



San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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PRESS RELEASE

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER GETS A JUMP START AS STAKEHOLDERS COME TOGETHER TO UPDATE A MASTER PLAN

Azusa, Calif. – After two meetings, the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group has made tremendous strides in its master planning effort to revitalize the 21 miles of the Lower Los Angeles River.

“The Working Group includes policy makers and community advocates with substantial experience and a wealth of knowledge representing their cities, nonprofit organizations, and the County of Los Angeles,” said Mark Stanley, Executive Officer of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the agency that is coordinating the working group meetings. “In the space of two meetings, we’ve defined this effort as a community-driven, collaborative process that will improve watershed health and pursue equity in addressing the needs of Lower Los Angeles River communities and neighborhoods.”

The Lower Los Angeles River Working Group is a 39-member group that was appointed by California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird to develop a revitalization plan for the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries. Among the topics discussed at its first two meetings were how to engage communities in a meaningful way, addressing the issue of water quality, and identifying funding for projects.

“We look forward to receiving updates from this Working Group as they identify a list of principles, priorities and projects as part of the Revitalization Master Plan,” said Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, who authored AB 530 to establish the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group. The bill also specified funding for this effort, as specified in section 79735 (a) of the water bond.

The group will meet monthly in various cities throughout Southeast Los Angeles and will work towards developing a vision that will update the Los Angeles County LA River Master Plan.

“The original Los Angeles River Master Plan was adopted in 1996 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors with a vision of increasing recreational opportunities and restoring habitat along the river’s 51-mile span,” said Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

“That seminal vision has been modeled in joint projects by LA County Public Works, nonprofit organizations and cities, from the river’s headwaters in Canoga Park to its confluence with the Pacific Ocean,” said Supervisor Solis. “Working together, we will create an urban waterway that provides a welcoming respite for the public while keeping residents and their properties flood safe.”

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, one of the working group members said, “With the restoration of the environment, the addition of recreational opportunities, and the rehabilitation of the surrounding areas, the LA River Master Plan has the potential not only to transform the westside of Long Beach, but our entire region, and I greatly appreciate the Conservancy for coordinating this historic effort.”

The Los Angeles River flows about 51 miles from the San Fernando Valley to its mouth in Long Beach. The lower section of the river stretches 21 miles from the northern city limit of Vernon and flows within one mile of 14 other cities and four unincorporated communities before flowing into San Pedro Harbor in Long Beach.

For more information and updates on the Working Group and a full list of the members, please visit: <http://asmdc.org/speaker/issues/lower-l-a-river-working-group>

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The Working Group is being coordinated by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, with assistance from the Office of the Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Supervisor Hilda Solis. The RMC is one of 10 conservancies across the state. The territory of the RMC spans portions of the Antelope Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, a majority of Los Angeles County and Northern Orange County. Additional information about the Conservancy and the working group can be found on the website: www.rmc.ca.gov.