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September 20, 2011

The Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Ed P. Reyes, Chair  
Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River  
Los Angeles City Council

c/o Maria Espinoza  
City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

Dear Councilmember Reyes and Honorable Members:

### **COUNCIL FILE NO. 07-1342 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN: RIVER PROJECT OFFICE PROGRESS REPORT (April 15 to July 11, 2011)**

I am hereby submitting a report in response to the City Council's direction to the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) via Council File No. 07-1342 to facilitate Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) implementation and to report on the establishment of a Los Angeles River Special Projects Office.

Coincident with adoption of the LARRMP, the City Council directed BOE to report on establishment of the River Project Office, which it oversees as project manager.

Please direct any questions regarding this report to the managers of the River Project Office: Carol Armstrong: (213) 485-5762 or Larry Hsu: (213) 485-4562.

Sincerely,

Deborah Weintraub, AIA, LEED A.P.  
Chief Deputy City Engineer

Attachment:  
Los Angeles River Project Office Progress Report

CC: Romel Pascual, Deputy Mayor, Environment and Sustainability  
Commissioner Jerilyn López Mendoza, Board of Public Works  
Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer





# LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT (JULY 12, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 21, 2011)

*The following has been compiled in response to the City Council's direction (C.F. No. 07-1342) to the Bureau of Engineering to regularly report to the Ad Hoc River Committee on Los Angeles River Project Office activities.*

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## RIVER GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### RIVER COOPERATION COMMITTEE & RIVER MASTER USE AGREEMENT

- The River Cooperation Committee (RCC), which was established by the City-County River MOU will hold its next meeting on 10/03 at the County (See [www.lariver.org/rcc](http://www.lariver.org/rcc)). The two projects that will be reviewed by the RCC are the County's North Valleyheart Greenway (CD5) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park (CD3).
- A staff focus group meeting in support of the RCC will take place on 09/21. The priority agenda item is finalizing the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement.

### RIVER REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (RRC)

- The Bureau of Engineering Los Angeles River Project Office (BOE/LARPO) continues to provide briefings, tours, and general support to the RRC and its staff. BOE/LARPO staff attends every meeting of the RRC Board of Directors and attended a marketing meeting on 08/30 and their first fundraiser on 09/11.
- At the request of CD4, BOE/LARPO is coordinating City efforts in support of the North Atwater Crossing (multi-modal bridge) project. Meetings are held on a weekly basis.

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/OTHER FEDERAL EFFORTS

- BOE/LARPO staff worked with the Mayor's Office to organize a briefing for South Pacific Division Commander Colonel Michael Wehr on 08/22. At the briefing he presented the City (Deputy Mayor Romel Pascual and Councilman Tom LaBonge) with a certificate recognizing the importance of the Los Angeles River in our joint partnership.
- BOE/LARPO participates in regular, at least monthly, meetings with the Corps' LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study team; the last meeting was held on 09/14.
- The Corps' Concept Report on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Bowtie River demonstration project is under internal review and revision. Approval of the report is expected from Corps headquarters in 2011. In order to proceed, an agreement must be finalized with the landowner: California State Parks.
- BOE/LARPO submitted preliminary geographic limits of measures in the LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study's ARBOR (Alternative with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization) area in June and is coordinating a preliminary evaluation of the extent and value of affected real estate. Upon completion, the Corps will conduct a CEICA (cost estimate/incremental cost analysis) on the alternatives.
- Given the federal funding outlook, the Study progress could stop in mid-2011; it is now advisable to seek other options to fill the funding gap in order to prevent further delays and cost increases.
- BOE/LARPO submitted comments on the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan update, which were included in BOE's letter to the Corps on 09/08.
- USEPA Region 9 will host a meeting on the federal Urban Waters initiative at their Los Angeles office on 09/22.

## RIVER PROJECTS

- BOE/LARPO will support the upcoming California River Parkways grant applications for a variety of Los Angeles River projects: the Trust for Public Land's Los Angeles River and Aliso Creek Confluence Park/Reseda River Loop project (Reseda, CD3); the MRCA's Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park (Reseda, CD3); the County's North



Valleyheart River Greenway: Fullon to Coldwater, North Bank (Studio City, CD5); Community Conservation Solutions/MRCA's Los Angeles River Greenway: Coldwater to Whitsett, North Bank (Studio City, CD2); the City of Glendale's Riverwalk Phase II (Glendale Narrows, North/East Bank); and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' River HEART (Helping Everyone Access the River Today) Project (Glendale Narrows, CDs 1, 4, and 13).

- Albion Dairy Park (CD1): CD1 is lead; BOE/LARPO supported LANI (Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative) on State grant application (decision pending).
- Aliso Creek Confluence/Reseda River Loop Project (CD 3): BOE coordinated with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and CDD to ensure that the \$255,000 in CDBG funds awarded to the project will be used by TPL to complete the project's construction documents.
- North Atwater Crossing (CD 4): This project is being led by the RRC. LARPO staff continues to coordinate with RRC's project team to estimate the costs associated with implementing the project.
- North Atwater Park Expansion and Creek Restoration Project (CD4): Construction is at 60% completion is expected in the spring of 2012.
- Sunnynook River Park (CD4): Revised construction drawings are at 100%. Finalization of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)/Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) lease is pending, the lease was approved by the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners on 08/10—it now must obtain City Council concurrence and will then be considered by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners.
- Elysian Valley Pedestrian/Bike Path Greening (CD13): The project is underway by the MRCA. The project will improve 3 street ends at Dallas, Gatewood, and Fernleaf Streets.
- LADWP and BOS are taking the lead on the Van Nuys Airport project (CD6) through the Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) Committee effort.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) will submit a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for the Los Angeles River Bikeway Network in early October. Weekly meetings are being held at DOT in preparation. BOE/LARPO is supporting the effort.

## INTERNAL COORDINATION

- BOE/LARPO staff attended the WISER Committee meeting on 07/14; the date of the next meeting is to be determined (LADWP is lead.).
- BOE/LARPO staff prepared for and attended the Council Ad Hoc Committee on the LA River meeting on 07/18.
- BOE/LARPO staff attended a meeting hosted by CD1 to discussed potential acquisition of a river-adjacent site on 08/03 and 08/31.
- BOE/LARPO participated in a meeting with CD3, RAP, and BOS to discuss MRCA's Caballero Creek Confluence project on 08/31.
- BOE/LARPO staff met with Rafael Gonzales, the Mayor's Chief Service Officer, on 08/01 to discuss a future tour for potential funders in the fall.
- BOE/LARPO staff attended a meeting with the Mayor's Office and RAP to discuss the inclusion of river-adjacent projects in RAP's "50 Parks" initiative on 08/03.
- BOE/LARPO and CD1 staff took new Public Works Commissioner Jerilyn López Mendoza on a tour of the River on 08/16.
- BOE/LARPO staff provided a briefing to staff of CD2 on 08/26.
- BOE/LARPO staff provided a regular briefing to Deputy Mayor Romel Pascual on 08/29.
- BOE/LARPO staff attended the River signage working group meeting hosted by CD1 on 08/31 and will participate in a tour with LACC staff on 09/20 in preparation for the California River Parkways grant application they are writing for the River HEART project.
- The "LA River Greenway: Ideas and Resources for Project Designers" document has been finalized and will be available on [www.lariver.org](http://www.lariver.org) pending Ad Hoc Committee staff direction.



## CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- The contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. (No. C-108645) expires on 07/31/2013.

Date	Name	Description of Work
09/19/2007	NTP No. 1	List of LARRMP projects, grant applications, website update, outreach
12/12/2007	NTP No. 2	USACE Study support, Sunnynook Park grant application, JPA support
03/18/2008	NTP No. 3	Establishment of LA River Foundation
05/09/2008	NTP No. 4	USACE F4 Phase support, River MOU support, Public Outreach
05/09/2008	NTP No. 5	Grant application development for DWP Eco-Technology Campus
01/21/2009	NTP No. 6	DWP Elysian Park Water Recycling and Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge
10/15/2010	NTP No. 7	Grant development and public outreach support
04/25/2011	NTP No. 8	Project development, coordination, and support

## EXTERNAL OUTREACH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- BOE/LARPO staff provided comments on the draft "Redfields to Greenfields" report of the Green LA Coalition on 07/14.
- BOE/LARPO staff provided a presentation to students at USC (RRC boardmember, Renata Simril is the instructor.) on 07/16.
- BOE/LARPO staff was interviewed by a USC graduate student on 07/26.
- BOE/LARPO staff provided a presentation to visiting City Council President from São Paulo, Brazil at the River.Center on 07/26.
- Councilman Reyes along with BOE/LAPRO staff provided a presentation to national health journalism fellows at a USC forum on 07/28.
- BOE/LARPO attended the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)'s "LA River Ramble" event on 08/04 (BOE had granted a right-of-entry to MOCA allowing them to conduct tours in the tunnel under the 6<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct for the event. Hundreds of people participated and it was considered a big success by MOCA.).
- BOE/LARPO staff participated in the launch of the LACC/MRCA pilot non-motorized boating program on 08/08 and participated on a public boating tour as a guest speaker on 08/20.
- BOE/LARPO staff was interviewed by a UCLA graduate student on 09/01.
- BOE/LARPO staff participated in a panel on the LA River organized by MRCA at the California American Planning Association meeting on 09/14.
- RRC boardmember Renata Simril is organizing a river-focused session and tour for the Urban Land Institute's fall meeting in October.
- BOE/LARPO staff will participate in a panel on the Piggyback Yard organized by Mia Lehrer and Associates at the national American Society of Landscape Architects conference on 11/01.
- CD1 and Barbara Romero are organizing a river-focused session and tour for the national American Planning Association conference in April 2012.
- BOE/LARPO staff will support inclusion of the LA River in the California Trails and Greenways conference in April 2012.
- BOE/LARPO has been asked to provide a presentation at the upcoming joint hearing of the California Senate Subcommittee on Urban Waters and Assembly Select Committee on Revitalization of the LA River and Pacoima Wash (confirmed date and time are pending).