

Lower Los Angeles River IAG Committee Meeting

February 20, 2020 | 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Conservation Corps of Long Beach HQ
340 Nieto Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814

Summary

IAG Purpose & Charge: Provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects related to the Lower LA River, ensure proposed projects are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, and maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits

I. Welcome & Introductions

Note: Riley is leaving the County on March 3rd, reach out to Lee Alexanderson, Zeke Okoya, Michelle Loekman

II. Updates

- a. Committee vacancies
 - i. Committees have been combined (Outreach and PREWIC). Missing someone to lead Programs and Policies committee.
 - ii. Goals for committees are outlined on LLAR website (info found [here](#)).
 - iii. Out of planning process there was a desire to work with communities on the toolkit. This active outreach is missing as a committee role right now. Suely, consultant from RMC, is very interested in taking this on.
 - iv. No concerns or questions about the vacancy.
- b. LA River Master Plan
 - i. The draft has been submitted to steering committee members. Comments were due 2/13.
 - ii. Next step, to update the plan based on revisions/edits.
 - iii. Will be available for public review late Spring.
 - iv. Expected May release of the plan.
 - v. Upper LA River and Tributaries Plan was released recently as well.
 - vi. Upper and lower river plans do not include hydraulic studies, whereas LARMPU does include this. May be projects proposed for upper and lower river that are not feasible based on the hydraulics studies for the LARMP. While the LARMP is a corridor plan, the hydraulics studies are for the entire watershed.
- c. Lower LA River Projects
 - i. Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project
 - 1. Concepts are still being developed.
 - 2. Possible second community meeting March 19th.
 - 3. Community engagement: baseline survey sent out last year to 1,000 people. County reviewed results and are feeding them into the concept designs. Recently surveyed 500 of the 1000 people (but with same demographic makeup) to dive into more detail. The second round of feedback is also being incorporated into the designs.
 - 4. Next survey step will be to have a focus group of about 50 people. This feedback will eventually be included in the planning and concept designs for the project.
 - ii. Parque dos Rios



1. WCA owns the property and has contracted CCLB to run the construction. Have constructed bump outs (overlook) connected to the bike trail. Structural steel is in place. Prep for upper plateau has been done.
2. Waiting on permit update from the County FCD for modification of the bump out. Need two additional panels of railing on the front of the overlook.
3. Cliff swallow nests are attached to the Imperial Bridge. Designed a second flat overlook closer to Imperial Hwy and added view scopes to feature the swallows.
4. Northeast Trees is the design team and they are currently making modifications to the plans.
5. Should be out installing soon (maybe in the next month and a half).
6. WCA has also recognized a large drainage swale that Caltrans uses that runs the length of the project. That will be the separation between the user and the restored habitat. Discovered that the sides of the swale are erosive. WCA has put in an application for SCWP feasibility funds. Interested in turning the swale into riparian, natural condition. Possibly including infrastructure underneath to collect water. This would be a phase II of the Parque dos Rios project.
7. Outreach? RMC is organizing a bike ride to help highlight the project. Once the permit is finalized, WCA will have a grand opening. Involved with LA River Ranger Program which will help with outreach. Coordinating with CCLB to be a visual presence on the site. WCA is open to additional outreach ideas.

iii. DeForest Park

1. CCLB has a prop 1 grant from RMC and they are continuing with community outreach for vision plan.
2. Grant is for vision plan at DeForest Park and the wetlands as well as to develop a satellite site building for CCLB and community members.
3. At the end of January project meeting, had to update timeline. Original spot for satellite site was at the entrance to the wetlands. However, there are easements there and it is a liquefaction zone. Moved it up north where there is already an old community center. CCLB will be revamping the community center and sharing with Campfire Los Angeles who is also helping with building design.
4. 2nd workshop series for community outreach will be done soon.
5. 2nd week of March – 3rd workshop series that will incorporate park design concepts.
6. Working with City Fabric on local community outreach. In the fall, had a first round of outreach which was a park audit. Second series was to understand what people wanted (played a board game to help people understand trade-offs).
7. By mid-April, will have a draft of the vision plan.
8. Goal to submit final docs to the City by April 20th in order to get them approved by Council this year.

iv. Sleepy Lagoon

1. East Yards is working with RMC on this project.
2. Community engagement – brought people out to learn about the history of the lagoon, brought in native peoples to talk about plants and native culture.
3. Now, in the design phase. Based on feedback from first two workshops, working with local artist on two concepts.
4. The final event is this Saturday (with breakfast) to review design.

5. Selected a site - Maywood Riverfront Park. This site was a contaminated site that was transformed into a park. People are excited about having the monument of commemoration in Maywood.
6. Next phase will be getting construction funds and building out the monument.

d. River Rangers

- i. WCA and RMC have received necessary funding to move to next phase for River Rangers. Will be rolling out a pilot for the upper and lower river. Still determining what the pilot program will be.
- ii. Hiring a consultant and then will look to connect with CBOs, nonprofits, and CCLB. Next step is to look at the different components (rangers, programming – admin and staff, and maintenance training) and to start to engage in agreements to allow for launching a pilot program.
- iii. Aiming to start pilot this summer. Looking to run for about 3 months.
- iv. Hoping to get lessons learned from the pilot, do additional outreach, and then develop second year program based on learnings. Want to keep building and growing the program.
- v. Ideally, would gather information to identify what works and what doesn't, what activities are of most interest, and what agreements are needed. Ultimately, want to truth that the program is worthwhile, that it is bringing change to the river in a positive way and that the community is engaged. Want to see more and more people using the river based on the program. Want to analyze the costs/benefits.
- vi. Discussions on training river rangers on engaging with people experiencing homelessness (we want to learn from the experiences in the City of LA with their park rangers. Need to have respectful relationships with residents in the river)?
 1. Plan to work this into the program but there are jurisdictional challenges because different entities have different protocols.
 2. Rangers and others in the region will be stakeholders in the process but there will have to be agreement between parties because of the different ownership along the river.
 3. WCA and County work with LAHSA and Path but not sure how it will work along the entirety of the river.

e. SELA Cultural Center

- i. Project in new development (RMC, Gehry Partners, Olin, Geosyntec)
- ii. Identified by three levels of planning throughout the County. Called out in LLARRP, the LARMPU, and the Rio Hondo Confluence Plan.
- iii. This area was highlighted as very high park need based on LA County park need analysis, as more burdened according to CalEnviroScreen, and as a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC).
- iv. Outreach history:
 1. 2016 – public listening sessions led by Gehry and River LA (LA River Index)
 2. LLARP community workshops and presentations
 3. LARMPU outreach
 4. Rio Hondo Confluence process
- v. SELA River District identified projects for prioritization, including the cultural center.
- vi. A multi-arts facility that weaves together rich cultural programming with the vibrant surrounding SELA communities (community space, visual arts, music, and landscape elements). Will incorporate access to Hollydale Park and the LA River.
- vii. Feasibility study completed recently (looked at 3 possible sites). Site C recommended based on evaluation (publicly owned by LACFCD). Not sure what will come of sites A and B.
 1. Site B was a landfill previously, creating subsidence.

- viii. Currently learning more about existing cultural resources in the area and aiming to uplift these rather than duplicate.
- ix. Will be a community engagement process – stand alone meetings, public events, digital outreach (including a quantitative survey for local residents).
 - 1. Engagement with indigenous communities? Received feedback from Rendon’s office on this. Not sure if they have been engaged yet, but they will be engaged as part of the stakeholder process.
 - 2. CulturalcenterSELA@gmail.com (project email address)
- x. Access to the project? Not sure yet.
- xi. Coordination with other projects in the area? Consistent with other levels of planning. In terms of outreach, trying to stagger meetings with Rio Hondo meetings and attend existing events to avoid burnout. Plan to build off of learnings from robust digital effort for Rio Hondo. Urban orchard will be another project with which to coordinate as well as Parque dos Rios.
- xii. Connectivity? There is a proposed bridge in the area that could connect with the park and possibly go over the freeway (the Lynwood Connector). Bridges and connectivity are limited in the area due to challenging hydrology.
- xiii. Displacement – have to invest in implementing the community stability toolkit. This requires coordination with cities to figure out how they are implementing locally. (South Gate is considering inclusionary zoning)

III. Open Discussion

- a. Upcoming and ongoing funding
 - i. Measure A
 - 1. Applications are due 2/25 – the two open programs are 1) youth and veteran job training and 2) placement and recreational access. There will be ongoing funding opportunities.
 - ii. Measure W
 - 1. Lots of ongoing project review for WASCs. The County has not hired the coordinators yet (will be hired in the next 6-8 months).
 - 2. There is a GIS map uploaded on the SCWP website. The map includes the projects that applied for funding, park needs, watershed areas, sanitation districts, WASC groups, and other data layers. (Individuals who would like to access this map will need to create a FREE ArcGIS Online account and then search for “Safe Clean Water”)
 - 3. Deadline for the next round of funding is June 30th – projects must be in an already “planned plan.” LARMPU is not yet finalized and thus not included as one of the plans. However, this is likely to change.
 - iii. Prop 68 – RMC, Coastal Conservancy, CA DPR, CNRA (Urban flood protection) etc.
 - 1. Ongoing funds available.
 - iv. Prop 1 – RMC (call for proposals in Spring 2020), Coastal Conservancy
 - 1. RMC – ongoing call for projects along the LLAR.
 - v. Other
- b. Revisit membership requirements
 - i. Looking for participation. Updates are useful and due to the large number of plans and projects right now, important for us to stay in conversation.
 - ii. Don’t see a need for membership requirements, but opportunity to invite and bring more people to the meetings. Would be useful to have more city representation.
 - iii. Access is an important issue for participation.
 - 1. Rotating between Long Beach and Compton Creek. Could try moving times. Tried evening but had limited participation.
 - 2. Public transportation is difficult for Long Beach.
 - 3. East Yard is happy to host in Commerce or at their Long Beach office.

- c. Project review – tentative
 - i. Lower LA River Recreation and Park District (SB 1374 2016) – submitted an application to LAFCO. Have gotten majority of cities to adopt a resolution to be part of the agreement but still missing a few cities (Long Beach, Compton – need to communicate with staff, challenges with staff turnover and capacity. Vernon – concerned about taxes because part of a special district is opportunity for special tax assessment. But no tax involved initially. Not many residents in Vernon for whom to provide greenspace). Have a boundary map (about a mile out from LLAR, Compton Creek, and Rio Hondo).
 - 1. If not all signatures are received, will still move forward.
 - ii. Modelo Project in Commerce (mixed use development) – said they have been working with RMC
 - 1. Taking over a park and brownfield. Have engaged with RMC but no affordable housing units so RMC may not be supportive. RMC has asked about who will be maintaining park facilities and who will be using the community space (want to ensure it is really for the community).

IV. Open Forum & Public Comment

- a. Feedback and Q&A
 - i. Next meeting will likely be mid-May/June.

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 - iii. DeForest Park
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- d. River Rangers

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LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Committee Meeting

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10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

	Name	Organization	Phone	Email
1	Riley James	LACFCD	626-458-7327	rjames@pw.lacounty.gov
2	Michelle Lockman	LACFCD	626-300-6972	mlockman@dpw.lacounty.gov
3	Ezekiel Okoya	LACFCD	626-300-4592	eokoya@dpw.lacounty.gov
4	LEE ALEXANDERSON	'	626-458-4370	LALEXANDERSON@DPW.LACOUNTY.GOV
5	Jim METSER	TRAILHALL	310-344-9229	JMETSER@TRAILHALL.AA
6	Kayla Kelly-Statten	CCLB		
7	Laura Cortez	EYCEJ	323 263 2113	lcortez@eycej.org
8	Jessica Prieto	EYCEJ	323 263 2113	
9	Katherine Pease	Heal the Bay		kpease@healthebay.org
10	Kelsey Jessup	The Nature Conservancy	650-248-8878	kelsey.jessup@tnc.org

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	Name	Organization	Phone	Email
11	Dubhie Ewos	WOA	626-733-7222	demos@woa.ca.gov
12	Sheela Mathai	LACO Parks	626-508-5307	maths@parks.lacounty.gov
13	MELISSA YON	Long Beach	562-570-5524	melissa.yon@longbeach.ga
14	Joseph Gonzalez	KMC		
15	Sueely Sawo	KMC		
16	Karl Eggers	walkBikeLB	562 843-4184	karl@walkbike16.org
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