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June 5, 2014

Committee on Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River
City Council
c/o Adam Lid
City Clerk

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell and Honorable Members:

**COUNCIL FILE 14-0601: LA RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS REPORT**

SUMMARY

I am writing in response to your direction via Council File CF# 14-0601 that the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) report to the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee on the status of working groups, agreements, progress and implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP). In 2007 via CF# 07-1342, the City Council directed BOE to establish the Los Angeles River Project Office and act as project manager in facilitating implementation of the LARRMP. Please find the latest progress report attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Note and file the report.

FISCAL IMPACT

The status report is for informational purposes only; there is no fiscal impact anticipated.

Please direct any questions regarding this report to my staff in the Los Angeles River Project Office: Carol Armstrong, (213) 485-5762 and Michael Affeldt, (213) 485-5733.

Sincerely,

Deborah Weintraub, AIA, LEED_{AP}
Interim City Engineer

Attachment: Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Progress Report May 12 to June 5, 2014 (4 pages)

Cc: Doane Liu, Deputy Mayor, City Services
Barbara Romero, Commissioner, Board of Public Works
Guy Lipa, Office of the Mayor



LA River Revitalization Progress: Update for the City Council (C.F. 14-0601)

For the June 9, 2014 Meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee

ITEM	Council District	Status	Action Needed
"Bending the River Back into the City" or waterwheel (Metabolic Studios)	1	Design; US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 408 permit underway; Groundbreaking possible in late 2014	Support
6th Street Viaduct (City/BOE)	14	Design; need to coordinate with Downtown LA In-Channel Bike Path	Open space elements need funding
Albion Dairy Park (BOE/BOS/RAP)	1	In design (in RAP's 50 Parks Initiative)	Support
Aliso Creek Confluence/Reseda River Loop (Trust for Public Land)	3	Design; out for bid in September; Groundbreaking expected fall 2014; must be completed by April 2015	Needs funding; if grant extension needed, City should support
Caballero Creek Confluence (MRCA)	3	Design (in Recreation and Parks 50 Parks Initiative); finalist for Prop. 84 grant	Support
Canoga Park High School / Origin Park	3	Design; CPHS students and faculty working with Cal Poly Pomona	LA River Cooperation Committee (RCC) to review in future
Downtown LA River In-Channel Bikeway (various)	1, 13, 14	Recommended at RCC on 04/07 and asked to come back with more specifics; CD14 is lead (CF 14-0711 underway)	Support; needs funding and rail coordination.
Glendale/Hyperion Viaduct (City/BOE)	4, 13	Redesign underway to improve bike/pedestrian accommodations	Support
Headwaters Greenway (County)	3	Grand opening 07/12 (hosted by Supervisor Yaroslavsky)	Support; attend opening
La Kretz Crossing (LA River Revitalization Corporation)	4, 13	Design; River Revitalization Corporation applied for State ATP grant	Finalize use agreement with LA County; complete City (B-permit), USACE (408), and NEPA review/permitting
LA River Bank Fund (C.F. 14-0222-S1)	All River	CD 13 initiated; Motion pending in Budget and Finance.	Approve; identify resources to fund
LA River Improvement Overlay (RIO) (C.F. 12-0096-S1)	All River	Department of City Planning is lead; public meeting on 06/04 hosted by CD1; next to Council PLUM	Approve
LA River Natural Park & Greenway (Community Conservation Solutions)	2	Design	Support; needs funding
LA River Recreation Zone (C.F. 14-0222)	1, 13, 14	Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day	See: www.lariverrecreation.org
LA River Veteran Tribute Park (LA Conservation Corps)	6	Design; Recommended at RCC on 04/07	Support; needs funding
LA Riverfront Greenway (BOE)	2, 4	Design/408 permit process; Coldwater Canyon to Whitsett (south bank)	USACE 408 permit process extended schedule; support completion of this

ITEM	Council District	Status	Action Needed
<i>Marsh Park Expansion (MRCA)</i>	13	Construction; Grand opening anticipated in summer of 2014	Support completion
<i>Metro Doran Street Closure</i>	13	Design; Metro is lead	Support alternative that accommodates Verdugo Wash restoration
<i>NBC Universal Bike Path (w/ County)</i>	2, 4	Pre-design; County is lead	Support completion; City departments to continue involvement; needs funding
<i>NELA Riverfront Collaborative</i>	1, 13, 14	Draft report underway; EWDD is lead	Support recommendations, as feasible
<i>North Valleyheart Greenway (County)</i>	2	Grand opening on 06/21 (hosted by Supervisor Yaroslavsky)	Support; attend opening
<i>Piggyback Yard Collaborative (FoLAR et al.)</i>	14	Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) convened group; SMMC has funded	Support
<i>Riverside/Figueroa Viaduct (City/BOE)</i>	1	Construction; on 05/28 BPW voted against land bridge on remnant piece	Support City position; Enrich LA/RAC Design litigating (City Attorney is lead.)
<i>Sennett Creek (FoLAR/NE Trees)</i>	4	Planning/design; within footprint of NBC/ Universal path area	Support
<i>Taylor Yard Bridge (BOE)</i>	1, 13	Design; approved at RCC on 04/07	Support; needs construction funding
<i>Taylor Yard G-2 Site Acquisition</i>	1	Negotiating acquisition; Environmental underway; Prop. O Program is lead.)	Adopt/approve CEQA; support acquisition
<i>USACE Sepulveda Basin Boating</i>	6	Open; USACE leasing management rights to MRCA for 5 years; private boating vendors administered by MRCA	Go kayaking!
<i>Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)</i>	All River	Congress passed bill; sent to President	Support authorization of Study via other means; encourage fast-tracking of next WRRDA bill via House T&I Committee
<i>WRDA 2007</i>	TBD	Authorized \$25M for LA River demonstration projects to inform USACE Study; only \$100K appropriated so far	Appropriate remaining funds
<i>USACE LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study</i>	1, 4, 13, 14	USACE agreed with Mayor Garcetti's proposal to recommend Alternative 20 with more equitable cost-sharing	Finalize the Study; certify its CEQA/NEPA; USACE requests \$200,000 City contribution to complete report with LPP changes; Adjust recreation plan to suit Alternative 20

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City should prioritize funding for LA River projects—particularly the USACE LA River Study—in its legislative program via the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA).
2. The City should evaluate the feasibility of utilizing existing funding streams for LA River projects via the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO).
3. Also via the CAO, the City should prioritize the consolidation of city yards in order to facilitate river revitalization.

4. The City should prioritize conversion of publicly-owned properties to publicly-accessible river amenities (e.g., transmission corridors as infiltration swale parks and community gardens).
5. The City's Department of City Planning (DCP) should prioritize updates to the Community Plans along the Los Angeles River in order to ensure new investment value may be captured to benefit the river and its existing residents—promoting balanced economic development with a diversity of family-sustaining jobs in close proximity to homes, schools, and existing and planned community-serving amenities.
6. Also via DCP, the City should examine how the recode:LA process can support Los Angeles River revitalization.
7. Via the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), the City should examine how Quimby fees may be more efficiently applied in support of Los Angeles River revitalization projects and how the USACE LA River Study project may maximize RAP's mission/goals to the maximum extent feasible.
8. The City should prioritize implementation of Greenway2020 via the Department of Transportation (LADOT) and ensure that all commuter bike paths also incorporate greenway (water quality and water supply) and artistic/cultural amenities, as feasible.
9. The City should prioritize Los Angeles River revitalization in the OneWater and Enhanced Watershed Management Plans and implementation of Rio Vistas at interface points of tributary streets via the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS).
10. The City should prioritize implementation of river tributary green streets.
11. The City should continue to prioritize funding for LA River projects in the pending State park, water, transportation and related bills.
12. The City should continue to work closely with the America's Great Outdoors and Urban Waters Federal Partnership ambassadors to identify and implement new kinds of federal support/funding for key initiatives, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.
13. The City should work with the County and USACE to streamline requirements of the 408 permit process in order to expedite the implementation of river projects.
14. The City via the RCC, including RAP, LADWP, BOS and other departments/agencies as necessary should finalize the LA River Master Use Agreement.
15. The City should expedite certification of the US Department of the Interior National Park Service (NPS) Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (C.F. 14-0002-S24).
16. The City should support the alternative that includes the river in the NPS Rim of the Valley Study.
17. The City should support prioritization of Los Angeles River revitalization in any general plan element updates and related plans, including the Citywide Sustainability Plan.
18. In support of full implementation of Alternative 20 of the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, the City should convene regular internal coordination meetings to plan for upcoming actions, including:
 - Identify, raise, and secure funding for the City's local match to be used in the near-term for land acquisition and preparation.
 - Adopt the completed Study (Integrated Feasibility Report), which is also an EIR under CEQA.
 - Dedicate necessary City-owned right-of-way in the Study area to the project, which may involve relocation of staff, uses, and equipment.
 - Complete other project area preparations including street vacations, utility relocations, and any necessary improvements in the project vicinity to streets, public rights-of-way or other City facilities.
 - Complete agreements/permissions with other public agencies that own right-of-way in the Study area to dedicate that land to the project.
 - Acquire necessary land/right-of-way in the Study area and dedicate that land to the project.
 - Prepare land for the project by performing necessary demolition, removal, remediation, etc.
 - Complete necessary land use changes to allow for open space/public facility use.
 - Identify City staff and resources necessary to complete the project design phase with USACE (including the land acquisitions, and site preparation/remediation).

- Work with USACE to identify project construction phases and priorities.
- Work with Congressional delegation to achieve authorization and appropriations each fiscal year to support implementation.
- Prepare for ecosystem restoration by identifying an appropriate location for growing plants locally and banking native seeds for future use.
- Prepare for maintenance responsibility by identifying and training staff and securing a sustainable funding source.
- Identify a team of local experts to guide implementation.

OTHER/EVENTS

05/13: LA River Revitalization Corporation Board Meeting
 05/13: LA River Natural Park Greenway at Studio City Residents' Association meeting
 05/15: ACEC Innovator of the Year Award to LA River Office
 05/19: LARPO provided presentation to Los Feliz Improvement Association (www.lfia.com)
 05/22: LARPO provided River Greenway "Gap Map" to stakeholders for input.
 05/29: "A Collective Impact Case Study of the LA River: How Philanthropy, Government and Community is leveraging resources to transform the LA River into a cultural, social and economic force for good" hosted by the International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy
 05/29: Mayor Garcetti and City Councilmembers O'Farrell, Cedillo, and Huizar announced the USACE decision to support Alternative 20 at a press conference at Marsh Park
 06/04: "LA River Day" in City Council
 06/04: LA Business Council recognized LA River for Community Impact Award
 06/06: State Senators Pavley and De León hosting a joint informational hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and the Senate Subcommittee on Fiscal Oversight and Bonded Indebtedness to address park funding, meeting the needs of park-poor communities, and how the Los Angeles River revitalization fits this mission
 06/06: LA River signage motion (CF 13-1236) to Council; LADOT will install mile markers and bridge signs
 06/9-11: The Mediterranean City Conference (and Med Cities Climate Change Consortium) in Athens, Greece
 06/21: Grand Opening of the North Valleyheart Riverwalk (LA County)
 06/22: LA County Bicycle Coalition's annual LA River Ride
 07/07: Next LA River Cooperation Committee (hosted by City); see www.lariver.org/rcc
 07/12: Grand Opening of the Headwaters Greenway (LA County)
 09/14: Play the LA River/Project 51 event launch to encourage people to visit river (Jenny Price is lead.)
 09/28: World Rivers Day

The LA Kings beat the Anaheim Ducks! Anaheim Mayor Tait will help clean the LA River. Go Kings, Go!

<p>Contact: LA Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering Deborah Weintraub, Interim City Engineer: (213) 485-5499 Carol Armstrong, LA River Project Office (LARPO): (213) 485-5762 Michael Affeldt, LARPO: (213) 485-5733 Megan Whalen, LARPO: (213) 485-4560</p>
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