

**DATE:** November 18, 2019

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

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

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## RMC ACTIVITIES

### 2019 Urban River Revitalization Summit July 25-26, 2019



On Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the RMC hosted the 2019 Urban River Revitalization Summit in Los Angeles, CA. The event was also meant to celebrate the Conservancy's 20 Year anniversary since it was established in 1999. There were 150 people registered for this unique and exciting event, and approximately 200 people attended the event. The Summit included four panels with topics that included:

- ❖ River Placemaking;
- ❖ Best Practices of River Revitalization Efforts Across the Country and Across the World- Lessons Learned;
- ❖ Solving the River's Growth Challenges;
- ❖ Financing and the Role of Local Government: Improvements for River Revitalization

The RMC invited distinguished guests from across the country to participate in each of these panels, including Scott Kratz from the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, Washington, DC; Bonnie Richardson from Tempe Town Lake, Rio Salado, AZ; and Victoria Elema from the "Room for the River" in the Netherlands. Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel for the Speaker of the State Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, facilitated the Summit and the panels were moderated by specialists for each topic. The event was attended by a diverse group of professionals from across the Greater Los Angeles region that included the private sector, government, Non-profit organizations, and several friends and regional partners. The event also included the participation of 15 high school students from STEAM Legacy High School in South Gate, CA. These students were part of a class that focused on the study of water including the LA River.





The River Summit brought together experts from across the country who shared their experiences and lessons learned. Over 200 people attended this 2-day event, some visiting the LA River for the very first time.

The second day, Friday July 26th consisted of facilitated outdoor activities that highlighted the amazing California resource that is the Los Angeles River. These LA River themed tours included:

- Harbor Cruise Tour- Long Beach
- Compton Creek Tour of Equestrian Sites
- Kayaking in the LA River Recreation Zone- Sepulveda Basin
- LA River Bus Tour
- Fishing in the LA River: Elysian Valley

Approximately 100 participants participated in these event tours, for some it was their first time on the LA River. The event would not have been as successful without the participation from our partners including those who assisted with the River Tours including Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), LA County Public Works- Flood Control Division, City of South Gate, Trout Unlimited, George Magallanes, Aquarium of the Pacific, and Studio MLA.



Event sponsors included the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, MIG, Tidal Influence, Water Replenishment District (WRD), Houston Magnani & Associates, Environmental Science & Associates (ESA), the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) and the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The event culminated with a dinner celebrating the 20 Year Anniversary of the RMC, capped off with a brief address by Speaker Rendon, and resolutions presented by the offices of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-40), and Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-24).

**RMC Board Members** in attendance included:

Board Chair Frank Colonna, Vice-Chair Dan Arrighi, Councilmember Ali Saleh, Councilmember Margaret Clark, Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Councilmember Liz Reilly. In attendance was also Amanda Martin representing the California Natural Resources Agency.

A brief survey was sent to the event participants and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. There are plans to continue to host ongoing discussions about the LA River and projects and activities related to it at a similar event next year. Stay posted for additional information about that.

**SELA Festival and LA River Movie Night -Summer 2019**

On Saturday July 27, 2019, the Southeast LA Arts Festival took place in the River channel just south of Imperial Highway in the City of South Gate. Over 600 people attended this yearly event which brings together music, art, food, and the community to celebrate the arts and the LA River. The RMC was one of many event sponsors of this event which included a Ferris wheel, 4 music stages, a maze made out of shipping containers, and various art displays showcasing art from local artists. This was the second annual event which is sponsored by Speaker Anthony Rendon and is organized with collaboration from the LA County Department of Public Works, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis- SD1, the City of South Gate, and various event sponsors including the RMC. Staff hosted an information booth and made native seed bombs that many children and adults enjoy.



**Movie Night at the LA River:** The third annual Movie Night took place on Saturday October 5, 2019, hosted by the Office of the Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon. The event drew the participation of over 300 attendees and LA River information booths, food trucks, local artisan vendors, and the local community. These events are meant to create awareness of the LA River and continuous programming within the channel to highlight beneficial uses of the LA River.

Join Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, your neighbors, friends and family to an **outdoor**

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
at the **LOS ANGELES RIVER**

The event site may be accessed from:  
**Hollydale Park**  
(Parking Available)  
5400 Monroe Avenue  
South Gate, CA 90280

Bring a comfortable chair or blanket!  
You can bike, walk or drive to the event.

**10/5**  
**6:30 pm - 10:00 pm**

NO ALCOHOL NO SMOKING NO GLASS

LA RIVER BOOTHS  
FOOD TRUCKS  
LOCAL ARTISAN VENDORS  
CHANCE OF RAIN  
CANCELS EVENT

Stay informed & RSVP  
[LARiverEvents.com](http://LARiverEvents.com)  
(562) 529-3250

ANTHONY RENDON  
Speaker of the Assembly

South

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS?

Don't laugh



### **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 [www.rmc.ca.gov](http://www.rmc.ca.gov)

Currently, work is being done to establish next steps to rollout the River Ranger Program and the establishment of REACH (River, Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat) Zones. These will be 3-4 mile stretches along the River, including tributaries, with specific aspects that will lend itself to a highly visible location for River Rangers including access to the River, proximity to a publicly accessible park, trails and open space. The establishment of a REACH Zone will create River appreciation, the benefits rippling out into surrounding communities and revitalization efforts. The Plan identifies criteria for the REACH Zones as well as factors to consider when locating these zones.

### **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) continues to meet 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 **November 21, 2019 in Compton at the Compton Creek Natural Park**. 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 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 schedules proposed project presentations (as needed) 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)*

### **LA River Legislative Tour- November 7 & 8, 2019**

On November 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>, Staff for the representatives from the Senate and Assembly that have jurisdiction for the 51 miles of the LA River came to Southern California to take a comprehensive in-depth tour of various sites along both the upper and the lower sections of the LA River. Project stops for Day One included the LA State Historic Park/G2/Bowtie parcel, the Hahamonga Watershed Park, Glendale Confluence Park, Pacoima Wash, LA River Greenway Park-Studio City, LA River Headwaters- Canoga Park. Day Two included the Compton Creek, the various projects at the LA

River Confluence with the Rio Hondo: Parque Dos Rios, Urban Orchard, the Cultural Arts Center and the LA River Master Plan; Dominguez Gap Wetlands- Long Beach, Willow Springs Park, and the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

The goal of this tour was for local and Sacramento based staff to gain an understanding of the many different kinds of challenges encountered in trying to manage and revitalize the River communities that we serve. RMC Staff helped to coordinate the project stops and the tour with the Office of Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, AD 63 and local partners including the Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson, AD 64, Cristina Garcia, AD 58, Senator Lena Gonzalez, SD-33, Senator Bob Archuleta, SD 32, The Trust for Public Land, LA County Flood Control District, City of South Gate, Gehry Partners, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Friends of the LA River, and the Aquarium of the Pacific, among others.



Equestrians from the Compton Cowboys and Urban Saddles met the group in Compton to share some of the issues for equestrians in the City of Compton like lack of signage and adequate multi-purpose trails. Assemblymember Gipson, AD 64 was in attendance.



Senator Bob Archuleta, SD 32 and Speaker Rendon, AD 63, joined the group in the River to hear about the LA River Master Plan Update, the Cultural Center Plans, and other projects taking place at the Confluence.

**Legislative Water Workshop November 7, 2019**

Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) hosted a legislative water workshop, co-hosted by the City of South Gate Mayor Belen Bernal, Councilwoman Denise Diaz and Assemblymember Anthony Rendon. These workshops are opportunities for WELL leaders to interact and coordinate teaching and learning sessions on local water policy. They're also an opportunity for state legislators to participate in focused discussions with local elected officials in their district about water issues

impacting the region. **RMC Board members** who attended this event include Vice-Chair Dan Arrighi and Councilmember Ali Saleh of Bell.



### **Nature for All- All Aboard for Nature! September 28, 2019**

Nature for All hosted their inaugural All Aboard for Nature event at Union Station where over 400+ participants engaged in outdoor information sessions and activities including Smokey the Bear, K-Earth 101, raffle prizes from Patagonia and REI, and passionate speeches from the honored guests. The day also included trips to a variety of outdoor locations including the LA State Historic Park, Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area, Santa Monica Beach, and Sturtevant Falls in the San Gabriel Mountains, many for their first time.

The RMC was one of several sponsors of this event including other partners like Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy, SCE, So Cal Gas, LA DWP, The Nature Conservancy, SG Valley Municipal Water District, SG Valley Water Company, REI and Patagonia.



### **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
Total	\$ 151,391,194	\$ 33,894,694	\$ 185,285,888	\$ 1,525,261
<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
Total	\$ -	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 171,000
<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/>

First draft of the master plan will be distributed to the Steering Committee in January 2020.

### **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. This item is on the agenda for a budget increase of \$400K and extension through March 2021 (Item 19)

**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. The project is now known as the Albert Robles Recycling Facility (ARC) and held its Grand Opening this past summer.

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 local waterways.



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:

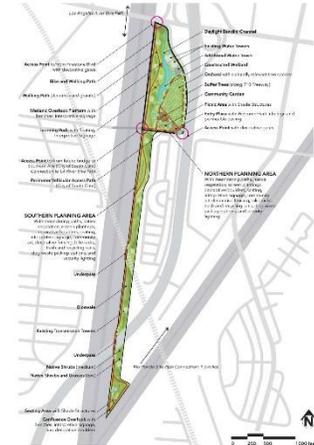
- Grading and grubbing complete
- Bioswale by contractor (50% complete): Diversion structure and pipes to swales are complete
- Turf Removal by Youth Corps: Turf removed, trail trenching complete
- Temp Irrigation Drip Line: Installation in progress. Points of connection have been made, main line is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

This project is currently in construction.

**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 RMC previously approved a grant extension from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and reduction in project scope. This allows 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. The City has also completed a Preliminary Title Report. A Purchase and Sale agreement as well as a Remedial Action Plan are being developed currently and are expected to be brought to their city council for approval this winter. Escrow is expected to close around May 2020.

**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 and construction of all 3- Parkway Basins was completed in September 2019. The County and The River Project has already begun to monitor the functions of these basins and to coordinate with the Stewards to maintain the basins.

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 Winter 2020.

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. Installation of the Irrigation to support trees and shrubs planted along the entrance bioswale was completed July 18, 2019. The second phase of the irrigation will be integrated into the construction of the parking lot BMP's.

In Q3 2019 July 1- September 30 Amigos held 3 Emerald Necklace Volunteer Stewardship at Peck Road Water Conservation Park. At each event, we engage youth and community members in urban and community forestry, Community Science, green infrastructure element implementation. stewardship events run three hours and were held on July 6 (67 volunteers), August 3 (14 volunteers), and September 7 (33 volunteers). A total of 114 volunteers participated in these stewardship events. LA county work release participants provided 24 hours of work per week for 13 weeks as match for Q3 2019. Value=\$9063.60.

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. There has been a request by the City to extend the completion date to January 2020, pending RMC approval.

San Gabriel Mountain Community Collaborative (RMC17024):

The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) will Cancel the November meeting and schedule meetings between now and January with the Forest Service to develop a plan for the January Collaborating meeting.

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.

National Forest Foundation requested an extension on September 25, 2019 in order to facilitate the final 2020 meeting. Tasks include finalizing the Action Plan items and preparing the implementation of Action Plan.



*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. Meetings 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. Project is currently underway with work being performed by the LA Conservation Corps.

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. The grantee kicked off several community meetings which were well attended and gathered input regarding the prospective monument, design ideas, and its potential location.

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.

Comments were received from SWRCB DDW on the preliminary design concept report, noting additional requirements for safety and compliance. BSA is incorporating these comments into the revised 30% project design and the technical specifications. The final geotechnical report was received, and recommendations were incorporated into the 30% design and technical specifications.

The revised 30% project design was submitted to SWRCB DDW to obtain any additional comments. Based on the revised project design, the project construction cost was updated for our pending Proposition 68 proposal and forwarded to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for consideration.

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 was officially completed in June 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.

RMC is finalizing a Conservancy Agreement with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to move this project forward.

## WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

**Duck Farm Project:** Construction work continues with the timeline to complete extended through January 2020 for the General Contractor. Conservation Corps work will extend through Spring 2020 for the installation of 4" potted plants along the walkways and mulch. The General contractor has largely complete grading operations and has been forming and pouring concrete headers and mow curbs. Installation of low walls for sitting areas and outdoor classroom is close to complete. The installation of restroom kit is in progress as well as preparations to install overhead shade structures. Decorative and Structural metal work is in fabrication. Work on the riparian area and dry streambed to begin this month. Undergrounding of water lines to Farm House and electrical line to Caltrans light is complete. SCE to begin their work to remove distribution poles and pull wires is in the process of being scheduled. Irrigation work and soil prep for planted areas is in process. Parking lot and entry drive has been partially constructed with final paving to be laid in January at the end of the project to ensure it is not damaged during the remaining construction work.



**Top:** Outdoor classroom's low walls and paving courtyard begin to take shape.

**Middle Left:** View of West Courtyard, and walls of restroom kit being installed.

**Middle Right:** Footings for the shade structures at the River Overlook.

**Bottom:** Mounding of soil to create landscape mounds and the beginning of the riparian/dry streambed grading begins.



San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps conducted a door to door survey in the neighborhood around the project to gauge the community's feedback on three potential names for the Park that were collected from prior outreach events. The survey was conducted over 2 days in November.

*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 was notified of a site visit from State Parks scheduled for November 20th. If awarded, the State Parks Prop 68 grant would provide funding for construction of the San Gabriel River Center and River Walk. WCA is also moving forward with its application for Supplementary Environmental Funds in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board.

In October, WCA participated in the 626 Golden Streets – ‘Streets and Treats’ event put on by Active SGV and Metro. At its table, WCA again solicited feedback from the community about future programming at the San Gabriel River Center.



*Staff members engage with the community at the 626 Golden Streets Event*



*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:** LACFCD has engaged Brown and Caldwell as the prime consultant to prepare the plan with WCA to participate in project planning and strategic planning/technical advisory meetings over the next two years. No additional work orders have been requested at this time; however, WCA expects at a minimum to participate in reviews of technical documents prepared by the consultants and to perform up to four additional community engagement meetings during the development of the plan. The next anticipated meeting will occur in January 2020.

**Emerald Necklace:** WCA continues to attend the every-other-month Emerald Necklace Meetings hosted by Los Angeles County District 1 Supervisor Hilda Solis as they happen. The meetings are attended by staff from the Supervisor's office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. The November meeting was cancelled, and as such, the next meeting will be January 2, 2020. A status of the meeting will be provided verbally and/or at the next WCA Governing Board Meeting.

# 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 feasibility study for the Westside Multi-Use Trail includes a comprehensive assessment of the trail's route, the potential, and program management options. The study also includes a detailed implementation plan for the trail's construction and operation.

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

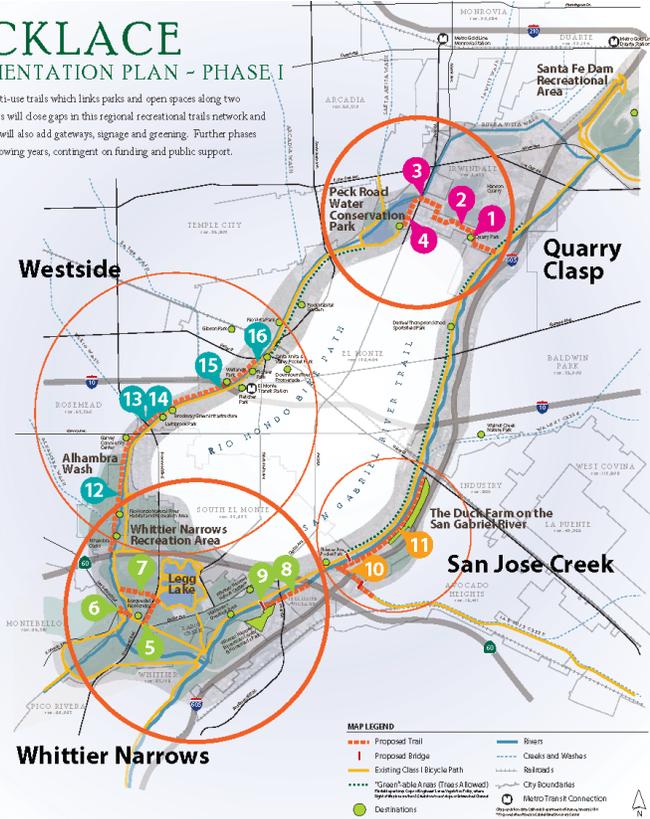
### Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

*Linking Existing Park Resources*

This section assesses the feasibility of linking existing park resources in the Whittier Narrows area. The study includes a detailed implementation plan for the trail's construction and operation.

- 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: Fullerton 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*

This section assesses the feasibility of completing the loop of the Emerald Necklace in the Quarry Clasp area. The study includes a detailed implementation plan for the trail's construction and operation.

- 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: Connection in Peck Road Water Conservation Park

### San Jose Creek Regional Access:

*Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River*

This section assesses the feasibility of connecting communities east of the San Gabriel River to the Emerald Necklace. The study includes a detailed implementation plan for the trail's construction and operation.

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



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

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

**San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan:** At the conclusion of the performance period of Trust for Public Land (TPL)'s prioritization study, it was mutually determined that due to TPL's staffing challenges which have impacted the consultant's ability to fulfill the contract scope that WCA will finish the remaining content for the Master Plan. WCA submitted a request to RMC to extend the grant performance period so that additional consultants may be engaged to supplement TPL's work with analysis on focused topics: 1) a field perspective on the biological resources and role of foothills lands; 2) the potential for partnership with foothills municipalities and other conservancies; 3) expected operations and management costs, and 4) user challenges and opportunities related to access and low-impact recreational uses of open space lands.

Dr. Lee-Anne Milburn, Professor of Landscape Architecture, at Cal Poly Pomona, was engaged to research the latter three topics. Dr. Milburn's experience as a practitioner as well as researcher enables her insight into human factors that affect conservation. Most recently, Dr. Milburn collaborated with the USFS on a study of user behavior patterns at Cattle Canyon.

In September, the WCA Board approved the negotiation of a consultant contract for a regional biological report. An RFP for a regional biological report RFP was posted on the WCA website and

distributed to biological consultants with extensive field experience in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. Four proposals are expected to be received. The proposals will be evaluated by WCA staff along with a volunteer jury of three biologists.

In anticipation of receiving RMC's Prop 68 for funds to acquire "Vasquez Overlook" and "Rainbow Ranch," which would augment a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA's River Wilderness Park, WCA is exploring other funding venues to start due diligence on Rainbow Ranch and other San Gabriel River Canyon floodplain properties that particular significance to wildlife habitat.

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

*San Gabriel Mountains and 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:** A Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant funded WCA's due diligence for the potential acquisition of the parcels collectively known as Roberts Canyon, which Lennar Homes is offering as a donation. The property consists of steep undeveloped slopes surrounding the Mountain Cove development in the City of Azusa.

Lennar Homes has offered to provide an upfront payment to WCA to compensate for the cost of insuring the property. However, WCA's efforts to seek an estimate for general liability insurance to present for Lennar's consideration suggest that the property may be uninsurable, due to the proximity of steep slopes to the housing development, as well as the additional challenges that fires present to the insurance industry at this time.

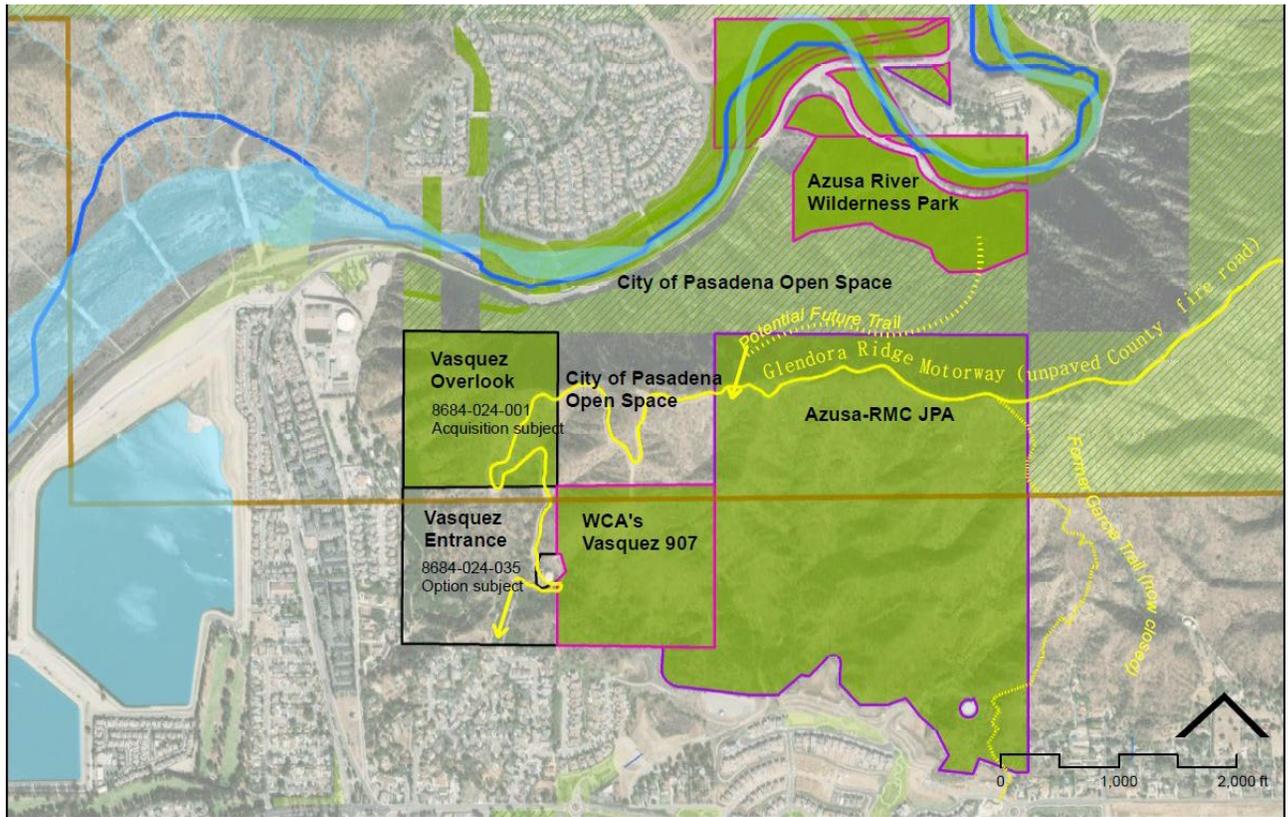
Acquisition of an uninsurable property would put WCA at risk. At the same, the properties appear to be at low risk of development. In light of other parcels being considered for the acquisition through the San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan, the property may not currently be considered high priority for acquisition. If an opportunity to insure the property presents itself in the future, negotiations with Lennar Homes about compensation may be renewed.

**Vasquez Acquisition:** Due to a time sensitive opportunity to acquire an additional parcel from the same seller that will multiply the benefits of the original Vasquez acquisition [AIN 8684-024-907] in the Azusa foothills, WCA requested a change in scope to use remaining funds from this grant toward pre-acquisition for the new opportunity parcel, "Vasquez Overlook" [AIN 8684-024-001].

Amending the scope of work within the remaining budget to conduct due diligence to augment the size of the acquisition is within the spirit of the scope and goals of the original grant. If Proposition 68 funds are awarded for the acquisition of "Vasquez Overlook", and accepted by the Governing Board at today's meeting, the property will be acquired and the deliverable of the science-based and stakeholder-driven land management plan, currently in progress for the original Vasquez acquisition, will be expanded to cover both parcels.

Additionally, if RMC awards a Prop 68 grant to its Azusa-RMC JPA for a similar long-term management plan for Azusa-RMC JPA Open Space lands, coordination of biological surveying and management among these contiguous conservation lands would demonstrate WCA's intent to

establish a cohesive approach to planning and management of San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills conservation lands.



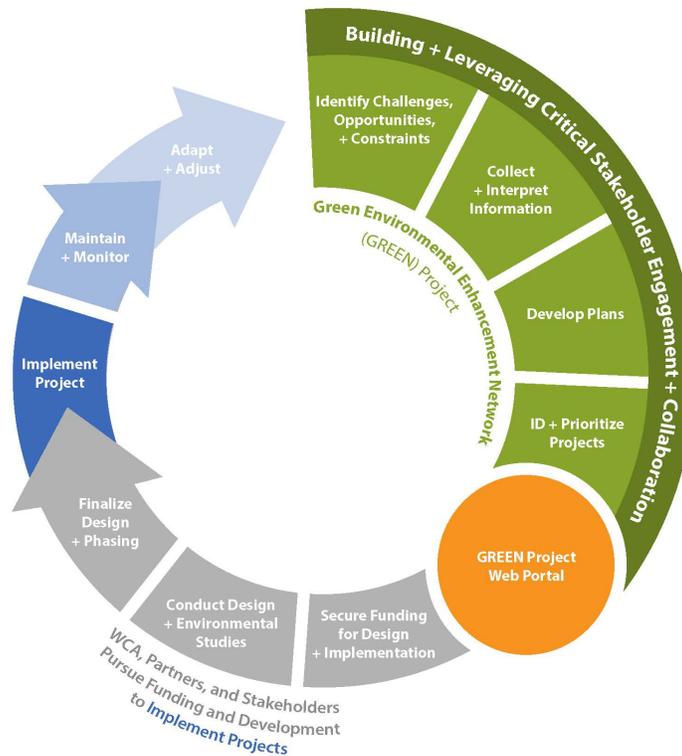
**Vasquez Overlook and public conservation lands**

Transfer of Vasquez Overlook into public ownership will augment a series of public land holdings in the Azusa foothills which are part of a multi-jurisdictional vision to preserve the biological and hydrological assets of foothills lands while focusing public use on areas where such use is may be the most manageable, rewarding, and sustainable.



**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 begun discussions on potential of a pilot Portal focused on the WCA/RMC territory or a County-wide approach to be a regional depository for plans and projects, as well as funding opportunities.

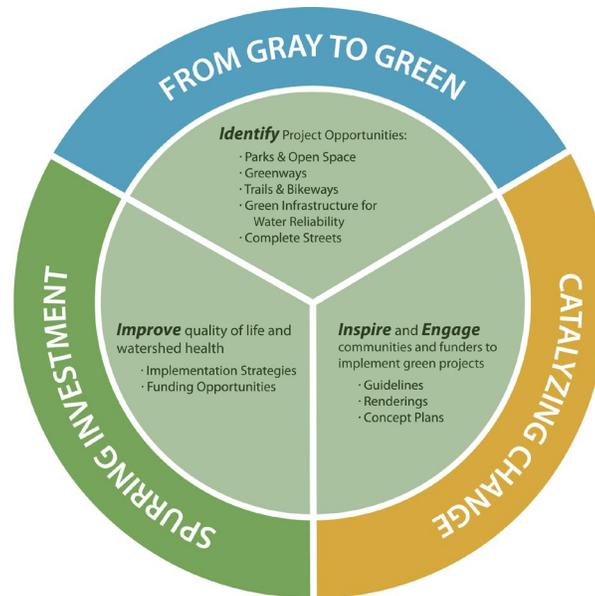
To gauge city interest in the GREEN Project, WCA staff has been having ongoing conversations with organizations and city staff throughout the Gateway Cities. The first city to receive focus has been the City of Cudahy, as they are actively looking for tools and avenues for urban greening. These conversations with Cudahy and other cities are 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 are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. A kickoff meeting with Lyric Consulting to prepare the City profile content and integrated mapping was held November 5<sup>th</sup>. WCA received a 4-month extension from the RMC to complete the Gateway Greening Plan and website update by end of April 2020.

WCA, in collaboration with the Gateway Cities COG and GWMA, is awaiting results of the joint RMC Prop 68 grant application 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 most recent of which was on October 18, 2019, WCA and project partners convened to discuss the potential reaches for the Los Angeles River, Rio Hondo, and Compton Creek, as well as the finalization of the methodology for the study.

WCA expects the RMC and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to finalize their agency agreement for the project by the end of 2019, which will allow WCA to enter into a contract with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project to expand the study to include water quality indicators and potential for the Rio Hondo and Compton Creek to serve as mitigation areas.

*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:** 5<sup>th</sup> District is currently considering WCA’s Prop/Measure A grant request for both Mt Baldy and Walnut Creek properties to complete much needed site upgrades and public amenities including new and updated signage, as well as, trail and trailhead improvements such as additional bear-proof trash enclosures, seating areas and interpretive signage. The

completion of a small Prop A/Measure A grant will also allow WCA access to Annual Operations and Maintenance funding to maintain the properties and amenities for the benefit of the community.

*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 are evaluating completed and unfinished elements of this planning project to make best use of USFS Master Agreement funds before they revert in July 2020. Complete and in-progress reports are being completed to facilitate feasible amenity and site improvements within this timeframe and budget. Demolition projects, camp host sites, and various other amenities are under consideration for implementation.

*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.*

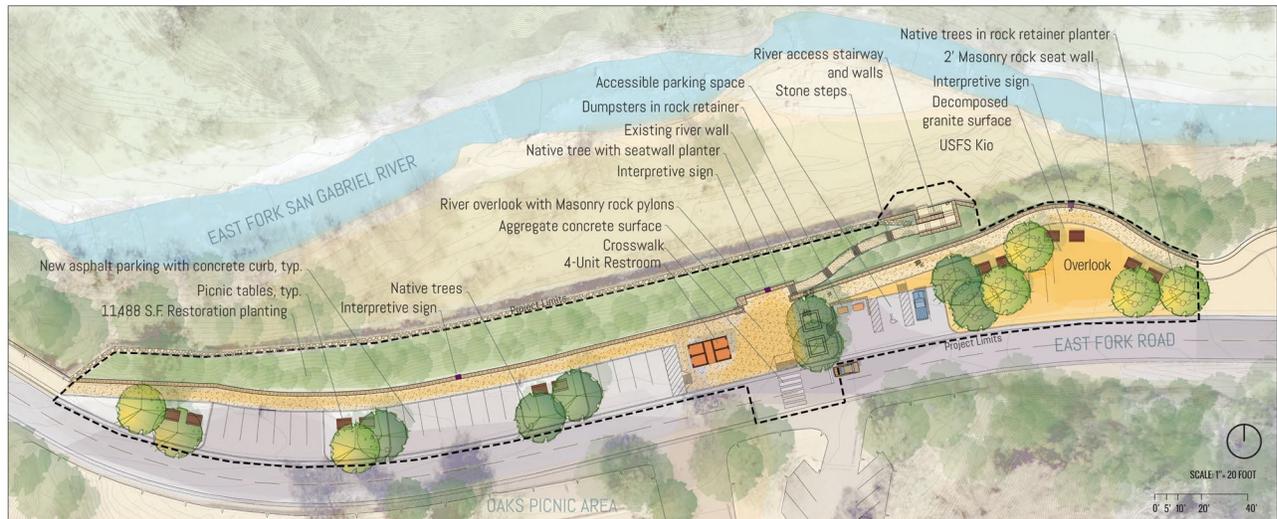
**River Wilderness Park:** Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4<sup>th</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 submitted an application in August 2019 to support the Entry Project, including road realignment, utility work within the park, restrooms, trails, and courtyards.



*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:** WCA consultant, BlueGreen, is currently updating the site design based on recent feedback from WCA staff and Angeles National Forest staff. 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. In July, WCA applied to the RMC for Prop 68 funding for the construction of the project.

U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project by January of 2020.



*Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project. An updated design is currently in process.*

*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.*

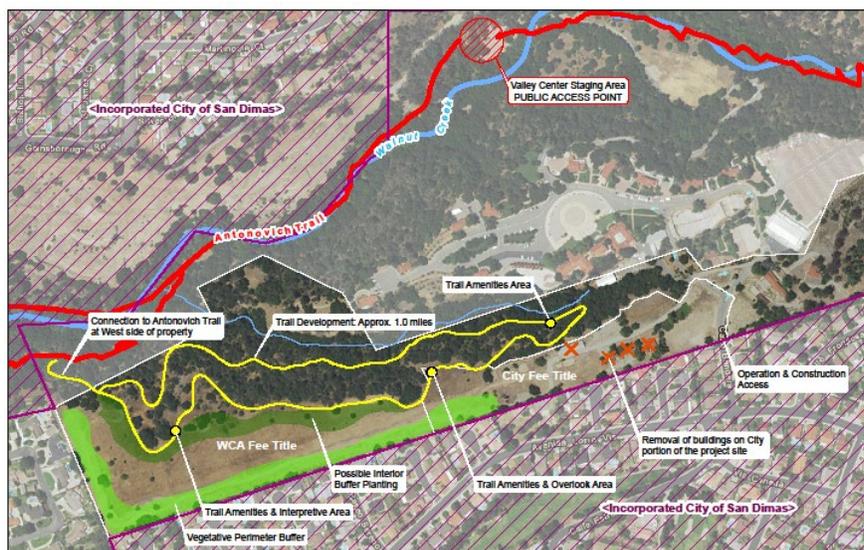
**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** The Construction has begun on the Parque Dos Rios project with site clearing and grubbing complete, main line irrigation, and laterals complete. The Verdura wall and fill for the bump-out is complete and footings for the shade structure are in progress. Demolition of existing gates and pilasters is complete. Fabrication of decorative metal work has been contracted for and the team is in the process of reviewing shop drawings. Interpretive graphic design is 90% complete and has been provided to fabricator for pricing and artwork buy-off. Project is on track to complete major construction by end of December. Conservation Corps of Long Beach work will continue through first quarter 2020.



*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. A construction bid was selected and construction of the landscape interpretive areas is scheduled to kick off in the second week of November. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year.

**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. RMC Board is considering on the agenda today a resolution to accept a grant of \$250,000 to WCA for the River Ranger Pilot Program Development Project, which will develop up to two pilots of the river ranger program for implementation starting this summer to be executed under separate State funding. WCA staff will facilitate the development of agency agreements to forward the pilot project and will engage in on-going community outreach.

*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. The Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was finalized in June 2019 and the program is moving toward a pilot project this summer.*

**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.*