

FEB 18 2014

MOTION

In March 2013, the Council adopted a Motion (CF# 11-1403) to conduct the Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program in partnership with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The Pilot Program stemmed from strong community interest in expanded public access to the Los Angeles River.

The Recreational Zone Pilot Program took place in the summer of 2013 (from Memorial Day to Labor Day); and consisted of various recreational activities such as non-motorized boating (kayaking), fishing, bird watching and hiking. The boundary of the Pilot Program included the river stretch between Fletcher Avenue/Rattlesnake Park to the North and the Confluence Park/Egret Park to the South.

The Council's action also granted the MRCA the authority to manage the designated Recreational Zone area and utilize its Park Ordinance to preserve, protect and maintain the area. In turn, the City's public safety personnel provided police and fire protection services.

In addition, the MRCA and various Council Districts were requested to create a community advisory committee to assess the function of the Pilot Program and provide recommendations for a potential permanent program. A Community Advisory Committee was subsequently formed consisting of members from the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council, the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, MRCA and the National Park Service.

On February 10, 2014, the Community Advisory Committee presented its *Summary Report and Recommendations/Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program 2013* to the Council's Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee. The report contained a thorough assessment of the Pilot Program's elements and its high participation rates.

The report noted that extensive community surveys and town hall meetings were conducted to determine impacts on the local community. The feedback received was very positive and contained an expressed desire for increased green space; and interest in an expanded and permanent river recreational zone program.

Given this, the Community Advisory Committee's report recommended the implementation of a permanent program and to grant the MRCA continued authority to manage the program subject to its Park Ordinance. The report also requested that the City and its partners identify potential funding for an expanded and on-going program.

The MRCA urged the City to immediately re-authorize it to manage the River Recreational Zone Program for the summer 2014 season. Immediate re-authorization will allow the MRCA to ensure the season kick-off on Memorial Day – May 26, 2014 through Labor Day – September 1, 2014. The MRCA has ensured that it will provide minimum funding/in-kind services for the Program; yet it can benefit from additional funding to expand Program services.

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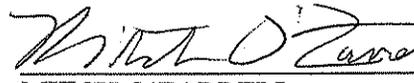
The Pilot Program conducted in 2013 was hugely successful and experienced by over 3,000 participants. It is important that the River Recreational Zone Program commences and that the City and its partners seek funding for a permanent and expanded Program. In this manner, revitalization of the Los Angeles River can continue and greater recreational opportunities offered to City residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council hereby authorizes the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to conduct the Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Program (Non-Pilot) for the 2014 Season consistent with the following conditions:

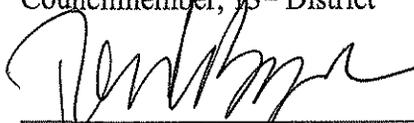
- Grant the MRCA authority to manage the designated recreational zone area and utilize the MRCA Park Ordinance to regulate park and public trust doctrine activities, subject to City Attorney review;
- Establish the boundaries of the Program to consist of Fletcher Avenue/Rattlesnake Park to the North and the Confluence Park/Egret Park to the South along the Los Angeles River;
- Establish the Program Season from Memorial Day – May 26, 2014 to Labor Day – September 1, 2014 with hours of operation from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week;
- Grant the MRCA the ability to make minor river alterations subject to authorization by the appropriate regulatory agency; such as debris/hazard removal, small rock relocations, non-native foliage trimming and related;
- Grant the MRCA the ability to install temporary and removable launch and safety devices subject to the authorization by the appropriate regulatory agency.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Water and Power, and other relevant departments, be directed to identify funding options for a permanent and expanded Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Program; and to report on their findings to the Council within 30 days.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:




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