



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

March 27, 2017

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell &
200 N Spring St, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember David Ryu
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles River North Atwater Multimodal Bridge project

Dear Honorable Councilmembers O'Farrell and Ryu:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) helps to create and preserve parkland and recreational facilities in both wilderness and urban areas throughout greater Los Angeles. One of the Agency's goals is to form an interlinking system of urban and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitat that are easily accessible to the general public.

The MRCA strongly supports the City of Los Angeles' (City) construction of the North Atwater Multimodal Bridge project, a new bridge that will serve pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists equally. The Los Angeles River bike path is a regional destination trail, however it is hard to access it from park-poor communities on the east bank of the River. This project will provide a safe, convenient connection from residential communities on the east side to both the bike path and all the other recreational opportunities such as Griffith Park and the network of Los Angeles River pocket parks. As the River bike path is extended both through downtown and further into the San Fernando Valley, the path will encourage local residents to utilize the River for both recreation and commuting, and will reinforce the River's role as a regional trail connection.

This new bridge will link the community to many amenities, including connecting schools to the various parks and greenways along the River and its tributaries. Additionally, amenities that are directly adjacent to the Los Angeles River running through Griffith Park, Elysian Park, Verdugo Wash, and the Arroyo Seco provide significant regional ecological connections and also mark the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.

The MRCA urges the City to provide the remaining funds needed to begin construction of the project and provide this important link as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about our support, please contact Chief of Park Development Ana Straabe, ana.straabe@mrca.ca.gov at (323) 221-9944, extension 107.

Sincerely,

Amy Lethbridge
Deputy Executive Officer