

**DATE: July 22, 2019**

**TO: RMC Governing Board**

**FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

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

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### RMC ACTIVITIES

#### Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530):

With the completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP), 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 aims to ensure that subsequently implemented projects are carried out in accordance with the LLARRP and that stakeholders continue to have a voice in implementation. Project proponents interested in submitting their projects to the IAG can fill out the [Project Review Package](#) and send it to [LowerLARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:LowerLARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov) for review.

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 **August 21, 2019**. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2019. This will be a new committee meeting format where all three committees will be present, and the meeting will be run by the three committee chairs. The meeting will be located at Compton Creek Natural Park. The sub-committees are:

- 1) Programs & Policies
  - a. Chair, Antonio Hicks, Public Counsel
  - b. Vice Chair, Dan Knapp, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure

- a. Chair, Kayla Kelly-Slatten, Conservation Corps of Long Beach
  - b. Vice Chair, Kelsey Jessup, The Nature Conservancy
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement
- a. Chair, Laura Cortez, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
  - b. Vice Chair, TBD

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](http://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.

On May 31, 2019, the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was delivered to the State Legislature. The full report and supplemental documents may be downloaded at [rmc.ca.gov](http://rmc.ca.gov).

Currently, work is being done to establish next steps to rollout the River Ranger Program.

IRWMP Planning Activities

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the GLAC Leadership Committee met to approve the list of projects that they will move forward with putting together the applications for IRWMP Proposition 1, Round 1. The list of projects that will move forward to the application phase is below (due 11/5/19). The Leadership Committee decided to compete for all funding that has been allocated to the entire funding area (~\$34M).

<b>GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY IRWM REGION PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 1 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSAL LIST OF PROJECTS</b>				
<b>Implementation Grant Fund (\$34.3M allocated to Los Angeles-Ventura Funding Area)</b>	<b>Local Cost Match</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Total Est. Cost</b>	<b>Admin. Fee *</b>
Allen J. Martin Stormwater Capture Multi-Benefit Project	\$ 15,700,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 17,700,000	\$ 90,000
East LA Sustainable Median Stormwater Capture Project	\$ 15,100,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 18,100,000	\$ 135,000
ULAR Watershed Arundo donax Eradication Project	\$ 1,413,000	\$ 996,500	\$ 2,409,500	\$ 44,843
Citywide Green Street Project	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 103,500
Strathern Park North Stormwater Capture Project	\$ 13,535,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 15,035,000	\$ 67,500
Monteith Park and View Park Green Alley Stormwater Improvement Project	\$ 7,100,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 9,100,000	\$ 90,000
Burton Way Median Green Streets and Water Efficient Landscape Project	\$ 5,950,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 7,950,000	\$ 90,000
Mesmer Low Flow Diversion Project	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,875,000	\$ 38,250
Vernon/Normandie Green Alley Network Project (100% DAC)	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 90,000
County Yard Treatment Facility Project	\$ 19,000,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 22,500,000	\$ 157,500
Marie Canyon Green Street Distributed BMP's Project	\$ 217,000	\$ 217,000	\$ 434,000	\$ 9,765
Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project - LVMWD	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 10,500,000	\$ 67,500
Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project - District 29	\$ 5,050,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 6,050,000	\$ 45,000
Viewridge Road Super Green Streets Project	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 8,800,000	\$ 45,000
Advanced Meter Replacement Project - VCWD (60% DAC)	\$ 1,931,194	\$ 1,931,194	\$ 3,862,388	\$ 86,904
Basset High School Stormwater Capture Project	\$ 38,800,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 41,800,000	\$ 135,000
Catalina Desalination Storage and Distribution Project (100% DAC)	\$ 2,670,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 4,170,000	\$ 67,500
San Fernando Regional Park Project (100% DAC)	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 162,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 151,391,194</b>	<b>\$ 33,894,694</b>	<b>\$ 185,285,888</b>	<b>\$ 1,525,261</b>
<b>DAC PROJECT Grant Fund (\$3.43M allocated to LA-Ventura Funding Area)</b>	<b>Local Cost Match</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Total Est. Cost</b>	<b>Admin. Fee*</b>
CBMWD Customer Conversions for Disadvantaged Communities Project (100%DAC)	\$ -	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 69,750
Sativa Water System Manganese Wellhead Treatment Project (100% DAC)	\$ -	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 101,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 171,000</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$ 151,391,194</b>	<b>\$ 37,694,694</b>	<b>\$ 189,085,888</b>	<b>\$ 1,696,261</b>
<b>Alternate Project</b>	<b>Local Cost Match</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Total Est. Cost</b>	<b>Admin. Fee*</b>
Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project	\$ 10,600,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 13,600,000	\$ 135,000

### Los Angeles River Master Plan Update – LA County

The County of Los Angeles is undergoing a process to update the LA River Master Plan, a comprehensive approach covering all 51 miles of the River. The effort was launched to update the original 1996 master plan, synthesizing more recent ideas for portions of the River and bringing a comprehensive vision to the transformation of the LA River. The process will be complete in 2020. County Public Works has developed a website with project information and data, including technical reports: <http://www.larivermasterplan.org/>

The sixth round of subcommittee meetings for the LA River Master Plan Update took place on July 11, 2019 for all three subcommittees—Water, People, and Environment. The topics that were discussed include:

- Site Selection
  - Review process and methodology
- Goals, Actions, and Methods (GAM)
  - Vision Statement discussion
  - Implementation Matrix
- Design Guidelines
  - Design Guidelines overview
  - Focused Discussion on Plant Communities

### **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. 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.

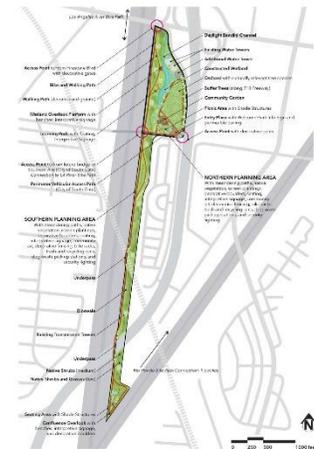
Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project (RMC 17005): Grant from the RMC is for \$652,520, project is underway. This project will enhance campus "green infrastructure", urban habitat, and demonstrate sustainable public landscaping in terms of water use, improved infiltration, and storm 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 with an additional \$1,387,401 that was approved at the Board meeting in May for design and construction of the wetlands component for the Orchard (RMC 18010). The project 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 June 8, 2019 in the City of South Gate. In January, RMC Board Item 10 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 have been successful in obtaining all funds needed to complete the acquisitions of Neighborhoods 1 and 3. The City has completed its appraisal and is awaiting review by a third-party agency.

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. Delays were encountered in design and construction due to a site relocation of the project to accommodate bridge improvements by the City of Long Beach at the Shoemaker Bridge site. An extension was provided to the City to allow sufficient time to accommodate for this change in the design and construction timeline.

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.

The identification of priority sites and project locations (task 1) was completed in January 2018. Task 2 involves engaging residents and selecting the top 30 project sites. Due to a change in project sequencing, the outreach effort to obtain 30 signed stewardship agreement at 30 project sites will be split into three different phases within three communities—this task is to be completed by June 2019. The remaining tasks which include soil testing (task 3) and design plans, permitting, and design review (task 4), will be phased like the outreach sequencing. The River Project has submitted a road construction permit application for its first site (Q3 2018) and will utilize the construction as an introductory workshop to demonstrate the project to other interested residents. It is anticipated that County will complete the outreach, design, and construction of all the parkway basins through Summer 2019.



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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

LCWA received approval from the Department of General Services on an appraisal report on the Bryant Properties. LCWA is 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 LCWA anticipates releasing a Draft EIR in Fall 2019.

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. Upon conducting soil tests to check for water infiltration, the City found that this site was inadequate for the intended stormwater infiltration. Staff is discussing if the City can find an alternative location that will fulfill the same objectives and with a similar budget. Status pending.

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 **July 25, 2019**, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. The collaborative continues to work on challenges faced by the forest regarding community access, visitor management, and protection of natural resources. Meeting Objectives include:

- 1) Explore members' roles and commitments to the Collaborative as we transition to actively pursuing projects and initiatives with the Angeles National Forest.
- 2) Review each ad hoc committee's progress on the action plan and identify next steps.
- 3) Review updated Steering Committee selection protocol.
- 4) Take care of general SGMCC business including membership updates, announcements, etc.

The last meeting in May meeting included an overview of the upcoming Action Plan template and goals, presentations from ad hoc committees on priority projects, and a presentation by WCA staff updating the Collaborative on agency projects, including the Crystal Lake Recreation Area and San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Area Planning effort being conducted in partnership with U.S. Forest Service within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

*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 completed its interactive series of exhibits and interactive experiences as part of its recent expansion, Pacific Visions that will allow visitors to explore the interactions with food, water, and energy in California. RMC Staff attended the media event held on May 16, 2019 and provided a few key points for the \$1.9 million grant that it provided to the expansion effort. In addition to other key funders of Pacific Visions. Pacific Visions was officially opened to the public on May 24, 2019 with a variety of opening activities.

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 and the acquisition is expected to be completed in Summer 2019.

Acquisition of the LA River Incubator Site (RMC 18008)

This grant is to the Watershed Conservation Authority. As part of the Lower Los Angeles River Grant Sub-Program (Board Resolution 2018-02), the Green Incubator project will serve as a base and catalyst for the implementation of the plan by building capacity, providing coordination, and facilitating collaboration by and for all community stakeholders. The funding would cover acquisition of a site in the vicinity of the Lower Los Angeles River or the Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo River Confluence, and related build-out expenses, and project management for due diligence and site selection.

Emerald Necklace San Gabriel River Habitat Restoration Project (RMC 18009)

This project will restore a river parkway trail on the San Gabriel River between Live Oak Avenue and Peck Road that is part of the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan, the LA County Regional Bike Plan, and the Emerald Necklace Plan. This project will be implemented by Amigos de los Rios, and will improve watershed health, rain water and runoff infiltration, urban forest coverage and native habitat, and provide significant heat island reduction and recreation benefits to local communities and regional trail users of the San Gabriel River Trail.

Urban Orchard Project Construction (RMC 18010)

The Urban Orchard Development is a multi-benefit, passive park located along the LA River and the Rio Hondo Channel confluence in the City of South Gate. The Project is an identified priority (Project 155) in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan and is part of a larger vision to 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. The Phase 1 site comprises seven acres owned by the City of South Gate and will create one acre of functioning wetland habitat in a heavily developed, urban area that would treat and utilize stormwater from the adjacent Bandini Channel to irrigate the park and provide the community with a new greenspace.

Central Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project (RMC 18011)

The Central-Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project will renovate a 54,446 square-foot public alley right of way in a high density 100-acre neighborhood block in South Los Angeles. Project improvements will include the installation of high albedo pavement, permeable pavers, permeable pavement, street tree planting, infiltration trenches, a dry well system, planting of native vines and trees, educational and mile marker signage, public art and traffic calming measures including planted bump-outs, crosswalk striping, lights and way finding signage. Of the total alley, 34,733 sq-ft will include stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and an underground drywell system capturing a total tributary area of approximately 7.31 acres. The remaining 19,713 square feet of alley will include stormwater BMPs, comprised of native vine and tree plantings, and

porous pavement. The green alley network in total will capture runoff and percolate at least 1,890,000 gallons of stormwater per year.

The Community Center at DeForest Park (RMC 18012)

In order to bring about positive changes to DeForest Park in North Long Beach, its wetlands, and the greater LLAR Region, the Conservation of Long Beach (CCLB) will develop a master plan for the entire DeForest Park, as well as design and install a satellite site at the DeForest Wetlands to better serve the needs of the LLAR while training youth as river stewards. By implementing a satellite site, CCLB will not only be able to oversee the master plan as it is carried out, but more importantly, have the resources to carry out necessary functions to sustain the health and vitality of the LLAR and its surrounding communities in the long term. During construction, the satellite site will function as a Lower LA River restoration center and crew training location.

LA River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (RMC 18013)

The Supplemental Analysis has one overarching goal: To expand the currently funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include analysis of potential recreation and wildlife impacts to the Lower Los Angeles River. The ultimate outcome of the Supplemental Analysis is to provide technically sound recommendations and alternatives to the Water Boards for consideration and implementation of a water flow standard that takes into consideration the existing and planned recreation and habitat uses of the Los Angeles River.

## WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

**Duck Farm Project:** Construction progress with continued earthwork, grading and the installation of the Restroom Facility underground system underway. The restroom facility materials were delivered to the site on July 10<sup>th</sup> and will begin installation of the structure this month. Additional work continuing is the preparation of the site for the new entry drive and parking lot improvements. Coordination with SCE on the removal and relocation of electrical service to the Caltrans on-ramp metering light is in process. Construction schedule remains on target for principle completion by General Contractor at the end of October. The timeline to completed landscaping work by the Conservation Corps has been updated to continue through March 2020.

Staff continues to work directly with LA County Parks and Recreation related to the operation and maintenance of the park starting in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.



*Delivery of ROMTEC restroom facility materials to be constructed onsite as finished restroom building. Installation of septic system tank in progress in background.*

*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 is in discussions with County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation to discuss the potential for Parks to assume operations of both the Duck Farm and the Duck Farm House. 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 is continuing to pursue other funding opportunities, including from SEP, Prop 68 and Measure A.



WCA is currently holding community meetings to get feedback and design ideas from residents. The next community meeting is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at San Angelo Park.

*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 and LACFCD staff are scheduled to meet to complete the scope of work and task details needed to issue work orders and begin work on and in support of the plan. Overall, the start of WCA's effort on this plan has been delayed by one year.

**Emerald Necklace:** No bi-monthly meeting was held in July. Previously, 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. 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, accessible, and scenic trail for all users along the Rio Hondo. The trail will connect existing trails and provide access to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 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.

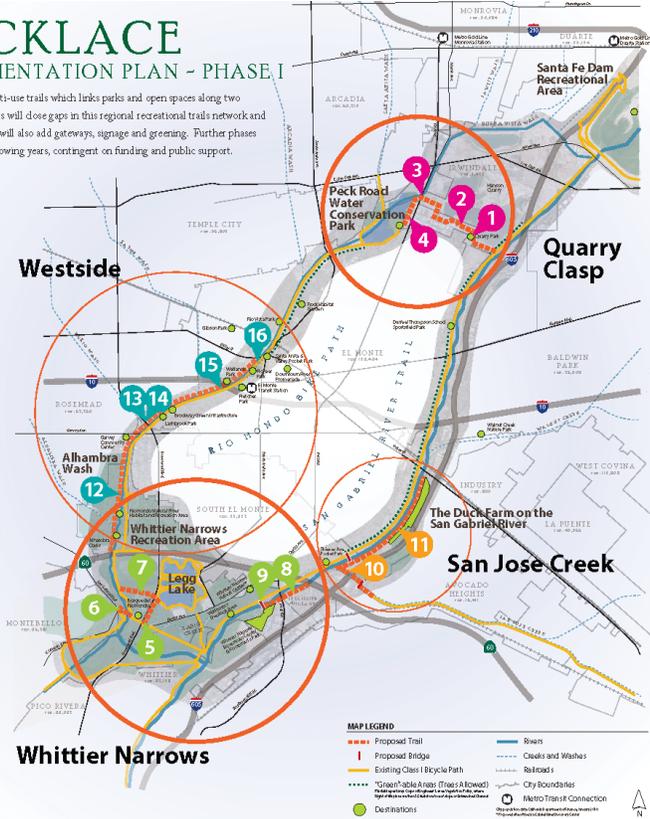
### Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

#### Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails and provide access to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will connect existing trails and provide access to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 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 Roseman's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Roseman's Park

### PROJECT COMPONENTS



### Quarry Clasp:

#### Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to the Duck Farm on 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 section of the trail will connect the existing trails and provide access to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will connect existing trails and provide access to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 10 Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to the Duck Farm on the 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 Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan:** WCA continues to work with Trust for Public Land to shape a study that may be used in prioritizing future acquisitions of conservation lands. A request to RMC has been submitted to extend the grant performance period so that consultants may be engaged to supplement the TPL document with additional analysis on special topics: 1) a field perspective on the biological resources and role of the foothills lands; 2) the priorities of potential partners such as foothills municipalities and other conservancies; 3) expected operations and management costs, and 4) exploration of user challenges and opportunities related to access and low-impact recreational uses of open space lands.

WCA continues to wait to receive Conservation Easement documents from from San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) for review so that the transfer of Easley Canyon to WCA will be completed.

Grant applications are being prepared to acquire “Vasquez Overlook” and “Rainbow Ranch,” which would add to a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA’s River Wilderness Park.

*San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills 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:** A Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant funded WCA's due diligence for the potential acquisition of the parcels collectively known as Roberts Canyon. This site is located adjacent to WCA's River Wilderness Park within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains at the entrance of Roberts Canyon in the city of Azusa. The property consists of extremely steep slopes surrounding the Mountain Cove Community residential development, which Lennar Homes is offering as a donation.

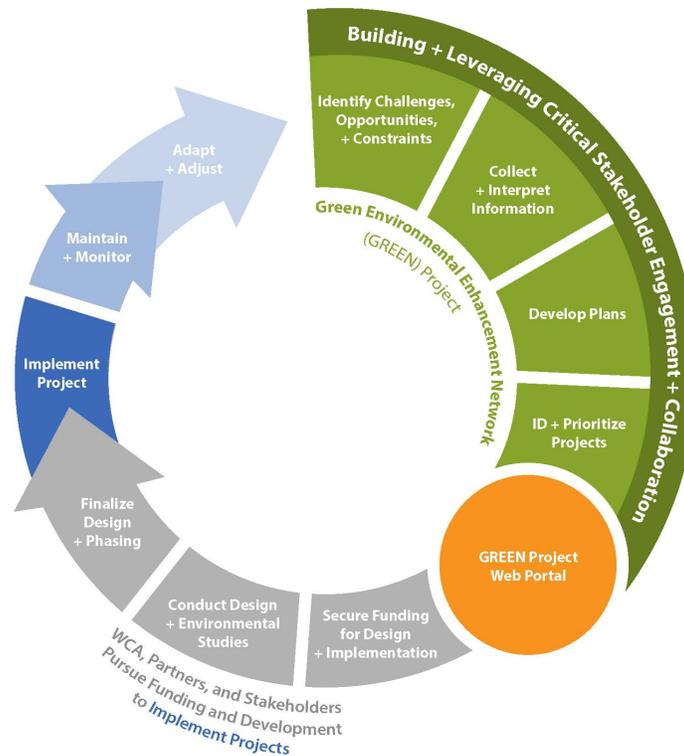
Lennar Homes offered to provide an upfront payment to WCA to compensate for the cost of insuring the property. WCA is currently seeking an estimate for general liability to present for Lennar's consideration. The costs and risks associated with this acquisition will be evaluated through the lens of the prioritization of parcels for acquisition to be provided by the San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan.

**Vasquez Acquisition:** In June, Long Beach-based ecological consulting firm, Tidal Influence, conducted their last field visit to the WCA's "Vasquez" property in the Azusa foothills [AIN 8684-024-907] to conclude the Spring Biological Survey.

Production of the final survey report is in progress. The team is compiling a species list and a narrative which will describe the biological resources on site and their significance, stages of post-fire recovery of coastal sage scrub habitat, recommendations for the management of invasive species, and potential restoration targets. 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. WCA has been working on the GREEN Project Portal in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District on the specific content and outcomes of the Portal.

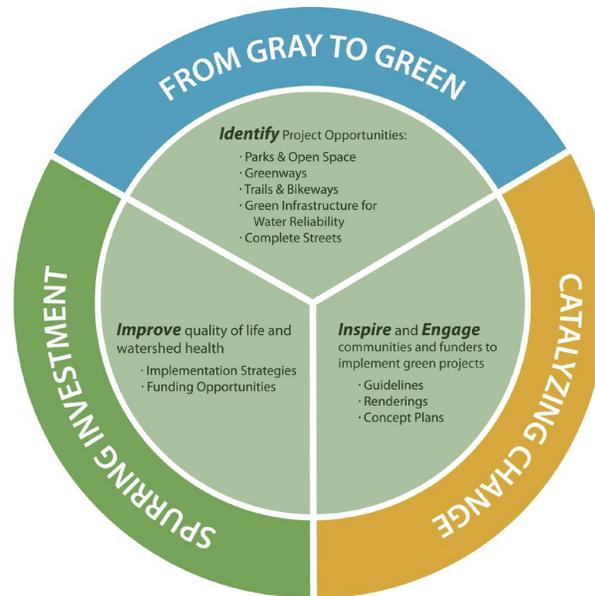
To gauge city interest in the GREEN Project, WCA staff has been having ongoing conversations with organizations and city staff throughout the Gateway Cities. The first city to receive focus has been the City of Cudahy, as they are actively looking for tools and avenues for urban greening. Preliminary research of City documents and conversations with city staff has been ongoing.



*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:** Staff and consultants have finished developing greenscape conceptual imagery and will complete the upload of final images shortly. Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. Staff is also incorporating consultant data analysis into city-specific profile and region-wide recommendations. WCA is also exploring consultant contracts to accelerate and expand this element of the project. 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 project is expected to launch in late Summer and to be complete by the end of 2019. An expanded suite of deliverables is under consideration for a request to extend the expenditure period for recently secured RMC funds.

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:** Staff is meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> District on July 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the potential of receiving a small grant to complete site upgrades and enhancements including new and updated signage, as well as, trail and trailhead improvements.

WCA staff remains interested in holding a Convert-a-Can event this year based on availability of the artist to select a date. 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 Nation Forest. The site currently has one such muraled bear-proof container at the dedication sign trailhead.

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 met on May 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss new recreation opportunities in San Gabriel Canyon. The next meeting in late July will review new recreation opportunities in the Crystal Lake area. The project team will then develop conceptual alternatives for the San Gabriel Canyon and Crystal Lake areas for public review and feedback in August 2019.

*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.*

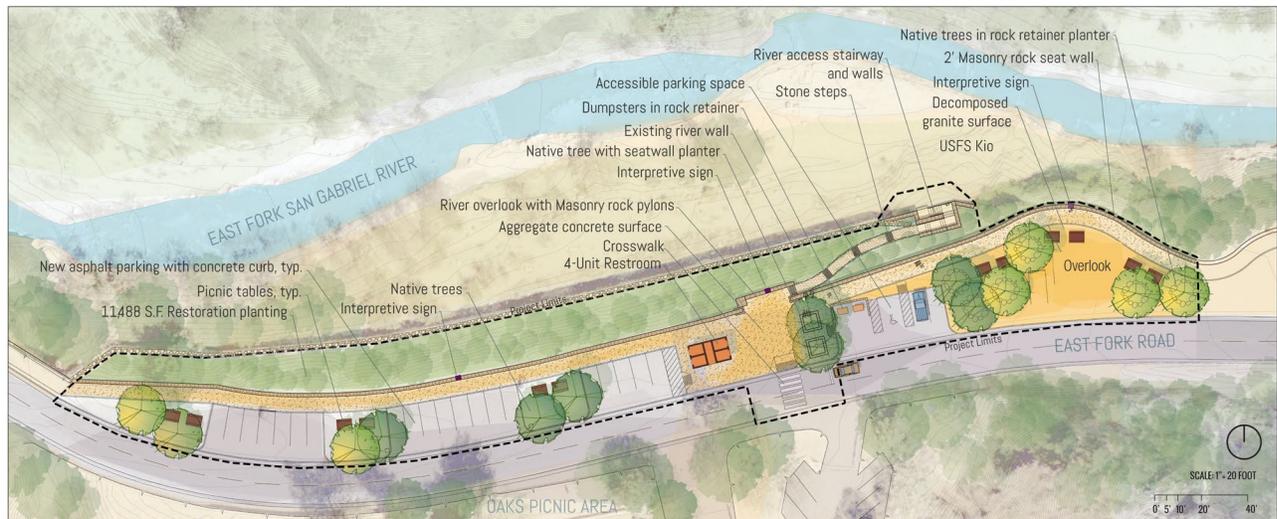
**River Wilderness Park:** Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4<sup>th</sup> application for ATP funds was not successful. WCA will continue to advocate for Caltrans to develop the roundabout but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays. Staff is preparing Prop 68 grant applications and will pursue other grant opportunities to fill funding gaps for park elements.



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 was successful in 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). After a design strategy meeting with WCA and the Forest Service in June, BlueGreen is finalizing a concept design of the project prior to completing the full Construction Document package. At RMC's June 2019 Board Meeting, the RMC Board approved a partial Prop 1 grant to fund the permitting and bid/award process for the project. WCA is applying for a Prop 68 grant to fund project construction.

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



*Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.*

*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.*

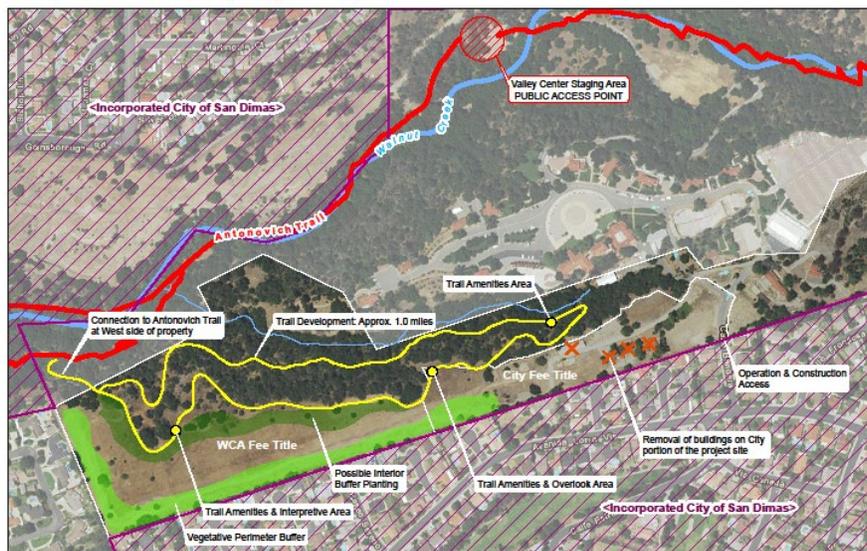
**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** The Conservation Corps of Long Beach has begun the process of pulling permits to begin construction. Finalization of the contract documents including approved schedule of values, bonding and insurance is being collected to issue the formal Notice to Proceed to facilitate the target start date of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, staff is working closely with the City of South Gate to hold a ground-breaking event/photo opportunity in early August, details to follow.



*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 stamped 100% landscape design documents. The City of San Dimas has finished with trail construction. Staff and consultants are working to forward the landscape design through the subsequent RFB 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.*

**River Ranger Program Implementation Project:** The final Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was finalized in June 2019. The document was printed, bounded, and delivered in person by our Executive Officer, Mark Stanley, to the following: Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon, Assembly members Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, and Patrick O'Donnell, as well as Senator Henry Stern. WCA has requested an extension of the grant for Task 3 - Project Management and Task 4 – Printing/Outreach Supplies, as coordination of the printing and final tasks will be ongoing through the end of the year.

*The River Ranger Program will 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.*

**WCA Satellite Office:** WCA staff, in coordination with Conservation Corps of Long Beach, is in the process of drafting a MOA/lease agreement to utilize office space at one or more of their facilities. WCA and RMC is awaiting actual operations and maintenance cost data from CCLB to establish a basis for the lease value. The agreement, when prepared, will be presented at a future Governing Board Meeting for consideration to enter into the agreement.

*Satellite Office Space currently under consideration are CCLB's Nietos Ave. and Atlantic Ave. sites.*