

DATE: May 23, 2016
TO: RMC Governing Board
FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 7D: Project and Liaison Activities

Regional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning: The Leadership Committee is in the process of preparing a region-wide application in response to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program (DACIP). This work will be performed under the supervision of the Executive Officer of the RMC or his designee. A disadvantaged community per the State of California is defined as a community with a median household income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income (Water code 79505.5 (a) – 80% of the Statewide Median Household Income is \$48,875. The RFP will be submitted to the DWR on behalf of the Leadership Committee in May or June 2016. It is anticipated that the State will then have coordination meetings with the Greater LA Subregion which includes: Greater LA, Ventura County and Upper Santa Clara. The next leadership meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2016 when the proposal for the DACIP will be discussed.

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Mountains Conservancy and including the members of the Leadership Committee have adopted the Memorandum of Understanding and Operating Guidelines which renew the commitment to participate in the policy, evaluation, and selection of projects of regional benefit. The renovated commitment is based on the regional plan update, which among other items includes identification and development of multi-purpose projects that combine habitat restoration and recreational access with water quality and conservation objectives.

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: In partnership with the Southern Californian Association of Governments, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and Angeles National Forest held a Monument Transpiration Workshop on April 28th, 2016. Forest supervisor Jeffery Vail provided an overview presentation of the current access opportunities and challenges faced by the U.S. Forest Service, as well as shared image of localized congestion issues within the Monument that occur at peak period of recreational demand, such as summertime holiday weekends. Other key transportation stakeholder also presented their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges related to access and transit to the Monument. The workshop concluded in a panel discussion, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration through the development and implementation of a Monument transportation plan.

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act: On October 23, 2015 Congresswoman Judy Chu introduced H.R. 3820, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act to the 114th Congress. This bill, which has been referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands under the House Committee on Natural Resources, includes two objectives: 1) Expansion of the National Monument and 2) Establishment of the San Gabriel National Recreation Area. The National Monument expansion would extend the recently designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument boundary to include the western areas the San Gabriel Mountains currently held within the Angeles National Forest. Establishment of the San Gabriel National Recreation Area would create a National Recreation Area (NRA) along the Foothills, San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo corridors, and the western Puente-Chino Hills.

The San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act is different from the old H.R. 4858, the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act, introduced by the Congresswomen during the 113th Congress. Since the introduction of H.R. 4858 last year, President Obama declared a large portion of the San Gabriel Mountains a National Monument. The new bill reflects this change by expanding Monument protections for the western portions of the Angeles National Forest. In the new bill, the National Monument and NRA are separate units. In H.R. 4858, the Angeles National Forest was part of the NRA.

RMC will continue to track the bill. Co-sponsors include Congressman Tony Cardenas (D-CA29) and Adam Schiff (D-CA28). Proposed Wilderness additions and Wild and Scenic River designations within the Angeles National Forest are also being tracked by the RMC staff. There have been no action on this bill since the March Board Meeting.

RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS: for a complete list of all the active and completed projects please see Item 7C

De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006): The RMC approved a grant amendment to amend the scope of work, timeline, tasklist and budget given the bids exceeded the funding available for this project. Currently, the City of Long Beach has selected its contractor and is scheduled to commence construction in late September 2016.

Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail (RMC 13005): RMC provided funding for the development and enhancement of Camp Fire's urban forest and a new trail at Camp Shiwaka which includes extensive native landscaping, interpretive signage, improved ADA accessibility and additional improvements to the outdoor amphitheater. Camp Shiwaka has received additional funds to complete their trail improvements as part of the Long Beach Bike Trail and with matching funds from the LA County Prop A funds. Currently, Camp Shiwaka is completing the gabion wall and they have hired the Conservation Corp to make improvements to the bicycle trail leading the San Gabriel River bike path.

Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (14003): The RMC provided a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The LACC applied for an Urban Greening Grant through the Strategic Growth Council and was awarded the full request in the amount of \$798,815. Additional matching funds were committed by other project partners including the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District). Matching funds provided by the funding partners and the grant funds received by the Strategic Growth Council bring the total project cost to \$1,698,815. Due to a change in staff by the Coastal Conservancy, the LACC will resubmit their funding request at their upcoming board meeting. However, the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2017.

This project includes the creation of a ½ mile permeable walking path and 2,700 linear foot by 6 foot riprap swale constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek.

San Gabriel River Trail Signage Improvements (RMC12002): This grant will improve interpretive signage along the San Gabriel River bike trail throughout the City of Azusa and include areas south of the Azusa Geology Park to the current trail end along Highway 39 near the entrance to the Azusa River Wilderness Park. The project elements will include; 1. Placement of mileage reference signage to key locations and features along the trail, 2. Re-design and replacement of insufficient interpretive signage along the San Gabriel River bike trail and 3. Installation of a "staging area" signs visible from Highway 39. Currently the grantee has completed design work of the interpretative signage but has

requested a timeline extension through November 30, 2016 to close out the grant. Please see Item 10 for a request to extend the timeline.

El Dorado Nature Center South Lake Restoration Project (RMC13004): The project is located at the El Dorado Nature Center in the City of Long Beach and includes an improved arrival experience with a new entry statement and signage, improvements to the outdoor amphitheater for educational sessions and events and an ADA compliant pedestrian bridge and trails leading from the parking lot entrance to the El Dorado Nature Center building. The City of Long Beach has completed construction documents and the City of Long Beach has selected a contractor and is scheduled to begin construction late fall 2016.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project (RMC14002): This project is located in the City of Long Beach at intersection of Studebaker Road and Westminster Avenue. The grant agreement includes: (1) development and improvements of trail network in and around Los Cerritos Wetlands specifically at Zedler Marsh, (2) install interpretive signage and associated native landscaping and (3) remove trash, debris, non-native plants, improve fencing and gates, install temporary irrigation and improve the native plant nursery through development of an outdoor laboratory and classroom. Currently the LCWA is installing the trails and making improvements to the signage with an estimated completion date of June 30, 2017.

Coyote Creek-Los Alamitos Improvement Project (RMC3318): The City of Los Alamitos the completed construction of the trail in July 2015. Part of this trail improvement included finalizing a Joint Use Agreement with the LA County Flood Control District to update the existing Use Agreement for the bikeway to include operation and maintenance of the Coyote Creek river trail that runs through the city's limits. The park boasts a walking trail, native landscape, seating area, interpretive graphics and decorative ironwork sculpted gate to the River trail. RMC and the City of Los Alamitos are working together to close out the grant by June 30, 2016.

COMPLETED

Azusa Geology Park (RMC10009): The City of Azusa, in cooperation with California Resource Connections (CRC) developed a City owned parcel into a geology interpretive park. The park is approximately 0.5-acre located east of the San Gabriel River Bike Trail and has created new access to the San Gabriel River regional bike trail connecting it to a quarter mile of underutilized City of Azusa trail which is also enhanced with native landscaping and interpretative signage. The City of Azusa accepted the Azusa Rockery Park at their July 7, 2015 Council Meeting and the City has accepted full responsibility for the long-term management and maintenance of the park. RMC staff anticipates closing out the grant by June 30, 2016.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Azusa River Wilderness Park Project: The RWP is an approx. 75.7 acre property slated to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Based on the 2012 adopted RWP Master Plan for the Canyon Inn Property, WCA staff and consultants are currently preparing construction documents for the RWP Entry Improvements. Key benefits of this project include enhancing the park space, preserving ecologically significant land for the public, encouraging low-impact outdoor activities, and providing facilities to cultivate awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our natural resources. A proposed open-air pavilion and interactive

nature play area embodies these benefits as central parts of the plan to draw people into the park, providing enriching spaces to experience, and to engage the public in exploration.

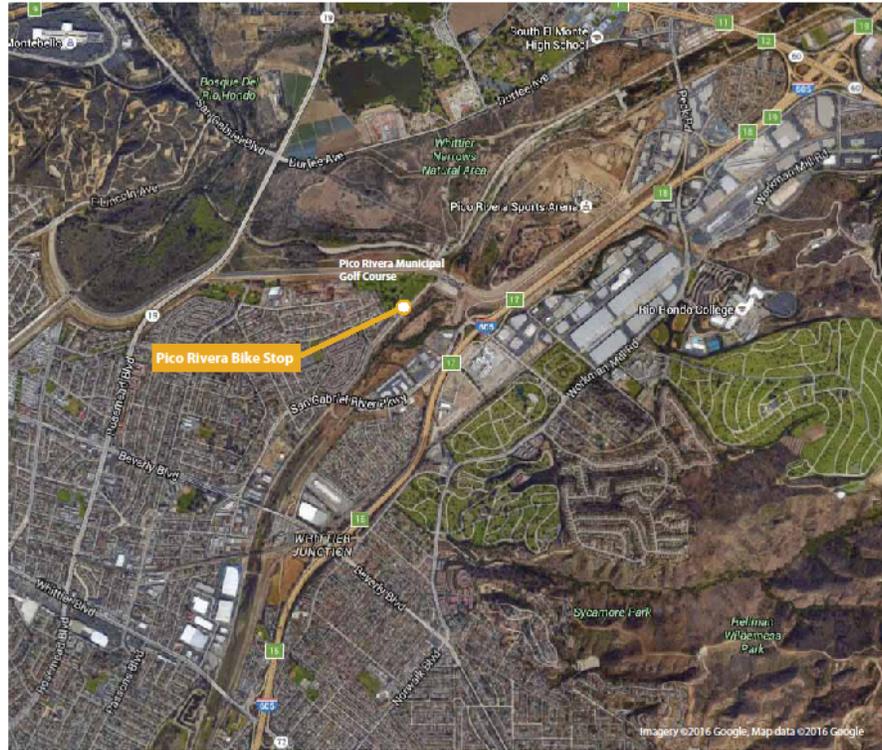
During the fall of 2015 draft project-level environmental analysis and documentation for the RWP Entry Improvements was prepared pursuant to the Californian Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) while also incorporate program-level review of all the proposed improvements on the Canyon Inn Property to study the cumulative impacts for the full development of the site. The resulting Programmatic Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Declaration was released for public review on December 2, 2015 with a 30-day public review to solicit comments and input. To accommodate the holidays, one week was added to the public review period. Written comments were due to the WCA by January 7, 2015. Multiple agency comment letter were received. However no general public comments were submitted. WCA staff and the environmental consultant, ECORP are currently responding to comments and preparing a final document. Considered for adoption is scheduled for the June WCA meeting.

To fund these proposed improvements, WCA continues to prepared and submitted grant proposals. As a result of a September 2015 submittal to a call-for-projects by the California River Parkways, requesting \$299,862 to assist with the development of a bike path rest area and river overlook at the entrance to the park. Following today's WCA Board meeting, staff and key project partners will be joining members of the grant review team for a site visit. Although the process remains competitive, the site visit signifies that the proposal is within a short list to be recommended for funding. Awards are anticipated early July 2016.

An approx. \$1.4 million grant proposal is also being prepared in response to the call for project for Cycle 3 of the State Active Transpiration Program. With a similar proposal submitted last year narrowly missing the scoring threshold for funding, Metro has offered and WCA staff as accepted the assistance of in-kind grant writing assistance provided through a transportation planning consultant, Stantec. Proposal submissions are due June 15, 2016.

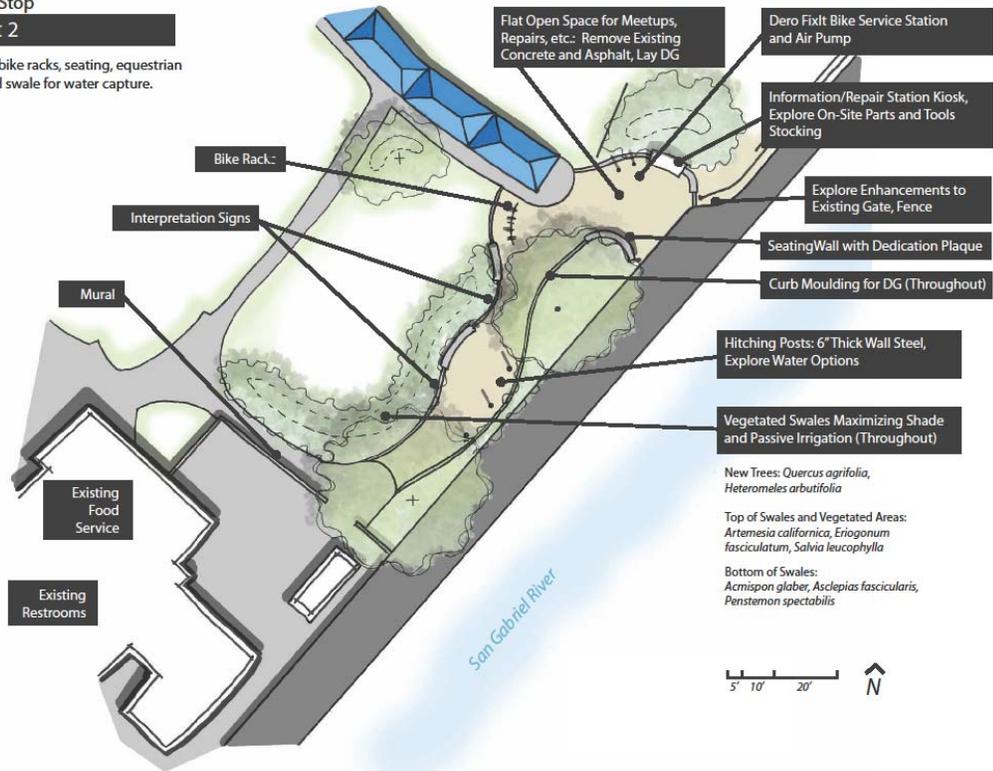
Citrus Grove Heights Bike Stop: Two grants were awarded to the WCA to fund project implementation of a bike stop on the San Gabriel River in Pico Rivera, including an RMC grant and surplus funds from the California Natural Resources Agency allocated through Proposition 12, which sunsets this June 2016. Project delays have extended the timeline beyond this period, resulting from changing requirements for ADA accessibility on all County Trails—requiring significant adjustments to the existing levy for site access—and the review process for US Army Corps and Flood Control approvals. To proactively manage this potential loss of funds WCA staff has worked with the California Natural Resources Agency and partners to identify an alternate project site for immediate implementation of funds toward the original project scope of work.

In collaboration with the City of Pico Rivera the WCA developed alternate design concepts and requests for services able to realize project elements for a new bike stop at the Municipal Golf Course (location below). Both the City property subcommittee and City Council approved a design concept (below) and City staff has continued working with a registered landscape architecture design firm selected from the WCA Request for Service (RFS) to incorporate project elements into implementation. The Natural Resources Agency has now transferred funds, and the project is expected to be completed by the June sunset period.



Pico Rivera Bike Stop
WCA Concept 2

Bike service station, bike racks, seating, equestrian posts, and vegetated swale for water capture.



The RMC grant funds will be allocated to complete construction drawings for the original site. Funds for implementation will be secured separately. These plans will include the same elements now also funded for the Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Course: prefabricated shade structure, bike service station, bike racks, hitching posts, interpretive site elements, seating areas, grading to capture water, and vegetation to provide habitat.

Duck Farm Project: Plans have been updated for County plan check comments and have been returned for what may be final approvals. SCE has approved the design package for work within their easement and have provided a consent letter to proceed with construction. Restroom facility comment pick-ups are in progress by Romtec, a pre-approved State vendor. Caltrans permit section is reviewing drawings for compliance with approval anticipated shortly. In the meantime, Caltrans has completed the install of a Metal Beam Guard Rail at the pedestrian entrance passageway at the site. Upon completion of permit plan check approvals a For Bid Package will be assembled and posted to start the bid and award process.

Emerald Necklace: The WCA is managing the Emerald Necklace Feasibility Study and Implementation Planning Project with the purpose of identifying trail connection and urban greening projects throughout a 17-mile loop in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, bounded by the San Gabriel River to the East and Rio Hondo to the West. This work is being conducted in collaboration with members of the Emerald Necklace Coordination Committee, which includes staff from the RMC, Amigos de los Rios, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles Flood Control District, and County of Los Angeles First Supervisorial District. As a product of this planning study a Implementation Plan will serve as a guide for the coordinated implementation of these projects.

Since the last RMC Board meeting final descriptions of the Phase 1 Implementation Projects were created, and reviewed by the Emerald Necklace Coordination Committee. These include the following components for each project: description summary, figures and graphics, a discussion of signage, and a preliminary cost estimate. The environmental planning consultants are now in the process of conducting technical studies that will support the development of a Programmatic EIR, which will analyze and disclose the direct, indirect, cumulative environmental effect of these projects from a planning level review. Air, greenhouse gas, noise, and traffic reports were completed in April while updates to previously prepared biological and cultural resource reports are expected to be completed in early June.

Between June and early August both a draft Programmatic EIR and a draft Implementation Plan will be produced and reviewed with the Coordination Committee. A public review period is then planned between August and September, with a WCA certification hearing planned for January 2017.

Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan: With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a visionary green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. Working within an evolving framework the project team continues to review local and regional plans, collect relevant data, and conduct preliminary analyses to inventory existing conditions. Additionally, WCA staff is reviewing options to host the final plan online in a digital format for greater public dissemination, and to host our first online outreach campaign.

WCA staff successfully webhosted an advisory committee meeting on April 28 with the meeting focused on a work plan (below), logistics for future meetings, and assessment approaches. WCA staff will continue to engage stakeholders, experts, Gateway COG, and cities in the development of assessments, outreach, and finishing the inventory phase this spring. Based on feedback meetings will be held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month, the next to take place in July.

Gateway Greening Work Plan



San Gabriel Canyon Watershed Ranger Program: In continuation of the on-site public engagement program development by the San Gabriel Canyon Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (RMC09105), the San Gabriel River Watershed Ranger program is gearing up to deploy a crew of six at-risk youth (and a crew leader) to conduct roaming outreach along high-use recreational corridors of the East, North, and West Forks of the San Gabriel River. Outreach will target the cumulative habitat impacts of trash and recreational uses (rock dam building) that results in stream modification. From Memorial Day Weekend 2016 to Labor Day Weekend 2016 Conservation corps members will be in the field making contact and speaking with the recreating public in a non-threatening manner about the importance of sustainable recreation, and to offer best management practices such as the Leave No Trace principles. Additional information about this project is provided under a separate agenda item.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: The Cattle Canyon Project seeks to address unsustainable recreation practices, which includes habitat disturbance from dispersed river-side recreation along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. Specific objectives of the project include: 1) promote stewardship of the public lands; 2) protect watershed ecosystems, including reducing creation and use of anthropogenic pools and onsite littering; 3) enhance quality of recreation, including adequate and safe access and additional public amenities; and 4) develop ecological restoration strategies, including restoration and enhancement of Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

The current Phase 1 of the Cattle Canyon Project, funded by the RMC, has seen the development of an outreach program focused on the prevention of specific harmful recreational behaviors. Two seasons of implementation have been completed during the Summers of 2013 and 2014. The remaining Phase 1 project component is the completion of a planning study. The study includes a comprehensive site assessment and conceptual planning process to identify opportunities for physical site improvements, as well as to a lesser extent, management considerations that will improve environmental conditions.

A final site plan, attached as Exhibit A, has been developed by project consultant team with guidance and review from WCA and Angeles National Forest staff members. A draft Concept Site Plan & Programming Report is currently in production, as well as the preparation of environmental documents CEQA/NEPA compliance. A public review period, and two public workshops are attentively planned for July. A final report and recommendation regarding CEQA compliance will subsequently be brought to the WCA.

Completion of the site plan report and environmental documents review will complete Phase 1 of the Cattle Canyon Project. Further project development and implementation is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2016 with initial funding from the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: The project has received Caltrans approval to remove the existing gate system from the Caltrans ROW and onto another State owned parcel. North East Trees, is in the process of completing the final plan update which will be submitted for City and Caltrans final approvals and encroachment permit, with maintenance agreement respectfully.

The City of South Gate completed the installation of the new water line on Imperial Highway to supply irrigation to the project. ACOE has given approval to run new water line along channel utilizing LACFCD uni-strut connection points. LACFCD has also approved the water line connection. An encroachment permit remains pending.

Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. It is located directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA. The City's portion is directly adjacent to the Loma Vista Park, creating a continuous property that will enlarge the park and open it up to the natural open space area.

After completing a conceptual development plan for the site in coordination with the City of San Dimas, the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin Phase 1 development including trail development and public access.

In preparation of the Proposition A funded project, the City and WCA initiated a review of possible environmental impacts in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). WCA was selected as the CEQA lead agency through agreement with the City. In September 2014, the City retained the services of Morse Planning Group to prepare environmental documents (Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration) on behalf of the WCA. On June 23, 2015 the City Council conducted a public meeting to consider a recommendation to the WCA Board on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. During the meeting significant concerns were expressed by the residential neighbors to the Project Site. As a response, City staff was directed by the City Council to work with the concerned neighbors to identify opportunity to modify the project to address their concerns prior to bringing the CEQA recommendation back before that body for consideration.

City and WCA staff met with a group of neighbors over several months to review the identified concerns, discuss alternatives and consider a variety of project adjustments. These meetings resulted in a draft resolution with certain project updates. On February 20, 2016 the City, WCA and neighborhood representatives conducted a Trail Preview event at the site allowing residents to view the site and the West Phase trail location.

In a series of meetings with a group of interested neighbors the WCA and City worked to understand the identified concerns and discussed how the project could be modified to address those concerns while still maintaining the original intent of the property acquisition. The by-product of those discussions resulted in City actions to revise the project. WCA staff are in general agreement with the concepts presented in these updates and is welcoming of further community outreach and engagement.

These revisions are compatible with the Conceptual Master Plan for the property and commit the WCA and City to additional community review with future phases. The most substantive change is the public access prohibition from the Via Verde neighborhood for a minimum of five years.

It should be noted that the Initial Study has not been revised although there is a commitment by the City to perform a new traffic study if access from Via Verde is ever considered in the future. City staff has reviewed the adequacy of using the existing County trailheads as the only means of access to the proposed Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, and shared a favorable conclusion with WCA staff, including the identification that those sites generally have adequate parking. Streets serving those trailheads also have adequate capacity to serve expected users for the new West Phase trail loop.

The project revisions do not result in any greater environmental impacts than those examined in the Mitigated Negative Declaration so no revisions to the environmental document are required. In fact, the intended purpose of CEQA has been fulfilled by responding to concerns about environmental impacts. Upon completion of the WCA responsibilities to act as lead agency related to CEQA, the WCA and City will be able to proceed with the currently funded first (or West) phase of the project.

At the May 23, 2016 WCA Board meeting the Watershed Conservation Authority will consider the following actions: 1) adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project; and, 2) approve the West Phase of the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Project. If approval is provided, the City and WCA staff will immediately initiate design and project specific planning for the West Phase.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY

The SGRDCA Design Team having completed 90% Construction Documents for Stage 1 construction submitted to LA County for plan check approvals. Army Corps of Engineers provided a letter of fees for Administrative Review, which was paid, and review process is underway. A draft license agreement from County Parks has been received and is currently being reviewed. SGRDCA Board approved an amendment to the professional services contract with Watershed Conservation Authority for continued support of San Gabriel River Discovery Center activities in January and was accepted by WCA's Board on March 19, 2015 board meeting (Resolution 2015-13). A disbursement request letter has been provided to LA County Sanitation Districts for review and approval to begin to release SEP funding from escrow account for Construction Document Design fees.

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY

The LCWA hired Moffatt & Nichol to complete the restoration feasibility study for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands and the LCWA Board adopted the Final Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) at their August 12, 2015 Board Meeting. The Final CRP has developed several alternatives that will be further analyzed for the development of a preferred alternative through the CEQA/NEPA process. Reports have been completed and are posted on the CRP website, <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>.

Currently the LCWA is restoring Zedler Marsh through several grants that were awarded in 2015 including the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, Fourth Supervisorial District Prop A Funds and RMC Trails Grant. In addition, the LCWA has also entered into contract with Orange County Flood Control District to provide Wetland Restoration Services and Supplies. Following are the upcoming public events for Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program.



January – June 2016
Public Event Calendar



**ALL PUBLIC EVENTS MEET AT THE
CORNER OF 1st & PCH IN SEAL BEACH**
See map on reverse for location

Upcoming Public Events

Wetlands Habitat Restorations:

LCW Land Trust & Aquarium of the Pacific sponsor Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration and maintenance events

10:30am-12:30pm on the 1st Saturday of each month.*

Upcoming dates: Sat. Jan 2nd, Feb 6th, Mar 5th, Apr 2nd, May 7th, June 4th

Participants are eligible to win a free ticket to the Aquarium of the Pacific and other prizes!

Guided Nature Walks:

LCW Land Trust sponsors monthly Land Tours

8:00 am – 10:00am on the 1st Saturday of each month.*

Contact ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org for tour details.

Upcoming dates: Sat. Jan 2nd, Feb 6th, Mar 5th, Apr 2nd, May 7th, June 4th

El Dorado Audubon Bird Walks:

El Dorado Audubon sponsors a monthly Bird Walk at Los Cerritos

Starting at 8:00am on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Contact eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com for tour details.

Upcoming dates: Sat. Jan 9th, Feb 13th, Mar 12th, Apr 9th, May 14th, June 11th

Wetlands Kayak Tours:

LCW Land Trust sponsors our Kayak Tour program

9:00am – 12:00pm on certain weekend days each month.

Contact ejlambe@lcwlandtrust.org for tour details.

Participate in the **exploration** and **ecological restoration** of 200 acres of coastal habitat at **Los Cerritos Wetlands**

Service-learning credits are provided at all events.

The wetlands are wildlands; please dress accordingly.

Closed toed shoes required.

We encourage reusable water containers.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

To learn more about the habitats and animals of Los Cerritos Wetlands, please check our websites:

www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org

www.lcwetlands.org

saveloscerritoswetlands on Facebook

To request a restoration or education event for your group or organization, please contact:

iwanttohelp@



.com

Thanks to Our Partners in Conservation:



Hellman Properties, LLC



El Dorado Audubon
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Founded 1969

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT JANUARY 1ST, 2016 – APRIL 15TH, 2016

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Nature Walks

Turtle Trek, Raptor Ramble, Heron Hike

Nature walks supported by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust continue to be a significant draw for the community (Figure 1). People from all over the California coast line participated in nature walks from January – April, 2016. In the last four nature walks, 70 community members have enjoyed hiking through the wild and urban terrain of Los Cerritos Wetlands, catching rare glimpses of its wildlife and natural beauty. Each walk begins at 1st street and Pacific Coast Highway in Seal Beach at 8:00am every 1st Saturday of the month. Members of the public are welcome to join in on the 3 different tours around the wetlands. For more information about each tour, please contact ejlambe@verizon.net.

Kayak Tours

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust hosted 2 kayak tours on Sunday mornings in January and February 2016. These tours lead the public through the Long Beach waterways, stopping at Jack Dunster Ecological Reserve, and ending at one of the most pristine wetlands in Southern California--Steam Shovel Slough. This is an excellent opportunity for community members got to experience the wetlands by water. For more information about tour dates and details, please contact ejlambe@verizon.net.

Habitat Restoration Events

Community volunteers participated in restoration events at Zedler Marsh in Los Cerritos Wetlands between January and April of this year. During these months, 4 community restoration events were held where 526 volunteers contributed 1,052 volunteer hours and planted more than 650 wetlands and uplands native plants for the Zedler Marsh Trails Project. With all the plantings, plant propagation projects, nonnative weed removal events and trash clean ups, volunteers contributed \$25,000 of in-kind services between January and April 2016 (Figure 2 - 3). From January – April the Stewardship Program supported service-learning and college intern Crew Days on every Friday of each month. Crew Days accomplished many goals for the Stewardship Program, Los Alamitos Pump Station restoration project and the developing Zedler Marsh Trails Project. From January – April, 18 Crew Day events were held where 150 city college and university volunteers and interns contributed 620 hours towards multiple projects. They planted nearly 800 wetlands and uplands plants, propagated 250 wetlands plants, removed 1,000 lbs of weeds and 500 lbs of trash from the Zedler Marsh Trails Project area. They also installed all the decomposed granite trail materials for the entire trail system (Figure 4 - 5). Crew Days provided \$14,560.00 worth of in-kind services to LCWA projects. To volunteer for an event, meet at 1st street and Pacific Coast Highway in Seal Beach at 10:30am on the 1st Saturday of the month. To request a restoration or education event for your group or organization, please contact iwanttohelp@tidalinfluence.com.

Special Events

The Stewardship Program hosted multiple special events and programs in Los Cerritos Wetlands from January - April, 2016. Stewardship Program partners like Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust have supported a diverse range of

programs hosted by environmental consulting firm, Tidal Influence in the wetlands and in the community. So far in 2016, 16 special events have been hosted by the Stewardship Program or represented the program at other venues. Events included: private land tours, service-learning university tours, *Make A Difference Day* at Zedler Marsh, community outreach events, wetlands academic and professional conferences and private van tours (Figure 6).

In the first four months of 2016, more than 1,000 people participated in the Stewardship Program and special events in Los Cerritos Wetlands. Event participation continues to grow for all Stewardship Program events in 2016, building public awareness and positive connections with Los Cerritos Wetlands.



FIGURE 1. RAPTOR RAMBLE LAND TOUR THROUGH HELLMAN LOWLANDS



FIGURE 2. WALKING HABITAT RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS THROUGH STATELANDS PARCEL TO ZEDLER MARSH



FIGURE 3. HABITAT RESTORATION EVENTS AT ZEDLER MARSH



FIGURE 4. CREW DAY NON-NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL AND PREPARATION FOR VOLUNTEER PLANTING DAY



FIGURE 5. CREW DAY FOR ZEDLER MARSH TRAILS PROJECT

SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN

FEBRUARY 2016

DESCRIPTION:

Day-use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.7 mile "East Fork Scenic Trail". The trail is located adjacent to the road with views of the river and provides access to overlooks, river access trails and backcountry trailheads. Loading/shuttle stops are provided.

- River access - 6 locations with restrooms, dumpsters & signage
- Parking - Angled and perpendicular bays with curbs, limited roadside parking, parking lot in Former Fire Station area with bus parking
- ROW - Reduced speed, crosswalks, stop signs, footpath along top of slope on south/east side of road, trash grates on drain inlets
- Amenities - Picnic tables, East Fork Scenic Trail, interpretive sites including 2 interpretive trails, scenic overlooks, bilingual signage including wayfinding and trail signage, trailheads, designated loading/shuttle stop locations
- Toilets - 2 and 4-Unit facilities located near river access points and other popular areas
- Trash - Small trash receptacles to be located at all river access points and all picnic sites. Dumpsters to be set within rock barriers.
- Restoration - Multiple informal trails to river, soil deposits along roadside, seeps/springs on east side of road, stream habitat in tributary behind Oaks Picnic Area, phase out non-native "plantation" plantings

PROJECT AREA TOTALS	
Trailheads	5
Restrooms	9
Crosswalks	6
Designated Picnic Areas	6
River Overlook Trail (miles)	2.7
Interpretive Elements	4
River Access Points	6
USFS Visitor Kiosk	3
Bus/Tram Stop	3
Parking	175

