

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN (LLARRP) WORKING GROUP MEETING #17

Thursday, September 7, 2017 ♦ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
First District Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Southeast Los Angeles Field Office
2677 Zoe Avenue, 2nd Floor, Huntington Park, CA 90255

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

INTRODUCTION

On September 7, 2017, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of the 63rd Assembly District and the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy (RMC) co-hosted the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). The purpose of the meeting was to: review related and connected planning efforts from a partner agency along the Lower Los Angeles River; review outcomes from recent meetings of the Plan Element Committees; finalize the equity-focused goals and opportunities; and finalize the signature projects, programs and policies.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The seventeenth meeting of the Working Group occurred on September 7, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the First District Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Southeast Los Angeles Field Office, 2677 Zoe Avenue, Huntington Park. Approximately 22 Working Group members and 21 community members participated in the meeting (Attachment B).

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer of the RMC opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and explaining the purpose and objectives of the meeting. He provided updates regarding State legislation that will potentially provide resources for river revitalization. Mr. Stanley then introduced Councilmember Graciela Ortiz of the City of Huntington Park, who provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the City. Councilmember Ortiz then introduced Sergio Infanzon, Director of Community Development from the City, who provided an overview of the City's "Rethink Randolph" project from the City.

Andy Pendoley of MIG, Inc., served as meeting facilitator and provided an overview of the agenda (Attachment A) and meeting format before asking for self-introductions from all participants. Oliver Galang of Tetra Tech, part of the project team, presented the final drafts of the goals and objectives for the Plan Element Committees, which the Working Group unanimously endorsed. Brad Wardynski of Tetra Tech then presented a refined set of signature templates, and Mr. Galang presented a refined set of signature projects, including three alternatives for the Rio Hondo Confluence. Finally, Ira Atz, of Tetra Tech delivered a

presentation on hydraulics to explain the opportunities and constraints associated with altering the River channel.

During each presentation, Mr. Pendoley facilitated discussions with Working Group members and other participants to address questions and comments. During these discussions, Devon Provo of MIG recorded key outcomes and discussion points on a wall-sized piece of paper, or “wallgraphic.” A summary of the discussion points is provided in the following sections, and a copy of the wallgraphic is included in the appendix to this report.

PARTNER AGENCY’S PRESENTATION: CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK

Participants received a presentation from Sergio Infanzon, Director of Community Development of the City of Huntington Park. The City’s “Rethink Randolph” project has been exploring opportunities for a shared use walking and bike path that would connect the Huntington Park community to both the River and local transit hubs. The City is interested in expanding opportunities to increase access to recreation and active transportation for residents through both the Rethink Randolph and future LLARRP projects.

PLAN ELEMENT COMMITTEES’ PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Pendoley provided an update on behalf of the Community Engagement Committee as follows:

- Summary of round one community engagement results
- Description of objectives for round two of community engagement
- Discussion of upcoming engagement events: Pop-Ups/Bike Tours/Workshops

Plan Element Committees: Final Goals and Objectives

Mr. Galang presented the proposed final goals and objectives on behalf of the Community Economics, Health and Equity committee. After reviewing the goals and objectives, Mr. Pendoley asked Working Group members to assess whether they agree with them as presented, or if they require further discussion. The Working Group members agreed to finalize the draft goals and objectives with minor clarifications and revisions as follows:

Community Economics, Health and Equity

- Goal:
 - Develop tools that will be easily implementable for local jurisdictions
 - Continue coordination between County/Cities
- Objectives:
 - Identify metrics for tracking impacts to local businesses

SIGNATURE CONCEPTS DISCUSSION

Mr. Wardynski presented a refined set of signature policies and templates based on the feedback received at the last Working Group meeting. After Mr. Wardynski presented the signature policies and templates, Mr. Pendoley invited the Working Group members to share their thoughts or suggestions for revision.

Policies

- Community Stabilization:
 - Tenant Rights/Rent Stabilization
 - Green Business Support
 - Clean Up Green Up
 - Guide 2 Green
 - Commerce Green Zones
 - National City example
 - Green Streets
 - Incentives
 - Community engagement

Templates

- Neighborhood Connectivity/Wayfinding: Strategies to draw community to river and also direct trail users to surrounding points of interest
 - Ensure improvements are made at the neighborhood scale and not just on major arterials
- Trail Enhancements: Improvements to provide basic amenities and consistent user experience along north-south trail, including shade, restrooms, lighting, art, and engagingly curated historical, environmental, and cultural experiences
 - Include east-west connections as well as north-south improvements
- Crossings
 - Include explicit language that states crossings are “for ALL users, including...”
 - Prioritize Del Amo

Projects

Mr. Galang presented a refined set of signature projects based on the feedback received at the last Working Group meeting. Mr. Pendoley invited the Working Group members to share their thoughts or suggestions for revision, which are summarized below.

- Atlantic Boulevard Area and Multi-Use Easement
 - Connect to YMCA
 - Connect to Rio Hondo
 - Add community gardens
- Cudahy River Park

- Middle Segment Crossover and Multi-Use Easement
 - Connect to Metro Blue Line
- Compton Creek Confluence Area
- Wrigley Heights River Park
- LA River South of Willow
 - Need east-west crossings to connect communities
 - Prioritize Shoemaker bridge
- Concrete Channel Enhancements
 - Interest in low-flow options
 - Concrete removal

Rio Hondo Confluence Area

- Option 1: Terraced levees, wetland areas, and an outdoor amphitheater
 - Increase connectivity
 - Multi-use access
 - Suggestion to move parking area to the back to preserve river frontage for recreation
- Option 2: Expanded river channel, rubber dam storage area, and an outdoor amphitheater and vending area
 - The proposed Vendor hub at Imperial is an exciting opportunity
 - Opportunities to connect with Hollydale Village
 - Opportunities for water recreation are exciting but raise questions about how to safely manage these amenities
 - Adding a water basin would take away needed public space
- Option 3: Soft-bottom channel and terraced levees, outdoor amphitheater, and bridge park over the I-710 and LA River
 - Pedestrian bridge at Martin Luther King Blvd. is a good idea
 - Dislike that this option makes the confluence less prominent instead of capitalizing on the unique merging of waters
 - Idea for an overlook at the southern end is good, but should add an overlook on the northern side as well
- Option 3B: Diversion of water to subsurface relief drain near I-710
 - Support the idea for water diversion

HYDRAULICS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Ira Artz of Tetra Tech delivered a presentation illustrating the hydraulic concepts affecting opportunities for altering water storage, channel surfaces, and in-channel features throughout the River corridor. Mr. Artz explained that river planning has to account for hydraulic conditions during “worst case” storm event scenarios to ensure that new design features will not compromise safety. Following the presentation, Mr. Pendoley asked Working Group members

to share their ideas for how these concepts could be effectively shared with the larger community, which are summarized below.

- Include videos and other visuals/3D models as effective ways to educate community members on hydraulics concepts
- Consider modifying technical language to make concepts more easily understandable
- Describe how hydraulics impact animals could be an effective way to communicate these concepts to younger audiences
- Include the history and context of river channelization to help people understand why flood control was needed
- Emphasize the risks and tradeoffs associated with design alternatives
- Consider using impacts to flood insurance as a way to relate these concepts to homeowners
- Provide data about climate change projections and potential impacts on hydraulics
- Share more information about the possibilities for underground storage

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Pendoley concluded the meeting by thanking Working Group members and reviewing upcoming meeting dates and agendas, and reviewing the next Working Group meeting dates and locations, which are listed on the project website.

The next Working Group meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, October 5, 2017, (Long Beach)
- Thursday, November 2, 2017, (TBD)
- Thursday, December 7, 2017, (TBD)