

Lower Los Angeles River IAG Committee Meeting

October 17, 2019 | 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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

AGENDA

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

II. Updates

- a. Programs & Policies Committee Vacancy
- b. Project Packet Changes - bit.ly/llariag-prp
- c. Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project

III. Open Discussion

- a. Upcoming and ongoing funding
- b. Membership requirements
- c. Project review – tentative

IV. Open Forum & Public Comment

- a. Feedback and Q&A



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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

II. Updates

- a. Programs & Policies Committee Vacancy
 - i. The Programs & Policies Committee (PACEC) has a vacancy for the Chair position (and there was not regular committee member attendees). Previously, Antonio Hicks of Public Counsel served in this role.
 - ii. The group is focused on programs and policies, including education and coordinating housing and other policies.
 - iii. Officially, The Public Realm, Environment, Water, & Infrastructure Committee (PREWIC) and the Community Advisory & Public Engagement Committee (CAPEC) meet concurrently rather than hosting separate meetings, and content could be added for PACEC to this co-meet as well.
 - iv. Dan Sharp to share information about the committee with the PREWIC/CAPEC to determine if others want to include the additional information (i.e. collapse all three committees into one group).
 - v. There is an opportunity for entities to take on PACEC and push it forward, but no one has stepped up to take it on. There are important policies that are a part of the LLARRP and efforts are being made outside of the committees.
 - vi. As Chair, role would include agenda items of programs and policies to check in on and to lead meetings. Would be a person to coordinate feedback. Others could contribute information.
 - 1. RMC has a river ranger program that could be a part of this. For now, programs and policies have been brought to the PREWIC instead.
 - vii. RMC Consultant, Suely Saro, has offered to Chair the committee. Decision will be made at the next Committee meeting (vote).
- b. Project Packet Changes - bit.ly/llariag-prp
 - i. New project packet is online. Public Realm is updated, making clear a community connection and open space.
- c. Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project



- i. September 10th was the first community engagement meeting. Had good turnout (80-100 public, NGOs, interested parties). Used an open-house style to get input on what is important and what might be challenges/issues going forward.
- ii. Consultant team is developing the concept which includes in-channel (modifying the low-flow, terracing banks), access (equestrian and pedestrian). There are many adjacent spaces that the team aims to incorporate into the design.
- iii. Project will be presented at the IAG in November. Leading up to the meeting, the team filled out the project information packet. Much of the information is on the LLAR website.
- iv. Comments/questions:
 1. This project is critical because of the bridge creating connectivity across the river. Trails4All is applying for a grant from RMC to develop trails connecting this project to other LLAR projects.
 2. Consultants are Geosyntec, Gehry Partners, and Olin.
 3. For #18 – include River Ranger program since the pilot will be located in the project region. The pilot will be about a year but with hopes to extend much longer.
 4. How will the project potentially conflict with other projects, such as the 710 expansion, West Santa Ana Branch?
 - a. The County team is discussing with other project proponents. 710 project isn't expected to have direct impacts on the project. May be a stop added for West Santa Ana at the project site.
- v. The purpose of the groups is to give feedback but also to ensure that as projects come out, they are consistent with the plan.
- vi. For large projects, like the Rio Hondo Confluence Project, they will present at the IAG.
- vii. Missing from the project form:
 1. Status of the project
 2. Timeline
 3. Size of the project and amount of added vegetation and permeable surface
- viii. The Rio Hondo Project is still in the early development stage.
- ix. Online digital survey went out for 3-4 weeks that elicited 1000 responses from residents within ~2 miles of the site. Collected helpful information that the consultants are using in design. Will also recontact 500 residents to dive deeper and get more information.
 1. For re-engagement survey, will attempt to better understand how people get news about their community so that future meetings/information can be shared through other means.
 2. Note: 51% of respondents had not heard of plans to make changes to the LA River.
- x. Timeline: Environmental hasn't started yet. LA County is committed to conceptual/feasibility design, which will be completed Spring 2020. Already did basic feasibility on initial design ideas. This phase will take it a step further but not quite to 30% designs. As the project develops, will ensure uses are compatible with other agencies (for example, looking to develop in LADWP ROW). Other projects are spinning off of this phase,

e.g. the SELA Cultural Center. CEQA will be done for components of the project as they move forward.

III. Open Discussion

a. Upcoming and ongoing funding

- i. Safe Clean Water Program (opened on 10/15) – Dan Knapp sits on Lower San Gabriel Watershed Steering Committee. WASCs met recently to review guidelines and scoring for projects. Projects are required to be in a regional plan, can be a watershed plan or other designated plans. A caveat in the ordinance says that a regional plan can be voted on and accepted by FCD. Thus, there is potential for river plans to be recommended by a WASC for district to review and write-in as a regional plan. Right now, none of the river master plans are included as “regional plans.” This is only public properties.
 1. Deadline for FY20/21: Dec 15, for FY22: July 21 of 2020
- ii. Measure A: Application opened Sept 9, 2019. Closes Feb 25, 2020.
 1. Two programs: Youth and Veteran Training Program and Recreation Program.
 2. Awards anticipated to be announced June 2020
- iii. Ongoing Prop 68 money and active transportation funding
 1. RMC has an ongoing call for projects from Prop 68 – guidelines are on the website

b. Membership requirements

- i. To have an active committee, could be worthwhile to have requirements for members, e.g. being a technical advisor for someone on a project, bringing forth a project proposal, nominate a project for open discussion, update the committee on particular topics.
- ii. If you have outreach events, sharing information about the LLARRP and where we are at with the plan and project implementation (tie in to an existing meeting)
- iii. Could offer flexibility, so that members can participate in whatever way they feel comfortable.
- iv. Communication component to the committee’s work? Social media? Newsletter?
- v. Purpose and charge of the committee: provide a venue for people to discuss projects and helping to connect people that are experts.
 1. Make identified projects better
 2. Ensure projects are consistent with the LLAR plan
 3. Example: Trout Unlimited approached Public Works about making changes to the channel. Public Works was able to inform their project in a positive way. The more communication between different teams, the better.
- vi. Who are we getting to come to the meetings from cities? Are we getting the right staff? E.g. building and safety folks who know about projects.
 1. This group can provide technical assistance. We have to let people know we can provide this.

- vii. Funding agencies often have carve outs for technical assistance. RMC is currently trying to determine the most appropriate TA. Would be helpful to get feedback on what folks want for TA.
 - viii. Committee is considering how to engage project proponents. Could go to a City to discuss projects if not in alignment with the LLAR plan. Cities have to give approval for projects, we could ask that the project proponent check in with the PREWIC as a condition.
 - ix. Continue conversation about how to better engage as a committee and beyond the committee. We want to get more projects to the committee. → discuss this topic at future meetings.
- c. Project review – tentative
- i. No projects to review at this time.

IV. Open Forum & Public Comment

a. Feedback and Q&A

IAG Meeting is slated for November 21st, likely to be held at Compton Creek Natural Park or Los Angeles County Public Works.

Update on LLAR Recreation and Park District: Still working through some details, such as the boundary which requires legal description of the boundary. Has been submitted.



Lower Los Angeles River Implementation Advisory Group

Project Information Packet

The Lower LA River Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) aims to ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan and that stakeholders continue to have a voice during implementation. In its role as an advisory body, the IAG provides guidance on proposed projects, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will retain decision-making authority.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Project Name | Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project | | |
| Project Location | City of South Gate | | |
| Current Project Phase | Concept Design | | |
| Project Proponent | Los Angeles County Public Works (LACPW) | | |
| Mailing Address | Stormwater Planning Division (11 th Floor) | | |
| | 900 S. Fremont Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803 | | |
| Contact Person | Lee Alexanderson | Department/Title | LACPW / Civil Eng. |
| Email | lalexanderson@dpw.lacounty.gov | | Phone (626) 458-4370 |

Project Description (*Attach map / site layout / concept sketch*):

As identified in the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (Plan), the Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (Project) is located at one of the key opportunity sites along the Lower Los Angeles River and features the following potential improvements:

- Community/cultural arts center with amphitheater and historical focus
- Multiuse bridge parks to connect to adjacent communities
- Improved multiuse paths and connectivity
- Restored habitat and open spaces
- Vegetated river terraces and modified low-flow channel

One of the signature features of the Project is to incorporate the cultural identity and history of the southeast Los Angeles County communities into the overall programming and design of the site. A proposed Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Center being led by the State of California is envisioned be a focal point of the site and conceptual development will explore options to establish the Center as a key gathering place for the communities of southeast Los Angeles. Maps attached.

References / Letters of Support (*If available, list and attach*):

Project Discussion

The intent of the Project Information Packet (PIP) is to help guide project proponents in developing projects that are consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). Also, the PIP may identify areas where the IAG and its three Committees can serve as a resource to aid in finding funding, project partners, innovation, etc. The IAG Committees include Public Realm, Environment, Water & Infrastructure (PREWI), Programs & Policies (PP), and Public Advisory & Community Engagement (PACE).

The table below lists questions by topic and generally identifies which IAG Committee is the most involved with the certain topic. Please answer the following questions as completely as possible given the stage of the project.

| | PREWI | PP | PACE | Question | Yes | No |
|-------------|-------|----|------|---|-----|----|
| General | | | | 1. Is the project consistent with the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP)? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project was identified as one of the LLARRP's Signature Projects and developed through the Plan's robust community engagement process. | | |
| Water | | | | 2. Does the project improve the overall water quality of the Los Angeles River? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will mitigate any water quality impacts from its implementation and will seek opportunities to enhance the LA River's in-stream water quality where feasible. | | |
| | | | | 3. Does the project implement stormwater capture, water conservation practices, and/or other methodologies? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will evaluate stormwater capture for groundwater recharge in further detail, implement native drought tolerant and ecologically appropriate vegetation to reduce potable water demand, and consider seasonal water storage areas within the LA River as a source for on-site water. | | |
| Environment | | | | 4. What environmental documentation (CEQA, NEPA, etc.) will be required or has been completed for the project? | | |
| | | | | Explain: The Project will need to complete CEQA prior to construction; currently the Project is committed through conceptual design. | | |
| | | | | 5. Are there any activities associated with the project that could impact the environment such as trash, pet waste, or chemicals? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will provide new public access to a previously closed off reach of the LA River. The public usage associated with the Project may increase publicly-generated trash and graffiti, provide refuge for people experiencing homelessness, and other challenges associated with urban parks, but will be mitigated by appropriate maintenance. | | |
| | | | | 6. Will the project reduce or mitigate GHG emissions, improve air quality, and/or improve water quality? | | |

| | PREWI | PP | PACE | Question | Yes | No |
|---------------------|-------|----|------|---|-----|----|
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project has the potential to mitigate GHG emissions through carbon sequestration and improve air quality via habitat enhancement. Water quality will also be improved through the implementation of green infrastructure. | | |
| Infrastructure | | | | 7. Will the project modify existing infrastructure such as flood control channels, open space, utility corridors, ROW land use, and transportation corridors? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will modify the LA River's low-flow channel to create aesthetic in-channel modifications. The Project will include river crossings that connect to the existing bike path transportation corridor for enhanced public use and access. It will also investigate the use of utility corridors in the project area. | | |
| Habitat & Ecosystem | | | | 8. Does the project create habitat or improve ecosystem health within the watershed? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will establish native vegetation adjacent to and within the LA River consistent with flood risk management needs. Additionally, an adjacent wetland will create additional ecosystem services in the LA River watershed. | | |
| | | | | 9. Is there native Los Angeles River riparian/wetland vegetation planned for the project? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will establish native vegetation adjacent to and within the LA River. | | |
| Public Realm | | | | 10. Is the project multi-benefit? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will provide benefits such enhanced public access, recreation, water conservation, education, and transportation. | | |
| | | | | 11. Does the project include a public safety aspect, (e.g., lighting, fencing, access, shade, etc.)? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will utilize the Building Blocks such as Lighting, Safe Crossings, and Security from the LLARRP. | | |
| | | | | 12. Is the project located on public land for use by the public? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project is mainly within LA County Flood Control District right-of-way. It also includes adjacent parcels, most publicly-owned. | | |
| | | | | 13. Does the project include interpretive and educational signage? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will utilize the Building Block of Signage from the LLARRP. | | |
| | | | | 14. Does the project include any local art or cultural elements? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will utilize the Building Block of Public Arts & Murals from the LLARRP. Additionally, LACPW is partnering with the State of California to develop the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center at the Project site. | | |
| | | | | 15. Does the project include nature-based solutions to address public land and community needs (e.g., trees for shade and air quality, wetlands for flood control and water quality, etc.)? | | |

| | PREWI | PP | PACE | Question | Yes | No |
|---------|-------|----|------|---|-----|----|
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will utilize the Building Blocks such as Bioswales and Shade from the LLARRP. There will be a proposed wetland for water quality and ecosystem services. | | |
| Funding | | | | 15. Is there potential funding the project proponent is seeking for the project? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes, additional funding for final design and implementation will be required. | | |
| | | | | 16. Are there any funding gaps identified in the project? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Not for this phase of the Project. | | |
| | | | | 17. Are there any identified partnerships? | | |
| Policy | | | | Explain: Yes. LACPW will be coordinating with project partners such as the City of South Gate, Speaker Rendon's Office, San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and other Lower LA River stakeholders. | | |
| | | | | 18. Are there plans for addressing safety and security within the project limits? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will utilize the Building Blocks such as Lighting, Safe Crossings, and Security from the LLARRP. | | |
| | | | | 19. Is the project identified in any existing plans/policies (federal, state, local)? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project is identified in the LLARRP. | | |
| Equity | | | | 20. Has the city in which the project will be located adopted any of the policies described in the Community Stabilization Toolkit? | | |
| | | | | Explain: The project is located in the cities of South Gate, Lynwood, and Unincorporated Los Angeles County. LACPW is not aware if these cities have adopted the toolkit. | | |
| | | | | 21. Is there a group the project intends to serve (e.g., residents, youth, pedestrians, cyclists, artists, equestrians, bird watchers)? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will be multiuse and intends to serve the surrounding community as a whole and will also be a regional draw for all of Los Angeles County. | | |
| | | | | 22. Is the project in a disadvantaged community? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will serve DACs per the California Department of Water Resources website. | | |
| | | | | 23. Will the project create any potential negative impacts on the local community? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Displacement is always a concern for projects of this scale. If the Project moves beyond the concept phase, LACPW will work with stakeholders to implement community stabilization strategies. | | |
| | | | | 24. Does the project address the concerns of equity, displacement, and environmental justice? | | |
| | | | | Explain: If the project moves beyond the concept phase, LACPW will work with stakeholders to mitigate the potential displacement impacts to the community from a project of this scale. | | |

| | PREWI | PP | PACE | Question | Yes | No |
|----------------------|-------|----|------|--|-----|----|
| Community Engagement | | | | 25. Has the project been engaging the community in its development process? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project began as a part of the LLARRP and engaged the community throughout that process. Recently, the Project held its first community meeting on September 10, 2019. Additionally, the online survey engaged over 1000 residents. Community engagement will continue throughout the duration of the project. | | |
| | | | | 26. Has the project consulted with the Native nations it intends to build land on? | | |
| | | | | Explain: The Project will consult with the Native nations as part of the community engagement process. | | |
| | | | | 27. Are there future plans for community engagement? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project will continue to engage the surrounding community and plans to host another community meeting in January 2020 and continue with online survey questions. | | |
| | | | | 28. Has the project received feedback? | | |
| | | | | Explain: Yes. The Project received community feedback during its development in the LLARRP and also from a community meeting on September 10, 2019. Further, the Project is currently conducting a community engagement survey for additional in-depth feedback and local sentiment. Some key points from the engagement so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of wildlife habitat, increased recreation opportunities, and more open spaces for outdoor activities were seen as having the greatest benefit for the community. • The vast majority of respondents thought that investment in the LA River would have a positive impact on their community • Rebuilding of natural habitats, a new park and/or open space near the river, and a bridge park that connects both sides of the river were the projects that respondents would most like to see happen along the LA River. | | |

Building Blocks

The LLARRP developed a vast array of Building Blocks – modular concepts and strategies – that can be assembled in a variety of ways to develop specific projects, policies, and programs. Please indicate the Building Blocks that the proposed project intends to use.

| Applied | Building Block | Applied | Building Block |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| | Active space | | Leverage pump stations to convey stormwater |
| | Additional permanent homeless shelters | | Lighting |
| | Bike hubs | | Loop and spur trails |
| | Bioswales | | Low income access |
| | Boardwalks and overlooks | | Low water crossings |
| | Brownfields remediation | | Low-flow channel modifications |
| | Climbing wall | | Multi-use publicly-owned properties |
| | Commercial zone access | | Onsite water recycling |
| | Community garden | | Open space access |
| | Community gateway | | Overcrossing |
| | Continuous park space | | Oyster bed restoration |
| | Curb cuts/street eddy basins | | Passive space |
| | Destination stops | | Pedestrian and cyclist access |
| | Diversion to sanitary sewer | | Permeable paving |
| | Drinking fountains | | Plazas |
| | Dry wells | | Pop-up parks |
| | Elevated paths | | Property acquisition |
| | Equestrian trails | | Public art and murals |
| | Floodplain expansion | | Recreation center |
| | Green infrastructure | | Regional gateway |
| | Habitat area | | Shade (veg. or structural) |
| | Historical, cultural, environmental education/assets/signage | | Transit-oriented development |
| | Homeless space sharing | | Tunnels |
| | Infiltration basins and trenches | | Undercrossing |
| | In-river access and safety | | Water capture and onsite storage |
| | Leverage planned regional water recycling projects | | Water recreation |

Source: Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, Volume II, p. 1.3-16 – 1.3-19, Table 1.3-1.

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Committee Meeting No. 5

October 17, 2019

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

| | Name | Organization | Phone | Email |
|----|--------------------|---|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Riley James | LACFCD | | |
| 2 | Dan Sharp | LACFCD | | |
| 3 | Lee Alexanderson | LACFCD | | |
| 4 | Kayla Kelly-Slaten | CCLB | | |
| 5 | Suehy Sano | RMC | | |
| 6 | Jessica Prieto | EMCEJ | | |
| 7 | Jim Meyer | TRAILS 4 ALL | | |
| 8 | Joseph Gonzalez | RMC | | |
| 9 | Kathleen E Pease | Heal the Bay | | kpease@healthebay.org |
| 10 | Natasha Krakowiak | LA County Parks: Recreation trans planning | | nkrakowiak@parks.lacounty.gov |

LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP

Committee Meeting No. 5

October 17, 2019

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

| | Name | Organization | Phone | Email |
|----|------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 11 | Vicente Villegas | LADWP-Power | 213-367-1324 | Vicente.Villegas@LADWP.com |
| 12 | Michael Simpson | LADWP-Power | | michael.simpson@ladwp.com |
| 13 | Michael Huynh | SCE | 626-848-4643 | huynhmc@sce.com |
| 14 | Kelsey Jessup | TNC | | |
| 15 | Melissa Yan | Long Beach | 562-570-5557 | melissa.yan@longbeach.gov |
| 16 | Bryan Noller | WCA | | bnoller@wca.ca.gov |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |