

Lower Los Angeles River Implementation Advisory Group Meeting

February 20, 2019 | 8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

LA County Public Works | Conference Room A
900 S Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

Summary

Objective: To discuss the project information packet and project resources developed by the Committees, and other LA River Updates.

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Previous Quarter Recap

Dan Sharp (District) summarized the previous committee meetings.

- Public Advisory & Community Engagement (1/22/19):
 - Laura Cortez (EYCEJ) confirmed as Chair
 - Discussed the project review process including the project information packet
 - Discussed joint meetings with Programs & Policies until participation increases or needs differ
- Programs & Policies (1/22/19)
 - Antonio Hicks (Public Counsel) confirmed as Chair and Dan Knapp (CCLB) confirmed as Vice Chair
 - Discussed how to implement policies and develop programming
 - Presentation on:
 - River Ranger Program (RMC)
- Public Realm, Environment, Water, & Infrastructure (1/23/19)
 - Discussed the desire to have the committees be a resource for project proponents
 - Discussed project information packets and other committee standards
 - Presentations on:
 - John Anson Ford Park Infiltration Cistern (City of Bell Gardens)
 - LLAR Community Center at Deforest Park (CCLB)



III. Discuss Project Review Process

- a. Review draft project information packet/checklist
- b. Identify potential projects
- c. Identify project resources

Dan Sharp (District) recapped the committee discussions on the project information packet, comments received, and how they were addressed in the revised document. Potential projects may come to the IAG in one of two ways: 1) Submitted through the District and then distributed to the appropriate committees and the IAG, or 2) Identified by a committee and then distributed to the IAG. IAG members are encouraged to submit additional ideas and comments on the Project Information Packet and Project Resources List.

IV. Project Updates

a. Metro LA River Path Project

Julia Salinas (Metro) presented on the Metro LA River Path Project. This project will construct a multi-modal path along an eight-mile reach of the Los Angeles River – from Elysian Valley through Downtown Los Angeles to the City of Vernon – and will close the longest remaining gap in the Los Angeles River Bike Path. The project is expected to be completed between 2025-2027.

- Density of responses in the public outreach process matches the population density in the project area, indicating the project is receiving feedback from the population affected by the project
- Public outreach is ongoing through the website www.metro.net/projects/lariverpath
- Different path alignments along the eight-mile reach each have their own challenges and include: in-channel, west bank, east bank, and on-street alignments parallel to the river
- Some surrounding communities are impacted by the 100-year floodplain for certain reaches of the river, however, project is focused on transportation and will not meaningfully address flood risk

IAG Discussion

- Metro is open to discussing the possibility of the inclusion of equestrian access to the project
- As part of this effort, Metro only plans to construct the new path and not to upgrade any existing paths

b. Parque dos Rios

Debbie Enos (WCA) presented on the Parque dos Rios. This project is currently developing a 7-acre site along the Los Angeles River at the confluence with the Rio Hondo that includes habitat enhancement and an overlook rest area. Project construction will begin April 2019 and be completed December 2019.



- Creates new upland habitat incorporating native and climate appropriate vegetation of the Los Angeles River, create new multi-benefit opportunities, and increase safety
- Primarily serves surrounding communities and trail users, but will become a regional draw as more greenway projects are developed

IAG Discussion

- Project will be impacted by the 710 Freeway expansion and may shrink in size once the expansion is complete
- Runoff from the surrounding neighborhood is conveyed through the project site though on site drainage maintained by Cal Trans

c. Los Angeles River Master Plan Update

Genevieve Osmena (District) provided an update on the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update. The plan is an umbrella strategy for the entire 51-mile Los Angeles River and will incorporate the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, other historic plans, and recent studies. The plan is expected to be completed early 2020.

- Detailed information such as draft plan materials can be found at LARiverMasterPlan.org or by emailing LARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov

IAG Discussion

- Plan will not create additional steps for project proponents to get their projects off the ground and utilize existing committees and/or processes instead

d. Public Equestrian Rest Area

Ezekiel Okoya (District) presented on the Public Equestrian Rest Area (PERA). PERA will be a publicly accessible equestrian facility stretching from W Spring Street to W 31st Street that includes passive recreation features to improve user experience and addresses localized flooding and drainage needs. The project design will be completed by summer of 2019 and construction is anticipated to begin early 2020

- PERA is consistent with the City of Long Beach's Wrigley Greenbelt
- Features include round pens, automatic horse waterers, hitching rails, a walking path, native landscaping, drinking fountains, and rain gardens

IAG Discussion

- The District has been in contact with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation to coordinate operations and maintenance of this new facility

e. Wrigley Greenbelt

Meredith Reynolds (City of Long Beach) presented on the Wrigley Greenbelt. The project will develop 8 acres of new open space along the river and includes



landscaping, irrigation, a walking trail, and site furnishings. Project construction will begin August 2019 and be completed September 2020.

- Funding has been secured three Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District grants:
 - Greenbelt Development - \$1,000,000
 - Greenbelt Development - \$300,000
 - Greenbelt Trail - \$325,000

IAG Discussion

- City of Long Beach will identify funding for any remaining costs above and beyond the grants if they do not cover the entire cost of the project
- Trails for All volunteered to conduct trainings on sharing the trail with equestrians

V. RMC Update

Joe Gonzalez (RMC) provided updates on the River Ranger Program, Prop 1 and 68, RMC's 20-year anniversary and the LA River Conference, WCA's involvement in the Greenway Master Plan, and the LA River Flow Study scope.

VI. Open Forum / Public Comment

- Staff from Speaker Rendon's office reiterated their support for the Rio Hondo Confluence Project

VII. Next Steps

- a. Project Identification
- b. Committee Meetings – March/April
- c. IAG Meeting – May 22, 2019