

DATE: September 21, 2020
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 8D: Liaison and Activities Report

RMC ACTIVITIES

Strategic Planning Board Retreat

Current world health response to COVID-19 has impacted RMC's strategic planning process. In recognition of impacts on social conditions and economics the way to plan may be significantly altered for a period, no less than the end of the calendar year. Staff is considering the feasibility of a virtual strategic planning Board Retreat.

The RMC Governing Board (Board) plays a critical role in ensuring the agency appropriately governs and fulfill their mandate to advance the public interest. In today's rapidly changing environment, it is important that RMC strategically plan for its sustainability and future. It must also ensure that the agency effectively serves the needs of the public. The Board assumes a share of the responsibility for the success of the agency as it provides an important link between the agency and the outside environment in which the agency functions.

The purpose of the strategic planning board retreat is to develop a three to five-year blueprint for the agency's future. A Strategic Planning Board Retreat benefits RMC in the following ways:

- 1) Brings clarity and agreement on mission and vision.
- 2) Helps the agency to prepare for the future by anticipating and managing change.
- 3) Increases effectiveness and efficiency in allocating resources to achieve goals.
- 4) Aligns the board and staff.
- 5) Improves decision-making.

To accomplish this, it is important that the Board work with the Executive Officer to establish a strategic planning process, participate in the process, and approve the final strategic plan.

Because strategic planning takes time and effort, it is recommended that the Board delegate a Strategic Planning Retreat subgroup comprised of 2-3 board members to provide guidance throughout the process and to help conduct a 1-day strategic planning retreat with the board and staff.

River Ranger Program (AB 1558- C. Garcia)

RMC staff is working with Watershed Conservation Authority staff to continue to hold one-on-one meetings with project stakeholders this month as the team works toward the implementation of a Lower LA River REACH zone pilot program. A virtual meeting was conducted with LA County Department of Parks and Recreations regarding their participation and to obtain feedback regarding the program and rangers. WCA, MRCA and RMC participated in a safe social distancing tour of REACH Zone 1 hosted by the City of South Gate to study areas of high density of homelessness and public safety issues.

Consultants will be sought to provide services including but not limited to achieving the following program goals:

- 1) Recreational and/or Interpretive/Educational Programs to creatively activate the LA River in REACH Zone 1.
- 2) LA River Safety Ambassador Program to improve public safety for visitors on the LA River in REACH Zone 1.

The work of the consultants will be to create a robust outreach and engagement plan to ensure ongoing information and communication with the public and stakeholder of use and enjoyment in and around the LA River. A Request for Qualification is being finalized for release in September.

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 and factors to consider when locating these REACH Zones.



Since July 20, 2020, RMC and WCA has met with LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, staff from Supervisorial District 1, and City of South Gate staff to identify potential partnerships for the River Ranger Program. Additionally, on July 30, 2020 RMC, WCA, and MRCA staff held a site tour with South Gate Chief of Police and Director of Parks and Recreation in the portion of the

REACH Zone in South Gate to identify areas of need for services the River Ranger Program would provide. A brief report on various stakeholder conversation the team has had to date and an exploration of a governance structure for REACH Zone 1 is currently being completed by the project team.

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 regarding the development and placement of improvements along the River,
- Monitor the physical conditions, environmental health, and development of green space along the River,
- 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

Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District (SB1374) (SS)

Senate Bill SB 1374 (PRC § 5795 et seq.) authorizes the establishment of the LLARRPD by petition or resolution submitted to the LAFCO before January 1, 2021, subject to specified existing laws governing recreation and park districts, including their formation, except as provided. Through the formation of the LLARRPD, working in collaboration with the Working Group and the RMC, SB 1374 will help facilitate the construction, improvement, and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities, and promote the development of open space and parks for the benefit of communities along the Lower Los Angeles River. The bill also establishes the Board of Directors of the district, made up of two public members, appointed by the Los Angeles County Item 151 Board of Supervisors and one representative appointed by each of the following cities: Vernon, Maywood, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Paramount, and Long Beach. Additionally, one representative may be jointly appointed by the city councils of the cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera.

RMC recently hired a Conservancy Project Development Specialist (CPDS) to facilitate the establishment of the Lower Los Angeles Rivers Recreation and Park District (District). The CPDS will resume the work conducted by the consultant that was hired to initiate the execution of SB1374. The CPDS will coordinates and facilitates active engagement from the cities named in SB-1374 by meeting with and encouraging city officials to cooperate with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and to form the initial Governing Board of the District in the revitalization of the Lower Los Angeles River in accordance to SB-1374, LAFCO, and the cities' respective laws and procedures,

and provides support to the initial Board in developing the articles, laws, and budget of the District so it may continue to function in perpetuity in carrying out the purposes of SB-1374.

Resolutions from 11 of 14 cities named in Senate Bill 1374 (SB-1374) was obtained for the District application. While engaging with the cities to obtain resolutions, the Cities of Commerce, Downey, Montebello, and Pico Rivera requested an amendment to grant each city one (1) representative with one (1) vote. The amendment language was developed in December 2019 and was introduced in SB886 (Archuleta) in January 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration on March 2020, all legislative activity was paused. SB886 was suspended and there is a plan to re-introduce it in the 2021 legislative cycle.

A petition in the form of an application to establish the District was submitted and received by the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on December 11th, 2019. This is prior to the January 2021 deadline. The District application is currently being reviewed by the Los Angeles County CEO office. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the review timeline process, however, it is under review.

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

The next Lower LA River IAG Meeting is scheduled for **September 23rd, 2020** at 10am as an online meeting/conference call.

RMC staff along with leadership for the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) is working on organizing a meeting with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan Working Group to provide the members and the general public an update on activities since the completion of the revitalization plan in 2018. The timing of the meeting is anticipated for fall 2020.

With the completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) in 2018, the 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 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 is mostly comprised of members of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan Working Group; however, the committees has invited representatives of other agencies and organizations as needed to address committee needs.

Steering and sub-committee meetings are held quarterly. The next Sub-Committee was September 2nd, 2020. RMC presented on the SELA Cultural Center and Reconvening the Lower LA River Working Group in September/October 2020 to provide the members an update on the implementation of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, as well as the status of key Signature Site projects that are in progress or being planned, as well as funding opportunities. The Reconvening is likely to occur after next IAG meeting to allow for stakeholder input and coordination.

There is 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 and Chairs are:

- 1) Programs & Policies
 - a. Suely Saro, RMC
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure
 - a. Kelsey Jessup, The Nature Conservancy
- 3) Public Advisory & Community Engagement
 - a. Laura Cortez, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

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 encourages and schedules relevant project presentations and updates (as needed) by RMC grant applicants and grantees before the appropriate IAG committees to allow Lower LA River stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on projects. Any comments received on projects will be included in liaison or 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

Compton Creek Implementation Plan (RMC 19513)

Compton Creek Prioritization and Implementation (RMC 19513): The RMC is spearheading this effort, in collaboration with the Office of Assemblymember Mike Gipson (AD 64), for the prioritization and implementation of projects throughout the Compton Creek watershed. After many months of coordination beginning in January, the Working Group has selected a project site for

conversion into a passive park, located at Alondra Blvd. adjacent to the Compton Creek in the City of Compton. The next steps include making a formal presentation to the Compton City Council sometime this month, formalizing this process and moving forward with next steps, including moving towards construction documents. Studio MLA will continue to lead this process as part of their contract in the amount of \$191,520 for their facilitation, planning, landscape architecture and construction documents for this project.

This funding was provided from a 2019-2020 State budget request in the amount of \$3 Million. The Working group includes the participation of local non-profit organizations and other key stakeholders including: From Lot to Spot, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, GRID Alternatives, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, the Office of Mayor Aja Brown-City of Compton, LA County Public Works, LA County Parks-Trails Planning Division, and the Nature Conservancy, among others. The working group meetings will continue through November 2020.

IRWMP Planning Activities

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the [draft recommended funding list](#) for four funding areas for the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Solicitation—see list for Greater LA Area on next page. The draft recommendation would provide approximately \$34.3 million in Proposition 1 funding to the greater Los Angeles Area.

IRWM Region	Population (millions)	Area (Sq miles)	Grant Request	Draft Award	% of Grant Request	% of FAA
USCR	0.30	786	\$10,582,604	\$10,582,604	100%	30%
Ventura	0.83	1,781	\$12,553,000	\$11,858,680	95%	35%
GLAC	10.10	2,133	\$30,077,625	\$11,858,680	39%	35%

These funding recommendations are subject to public review. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, on behalf of the Greater LA County IRWM Group, has provided a comment letter (dated 5/27/20) on Proposition 1 Round 1 draft recommendations to DWR. Greater LAC IRWM Group feels that the draft distribution did not appear to take into consideration each regions' size and population to provide the most equitable investments for the Los Angeles Funding Area. **DWR is considering a reallocation of the grant funds based on this comment.**

The next Greater LA County Leadership Committee meeting is scheduled on September 23, 2020, at 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., location TBD.

RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (RMC14003):

The first phase of the Willowbrook Walking Path has been completed and closed out. Due to unforeseen construction issues a second phase was approved by the RMC board in 2019 will be completed by the end of 2020 (RMC18001).

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 between 120th streets and El Segundo Boulevard. Work began on this project in September 2018 with grubbing of the site. The LACC continued through 2019 and early 2020 with grading and construction of a fence line, retaining wall, and landscaping as well as building a drainage swale behind the retaining wall and catch basin. Construction was completed in March 2020.



View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001):

Due to delays with approvals needed for the recycled water lines required by the State Water Resources Quality Control Board, park construction has been delayed. The City has requested a timeline extension through 2021.

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.

San Gabriel River and Wilderness Park Restoration Downey (RMC17002)

On August 26, 2020, RMC Board, RMC and WCA staff participated in a construction site tour to see the progress of the Wilderness Park improvements, specifically the North and South ponds, as well as other sections of the park. Walt Eden of Eden Co. described the improvements to the ponds, irrigation improvements, connection to recycled water lines for landscape irrigation and other amenities including estuaries and a butterfly area near the South pond. Extensive engineering has taken place at this park, along with other unforeseen improvements that were not

part of the original budget. This project was re-scored in May of 2020 and received a score of 80.5 points.

Wilderness Park is a 26-acre park, originally opened in 1973 with 2,550 feet of frontage along the San Gabriel River. The original grant was approved by the RMC Board at the January 23, 2017 meeting in the amount of \$1,660,000. That funding included installation of a new recycled water irrigation system, hydrologically connecting to the lakes, installation of an aeration system, native and drought tolerant plants, new trails and signage.

West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition (17007):

A 4-month extension was granted administratively to the City to December 31, 2020. The City opened escrow on July 21, 2020, and is expected to request funds to be deposited into escrow in October 2020.

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 under review by State Granting agencies.

Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Project (RMC 17009):

The City has completed 90% construction drawings for the wetlands development.

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.

Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project (17011):

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. Follow-up infiltration tests continue as planned, but stewardship follow-up has been halted due to the stay at home order. The County has been exploring alternative means of outreach during this time.

The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project grant to the County of Los Angeles is in the amount of \$268,500 and includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County. A Parkway is typically defined as the area between a road's curb and the sidewalk. Parkway basins are designed to capture and treat stormwater and dry season flow (urban runoff), utilizing urban runoff for irrigation and facilitating infiltration to groundwater. These basins are constructed by excavating and lowering a portion of parkway, then cutting an opening in the curb to facilitate the flow of water from the street. The basins contain rock reinforced slopes to prevent erosion, along with the vegetation which will detain, remediate, and help infiltrate urban runoff. When a basin is full, any additional urban runoff will be unable to enter and will continue to travel in the gutter eventually to the storm drain system. Parkway basins have been successfully constructed for many years in numerous cities including: Tucson, Arizona; New York City; Portland, Oregon; and

other municipalities. Locally, parkway basins have been constructed successfully in Panorama City and Studio City.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties (RMC 17013):

Negotiations with the Landowner have ceased. Toward the end of May 2020, LCWA was informed by the landowner that they are no longer interested in selling the property to LCWA. They experienced large revenue losses from declining oil prices at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and wished to pursue other opportunities for their property. The LCWA will initiate the process to close out this grant and return funds to the RMC. The LCWA thanks the RMC for your continued support of projects and the Los Cerritos Wetlands, and we hope to be able to revisit this acquisition in the future.

This grant to the LCWA is in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) currently owns approximately 177 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in the Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the LCWA is seeking to acquire the frontage and remaining Bryant-Dakin, LLC Properties located along 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014):

The public comment period for the Draft Program EIR for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan ran from May 8, 2020 - July 6, 2020. The document is available the LCWA website at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/the-lcws-eir/>, and on the State Clearing House website at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019039050/2>. The LCWA is currently preparing responses to comment and anticipate certifying the EIR later this year. Additionally, LCWA was awarded a grant from CDFW to pursue next steps in restoration planning for the 100-acre South LCWA site.

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. 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.

Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015):

RMC staff will perform a walkthrough of the project in September to close out the grant.

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.

Fernwood Avenue Development Lynwood (RMC17017)

The Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration, and Water Quality Improvement Project is proposed to be relocated to Fernwood Avenue and State Street, which is an extension of the existing Lara Linear Trail in the City of Lynwood. The reason for the relocation is due to the lack of permeability at the original site near City Hall. In an effort fulfill grant requirements for the completion of the project scope of work the City identified the new site at Fernwood Ave and State Street and conducted a series of percolation tests and have submitted their results. Based on the results of the boring percolation test, the site soils are coarse-grained and have high percolation rates for infiltration systems in general. The timeline for the Fernwood Avenue Development and Water Quality Improvement Project will be extended to March 2022 from the original timeline of February 1, 2020.

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 June 30, 2020 and an additional \$186,257, pending RMC approval. There was a grand opening on February 8, 2020 and project is moving towards grant close out.

San Gabriel Mountain Community Collaborative (RMC17024):

On July 23, 2020, the SGMCC held a virtual meeting via Zoom. Angeles National Forest and Collaborative members conducted a partnership workshop focused on sharing best practices for building partnerships with the Forest Service. Fabian Garcia (Angeles National Forest) presented an overview of approval and decision-making process in the Forest Service. Fabian will be going on a 120-day detail as a National Partnership Coordinator to help align the Forest Service to work with partners. Joseph Gonzalez (RMC) gave an overview of the EIR/EIS for the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project. Steven Messner (CORBA) shared a case study of the Strawberry Peak Trail Restoration Project. Belinda Faustinos (Nature For All) presented on partnership agreements. Break-out sessions among committees focused on partnering strategies.

The next SGMCC meeting will be Thursday, September 24th, 2020.

National Forest Foundation project continues through March 2021, the Collaborative will be finalizing the Action Plans and start implementation of the Action Plan through 2021.

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.

Willowbrook Walking Path Phase II (RMC 18001)

Construction has progressed on the second phase of the walking path and is expected to be completed November 2020. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps is currently working on finishing touches such as signage installation

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 second phase addresses construction issues with the first phase (RMC14003), specifically with abutting properties and the retaining wall between 120th street and El Segundo boulevard in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook. This project also includes the creation of an over 2,700 linear foot by 6-foot bioswale and catch basin constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek. The project began in October of 2019 and is currently underway with work being performed by the LA Conservation Corps. For image, see RMC14003.

Sleepy Lagoon Planning Project (RMC 18003)

The grantee kicked off several community meetings which were well attended and gathered input regarding the prospective monument, design ideas, and its potential location. The consultant DakeLuna has completed the feasibility study and RMC is awaiting a presentation of deliverables and final payment to close out the grant.

The RMC provided a grant of \$325,000 to the East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice for a feasibility study to develop a Sleepy Lagoon monument. The outreach, design and planning process involved 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 Maywood, Bell and surrounding cities.

Trask Reservation Water System Improvement Project (RMC 18006)

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.

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.

BSA received approval for an \$90,200 and extension through September 30, 2020 to complete their environmental compliance at the Board meeting in January 2020.

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

Amigos' received a grubbing permit from LA County Flood Control District on March 23, 2020. Working with Landscape architects to review complete tree planting plan with respect to easement restrictions.

As of March 2020, all volunteer outreach events have been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, California Conservation Corps was scheduled to participate in site prep and grubbing at this time but work has also been delayed because of COVID. Amigos' continues to boost awareness of green infrastructure work along the San Gabriel River via Amigos' Constant Contact email service, Facebook, and Amigos' website.

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 / 17006)

TPL submitted close-out documents for RMC17006 on April 28, 2020, and continuing to work on permitting and implementation with next phase RMC grant (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. Construction is planned to start Fall 2020.

RMC provided a grant for Planning for the Urban Orchard Development grant to the Trust for Public Land is in the amount of \$845,000 (RMC 17006). In May 2019, RMC provided an additional \$1,387,401 for design and construction of the wetlands component for the Orchard (RMC 18010).

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.

The Community Center at DeForest Park (RMC 18012)

The majority of the outreach has been conducted over Q1 2020, but public engagement was scheduled to continue throughout July 2020. The goal is to continue the vision plan development and have it on city council's agenda in July 2020. In addition to outreach, CCLB contracted with a geo-engineering firm to conduct soils testing at the proposed building location.

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.

Over Q1-2020, CCLB and its partners continued to focus on community outreach and preparing the Vision Plan for City review. During this time, the Team pivoted midway to an online platform due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the various stay-at-home orders. CCLB and its partners held a lengthy design concept meeting to discuss the practicality of the Vision Plan and the building. These concepts are being used in the final public workshop series which will be integrated into the Vision Plan. On March 31, 2020, CCLB launched the online survey as part of Workshop Series 3.

LA River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (RMC 18013)

In Spring 2020, WCA contributed locations to the SCCWRP flows study model that represent proposed future uses in WCA/RMC territory which would be affected by the amount of flow in the channel. These locations include channel reaches in proximity to Ralph C. Dill Park (restoration/channel enhancement proposed by Trout Unlimited); three Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study locations along Compton Creek proposed by US Army Corps of Engineers (Gonzalez Park, Raymond Street Park, and Compton HS); and the Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (in-channel park access and restoration elements proposed by project lead LACFCD). WCA and RMC Staff attended Stakeholder meeting #4 and Technical Advisory Committee meeting #5. WCA is compiling a list of entities to reach out to for the outreach component of WCA's scope.

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 resulting from increased wastewater re-use upstream. An RMC grant funds WCA's participation in the Stakeholder group and adding third-party review of the analysis.

RMC finalized a Conservancy Agreement with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to move this project forward and awarded a \$250,000 grant to WCA in April 2019. WCA entered into a contract with SCCWRP in March 2020 to perform the supplemental scope as part of Flows Study.

Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project (RMC 19003)

The City of Santa Clarita has made substantial progress on the project, which is near completion. The infiltration system and vortex system have both been installed and covered. Due to COVID-19 the signage on manhole covers and the bike trail have been substantially delayed and will be completed by Summer 2021.

The Development of the Santa Clarita Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project will redevelop a blighted space in Canyon County and transform it to an environmentally sustainable community space and gathering location. Included in the overall project is to establish a riverfront greenway stormwater treatment and infiltration project that is the focus of the grant request. The Project will improve the Santa Clara River (SCR) watershed within the City of Santa Clarita and will increase regional self-reliance through improved local ground water recharge and result in integrated, multi-benefit solutions of ensuring sustainable water resources.

Central Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project (RMC 19007)

During the second quarter of 2020 TPL executed the Memorandum of Understanding with LA Sanitation. TPL also finalized, distributed and received proposals back from four qualified consultants to conduct design development and construction drawings for the project. They plan to hire a design team in the coming quarter.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, direct outreach in the community has been challenging, however, TPL project staff has been working to maintain existing relationships with community members. On June 26th, TPL staff held a food distribution event in the parking lot of South Park in an effort to provide food to the most vulnerable families in the community. Over 200 food boxes and 400 gallons of milk were provided by the Regional Food Bank and passed out to community members by TPL staff. Notice of the food distribution event was conducted via phone and mail so community members were informed.

The TPL Los Angeles team continues to discuss opportunities for a socially distanced alley clean up this fall.

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.

Banna Community Park Project (RMC 19008)

The City of Covina has made great progress on the construction of the park and installation of playground equipment. Construction is scheduled to have been completed by mid-September

The Banna Community Park project will develop a new 2.0-acre neighborhood park in the City of Covina along Banna Avenue at Cypress Street. This 2.0-acre park will incorporate several amenities that will directly benefit the local community. Near-by residents and local high schoolers expressed strong support for native and drought tolerant plants, an abundance of trees, passive recreation trails, open space, and fitness areas, which were incorporated into the City's design. The project will include carbon-sequestering and drought-tolerant native plants that aid in improving the environment and climate, stormwater collecting bioswale green spaces and underground retention basins for groundwater replenishment and treatment, pollinator gardens to attract wildlife, nature inspired playground, and nature play areas.

Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (RMC19010)

With funding approved in February, CCLB and its partners have worked to kick-off the Lakewood Equestrian Center and Surrounding Open Space Master Plan project. When our preliminary meeting was held, there was no indication of the coronavirus pandemic. However, as March progressed, partners began talking about how to adapt outreach to meet the needs of the project while keeping with stay-at-home orders. In addition to the kick-off meeting, CCLB worked with LA Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) and the City of Lakewood to develop rosters for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Currently, CCLB and partners are aiming for the first TAC meeting in May, but dates may change depending on COVID-19 developments.

The Lakewood Equestrian Center & Surrounding Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) will help re-envision a 60-acre open space region of Lakewood that centers around the Lakewood Equestrian Center, and includes Rynerson Park, the San Gabriel River Trail, and Camp Fire Camp Shiwaka.

The Master Plan will link these various spaces, to integrate the community's recreational desires and needs with sustainable, long-term practices, and guide the City of Lakewood's regional management and programs. While these facilities sit adjacent to each other, they currently lack safe and marked connections to one another. The area has the potential to entertain a multitude of recreational and educational activities, connect the local community to the outdoors, and host best management practices (BMPs) for natural resources.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

Duck Farm Project: New trails are being formed around and through the northern dry streambed, footbridge footings are being prepared and seating areas placed. Southern bioswale/wetlands are being dug and prepared for filter fabric, boulders, cobble and sand. The fabrication of the shade structures are being readied for installation. Colors are being confirmed for site furnishings and metal work prior to final painting and delivery. Landscaping and weed control continue as the soil is prepared for additional plants and mulch to come. Conservation Corps of Los Angeles and County of Orange are preparing to start their work of installing thousands of 4" native plants along the



pathways. Submittals continue to be processed and RFI's answered. Construction team meetings resumed in August and will continue until the end of the project later this year. WCA's Construction Manager is working with the General Contractor, Fast-Track Construction, on finalizing change orders for new and deleted work.

Riparian Dry Streambed, trails, and footbridge footings taking shape as the project nears completion.



-Updated illustrative site plan for the Duck Farm River Park currently under construction.

The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.

San Gabriel River Center and Gardens (Duck Farm House) Project: Following consultation with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, WCA Staff conducted an internal design charette to envision the San Gabriel River Center as indoor / outdoor space, with direct integration of the planned water conservation gardens. Staff has prepared a request for an Environmental Testing firm, to test the farm house for hazardous materials, in preparation for future partial demolition of a portion of the house structure and attached garage. Staff is also engaging Positive Plumbing to evaluate the existing septic system, in preparation for potential refurbishment / expansion. Following the results of these evaluations, Staff will prepare an RFP for a demolition contract, which will be brought before the Watershed Conservation Authority Board for approval.

WCA continues to move 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 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

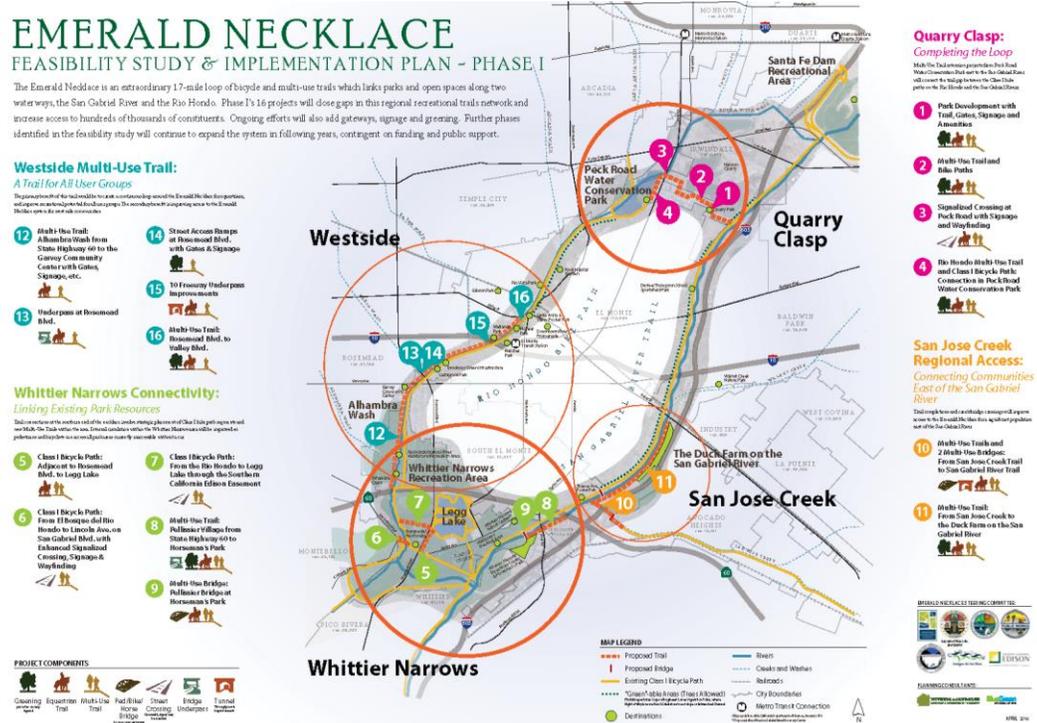


SGR Center and Gardens (Duck Farm House) Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan is a multi-objective effort to transform existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District right of way in the San Gabriel Valley into a world-class Greenway Network in conjunction with identifying ways to upgrade and enhance the District's existing flood control facilities. The Plan will build upon the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative - Greenway Feasibility Study and will highlight connectivity with other planned active transportation components and green urban infrastructure projects throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

The Plan will accelerate development of greenway design standards and create cooperative agreements with other agencies to expedite project delivery for shovel ready projects. This approach will enable simultaneous implementation of high priority greenway projects while ensuring consistency with the broader master planning of the Greenway Network.

Emerald Necklace: No change, next meeting is scheduled to occur on July 14th, after the publishing of this report. An update of which will be provided in the September report. This meeting brings together County and WCA staff to more closely collaborate to move projects forward. Priority projects continue to focus on the San Jose Creek Bridge and River Trail extension to the Duck Farm and the Rosemead Blvd complete street project between Legg Lake and Durfee within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This working group will continue to meet in an effort to identify funding, prepare grant applications and seek to partner to develop projects identified in the Emerald Necklace Plan.



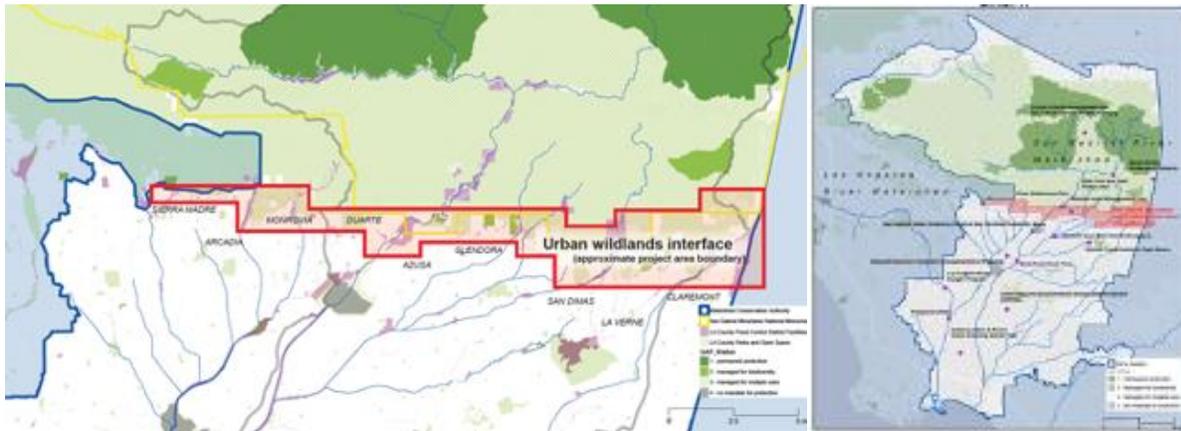
The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north

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: Psomas continues work on the Report on Regional Biological Opportunities. A presentation of work in progress was shared with some key stakeholders, and feedback is being used to shape content.

WCA has been compiling content for the plan. An RFP will be issued to engage additional consultants to refine specific topics for the completed Plan.



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.

Vasquez Acquisitions and Interim Land Management Plan: Botanical field surveys of Vasquez Overlook (Vasquez II) have concluded. WCA is awaiting a draft report of the results.

As part of due diligence, legal counsel has suggested the City of Azusa, the Vasquez Ranch, WCA, and the County all approve, execute, and record a modification of the City's easement to clarify rights over the unpaved road before WCA seeks to the property. Such agreement is expected to require approvals from the Azusa City Council and the County Board. WCA has been discussing such a document with City of Azusa. Legal counsel is drafting language to be considered for approval by the City of Azusa.

Consideration of a contract for survey is on the consent calendar. A survey and legal description are necessary in order to draft a purchase contract.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment will be taking place.

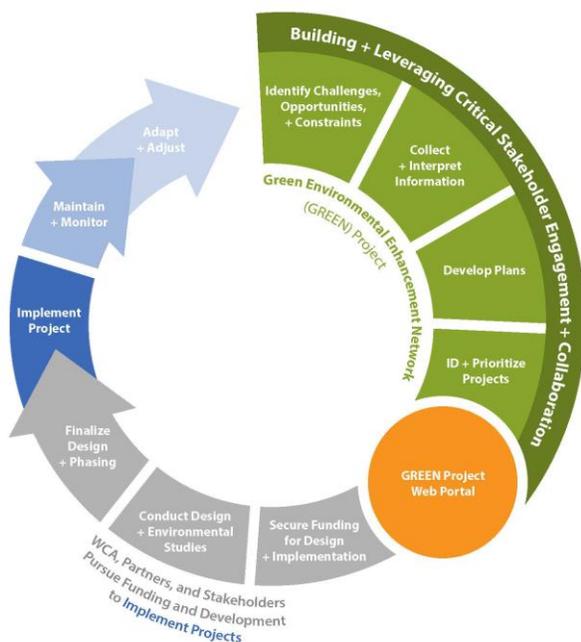
Environmental writer, Ilsa Setziol, began a series of interviews that will form the basis of a short article on the Vasquez land and its history. Interviews so far have included Art Vasquez Senior and

Jeffrey Cornejo, author of Azusa, Images of America, by Arcadia Publishing. The article will provide source material for future blog posts, social media, press releases and interpretive content. More importantly, it will provide an additional perspective to articulate the contemporary context of conservation in the foothills.



The Vasquez acquisitions (Vasquez I in 2016 and Vasquez II in 2020) protect some of the last undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses. WCA acquisition of these lands augments an existing cluster of contiguous public conservation lands in the Azusa Foothills that includes WCA’s River Wilderness Park, Azusa-RMC Open Space, and City of Pasadena Open Space.

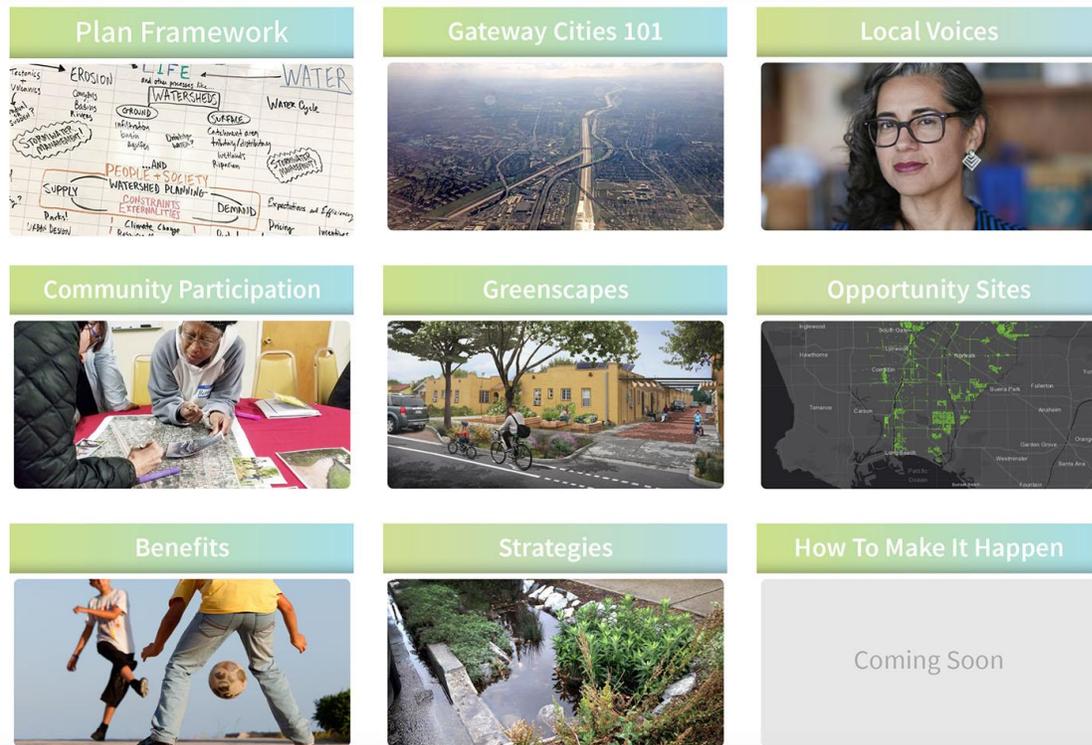
GREEN Project: The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA/RMC territory which has included engagement and support for regional plans as well as neighborhood and site-scale opportunities. Staff continues to engage in efforts including the Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASC), and advancement of proof-of-concept for the GREEN Portal through specific improvements for the Gateway Greening Plan intended for incorporation. A request for proposals for technical assistance in development of the GREEN Portal is also planned this quarter for Board review in November. At the site scale a contract for Duck Farm Equestrian Center design services including conceptual plan and construction drawing development has been awarded to Blue Green Consulting which received the highest scores among proposers.



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: In August, WCA staff presented the Plan and website to RMC staff for feedback. WCA will re-engage with other stakeholders over the coming months prior to launch for additional buy-in.



Navigation buttons from the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan homepage

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.

Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve: WCA is exploring a partnership with Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) to manage and eradicate invasive plants at the Preserve. IERCD will be mapping a proposed project area, and preparing a proposal for weed management.

WCA staff has been evaluating a proposal was made by Vista Communications in August 2019, to site a cell tower on the Preserve. Staff has been clarifying the process and the proposal so that the Board may discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

Within this time, WCA has received eleven letters from nine community members voicing concerns about the proposal. WCA staff has also fulfilled two public records requests regarding WCA’s communications with various parties about the proposed tower, and has received additional

commentary on the provided records, pointing out perceived inconsistencies in Vista's communications to WCA. WCA has recently been informed that a petition supporting an alternative location of Spring Hill (rather than Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve) has obtained more than 70 signatures, and is still being circulated. Most of the letters received point out that a tall tower on the WCA property will mar the views currently enjoyed. Most letters express the belief that an alternative site called "Spring Hill" will have less impact on views. Several cite the legal precedent of "prudent avoidance" in cell tower siting. Several letters express a perception that Vista has not been transparent with the community about discussing possible options.

WCA staff is currently evaluating the lease terms proposed by Vista, and plans to ask Vista to hold an additional community meeting to clarify the facts regarding the proposal so that the consideration of a cell tower lease can be fully discussed by the WCA board at a future date.



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: Due to three fires in the Forest, USFS staff has been unavailable to review and comment on the Request for Bid packages for Demolition and Construction work and have requested additional time to provide their feedback. The package will therefore be finalized and published by in September. Work is targeted to begin in October/November 2020 as a result. Work includes the construction of new camp host sites, kiosks and iron rangers at both Crystal Lake and Coldbrook campgrounds. Improvements to the Crystal Lake Visitor Center and the construction of a trash transfer station at Rincon Fire Station site. Additionally, the demolition of several old, unused restrooms and dilapidated ancillary buildings. Design work for the second access point at the East Fork/Oaks Picnic area is on-going. San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, utilizing COVID-19 precautions, are continuing their conservation efforts in the San Gabriel Canyon under the direction of US Forest Service staff.

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. Additionally, the implementation of maintenance and site improvements has been approved by USFS.

River Wilderness Park: Plans are in development to prepare for a construction phase for the entry improvements beginning in the next year. Due to both funding gaps and timeline limits on grant awards the roundabout and main visitor center are expected to be omitted from a first phase of implementation. These proposed changes to expedite timeline and near-term workforce opportunities are included as part of a staff report on the regular agenda for this September meeting.

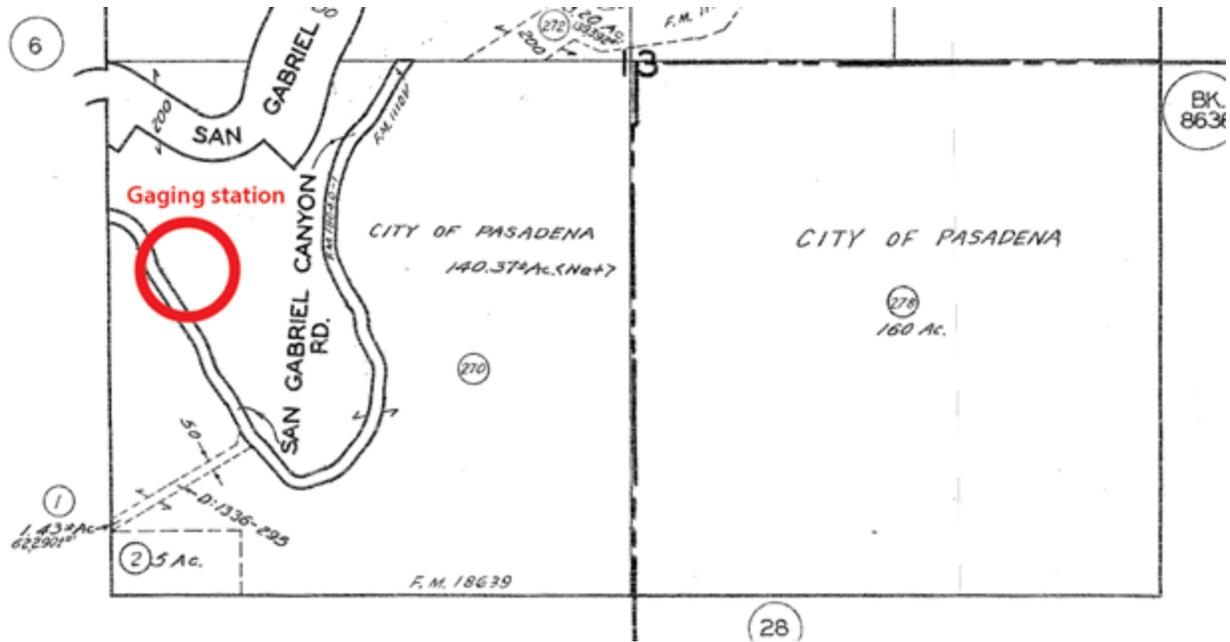


During the pandemic River Wilderness Park has been inundated with visitors from all over the County, often from more urbanized areas. On weekends and especially on holidays, WCA has had to organize extra staffing to manage and educate crowds about lack of water access at the Park. Water access is not safe at River Wilderness Park due to the high water flows that occur from dam releases.

In the last year, WCA staff has experimented with various approaches to signage and staffing to keep visitors out of the river in this dangerous location. However, numerous internet sites which WCA cannot control perpetuate the misconception that river access is possible at the Park.

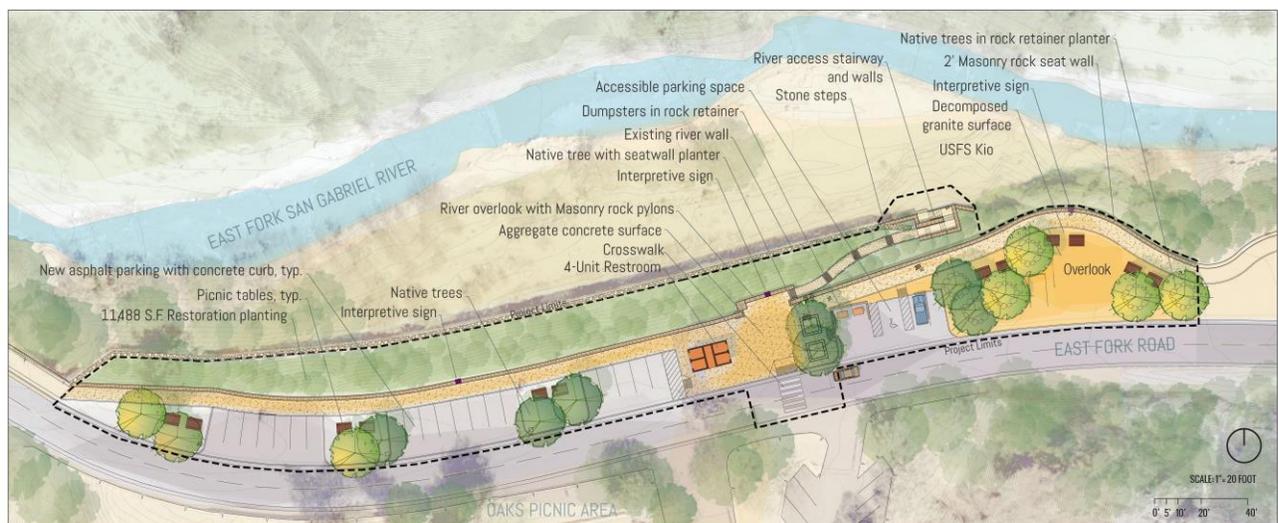
Besides continuing to post and improve signage and procure staffing for anticipated busy weekends, staff is considering 1) changing the name of park to avoid confusion with locations that do provide safe river access 2) posting signage at the Gaging Station, the location where visitors are most likely to attempt to enter the water. WCA has regularly received reports of water rescues that occur when users of River Wilderness Park hike down the unpaved County road and attempt to enter the water at a Gaging station below Morris Dam.

WCA has always posted no swimming signs at RWP, due to the danger posed by high water flows and water releases. However, WCA is trying to confirm whose property the Gaging Station location is so that the appropriate reminder warnings may be posted at this location. LACFCD and USFS have confirmed this is not in their jurisdiction. The County parcel map shows this to be City of Pasadena jurisdiction, but this is yet to be confirmed by that party.



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, has completed its work on the site design for the project’s first access point, and is in the process of designing an additional access point which extends the footprint of the current design. This portion will be funded through WCA’s Master Participating Agreement with the Forest Service that was extended for an additional 12-months due to COVID-19 related impacts. WCA is awaiting notification from RMC of its grant award for construction of the Oaks River Access Project (first access point) under the Prop 68 grant. U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project in 2020.



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.

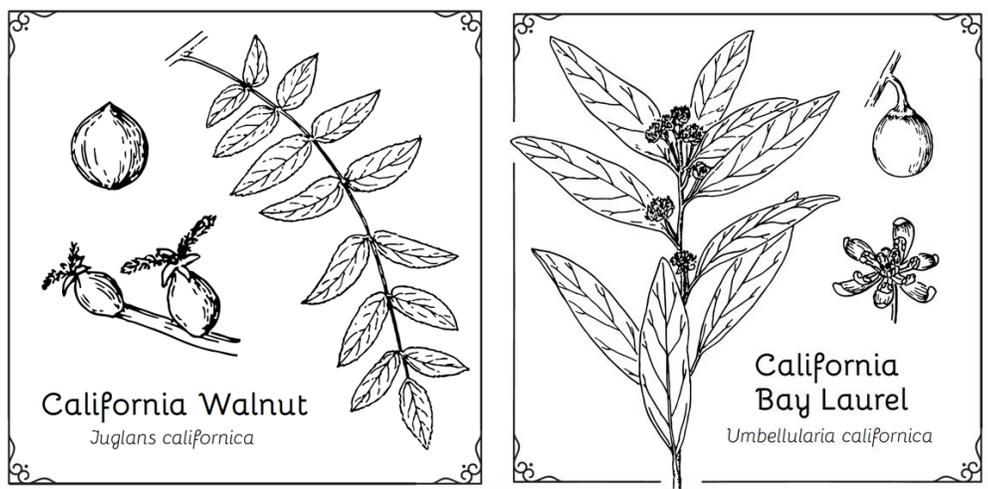
Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use and balance the needs for resource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

South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: The project team has reassemble and a notice to remobilize has been sent by the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (General Contractor) to their subcontractors. The project has been de-mobilized since February 2020 related initially to awaiting permit amendment approval for LA County Flood Control District and then later due to COVID-19 stay at home orders throughout the nation. The interpretive signs have since been completed and are awaiting delivery to the general contractor, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

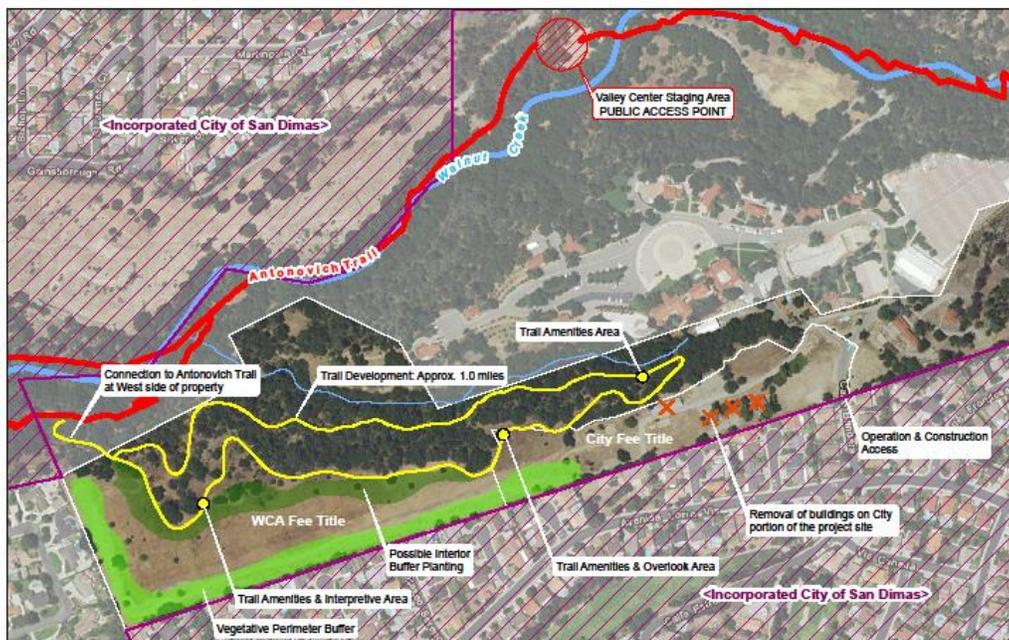


Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted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

Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: Construction of the West Trail Loop and overlooks are complete with minor punch list items to be followed up on by the Contractor before the City of San Dimas closes out their contract. WCA has provided signage design for botanical metal plates to be installed on boulders along the trail. The signs will identify to visitor's the types of native plants they will see along the trail – samples of artwork shown below. Two interpretive panels will be designed by WCA and will be purchased by the City for WCA to install at the two overlooks.



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.