

DATE: May 20, 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 **May 22nd** 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, **April 16th**, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Next Meeting: June 2019
- 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: Tuesday, **April 9th**, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Conservation Corps of Long Beach, 340 Nieto Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814
Next Meeting: June 2019
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement
 - a. Chair, Laura Cortez, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
 - b. Vice Chair, TBD
 - c. Meeting and Facility: Tuesday, **April 16th**, 2019, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Next Meeting: June 2019

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

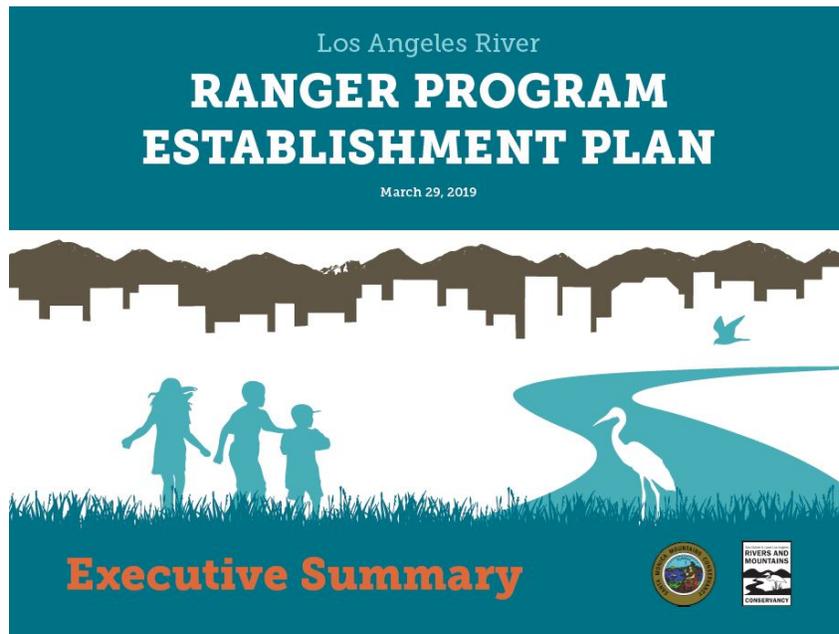
River Ranger Program (AB 1558- C. Garcia)

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 6 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. Following the final River Ranger Stakeholder Meeting #6, the draft River Ranger Plan was sent to the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Committee for review and feedback. The Plan was also sent to NGO's who had conducted the Plan's community outreach. All feedback was reviewed and incorporated into the draft Plan. On March 29, 2019, the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan Executive

Summary was delivered to Legislature. The Plan is undergoing its final review by the Project Leads and the full Plan will be submitted to Legislature by May 15, 2019.



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.

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) Annual Great LA River Clean up at the Compton Creek, Del Amo Station, May 6, 2019:

FOLAR held it's 30th annual Great LA River CleanUp event at 11 sites. RMC and WCA staff members joined. There was a great turn out to help clean up this beautiful section of Compton Creek. See photos:



RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

Magic Johnson Stormwater Management Project (RMC17027): The Magic Johnson Park Groundbreaking took place on Saturday March 9, 2019 and included the participation of the Willowbrook community, 2nd Supervisorial District Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas, John Wicker, Director of the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, Mark Pestrella, Director of the Department of Public Works, the Housing Authority of Los Angeles County, and Mark Stanley representing the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. At its Board meeting in July 2018, the RMC Board approved of a grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for the Earvin Magic Johnson Stormwater Management Project, in the amount of \$3,000,000, using Proposition 1 (Water Bond) funding.



The grant will go towards the water infrastructure improvements and sustainability efforts in the reconfiguration of the park's South Lake, and includes the creation of a biofiltration garden that will integrate native riparian vegetation to imitate a natural wetland. This project is part of a larger Master Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2016 and will be completed in Phases. This first phase will include much needed park improvements including a community event center, splash pad, wedding pavilion, children's play area, walking paths, and the water quality improvements for the South Lake. The full plan can be found here:

<http://parks.lacounty.gov/earvin-magic-johnson-park-master-plan/>

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. Installation of stormwater BMP (Task 1.1) is underway. Final grading has been completed and below-ground stormwater conduits, an infiltration basin, storm drain piping and bioswales have been installed. Construction of the Advanced water Treatment Facility (AWTF or Process Building) (Task 2) reached substantial completion as of December 31, 2018. Construction activities during this reporting period were focused on the Process Building, and the Administration and Learning Center.

Additionally, 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:

- Grading and grubbing complete
- Bioswale by contractor (50% complete): Diversion structure and pipes to swales are complete
- Turf Removal by Youth Corps: Turf removed, trail trenching complete
- Temp Irrigation Drip Line: Installation in progress. Points of connection have been made, main line is installed, and lateral lines have begun.

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.

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 \$500,000. 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. The CEQA process was initiated on March 8, 2019 with the filing of the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study. The Scoping Meeting was held on March 21, 2019 from 7:00 – 8:30pm at the Recreation Park Community Center in Long Beach. The comment period for the NOP closed on April 8, 2019. LCWA is reviewing those comments and working to complete the DEIR with the associated analyses.

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 120 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, Public Works has reviewed the permit package and provided comments back to Amigos; Amigos has responded to comments and resubmitted. Construction of the bioswale along the entrance drive to the park is 100% complete. 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. All interpretive elements are completed and installed as of Q4 2018.

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.

San Gabriel Mountain Community Collaborative (RMC17024):

The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) will hold its next meeting on Thursday May 23rd, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. At the previous meeting on March 28th, 2019, there was a request to have members give very short, 3-minute "lightning talks" at future meetings so that SGMCC can learn more about each other's organizations, missions, and priorities. These are going to be built into the meeting agendas for the rest of the year. The plan is to do approximately six lightning talks per meeting. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committees presented their work plans for discussion.

The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meeting occur every other month.

Pacific Visions – Aquarium of the Pacific (RMC17026):

The AOP is developing a series of exhibits and interactive Experiences as part of its current expansion, Pacific Visions that will allow visitors to explore the interactions among food, water, and energy in California. A media event is being planned on May 22, 2019 at the Aquarium for all the key financial supporters for this expansion currently underway. RMC Board is welcome to attend.



Compton Creek Walking Path Phase II (RMC 18001)

Provide an extension of the walking/cycling path which leads to the Compton Bike Trail.

Sleepy Lagoon Planning Project (RMC 18003)

The outreach, design and planning process will involve a collaboration with a number of organizations and agencies including Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), La Cosecha Colectiva (the Collective Harvest) and various local homeowner associations near Bell and surrounding cities. Discussions with the grantee are underway to initiate this planning and implementation grant.

Trask Reservation Water System Improvement Project (RMC 18006)

The Boy Scouts of America, Greater LA Area Council, (GLAAC BSA) requested funding from RMC to hire an engineering consultant to determine the camp's various water system needs and provide an engineering estimate of expected costs. The resulting report will enable GLAAC BSA to pursue additional funding opportunities to move forward with the necessary procurement, installation, and construction of the proposed improvements and upgrades, and ultimately restore the camp's potable water access.

RMC is awaiting notice if GLAAC BSA sent and received approval on the preliminary design by DDW to continue moving towards 30% design.

Walnut Park Acquisition (RMC 18007)

This grant was recently approved at the January 28, 2019 RMC Board meeting to provide a grant to the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation for the Walnut Park Acquisition. This acquisition includes a total of 0.5-acre parcels: APN 6201-028-014, 6201-028-016, and 6201-028-018, for the creation of a new pocket park located in the Walnut Park community. The grant is in the amount of \$1,265,000.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

Duck Farm Project: A Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on March 21st at the project site along the San Gabriel River at the future river overlook. LA County First District Supervisor Solis was the featured speaker to mark the milestone and celebrate the eventful day. Speakers included Dan Arrighi (WCA Governing Board Member), Chief Deputy Director Norma E. Garcia (LA County Parks and Recreation), and Director Mark Pestrella. Joan Licari (The Sierra Club) and Sam Pedroza (City of Industry) paid tribute to Sierra Club Member, and their friend Jeff Yann as the “Man with a Vision for a River Park”. The Yann family, members of the Sierra Club, representatives from adjacent cities, agencies and the public were in attendance. The event was very well attended, and everyone had a good time reminiscing and dreaming about this soon to be new jewel along the Emerald Necklace.

Demolition and earth work has begun on site. Construction is currently scheduled to last seven months.



Groundbreaking Day at the Duck Farm River Park (left to right: Norma E. Garcia, Mark Stanley, Dan Arrighi, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Yann, Mark Pestrella, Debbie Enos, Joan Licari, and Sam Pedroza) March 21, 2019.



The Yann Family.



WCA receiving a commemorative scroll marking the event.



WCA and RMC Staff with Supervisor Solis

Duck Farm River Park Making It Happen!



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: WCA staff met with County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation to discuss the potential for Parks to take over future operations of both the Duck Farm and the Duck Farm House. On May 1st, WCA staff gave Parks a tour of the Duck Farm House to review conditions and discuss future programming. WCA staff will continue to consult with Parks on programmatic elements to inform the development of the design build RFP for the project, currently in progress. WCA was not selected for a grant from the California Natural Resources Agency—Cultural, Community, and Natural Resources Grant program—to fund the renovation of the farmhouse. However, WCA is continuing to pursue other funding opportunities, including from Prop 68 and Measure A.

In April, WCA continued its initial community outreach as part of the Sanitation District’s Earth Day event. Staff solicited feedback from community members about the kinds of activities they would like to do at the renovated Farmhouse.





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. The Farmhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community resource / visitor center to compliment these conservation gardens and provide additional programming opportunities.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: WCA is continuing to work with LACFCD to refine the Task Order submitted in February 2019, as needed.

Emerald Necklace: On May 2, 2019, Supervisor Hilda Solis's office hosted an Emerald Necklace meeting to discuss the forwarding of priority projects. The meeting was attended by staff from the Supervisor's office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. WCA staff updated attendees on the Duck Farm project, as well as notified them of upcoming potential opportunities for grant funding. The team meeting was the second of an ongoing discussion on forwarding Emerald Necklace priority projects. The meetings take place every other month.

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.

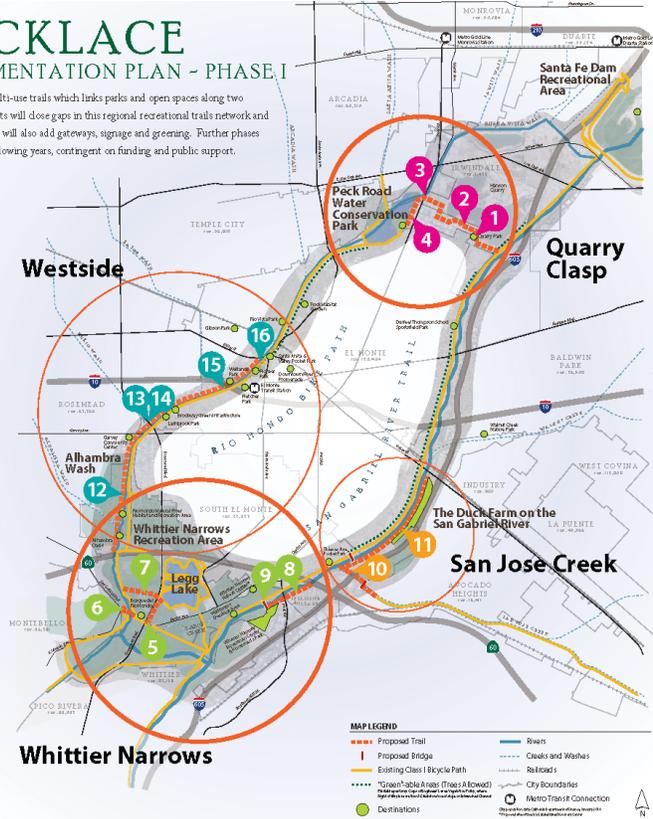
- 12 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 15 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect existing trails and provide access to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources. The trail will connect existing trails and 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: Pulaski Village from State Highway 60 to Rosemead's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Rosemead's Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trailways project the Peck Road Water Conservation Park east to the San Gabriel River and connect the trail between the Quarry Clasp and the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Bike 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 project will provide a safe and scenic trail connecting communities east of the San Gabriel River to the Emerald Necklace system and other local resources.

- 10 Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bicycle Paths: 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

EMERALD NECKLACE STEERING COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE

APRIL 2014

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 continues to pursue acquisition of properties mentioned in this proposal, as well as other contiguous parcels that offer high conservation value or strategic access points.

Appraisal, due diligence, and negotiations for access are underway for Parcel 001 “Vasquez Overlook”, which abuts the newly acquired Parcel 009 “WCA’s Vasquez”. Application for funding to purchase Parcel 001 “Vasquez Overlook” may be pursued in conjunction with land management planning for an open space parcel of nearly 200 acres that is contiguous to Parcel 009 “WCA’s Vasquez” and managed by the Azusa-RMC JPA.

Final Transfer documents for the 128-acre Easley Canyon property (a donation the Board accepted in January 2019) have been submitted to San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC), however, the donation of the Colby parcel (accepted by the Board in March 2019) may be withdrawn by SGMRC due to management considerations pertaining to the endangered *Brodiaea filifolia*.

Due diligence for the Bluebird which was also offered by Glendora Community Conservancy has uncovered circumstances that merit careful consideration, and the donor of this parcel may choose instead to donate the land to Wildlife Conservation Board, also due to management considerations pertaining to the endangered *Brodiaea filifolia*.

Project partner Trust for Public Land (TPL) has provided first drafts of a San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Master Plan report and accompanying data. WCA has given input to shape the usefulness of this data in prioritizing of future land acquisitions, as well as to document the conservation value of priority parcels in future proposals for acquisition funding.

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 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.

Roberts Canyon Acquisition: WCA is funded through a Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant to conduct due diligence for the potential acquisition of the properties collectively known as Roberts Canyon. The target property is located adjacent to WCA's River Wilderness Park and within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains near the vicinity of Roberts Canyon in the city of Azusa. It surrounds the single-family residential development known as the Mountain Cove Community. It includes predominantly steep rocky slopes as well as the opening of the wet-season creek in the mouth of the canyon. Characterized as chaparral, the approximately 130 acres of open space is dominated by undisturbed areas of laurel sumac and Mexican elderberry. Also located on the property are areas of riparian and oak woodland habitat

WCA staff is engaged in an analysis of the property to determine the natural resources benefit to Authority or like agencies. Consideration has included the assessment of the physical state of the property, the property's ownership history, review of a recent preliminary title report, discussion with the adjacent home owners' association, and an evaluation of the benefit of the property to advance the conservation and recreation goals of the agency.

Early results of the analysis indicate the property is at very low risk of development, as it has no public ingress or egress and is very steep. The adjacent parcels are either already developed, as in the case of Mountain Cove, are part of the publicly-owned San Gabriel River wash, or are part of US Forest Service territory. The site's potential to increase public open space recreation opportunities is also limited. The terrain connecting the parcels to future River Wilderness Park area is rough and steeply perched above the San Gabriel River. The purpose of such a proposed trail would be to connect the public to the interior of Robert's Canyon, which tightly hugs the existing residential development and to which the HOA is opposed. The acquisition, especially if improvements are made, will expose the agency to liability in the event of a fire or debris slide, anthropogenic or otherwise. This risk is increased by the large and active collection of persons encamped along the south-west property line.

Further study of the acquisition property is expected to be minimal. WCA staff will confer with legal council and then issue a report documenting the body of due diligence material collected and a recommendation to accept or to refuse the donation.

WCA is continuing to explore collaboration on a conservation easement with the current owner. WCA has requested that Lennar Corporation consider two scenarios, which would benefit both Lennar as well as WCA, without exposing a public agency to unnecessary risks or expenses: 1) Lennar Corporation conveys

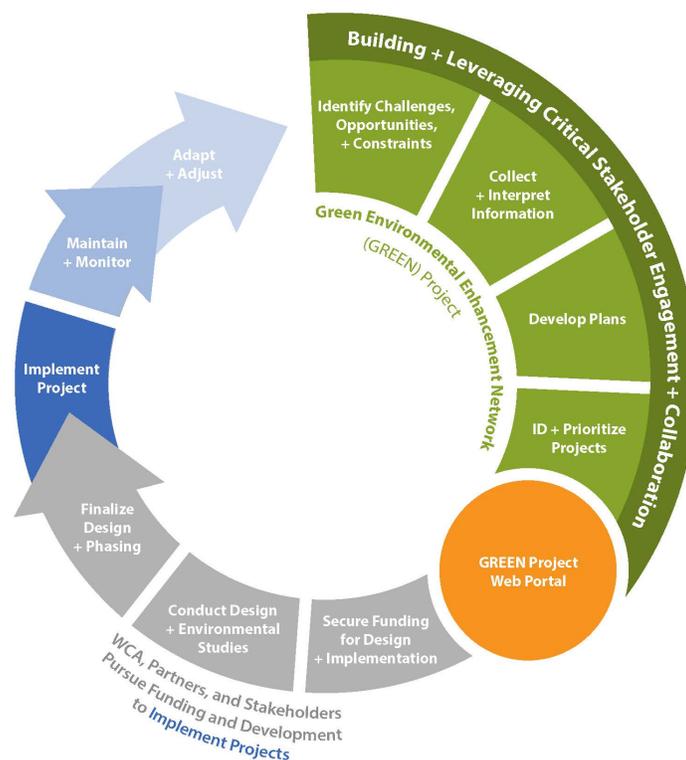
a conservation easement to WCA but holds the fee OR 2) WCA accepts the fee, and is given an indemnity by Lennar Corporation should a landslide occur in the future. Discussion of these options is not meant to preclude WCA’s acceptance of the donation. WCA is waiting to hear feedback on this approach from Lennar Corporation.

Vasquez Acquisition: In March, the Board approved the award of a contract to Long Beach-based ecological consulting firm, Tidal Influence, to conduct a Spring Biological Survey of WCA’s “Vasquez” property. WCA’s “Vasquez” property [AIN 8684-024-907] is approximately 40 acres of undeveloped land in the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills above the City of Azusa.

The biological survey commenced in March. The consultants have been visiting the property regularly, and have laid out herpetological coverboard arrays and a wildlife camera to understand wildlife use of the property. The camera has captured the presence of a fox!

The survey and accompanying report are expected to be submitted in July. The survey results and land management recommendations included in the report will form the basis of a land management plan which is expected to include a restoration component, and to be formed in dialogue with other foothills conservation stakeholders.

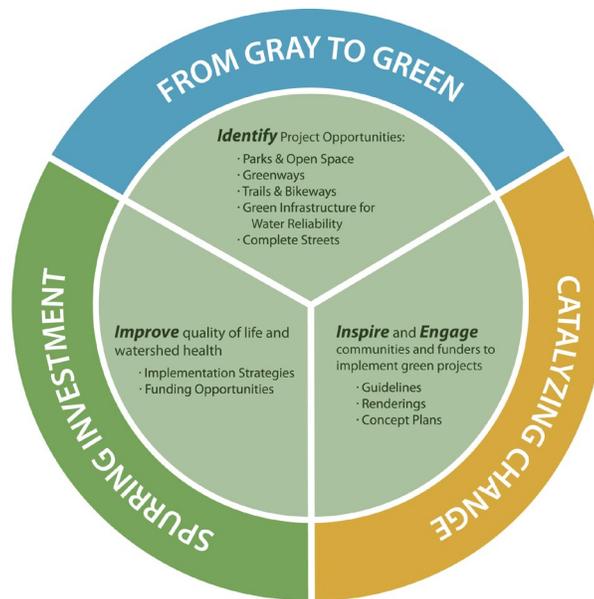
GREEN Project: WCA staff has been developing the functionality and structure of the GREEN project portal in conjunction with the content of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. The GREEN portal website will be a tool that documents, complements, and amplifies these efforts. Most recently, WCA has been working on the GREEN Project Portal, and is working with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District on the specific content and outcomes of the Portal.



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 Gateway Greening website. Staff is currently incorporation consultant data analysis into city-specific profile and region-wide recommendations. The design and development of the web portal is complete, although staff needs to continue to migrate material into new templates and user interfaces. The WCA and RMC recently coordinated to bring an additional \$120,000 to the Gateway Greening Project to support staff labor and outside contracts and contributions. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2019. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16th 2019.

WCA is also collaborating with the Gateway Cities COG and GWMA on Prop 68 grant applications to continue planning and implementation of urban greening in the Gateway Cities.



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 work of 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.

Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis: The WCA Governing Board authorized the WCA to apply and receive funding from RMC's Proposition 1 program for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (Supplemental Analysis) at the March 21, 2019 WCA Governing Board Meeting. On April 19, 2019, the RMC Governing Board authorized the grant to the WCA. To date, the WCA has attended stakeholder meetings as necessary for the study.

The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows. Including the WCA as part of the Stakeholder group and adding a third-party review of the analysis itself.

Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve: WCA staff is coordinating a Convert-a-Can event for early/mid-June 2019. The event will bring together community members and volunteers to assist in painting murals on two trash cans and one onsite job box. The murals promote clean open space through the use of art and creativity while encouraging proper trash disposal and graffiti prevention. The murals will include imagery of natural landscapes found within the Angeles National Forest. Similar Convert-a-Can murals can be found at the East Fork and West Fork.

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.

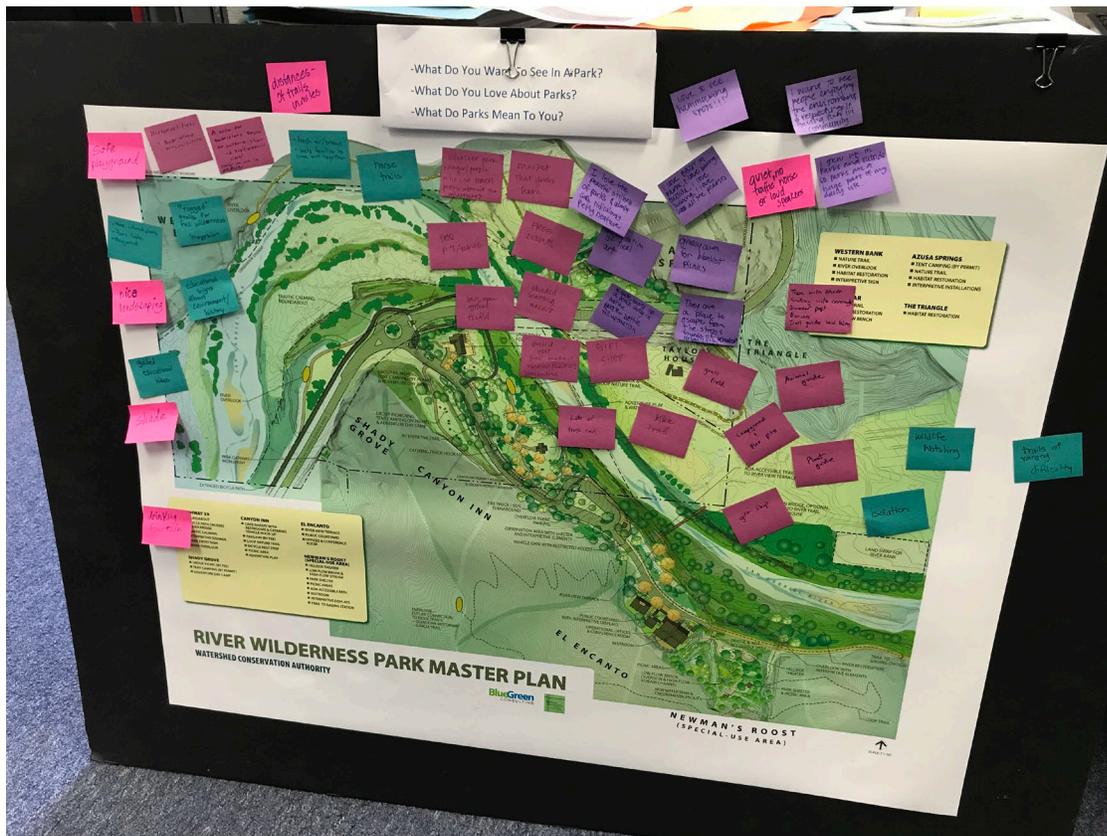
Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning: The USFS, WCA, and consultant project team will reconvene May 14th to review and summarize all background data, lake study, survey, and outreach. The team will then begin to outline and define conceptual alternatives for the San Gabriel Canyon and Crystal Lake areas.

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: Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4th application for ATP funds was not successful. However, the RMC has sent Caltrans a formal request letter to include the roundabout as part of the current capital projects. WCA will continue to advocate for the roundabout, but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays. Staff will prepare Prop 68 grant applications and will pursue other grant opportunities to fill funding gaps for park elements.

In April, student volunteers from the Azusa Pacific University Center for Student Action and 2 local residents volunteered to support maintenance of the park. Services included painting the WCA emergency supply box, sanding and staining the park kiosk, cleaning and weeding the Hilda Solis Overlook, and weeding and sweeping the entry native gardens and entry kiosk standing area. The event kicked off with speakers from Canyon City Environmental Project, Nathan Nunez, Supervisor Hilda Solis's office, Azusa historian and long time advocate of the RWP, Suzanne Avile, and Azusa/RMC JPA and Azusa Councilmember Uriel Macias. Participants were also given sticky notes and pens and asked to write down their responses to 3 questions

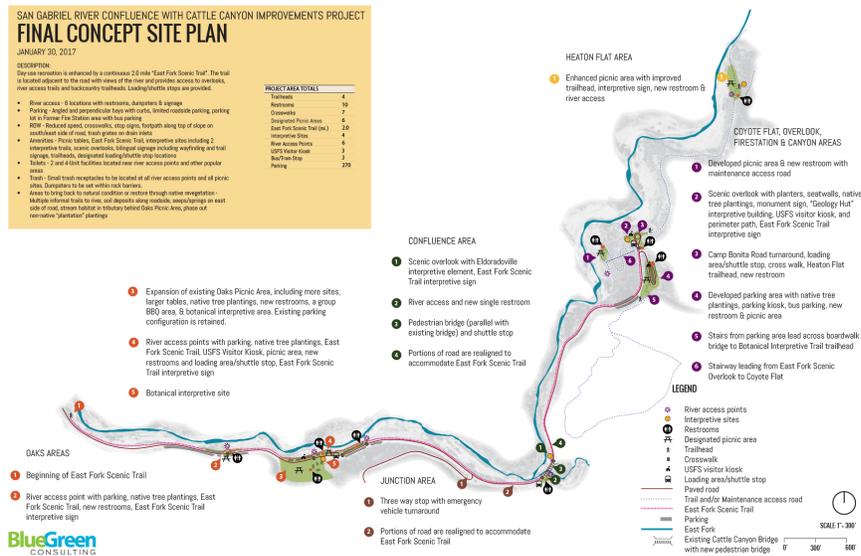
about parks to open up a conversation about the Azusa River Wilderness Park and future park expansion and improvements.



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: Staff is reapplying for funding from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to complete the design of the Oaks River Access project along with already secured remaining funding from Resource Legacy Fund (RLF). WCA is awaiting a conference meeting with the RMC to update the status of the project for a pending award to fund construction.

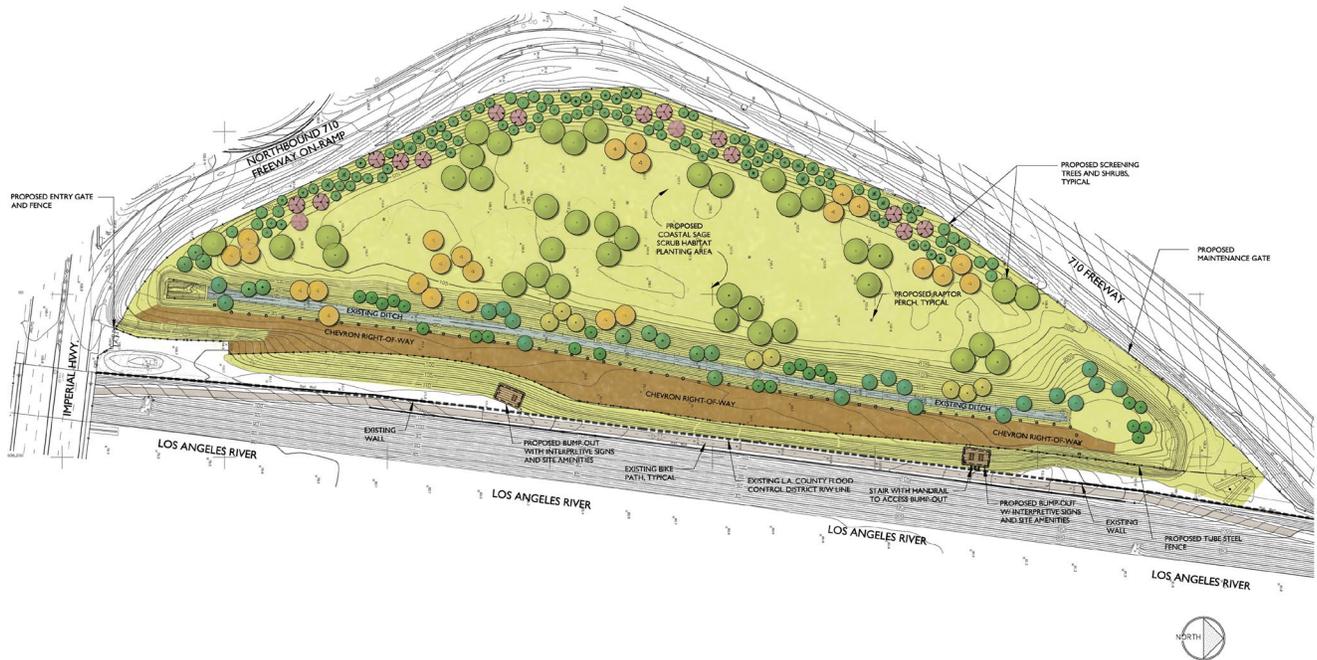
U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project later this year.



Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use, and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

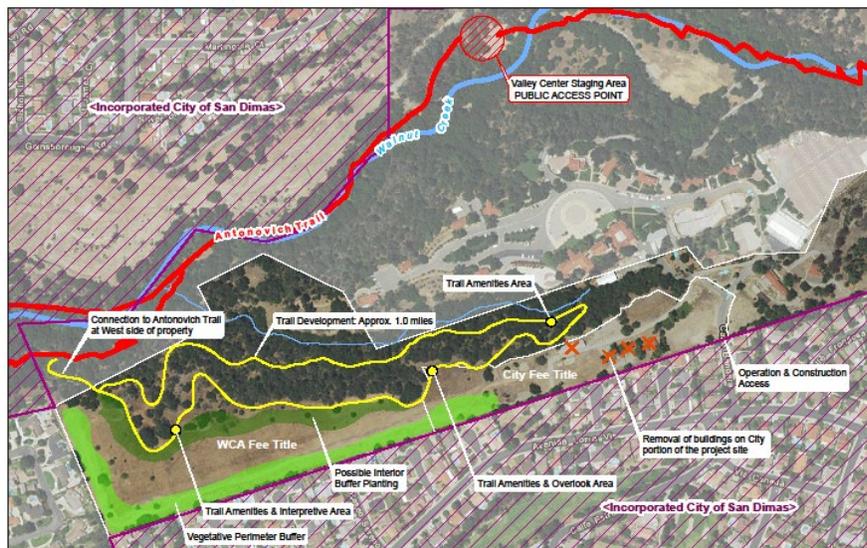
South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: WCA has been informed by CCLB that they are targeting a June 2019 start date for the project and that they will be ready to enter into the Construction Contract this month. Once the CCLB's contract is executed, CCLB will begin to pull permits and a ground-breaking event can be scheduled.

Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.



Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: Landscape designers BlueGreen have submitted 95% draft documents and a meeting was held between WCA, the City of San Dimas, and consultants to review the 95% draft. Meanwhile, the City of San Dimas is nearly finished with trail construction. Staff and consultants are working to forward the landscape design through the subsequent RFP and construction process.

WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



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.

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 and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.

OTHER PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

San Gabriel Mountains 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) is expected on the Monument Plan in April of 2019.