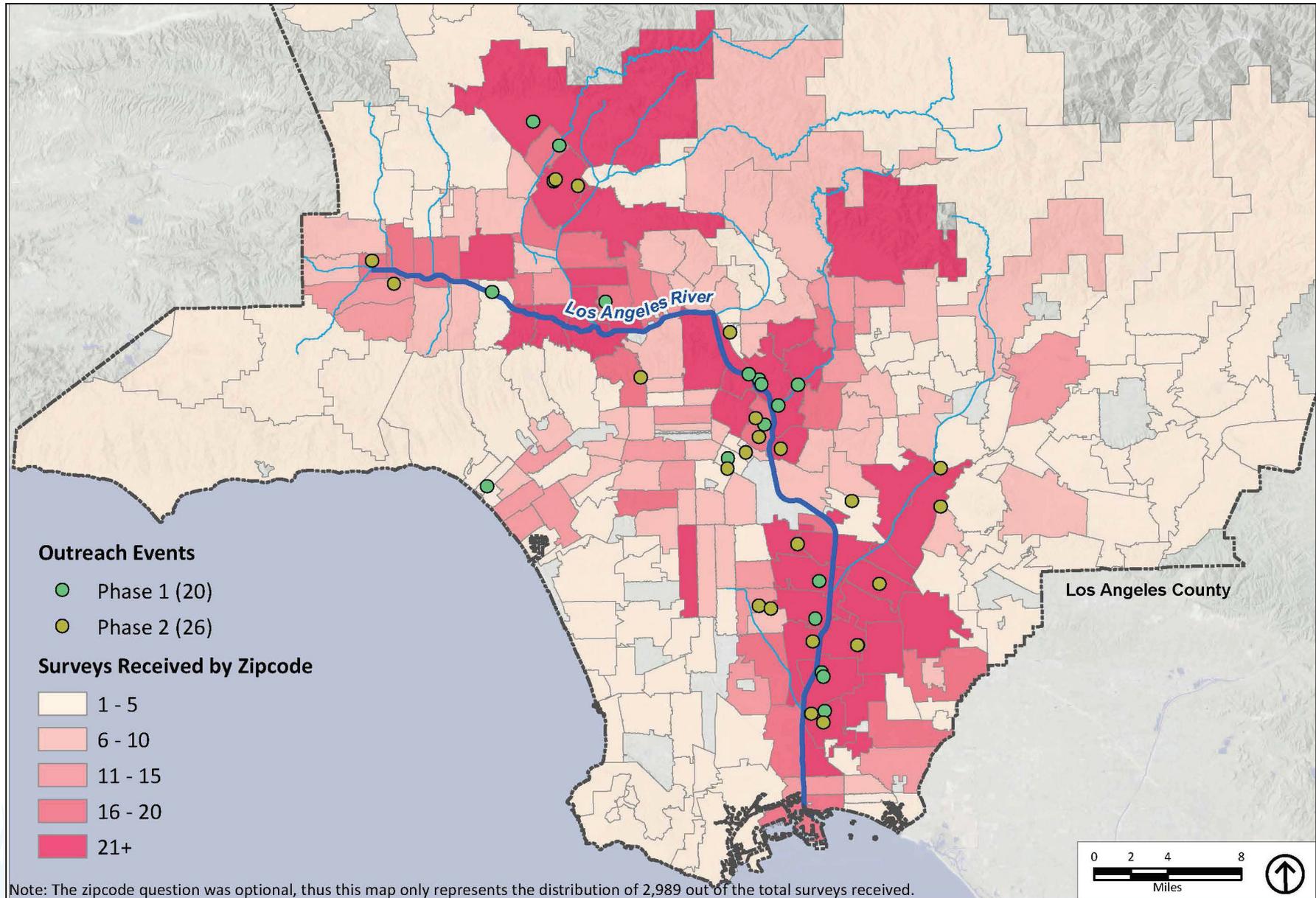
The River Ranger Plan provides the framework and tools to facilitate the refinement and implementation of the Program, which will require immediate and ongoing collaboration with both community and agency partners. The Plan serves as a resource for stakeholders and community members, and is organized into six chapters:

1. **Introduction:** Provides an overview of the purpose and planning process for the River Ranger Plan.
2. **Envisioning the River Ranger Program:** Presents Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles and Goal statements that emerged from the planning process, and defines the envisioned service area for the River Ranger Program.
3. **Outreach and Engagement:** Summarizes the public and stakeholder outreach approach and findings from both Phase 1 and 2, and how the findings informed Plan development.
4. **Program Framework:** Discusses the services that will be provided by the River Ranger Program, and recommends a tiered approach to staffing based on programmatic needs.
5. **Governance and Funding:** Presents potential strategies for River Ranger Program governance and funding, and provides a cost estimate for Program implementation. Three governance models are highlighted: leadership by cooperating entities, by a governmental agency, or a hybrid of the two recommended models.
6. **Program Rollout:** Provides guidance on River Ranger Program roll-out, focusing on strategies for initial implementation, and recommends short and long-term implementation strategies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY









Role of a River Ranger

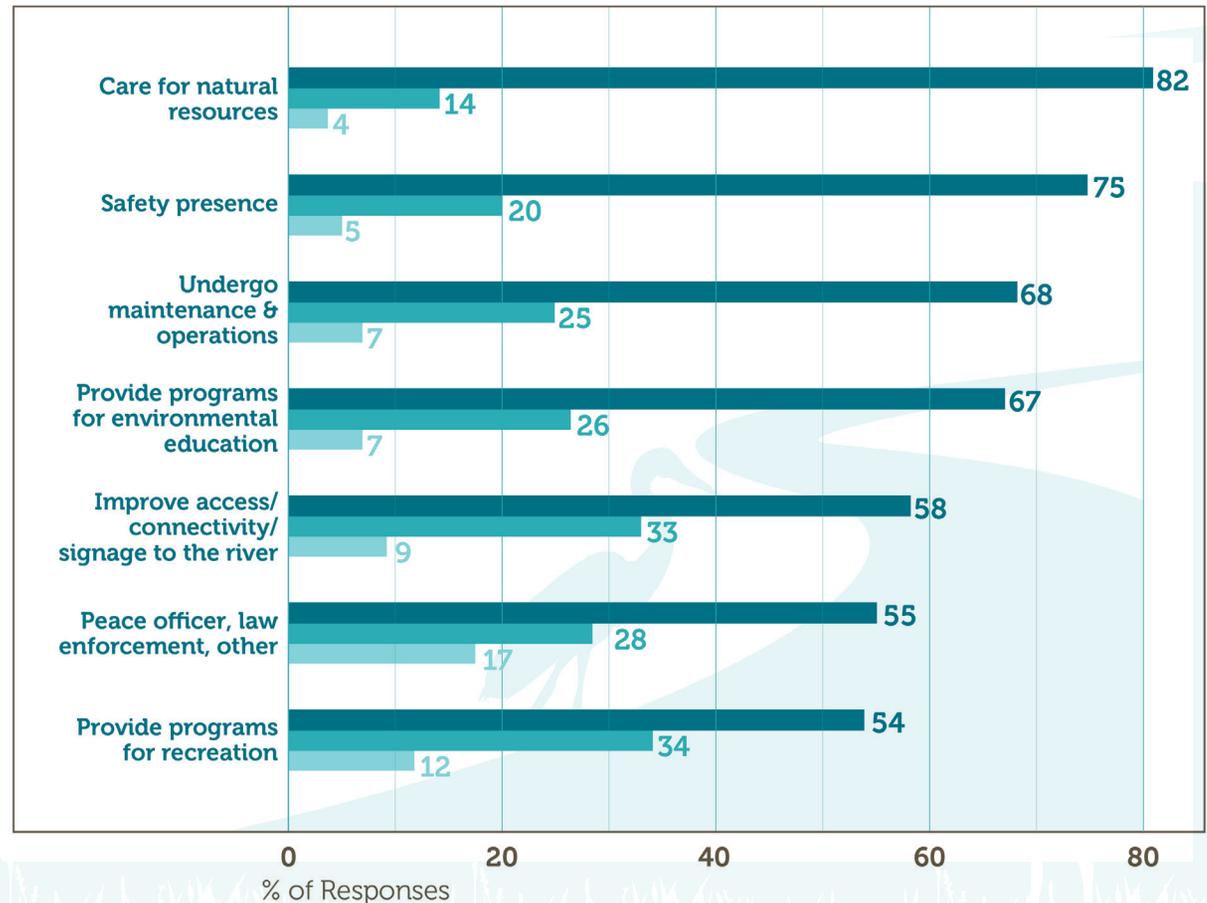
Participants were asked to indicate the importance of seven potential Ranger roles. Each of the seven roles was determined to be “extremely important” by fifty percent or more of participants, as shown in Figure 3-4.

- Greatest importance was assigned to caring for natural resources, with 82 percent of participants indicating this role is “extremely important.”
- Providing a safety presence was determined to be “extremely important” by 75 percent of respondents.
- Other top priorities included undergoing maintenance and operations, and providing programs for environmental education.²
- Safety presence was favored over law enforcement as a ranger role, with approximately 75 percent and 55 percent identifying these as extremely important roles, respectively.

These results informed the development of the services that will be provided by the River Ranger Program, as described in Chapter 4.

What would you like to see as part of the role of a “River Ranger”?

■ Is an extremely important role
■ Is somewhat of an important role
■ Is not an important role



² Environmental Education was also a top priority of participants in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan attached in App _

April 29, 2019 – Item 12

RESOLUTION 2019-12

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) AUTHORIZING
SUBMITTAL OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER RANGER PROGRAM
ESTABLISHMENT PLAN TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”); and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy had been directed by AB 1558 (Garcia) to cooperatively develop a River Ranger Program; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy entered into an agreement to implement the Los Angeles River Ranger Program study; and

WHEREAS, SB 1126 (Portantino) extended the time frame of AB 1558 to March 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, as required by State Legislation, to submit the River Ranger Program Study to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

- 1 FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
- 2 FINDS that the action contemplated by this resolution is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Resolution No. 2019-12

- 3 ADOPTS the staff report dated April 29, 2019.
- 4 AUTHORIZES the RMC to submit the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on April 29, 2019.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST:

David Edsall
Deputy Attorney General