

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP PROJECT INITIATION MEETING #1

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 ♦ 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Bateman Hall, 11331 Ernestine Avenue, Lynwood, CA 90262

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On May 3, 2016, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of the 63rd Assembly District and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (RMC) co-hosted the first meeting of the Working Group for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Working Group, initiate the project, provide background on related planning LA River planning efforts, and engage in initial brainstorming on a vision and set of ideas for revitalizing the River and strengthening existing communities in the River corridor.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The first meeting of Working Group occurred on May 3, 2016, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Bateman Hall, 11331 Ernestine Avenue, Lynwood. Approximately 40 representatives participated, and 10 staff from participating agencies also attended to listen and learn.

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer of the RMC opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and explaining the purpose and objectives of the Working Group and of the meeting. He then introduced Kealii Bright, Deputy Secretary for Legislation of the California Natural Resources Agency and Alf Brandt, Special Counsel to Assembly Speaker Rendon, each of whom provided welcoming remarks. Mr. Stanley then introduced Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc., who served as meeting facilitator and provided an overview of the agenda (Attachment A) and meeting format before asking for self-introductions from all participants. A copy of the sign-in sheets is included as Attachment B.

During the meeting, Andy Pendoley of MIG recorded key discussion points on a wall-sized piece of paper with a map of the Lower LA River, or “wallgraphic.” A summary of the discussion is provided in the following sections, and a photo-reduced copy of the wallgraphic is included at the end of this report as Attachment C.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The following sections provide a summary of discussions among Working Group members. Discussion topics included: brief presentations from related planning efforts; preliminary operating principles and a guiding framework; partners and stakeholders; initial opportunity areas; and important planning and engagement topics to move the process forward.

Overview of LA River Planning Efforts

To provide an overview of concurrent and related planning efforts on the LA River, project leaders from the following efforts provided brief overviews and updates on their status:

- LA River Master Plan; Terri Grant, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
 - Addresses flood control, environmental enhancements and recreational opportunities along the entire LA River. An initial set of about 50 projects have been built.
 - The 1996 Master Plan completed 20 years ago needs to be updated
- Upper LA River Revitalization Master Plan; Dr. Carol Armstrong, City of Los Angeles
 - Coordinated with County of LA, State of California, and non-governmental organization partners to identify 240 projects within City of LA, including typologies and cost estimates
 - The Plan informed the Army Corps of Engineers' approach to habitat revitalization
- LA River Integrated Development Vision; Omar Brownson, River LA
 - Developing the Greenway 2020 plan that will connect 51 miles of trails and promote investments in public infrastructure
- Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan; Debbie Enos, Watershed Conservation Authority
 - Promoting community connections through nature: greening of the inner core and interconnected trails
 - Creating the "green portal" focused on catalyzing change, engaging the community, and spurring investment
- I-710 Corridor Project; Ernesto Chavez, Metro
 - Focusing on improving mobility, reducing congestion, and improving quality of life on the corridor and in surrounding communities
 - Studying two alternatives: a new travel lane, or a new truck lane; including improvements to crossings, adjacent trails and local streets
- Long Beach RiverLink; Stephan Scott, City of Long Beach
 - Creating an integrated network of greenways, linkages and open spaces that provide community benefits including enhanced identity and opportunities for education and engagement with nature
 - Connecting the River, parks, greenbelts, playfields, wetlands and trails

Preliminary Organizational Framework and Operating Principles

Participants identified potential elements of an organizational framework and operating principles that would guide the Working Group's efforts.

- Conduct a community-driven, collaborative process
- Ensure transparency in all public and private deliberations for the project
- Pursue equity in addressing the needs of, impacts on, and benefits for adjacent communities and neighborhoods
- Explore and promote multi-benefit policies, plans and designs for the project
- Improve watershed health for the benefit of community health

Participants in Working Group Meeting #2 will review and further develop this framework and set of principles.

Desired Outcomes

Participants identified a range of desired outcomes for the planning process and the future plan.

Equitable Engagement

- Provides an inclusive, authentic engagement approach
- Reaches all communities, promotes participation, and informs the technical process and plan outcomes
- Engages the unique, multi-layered diversity of communities along the corridor: cultures, ages, socio-economic status, neighborhoods, and histories
- Identifies and tracks success factors to ensure successful engagement and plan outcomes

Safety and Accessibility

- Addresses current and future safety needs on the River corridor and within adjacent communities
- Serves community members of all ages and backgrounds
- Expands community access to the river for mobility, recreation and nature

Watershed

- Improves watershed health including water quality, natural environment, and run-off
- Educates the community and policymakers about watershed health, particularly through data and metrics
- Addresses near- and long-term maintenance and preservation

Connectivity

- Strengthens connections between neighborhoods, communities and key destinations along the corridor including job centers, parks and commercial zones

- Promotes active transportation—biking and walking—on the River and within communities
- Links seamlessly to improvements on the Upper LA River

Community Development

- Mitigates the effects of gentrification and displacement in adjacent communities due to River improvements
- Links to and mutually supports related efforts: local communities and corridor-wide
 - Projects
 - Budgets
 - Zoning
 - Land uses
 - Housing
- Promotes equitable economic development

Plan Structure and Implementation

- Outlines a strategic, integrated, comprehensive approach that is flexible enough to respond to future opportunities
- Leverages local, regional, State, Federal and private resources
- Provides a coherent programming strategy related to ownership, implementation and maintenance

Partners and Stakeholders

In addition to the community-at-large and current Working Group members, participants identified additional partners and stakeholders who should be engaged in the planning process. How and when engagement occurs will be further discussed by the Working Group.

- Advocacy groups: social and environmental justice
 - Youth
 - Families
 - Older adults
- Neighborhood and community groups
- Business community and major employers
- Social service providers (homelessness)
- Policymakers and representatives: local, State, Federal
- Cities and County
 - Planning
 - Community development
 - Public works
 - Engineering
 - Parks and recreation
 - Transportation

- State resource agencies
 - Caltrans
- Federal agencies (to support implementation)
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Army Corps of Engineers

Initial Opportunity Areas

Participants discussed initial opportunity areas for planning and design of the River. In-depth discussions will further develop this list of opportunity areas through future Working Group meetings, community engagement efforts, and the technical planning process.

- Comprehensive trails approach
 - Multi-use designs: walk, bike, and horse
 - Clearance between jurisdictions
 - Parks connections
 - “Oases” and refuges for rest
 - Comforts: restrooms, shade, and seating
- Cross-River, inter-city connectivity
 - Roadways
 - Trails
 - Greenways
- Recreation zone, City of Long Beach
 - River access
 - Fishing
- River cleanliness, City of Long Beach

Moving Forward: Planning and Engagement Topics

Participants identified important planning and engagement topics to discuss in more detail in moving the community engagement and technical planning processes forward.

- Outline the procedures and protocols for the Working Group’s guidance of the process
- Develop a comprehensive and meaningful engagement process that builds true community ownership of the outcomes
 - Provide hands-on engagement opportunities for everyone
 - Promote community stewardship
- Ensure protections of community benefits for existing communities that mitigate displacement and gentrification
 - Support cities’ local efforts and policy development, particularly small cities
 - Model the City of Long Beach’s efforts
 - Support efforts to end homelessness

- Coordinate all agencies' and community partners' efforts and contributions to the process to promote shared understanding and forward progress
- Learn from partners' experiences with similar and connected efforts: successes, challenges and best practices
 - Leverage related efforts and experiences of other River corridors
- Create a coherent programming strategy that addresses multi-jurisdictional ownership and implementation complexities
- Explain to communities and stakeholders the potential benefits of River improvements including value capture, reinvestment, economic development, and brownfields
- Improve water run-off conditions and water quality in the River

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Stanley concluded the meeting by thanking Working Group members, and explaining that Meeting #2 would occur in approximately 4-6 weeks.

ATTACHMENT A: AGENDA

**LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP)
WORKING GROUP PROJECT INITIATION MEETING**

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Bateman Hall
11331 Ernestine Avenue
(Across from Lynwood Senior Center)
Lynwood, CA 90262

Meeting Objectives:

1. Introduce the Working Group and initiate the project
2. Provide background on the LA River planning efforts
3. Engage in initial brainstorming on a vision and set of ideas for revitalizing the River and strengthening existing communities in the River corridor

A G E N D A

<i>6:30 pm</i>	I.	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview Mark Stanley, Executive Officer, RMC Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, CA State Assembly Speaker Rendon Daniel Iacofano, Meeting Facilitator, MIG
<hr/>		
<i>6:45 pm</i>	II.	Brief Overview and Status of LA River Planning Efforts: A. LA River Master Plan - Terri Grant, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works B. (Upper) LA River Revitalization Master Plan - Dr. Carol Armstrong, City of Los Angeles C. LA River Integrated Development Vision - Omar Brownson, River LA D. Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan - Debbie Enos, Watershed Conservation Authority E. I-710 Corridor Project - Ernesto Chavez, Metro F. Long Beach RiverLink - Stephan Scott, City of Long Beach
<hr/>		
<i>7:00 pm</i>	III.	Preliminary LLARRP Working Group Organizational Framework and Operating Principles
<hr/>		
<i>7:15 pm</i>	IV.	Working Group Discussion: A. Desired outcomes from this planning process B. Big ideas for potential projects, policies, programs, etc. C. Our group's "value-added" proposition
<hr/>		
<i>8:45 pm</i>	V.	Summary and Next Steps . . .
<hr/>		
<i>9:00 pm</i>	VI.	Meeting Close . . . and Networking!
<hr/>		

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER
 REVITALIZATION PLAN
Working Group
 PROJECT INITIATION MEETING
 MAY 3, 2016

WELCOME!

- > USER STORIES: EDS, DUNCAN, ORGANIZE!
- > KIM BRIGHT, NRA: MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER!
- > KIP BENTON, WASH. STATE: REIMAGINE! ENGAGE! INTEGRATE & COLLECT!
- I-70 PROJECT: GOLF, IMPROVE MOB, REDUCING TRUCK LANE, IMPROVEMENTS, CROSSINGS, TRUCKS, LOCAL STREETS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
- COLLABORATIVE
- MULTI-BENEFIT
- TRANSPARENT
- WATERSHED = COMMUNITY HEALTH
- REFLECT LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- EQUITY-FOCUS
- APPROPRIATE OUTCOMES

WATER OPENNESS

- DESTINATIONS: RIVER, TRAILS, GREENBELTS
- INTERCONNECT: PLAYFIELDS, WETLANDS & TRAILS
- ENGAGE NATURE

CHANGING SPACES

- L.A. RIVER MASTERPLAN: FLOOD CONTROL, ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS, DECONTAMINATION OPPORTUNITIES, SO PROTECTS!, NOW: UPGRADE!
- UPPER L.A. RIVER TRAIL M.P.: PAST WORK & OUTREACH, KEY PARTNERS, COUNTY, STATE, NDCS
- PLAN ORIENTED: 240 PROJECTS, HYPO LOGIC, LONG DISTANCE, B & G CORRIDOR, TERRACING, LINKING & CONNECTING, INVOLVED MUNITY, HABITAT RESTORATION, 162 PARCEL ACQUIRED!

COORDINATE OUR WORK

- L.A. RIVER INTEGRATED DEPARTMENT VISION: DRYLON, FERRIS, BEYOND BOUNDARIES
- GREEN MAY 2010: CONCORD, ST. MARY, IMPROVING IDENTIFIED, NEW CRITERIA
- OPENING CITIES SERIES: URBAN OPENING M.P., CONNECT COMMUNITIES VIA NATURE
- 3 RIVERS: 36 CITIES, COMBING INTERCITY, INTERCONNECTED TRAILS
- PLAN: CAPACITY CHANGE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, SPUR INVESTMENT
- LONG BEACH RIVER LINK: INTEGRATED NETWORK: GREENWAYS & LINKAGES, URBAN SPACES
- BENEFITS: IDENTITY, INTERCONNECT, PLAYFIELDS, ENGAGE NATURE, WETLANDS & TRAILS



MOVING FORWARD!

- OWN OWN VIE: LEARN FROM PAST, SUCCESS, CHALLENGES, GREAT PRACTICES
- LINK TO BROWNFIELDS: SUPPORT SOLVING HOMELESSNESS, IDENTIFY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- ENSURE PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS: DISPLACEMENT, CENTRALIZATION
- CREATE COHERENT PROGRAMMING STRATEGY: OWNERSHIP, INVESTMENT
- PLURIPROCESS & PLAN DEVELOPMENT? - NEED GROUP PROVIDES GUIDANCE
- IDENTIFY R.O.I.: COMMUNITY BENEFITS, ECONOMIC, BROWNFIELDS & BEAUTY

LEVERAGE SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

- COUNTY: PUBLIC HEALTH, DATA, REGULATIONS
- NON PROFITS: CALTRANS
- LOCALLY DETERMINED COORDINATION OF ENTITIES: PROJECTS, BUDGETS, ZONING, ENTITIES, LAND, LABOR, HOUSING

ACTIVITIES

- WALK, BIKE, RIDE, PLAY, REST, RELAX, RECHARGE
- YOUTH, FAMILIES, OLDER ADULTS, CULTURE, RECREATION, YOUTH
- CONNECTIONS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUITY

WATER QUALITY

- WATER QUALITY: PLANTS, OUTLOOK
- WATER QUALITY: PLANTS, OUTLOOK

