

Community Economics, Health, and Equity Plan Element

Goals and Objectives

Community Economics, Health, and Equity PEC Overarching Goal:

To ensure that a restored Los Angeles River promotes health, equity, and brings economic and environmental benefits to all residents and local small businesses and does not contribute to gentrification and displacement. Revitalization efforts should build the resilience of residents and small businesses against gentrification and displacement, foster collective community identity and pride and increase economic mobility and opportunities for local populations. Restoration must prioritize and promote inclusivity, health and equity, and climate resilience. In short – Lower Los Angeles River revitalization must be a model of equitable redevelopment, one that ensures that healthy communities investments in these communities benefits existing families and generations to come.

Community Economics, Health, and Equity Objectives:

- Prevent local gentrification-induced displacement
- Address homelessness
- Increase equitable community access to multi-use trails, bikeways and assets
- Support and develop local business and workforce
- Promote wellness and physical activity
- Increase community green infrastructure

Prevent Local Gentrification-Induced Displacement Objective:

Prevent gentrification and resulting residential and commercial displacement through comprehensive community-driven and informed policies and programs such as, but not limited to affordable housing, rent stabilization, Enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIFDs), community land trusts, City housing policies, thoughtfully-planned commercial development, and additional LA River multi-use trail and bikeway access points to avoid real estate hot spots. Efforts to prevent gentrification induced displacement should be proactive and comprehensive and range from strengthening individual and community knowledge, educating stakeholders, fostering coalitions, modifying organizational policies, and influencing policy and legislation. Community-driven pilot or demonstration policies with the potential to be scaled up should be prioritized.

Address Homelessness Objective:

Address homelessness by preventing residential displacement, supporting regional initiatives such as increasing the affordable housing stock, long-term homelessness interventions and incorporating support services for the homeless into river revitalization projects.

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Increase Equitable Community Access to Multi-Use Trails, Bikeways and Assets

Objective:

Increase equitable community river access and assets through smart acquisitions of river adjacent properties to address the community and users' needs. These spaces must be safe, accessible by the community and meet the needs of a diverse range of users.

Support and Develop Local Business and Workforce Objective:

Support existing local businesses and workforce through coordination with organizations, development of park space and housing areas along the Lower LA River and support of locally owned businesses. Environmental remediation, green space development and revitalization efforts should directly engage the community and create job opportunities while providing workforce training and provisions for worker safety.

Promote Wellness and Physical Activity Objective:

Promote health, equity, wellness and physical activity in communities along the lower LA River by providing access to safe and interconnected complete streets, parks and open spaces that promote an active lifestyle, and by increasing access to and promoting healthy food.

Increase Community Green Infrastructure Objective:

Increase community green infrastructure in communities along the Lower LA River in order to protect and improve air and water quality, increase outdoor activity, improve mental health, and increase social cohesion by creating community gathering spaces.

Additional helpful definitions:

HEALTH EQUITY “means that every person, regardless of who they are—the color of their skin, their level of education, their gender or sexual identity, whether or not they have a disability, the job that they have, or the neighborhood that they live in—has an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health.”- Braveman, Kumanyika, Fielding, et al., 2011

DISPLACEMENT “occurs when any household is forced to move from its residence by conditions which affect that dwelling or its immediate surroundings, and:

- Are beyond the household’s reasonable ability to control or prevent;
- Occur despite the household’s having met all previously-imposed conditions of occupancy;
- And make continued occupancy by the household impossible, hazardous, or unaffordable.”-Grier and Grier, 1978

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GENTRIFICATION “is a profit driven race and class remake of urban, working class communities of color that have suffered from a history of disinvestment and abandonment. The process is characterized by declines in the number of low-income people of color workers willing to pay higher rents...Gentrification happens in areas where commercial and residential land is cheap, relative to other areas in the city and region, and where the potential to turn a profit is great.

-Causa Justa :: Just Cause, 2015