

**LOWER LA RIVER
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

**Thursday, November 15, 2018
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**LA County Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room C
900 Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91802**

MEETING SUMMARY

Objective: To discuss committee progress, the South Gate Urban Orchard, and other Lower LA River updates.

Facilitator: Dan Sharp, LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Recap

Dan Sharp (LACFCD) provided a recap on goals and structure of the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG):

- IAG Purpose and Charges
- IAG Structure (Attached)
- Project Review Process (Attached)

Dan Sharp summarized the discussion of the first committee meetings

- Goals and Objectives of the LLARRP
- Members and Additional Members
 - Consensus that membership should consist of agencies and organizations with history along the Los Angeles River, starting with LLARRP working group
 - Additional members outside the working group may request to join
- Meetings
 - Quarterly meeting during working hours
 - Open to the public
- During the committee meetings, chairs & vice chairs were identified
 - Programs and Policies Committee
 - Chair: Antonio Hicks (Public Counsel)
 - Vice Chair: TBD
 - Public Advisory and Community Engagement Committee
 - Chair: Laura Cortez (EYCEJ)
 - Vice Chair: TBD

- Public Realm, Environment, Water, & Infrastructure Committee
 - Chair: Kayla Kelly-Slatten (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)
 - Vice Chair: Kelsey Jassup (The Nature Conservancy)

Note: Public Advisory and Community Engagement Committee needs more members

Shona Ganguly from The Nature Conservancy provided suggestions on improving membership at the committee meetings by extending direct invitations and including an announcement at LA River Master Plan Update meetings.

III. South Gate Urban Orchard

Gladis Deras (City of South Gate) and Robin Mark (Trust for Public Land) gave a presentation on the South Gate Urban Orchard for the IAG.

The South Gate Urban Orchard is centrally located within the gateway region, just upstream of the Rio Hondo Confluence site. The project site includes 30 acres of vacant and underutilized land, with 7 acres owned by the City of South Gate and 23 acres within utility corridors. The site is near residential homes, schools, and existing and proposed bike routes. The site is also a key location for stormwater management.

The Trust for Public Land and the City have conducted community outreach, with additional outreach planned for the future. The community priorities identified by the outreach include access, cultural representations, environment, programming, safety and security, and water.

The concept design for the South Gate Urban Orchard includes a community orchard, a wetland with native fish, an education garden, nature-based play, multi-use play, multi-use trails, fitness equipment, interpretive signage & art, community based art, and youth employment opportunities.

Funding has been identified as follows:

- Secured \$11.8M
 - \$845,000 – Rivers & Mountains Conservancy
 - \$7.9M – Stormwater Resources Control Board
 - \$3M – Land & Water Conservation Fund
 - \$25,000 – The Trust for Public Land
- Pending
 - \$2M – Rivers & Mountains Conservancy

The City is looking for funding for enhanced connectivity along the river.

Discussion

- There were questions about existing equestrian trails and if the Urban Orchard would be a connection for them.
- The reclaimed water will irrigate parts of the project site that are suitable for reclaimed water use.

IV. Next Steps

Dan Sharp (LACFCD) provided information on the next steps for the IAG as follows:

- Committee Meetings – January 2019
- Next IAG Meeting – Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 8AM to 10AM at Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room A

V. LA River Master Plan Update

Christine Wartman (LACFCD) provided updates on the LA River Master Plan Update.

VI. RMC Grant Program and Other Updates

Joe Gonzalez (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy) provided updates on the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy Grant Program and the River Ranger Program, which include:

- Proposition 1
- Proposition 68
- AB-1558 Los Angeles River Ranger Program
- SB-1374 (Lara). The Lower LA River Recreation and Park District

VII. Other River Activities

Members of the IAG and the public announced other upcoming river-related activities.

VIII. Open Forum/Public Comment

There were no public comments.