

Lower Los Angeles River Implementation Advisory Group Committee Meeting

September 2, 2020 | 12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

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

Attendees: Nick Garrity, Michelle Loekman, Natasha Krakowiak, Sheela Mathai, Dan Sharp, Gladis Deras, Carlos Campero, Dan Knapp, Cris Sarabia, Ezekial Okoya, Lorry Hempe, Laura Ochoa, Jessica Prieto, Marybeth Vergara, Joe Gonzalez, Oriana, Home, Samuel Gehry, Sarai Jimenez, Kimberlee Tachiki, Sarah Rascon, Deborah Enos, George Kutnar, Michael C. Huynh, Robin Mark, Julio Gonzales

II. Committee Logistics

- Meetings / Schedule – Looking at programming meetings regularly
- Chair Openings – Replacement for Kelsey Jessup, Chair of PREWIC. Considering Carlos Campero from Los Angeles Conservation Corps.
 - i. Long Beach Conservation Corps offered up staff to co-chair if that would be helpful.
 - ii. Carlos to confirm with the group.

III. Project Information Packet

- Comments / Revisions
- LLARRP Project Tracking

Michelle sent out the packet to the Committee Chairs (it is linked on the website [here](#)). It is meant to identify areas where the IAG members can support. Treating the packet as a form to define how a project is applicable to LARRP topics. Open to comments on the document.

Comments on the document:

- Would be helpful to give people more room to explain if proponents want to give more detail.
- For building blocks: would be helpful to include space for project proponents to add specific information about how their project meets the building blocks and with what types of features.
 - The LA River Master Plan Update includes a Kit of Parts – once released, would be good if it matched up.
- Give space for project proponents to identify the opportunity area in which the project is located. (make the map readily available)



- How will comments be incorporated?
 - o Michelle is integrating and will send out a new copy for review by the group.

Graphic for pipeline for project packet?

- There is a graphic but not shared with the committee. LA County staff will make it available on the website.

Project Tracking – considering a way to track projects continuously.

- Comments:
 - o Generally positive feedback from the group about this idea.
 - o From the State side, always trying to track. MRCA has funding for LLAR. Identified numbers for all projects proposed in LLARRP – can provide info about projects identified and which ones have received funding from MRCA.
 - o Could be helpful to have a map and regular project updates.
 - o MRCA is looking to bring on a consultant to help get updates and could feed into continuous updates that are integrated into the committee.
 - o EYEJC: many projects are happening and it is critical to have transparency. Have to ensure the website/maps/etc. are updated.
 - o Kimberlee: When project proponents want letters of support, want to be clear that the project is in alignment with the LLARRP. Tracking projects could help with this.
 - o SCWP will be hiring Watershed Coordinators – the person in this role for the Lower LA River could be a good fit for leading the project tracking.

IV. Project Updates

- Lynwood City Park SW Capture (Lorry Hempe)
 - i. Received a grant from RMC to put permeable pavers and bioswales at Lynwood park. After percolation testing, found out that infiltration was not ideal at the site.
 - ii. Approached RMC to change location – identified a City of Lynwood-owned open space along Fernwood Ave.
 - iii. SWA is the consultant.
 - iv. Community engagement – difficult with Covid-19 because can't do face-to-face interactions. Instead, did a survey of people in the area. (survey is still live and available on the [project website](#))
 - v. New site allows for a park.
 1. MRCA wants to ensure the community will have an opportunity to provide feedback.
 - vi. Grant is based on infiltration – stormwater infiltration and education
 - vii. Highlighting key areas of the site for programming
 - viii. Plant palette is based on successful plantings at Ricardo Lara Park.
 1. Using the species that are thriving at the existing park.
 2. Carbon Capture? TreePeople has a list
 - a. Numbers for specific trees is difficult! Choosing trees that from a biomass perspective are large and likely to capture carbon. Densely populating with Oak and Ash.
 - ix. Marybeth: there are plants and trees native to the Lower LA River Watershed – when you are receiving grant funds, there is a request to adhere to those plant palettes. We should have a tree conference!



- Urban Orchard Project (TBD – Robin Mark or Gladis Deras)
 - i. Completed design and almost ready to go to bid for construction (hoping to begin construction spring 2021). The plan had been to go to bid earlier this year but faced a funding issue (still being resolved).
 - ii. Estimated 12-16 month project – opening in mid-2023.
 - iii. Partners include LBCC. Project includes a satellite office for the Corps to ensure job development and valuable skill development, wetland with native fish, cleaning of water (opportunities to increase high skill level job training).
 - iv. Site will be able to accommodate about 20 youth from the Corps.
 - v. Also considering the site as a base for the LA River Ranger program
 - vi. Will pick up engagement virtually – will reach out to the community for a community-based mural that will be painted on the water tower facing the site. Will select an artist and then work with the community on design.
 - vii. Interested in the model set up at Compton Creek (in terms of the Corps' presence at the park).
- City of South Gate's Anti-Displacement Updates (TBD)
 - i. Working on inclusionary ordinance – July 28th, Council received update from feasibility study. Should have an ordinance out for public hearing by the end of this month and should be adopted by the end of this year.
 - ii. Would make City of South Gate the only Gateway city to have this type of ordinance.
 - iii. Request for sharing the language.
- Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (Lee Alexanderson)
 - i. The concept design is wrapping up. In September 2019, picked back up with community engagement meeting with City of South Gate. Developed 12 different sites. Anyone can pick up the concepts and go into the next phase of design.
 - ii. There are platform parks, transmission parks, blue parks that add enhancements to low flow. Option for water education center.
 - iii. Engaged the community throughout the process (River LA, Olin, Geosyntec, Gehry Partners put a survey out).
 1. Initial survey went to 1000. Revisited with subset of 500 people. Then had a weeklong focus group.
 - iv. Currently looking to wrap up with a final survey (available at lowerlariver.org/riohondoconfluence)
- SELA Cultural Center (RMC)
 - i. Completed concept design last month and engaging in schematic. Engaging the community to discuss what the facility could be. Used the digital public engagement tool.
 1. Completed phase 1 and 2 – takeaways: about 60% think the center will be useful.
 - ii. Looking at adjacent cultural programming. Hope to identify what is in the area to ensure enhancement not replication.
 1. Focusing on different aspects of the visitor experience. [Survey available.](#)
 - iii. There have been complaints about the project not involving the community and contributing to gentrification and displacement.
 1. Response: Trying to look at displacement. The project is meant for local community and local culture.

2. Following initial design, RMC and team will be meeting with key stakeholders to get additional feedback. Also bringing on From Lot to Spot to help with this.

V. Discussion Topics (WILL COVER AT NEXT MEETING BECAUSE RAN OUT OF TIME)

- Reconvening Lower LA River Revitalization Working Group (RMC)
- Funding Opportunities for Project Proponents (TBD)
- TNC'S List of Project Characteristic Recommendations (Kelsey Jessup)
- Safe Clean Water Program Funding & Project Tracking (TBD)

VI. Next Steps

- IAG Meeting – September 2020
 - i. Discuss items to present at general meeting