

# LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2013 – MARCH 2014)



*This report is in response to C.F. No. 11-0098-S4 requesting updates on LA River revitalization progress.*

## **LOS ANGELES RIVER GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **LOS ANGELES RIVER COOPERATION COMMITTEE (RCC) & MASTER USE AGREEMENT (MUA)**

- The RCC met on January 6 and heard informational items from the Council for Watershed Health, Piggyback Yard Collaborative, Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy, LA River Revitalization Corporation, and LADWP. The next meeting will be held April 7 (See [www.lariver.org/rcc](http://www.lariver.org/rcc)).
- RCC Staff focus group meetings were held on 10/16, 01/16, 02/20, and 03/20. The next meeting is 04/17 at the City.
- A meeting on the LA River Master Use Agreement with the County and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was held on 03/13.

### **RIVER REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (RRC)**

- At the request of Council, LARPO is coordinating City efforts in support of the RRC's La Kretz Crossing (North Atwater multi-modal bridge) project (see below).
- The Greenway 2020 campaign is raising awareness and funding to complete gaps in the LA River Bikeway & Greenway

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) and FEDERAL COORDINATION**

- LARPO participates in regular meetings with the USACE LA River Ecosystem Study (Study) team.
- Study EIS/EIR public review was open 09/20—11/05. Several hundred comments were received from the public, other government agencies, and stakeholder organizations in writing and at the public hearing on 10/17 at LA River Center. More than 8,000 people signed Mayor Garcetti's petition in support of the Study's Alternative 20.
- Mayor Garcetti, and Councilmembers O'Farrell (CD13), Cedillo (CD1), and Blumenfield (CD3) traveled to Washington, DC 10/28-29 to participate in the "LA River Day on Capitol Hill" event hosted by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) and to meet with White House, Administration, and Congressional leaders to seek their support for LA River revitalization and the USACE Study.
- Arroyo Seco Foundation organized a rally to support Study Alt. 20 on 09/28 at MRCA's Marsh Park.
- The USACE Study selected project alternative decision is pending as of 3/19.
- USDOJ/National Park Service is advancing certification of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail along the LA River. The City Council is considering a motion in support of this (motion introduced on 03/04; C.F. 14-0002-S24).
- USEPA Administrator Gina McCarthy toured the river with Mayor Garcetti and Councilman O'Farrell on 11/21.
- USDOJ Secretary Jewell expressed support for LA River revitalization in her remarks at the LA State Historic Park/Cornfields on 03/20 when she announced that LA had been selected as one of eight nationwide partners in the new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership initiative.

### **STATE AND REGIONAL UPDATES**

- State legislators submitted letters in support of Alternative 20; Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (CA-51) introduced AJR (5) in support of it, and both the County Board of Supervisors and City of Glendale endorsed it.
- Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) Round 2 project awards included funding for the Marsh Park expansion (MRCA). Round 3 is upcoming (LADWP is lead).
- The City Council of Long Beach adopted a resolution on 11/12 to collaborate with City of LA on LA River revitalization efforts.



## **RIVER PROJECTS**

- **Albion Dairy Park** (CD1): BOE (Prop O) has solicited proposals for design services, selection pending. Construction funding is from Prop O (City), Prop K (City), and Prop 84 (State of CA).
- **La Kretz Crossing (North Atwater Multi-Modal Bridge)** (CDs 4 and 13): This project is led by the RRC. LARPO is coordinating City involvement; CDs 4 and 13 provided funds for permitting and environmental review, which are underway (CEQA complete).
- **Elysian Valley Pedestrian/Bike Path Greening** (CD 13): The project is underway by the MRCA. The project is improving three street ends at Dallas, Gatewood, and Fernleaf Streets. Closing out B-permits and finishing correction items.
- **LA River Greenway Phase II** (CD 2, 4): Project groundbreaking was held on 09/18 for segment from Sepulveda to Kester (south bank); the second segment (from Coldwater to Whitsett on the south bank has a completed design, but needs to finalize County/USACE approvals).
- **Taylor Yard Bike Bridge** (CDs 1 and 13): The Metro board approved funding for design in January 2013. Design is underway. Community meetings have been held in 2014 in both CD 13 and CD 1.
- **LA Veteran Tribute Park** (CD 6): The project will be reviewed by RCC on 04/07. Community outreach phase and project planning are underway.
- **LA River Recreational Zone Program** (CD 1, 13): Program reauthorized for 2014 by City Council on 02/25; to be conducted again by the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA)
- **Downtown LA River Bike Path** (CD 14): A privately-led project (FoLAR and others) that will build an in-channel bike path for 8 miles to connect gap in LA River Bikeway; concept to be presented at the RCC meeting on 04/07.
- **Bending the River Back into the City (Waterwheel)** (CD 1): This project is in design, led by Metabolic Studio (Lauren Bon). BOE processed adoption of the CEQA MND. Project has obtained many necessary permits, including water use rights. Upcoming action is property acquisition from MTA and start of USACE 408/404 permit process. This project will introduce a working rubber dam in the LA River near the Broadway bridge.
- **NBC/Universal and Vicinity Bike Path** (CD 2, 4): NBC/Universal donated \$13.5M to the project, which is being led by the County; BOE, BSS, LADWP, LADOT are in working group to plan, design, and construct bike path; in planning/pre-design phase

## **CITY COORDINATION**

- Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) Committee meeting was held on 02/18 (LADWP is lead).
- LARPO provides regular weekly briefings and/or reports to the Mayor's Office.
- LARPO is continuing to coordinate with the NEIS-2A sewer tunneling project design team to evaluate alignment/impacts near the LA River/Taylor Yard Bowtie site.
- LARPO staff is contributing to the update of [www.lariver.org](http://www.lariver.org) with CD 13 staff and ITA.
- LARPO worked with LADOT and the Mayor's Office to help prepare a grant application submitted by MTA on 02/28 to the State of CA Strategic Growth Council – to plan for LA River bikeway gap closures in San Fernando Valley.
- DCP is supporting advancement of the LA River Improvement Overlay (LA-RIO) district (C.F. 12-0096-S1), which will soon be heard in Council committees.

## **RECENT EXTERNAL OUTREACH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- 03/03: LARPO provided river update to Asst. Secretary of USDOT at LADWP event.
- 03/04: *LA Times* published editorial in support of Study Alternative 20.
- 03/06: LARPO and BPW Comm. Romero provided presentation to Central City Association
- 03/18: LARPO met with CD 4 and Village Gardeners on greenway improvements.
- 03/22: Deborah Weintraub to speak at Metabolic Studio as part of World Water Day
- 04/07: LA River Cooperation Committee (hosted by County); see [www.lariver.org/rcc](http://www.lariver.org/rcc)
- 04/26: FoLAR Valley Cleanup; 05/03: Glendale Narrows Cleanup; 05/10: Lower LA River Cleanup
- 05/15: American Council of Eng. Cos. to give Innovator of the Year Award to LA River Office
- 09/14: Play the LA River/Project 51 event launch to encourage people to visit river

