Lower Los Angeles River
Implementation Advisory Group Meeting

June 16, 2022 | 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Online Meeting / Conference Call

MEETING SUMMARY

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. IAG Committee Meeting Summary

- Email Distribution List Update

Ernie Rivera (PW) and Michelle Loekman (PW) provided an update on the IAG email distribution list. PW is looking to update this list and is currently soliciting interest to the current roster via MS Forms and email. Questions include whether there is renewed interest to be a part of the IAG, there is interest to join a committee, and potential need for new member representation from different agencies. Link to questionnaire can be found here: https://forms.office.com/g/Db4wbgcNdm

III. Presentations

- LA River Master Plan Update - Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD)

Seta Marjanian (PW) presented on the LA River Master Plan update. The Master Plan update was initiated by the Board of Supervisors to update the previous 1996 Plan. The Plan took three years to develop and included various forms of community engagement and planning. The structure of the Plan is as follows:

- Community input, serving as the foundation of the plan
- Establishment of a series of strategic direction: comprised of several of goals/methods/actions (i.e., water conservation, flood risk, parks, access, etc.)
- Establishment of Design Aspect/Guidelines – including identification of project sites, and creation of a menu of common project elements.

The Plan identifies 5 major opportunity zones – 2 of which are within the Lower LA River. On 6/14, the BOS adopted the following: 1) Land Bank Pilot, 2) LARMP Update, and 3) Implementation for the LARMP Update

IV. Agency / Project Updates

- LACFCD - Public Equestrian Rest Area (PERA)

Zeke Okoya (PW) provided the update on the PERA Project. PERA is a multi-use and equestrian facility located in the City of Long Beach, adjacent to the LA River on LACFCD property. The project features equestrian amenities, DG path, and landscaping improvements. PERA is currently under construction and scheduled to be complete summer 2022.

- San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
  - Southeast LA (SELA) Cultural Center

    Joe Gonzalez (RMC) provided the update on the SELA Cultural Center. The Cultural Center is a planned 80,000 sq ft. multi-use arts facility located near South Gate at the current LACFCD Imperial Yard Maintenance Facility. Project team is preparing to start CEQA Phase – likely to be led by RMC later this summer. Currently, RMC is assisting LACFCD on potential relocation sites for the maintenance yard. RMC released RFP for Community Engagement and Outreach in March – due 6/30.

  - River Ranger Pilot Program REACH Zone at the Lower LA River and Rio Hondo Confluence

    Suely Saro (RMC) provided the update for the River Ranger Pilot Program. The program stems from AB 1558 and the associated Los Angeles Ranger River Establishment Plan that was completed in May 2019 by RMC, WCA, and SMMC. Pilot is located at the Rio Hondo and LA River Confluence (Reach Zone 1). Five services are provided: Maintenance, Public Safety, Outreach, Interpretive/Educational Programs, and Administrative Coordination. RFP for Program Evaluation Services released in April 2022 – currently pending review. Pilot Kickoff back in April 30th, 2022. Other past events include the River in Action Environmental Education Workshops held in April and May, and the River Ambassador Implementation on June 20th, 2022.

  - Lower LA River Recreation and Park District

    Suely Saro (RMC) provided the update on the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District. Initiated by SB1374 (2016). RMC has been assisting to facilitate its establishment. Next Steps: create legal boundary definitions of the Park District to submit to State Board for Equalization for approval.

- Watershed Conservation Authority - Parque Dos Rios

  Johnathan Perisho (WCA) provided an update on Parque Dos Rios. The project is located north of Imperial Hwy adjacent to the west bank of the LA River. Implementation of first phase completed in August 2021; impact to the site by vandalism postponed its opening to later this year. Project is currently open to public however WCA is evaluation additional improvements to site before having an official opening.

- LA Neighborhood Land Trust - Maywood River Front Park

  Arturo Gonzalez (RMC) provided an update on the Maywood Riverfront Park Project on behalf of the LA Neighborhood Trust. Project was initially done in phases, Phase I on the northern end (2007), and Phase II on southern end (2014). Project amenities include active recreational enhancements, native landscaping, and access improvements. Planning, funding procurements for renovations to the park are

ongoing. The Park will also feature the Sleepy Lagoon Memorial Concept Project led by EYCEJ, a memorial wall and bench. RMC provided $2 million in grant funding towards the park improvements in May 2022. Park is anticipated to be fully renovated in 3-5 years.

- City of Long Beach - Long Beach Municipal Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST)
  Cecilia Salazar (City of Long Beach) provided the update to the LB-MUST project. Project is located 1 mile north of Downtown Long Beach on the east bank of the LA River. Project timeline:
    - 2021-2023: Phase I currently in construction (facility and brackish wetlands)
    - 2022-2024: Design Phase II (expand conveyance network
    - 2024-2026: Construction of Phase II

- Conservation Corps of Long Beach (updates provided by Dan Knapp)
    - Wrigley Greenbelt: Approximate 1 mile trail adjacent to the LA River; project elements include native landscaping, bioswales, rest areas and walking paths. Project currently under construction scheduled to be complete winter 2022/23.
    - DeForest Park and Wetlands: Proposed Environmental Education Center located at Deforest Park. CCLB will utilize center as resource node for the Lower River. Scheduled to be open fall 2022.

- City of South Gate (updates provided by Steve Costley)
    - Urban Orchard: Construction is ongoing; looking to complete Dec 2022/January 2023
    - Circle Park: Received $2 million grant from RMC; project currently in design phase. Project looking to go out to bid in September 2022 and compete construction/open to public June 2023.

V. Grant / Funding Opportunities

- Safe Clean Water Program - https://safecleanwaterla.org/.
  7/31/22 deadline for consideration in FY23-24 Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP)
- RMC Lower LA River Grants, On-Going Call for Projects - http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/
- Other State Grants
    - State Coastal Conservancy's Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program
    - Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)

VI. Lower LA River Events

- 6/18/22: Summer Park Day at Maywood Riverfront Park
- 6/30/22: Native Plant and Bird Walk at Deforest Park, hosted by Puente Latino Association. 6:00PM-7:30PM https://www.puentela.org/events-1/native-plant-bird-walk

- 7/16/22: The Great LA River Cleanup at Maywood Riverfront Park, hosted by Friends of LA River (FOLAR) additional information found here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-great-la-river-cleanup-maywood-riverfront-park-tickets-367060165837

VII. Open Forum / Public Comment

- Mr. Mario Dominguez expressed approval for a few opportunity areas within the Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (Blue Park, SELA Bridge Park, Confluence Point Park). Looking for founding mechanisms for project implementation for projects (ballot measures, etc.) from local representatives/elected officials.

VIII. Next Steps

Next IAG Meeting – Thursday, September 22, 2022, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Lower Los Angeles River Implementation Group Advisory Meeting

LA River Master Plan Update

June 16, 2022

LA River Master Plan Update

- Overview
- Community Engagement
- What's in the Plan
- Public Review/Community Input
- Latest Updates/Next Steps

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LA River Master Plan Update

AT A GLANCE

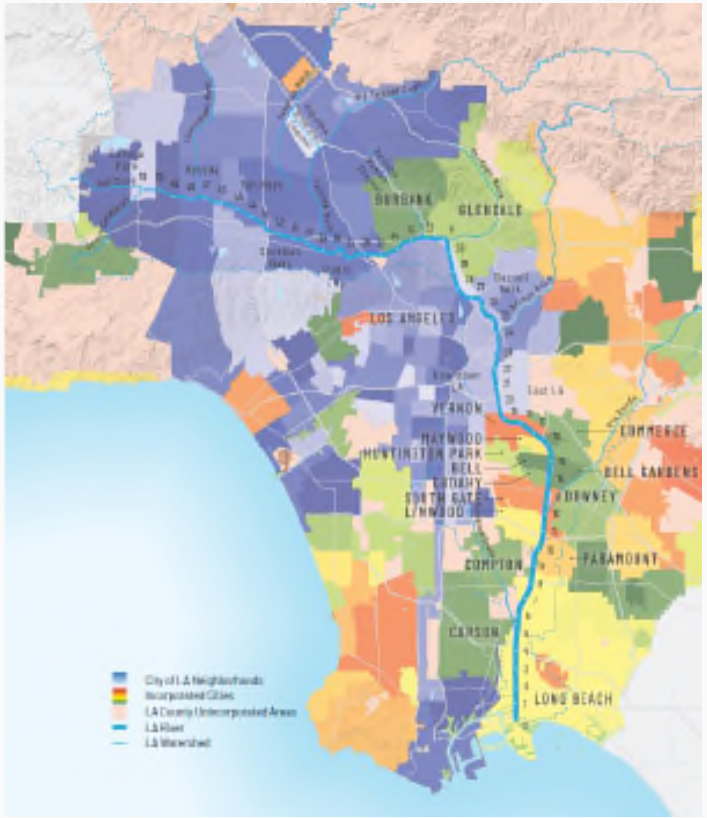
Population:
1M
Residents within 1 mile of the River

Municipalities:
17
River adjacent

River Length:
51
Miles

Linking
140+
River Related plans

Providing
834
Square miles of healthy watershed



- A 2016 Board motion directed PW to update the existing 1996 LARMP
- Multi-objective guide for the Los Angeles River
- Robust 3-year Community and Stakeholder Engagement

LA RIVER MASTER PLAN

LARiverMasterPlan.org

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

3+ Years Community Engagement and Plan Development

1,650
Completed Online and In-Person Surveys

800
Youth Summit Participants

1,306
Participants Across 13 Community Meetings

359
Attendees at Virtual Public Draft Meeting

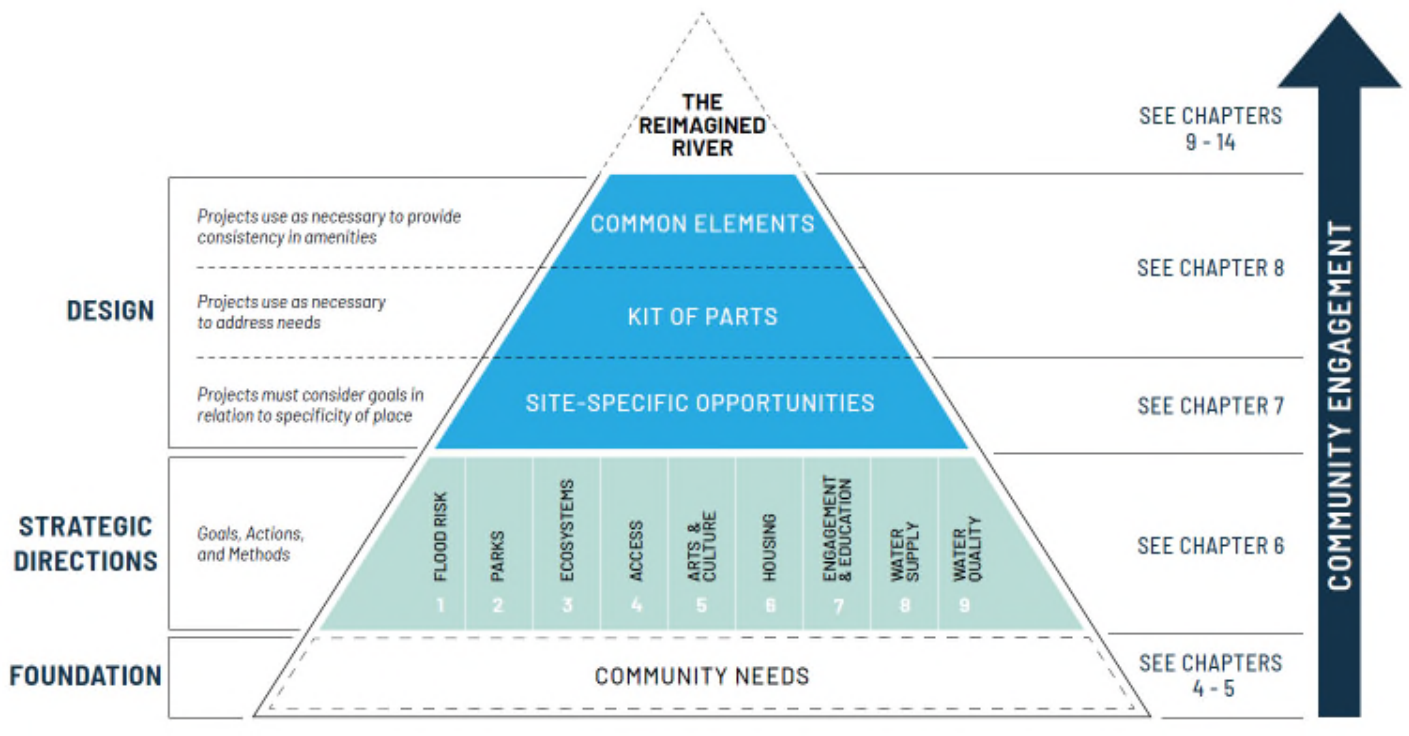
5,592
Participants in 2 LARMP Telephone Town Halls

981,898
Digital Ad Impressions

3+ yrs COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INPUT

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LA River Master Plan Update

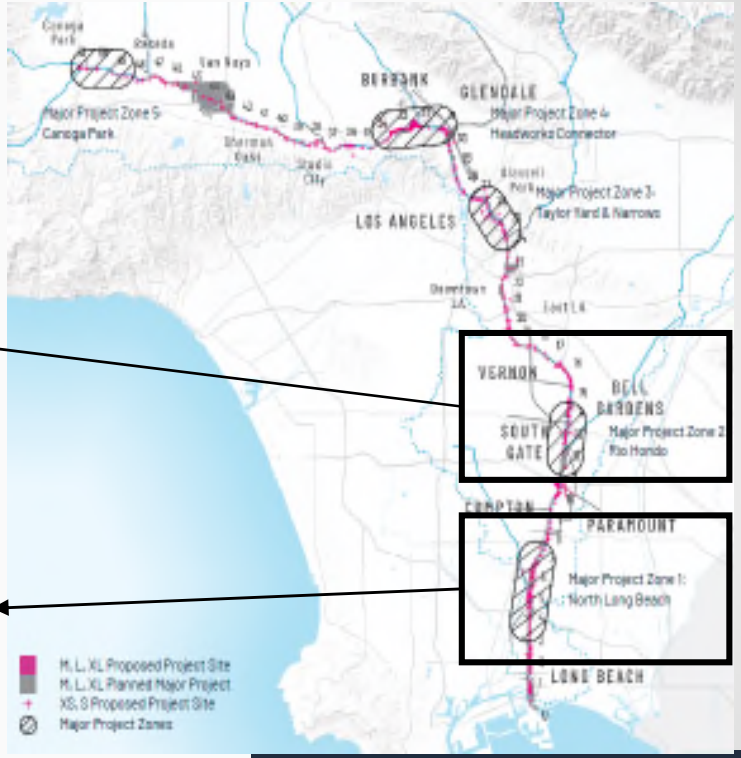


Major Project Opportunity Zones

Example Project at RM 14.7: Rest Pavilion (Tier I)

XS PAVILIONS

SUPPLEMENT LA RIVER AMENITIES THROUGH UNIQUE SOLUTIONS THAT NEGOTIATE **DIVERSE** AND **COMPLEX** SITE CONDITIONS.



CONNECTIVITY

greenway linking

COMMUNITIES

in Paramount, Compton, and North Long Beach with a platform park and a pedestrian bridge.

Example Project at RM 8.1: Connectivity Corridor

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Existing Project Spotlight: Rio Hondo Confluence

Figure 3.26. The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project is over a mile in length, tracing the LA River between river mile 12.1 and river mile 11. It is adjacent to several other planned major projects and proposed project sites, including Parque Dos Rios, SELA Cultural Center, and South Gate Orchard.

EXISTING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE

SIZE: 184.8 acres

IMPACT: XL

CITY: South Gate, Lynwood

NEED: Flood Risk - General
Parks - High
Ecosystems - Moderate
Access - General
Arts & Culture - Moderate
Affordable Housing - General
Education - Moderate
Water Supply - Moderate
Water Quality - High

LED BY: LA County Public Works

RELATED PLANS/PROPONENTS:
Lower LA River Revitalization Master Plan

KIT OF PARTS COMPONENTS (UNDER CONSIDERATION):
- Trails and Access Gateways
- Channel Modifications
- Crossings and Platforms
- Diversions
- Off-Channel Land Assets

PLANNED MAJOR PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Master Plan identifies 58 planned major projects along the river that are currently being led by various entities ranging from LA County to municipalities to state conservancies to NGOs (full details are available in Appendix Volume II: Technical Backup Document). The projects are each at a different level of development, and some are highlighted in the Master Plan as Planned Major Project Spotlights given their momentum and illustration of meeting community needs associated with the LA River Master Plan goals and needs mapping.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project (RHCAP) is located in Southeast LA, at the confluence of the LA River and Rio Hondo in the cities of South Gate, Lynwood, and Downey. It is comprised of several potential project opportunities that can be phased in accordance with community needs and other planning efforts. The site was first identified as an area of high need in the LA River Index (2018) and was further developed in the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan (2017) where it was one of the highest scoring opportunity areas. The LA River Master Plan needs analysis further validated this area's need for park space, access to art and cultural amenities, and improved environmental conditions and connectivity.

The surrounding area is densely populated (10,000 to 30,000 people per square mile), and, separated by infrastructure, adjacent neighborhoods are some of the most vulnerable to pollution and poor health outcomes in all of LA County. Therefore, the project seeks to create connective park space, water resources, and environmental benefits through combining projects in the channel, adjacent properties, and parallel electrical transmission line rights-of-way (ROW).

Project components could include low-flow modifications for habitat improvement and educational opportunities, wetlands for habitat and water quality improvement, bridges for improved connectivity, multi-benefit parks and trails, and platform parks to create new open space and foster connectivity, ecosystem function, and cultural resources while respecting the very critical need for flood risk management.

XL
PLANNED MAJOR PROJECT
FRAME 3, RM 11.8

Figure 3.27. The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Project addresses the area's needs for parks, arts and culture, habitat, and water quality. This rendering envisions the confluence working in tandem with other adjacent planned major projects and proposed project sites. Source: LA County Public Works, 2020.

Figure 3.28. The southwestern portion of the site includes a wetland with an elevated path network that connects Lynwood to the LA River Trail. Source: LA County Public Works, 2020.

Located at RM 11.8:

- Opportunity Zone
- Incorporated form LLARP
- Utilizes Many Kit of Parts
- Potential to Address Multiple Identified Needs

Public Comment Period

Virtual Press Conference:

- Jan. 13, 2021

LARMP Public Draft[1]:

- Jan. 13, 2021 – May 13, 2021
- (120-days)

LARMP PEIR Public Draft[1]:

- Feb. 1, 2021 – May 13, 2021
- (101-days)

PRESS RELEASE: LA COUNTY RELEASES DRAFT LA RIVER MASTER PLAN

[1] Postings at public libraries, hyper-local news ad prints, and distribution of post cards were conducted in select areas.

Public Comments Received

- Approx. 2000+ Comments Received on the LARMP and PEIR
- Source of comments received:
  - Website Portal
  - Letters from River Stakeholders and Organizations
  - Letters and Emails from Residents
  - County Department

Plan Addresses Top Key Concerns

- Flood Risk and Climate Resiliency
- Equity, Affordable Housing, and Displacement
- Requests for more Open Space
- River Modification/Naturalization, Nature Based Solutions
- Ecosystem Protection, Preservation, and Restoration
- Maintenance, Safety & Security along the River
- Tribal and Native Community Engagement
- Need for Metrics and Long-Term Progress Monitoring

The Dominguez Gap Wetlands

Latest Updates

- Adopted on June 14, 2022
  - Establishing the Land Bank Pilot
  - Los Angeles River Master Plan Update
  - Implementing the Los Angeles River Master Plan

Thank You

Contact Information:

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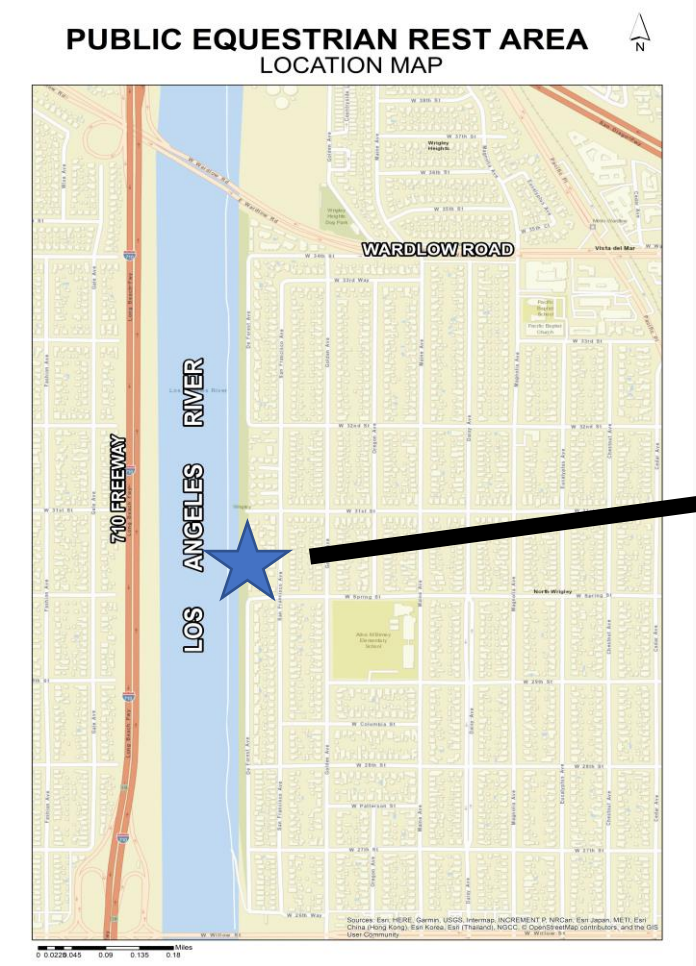
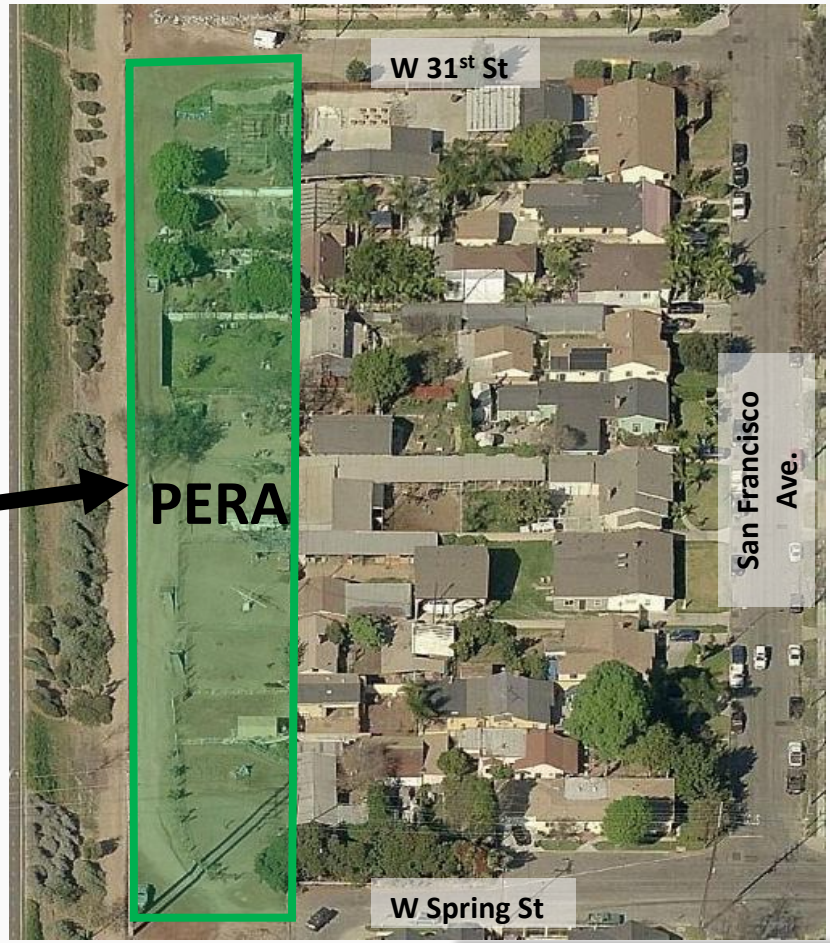
www.larivermasterplan.org

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN REST AREA

Project Update





Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN REST AREA

Project Update

Before

After

Questions? Contact Ezekiel Okoya, Project Manager

eokoya@dpw.lacounty.gov

Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

DRAFT

SITE PLAN

CONNECTIVITY MAP

DRAFT

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

LYNWOOD

1/2 MILE

710

PARQUE DOS RIOS

LA COUNTY MULTI-USE TRAIL

PROPOSED PRIMARY CONNECTION AT IMPERIAL HWY

LA RIVER

LA COUNTY MULTI-USE TRAIL

LA RIVER BIKE PATH

RIO HONDO BIKE PATH

HOLLYDALE REGIONAL PARK

CONNECTION TO HOLLYDALE REGIONAL PARK

PROPOSED SECONDARY CONNECTION AT BORWICK AVE.

POTENTIAL RIO HONDO STATION

SOUTH GATE

FUTURE METRO WSAB

IMPERIAL HWY

GARFIELD

NORTH

Source: Gehry Partners

DRAFT

VIEW FROM THE SOUTH

DRAFT

VIEW FROM THE LA RIVER

DRAFT

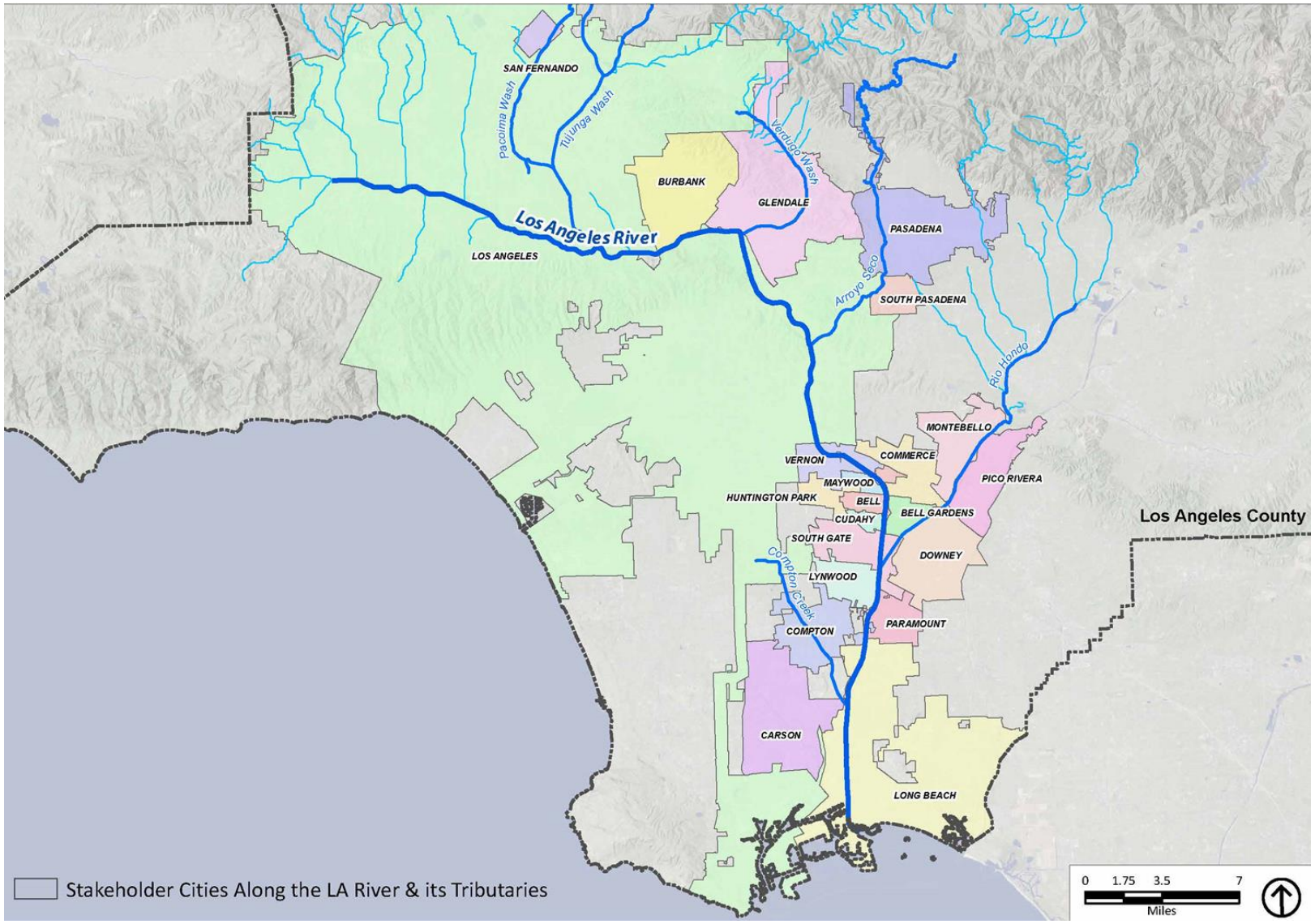
RELATIONSHIP TO THE LA RIVER

Los Angeles River Ranger Pilot Program

Program Overview

- Goals
  - Foster **connections** between communities
  - Promote **safe, equitable usage** and stewardship
  - **Activate** it as a connected greenway

Completed in May 2019 by RMC, SMMC, WCA and MRCA



Program Overview

- REACH Zone at Rio Hondo Confluence
- Approximately 5 miles
- Cities of South Gate, Downey, and Bell Gardens
- Advisory Committee meetings since May

Services Provided

Public Safety
(River Ambassadors)

Maintenance
(River Ambassadors)

Outreach
(River Ambassadors)

Interpretive and
Educational
Programs

Administrative Coordination
(Advisory Committee)

Updates Nov 2021 – June 2022

Administrative Updates

- Phase 2 Implementation Funding awarded to WCA end of November 2021
- Grant agreement executed beginning in March 2022
- Ongoing program development (all aspects)
  - Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People technical assistance to ensure culturally relevant and appropriate programming regarding indigenous history, rights and culture
- RFP for Program Evaluation Services released April 2022

River Ranger Pilot Program Kick-off Event April 30, 2022

Celebratory cake cutting by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia after program

Group picture with River Ambassadors, project team members, and attendees

River in Action Environmental Education K-5 Workshops

Treasure Island Park, Downey
Every Thursday
April 21, 2022 – May 12, 2022
5:00 – 5:30pm

River Ambassador Program

- Implementation Begins on June 20th, 2022

Safety

Education

Stewardship

Recreation and Interpretive/ Educational Programming

- Leadership Academy
- Community Base Building Workshops and Trainings

NATURE FOR ALL

PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

Recreation and Interpretive/ Educational Programming

RIVER IN ACTION RIA

"Adventures of Roxanna and the Lower LA River"

Recreation and Interpretive/ Educational Programming

- Technical Assistance
- Tribal Engagement
- Educational materials - tribal history of the LA River

SACRED PLACES INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Temporary River Ranger Signage

- Temporary wayfinding signs
- LA River Master Plan signage guidelines

Next Steps

- Next Meeting Advisory Committee Meeting
  - August 6, 2022 @1:30pm

- Action Items
  - Sign up for RMC Newsletter mailing list
  - www.rmc.ca.gov

Parque dos Rios

MAYWOOD RIVERFRONT PARK RENOVATION

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

AMENITIES LEGEND

1. NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF SPORTS FIELDS
2. NEW PICNIC SHELTERS
3. WATER PLAY
4. NEW EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
5. NEW BASKETBALL COURT
6. NEW EXPANDED AND UPGRADED PLAYGROUND
7. NEW CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS, TREES AND GRASS

SLEEPY LAGOON PROJECT SCOPE

Other improvements not listed in the amenities legend but are included in the project scope and are important to the community include:

Art at handball courts and around the park
Renovate restroom building
Renovate existing basketball court
New drinking fountains and bbqs
New solar lighting or LED lighting
Storm-water elements
New permeable pavement

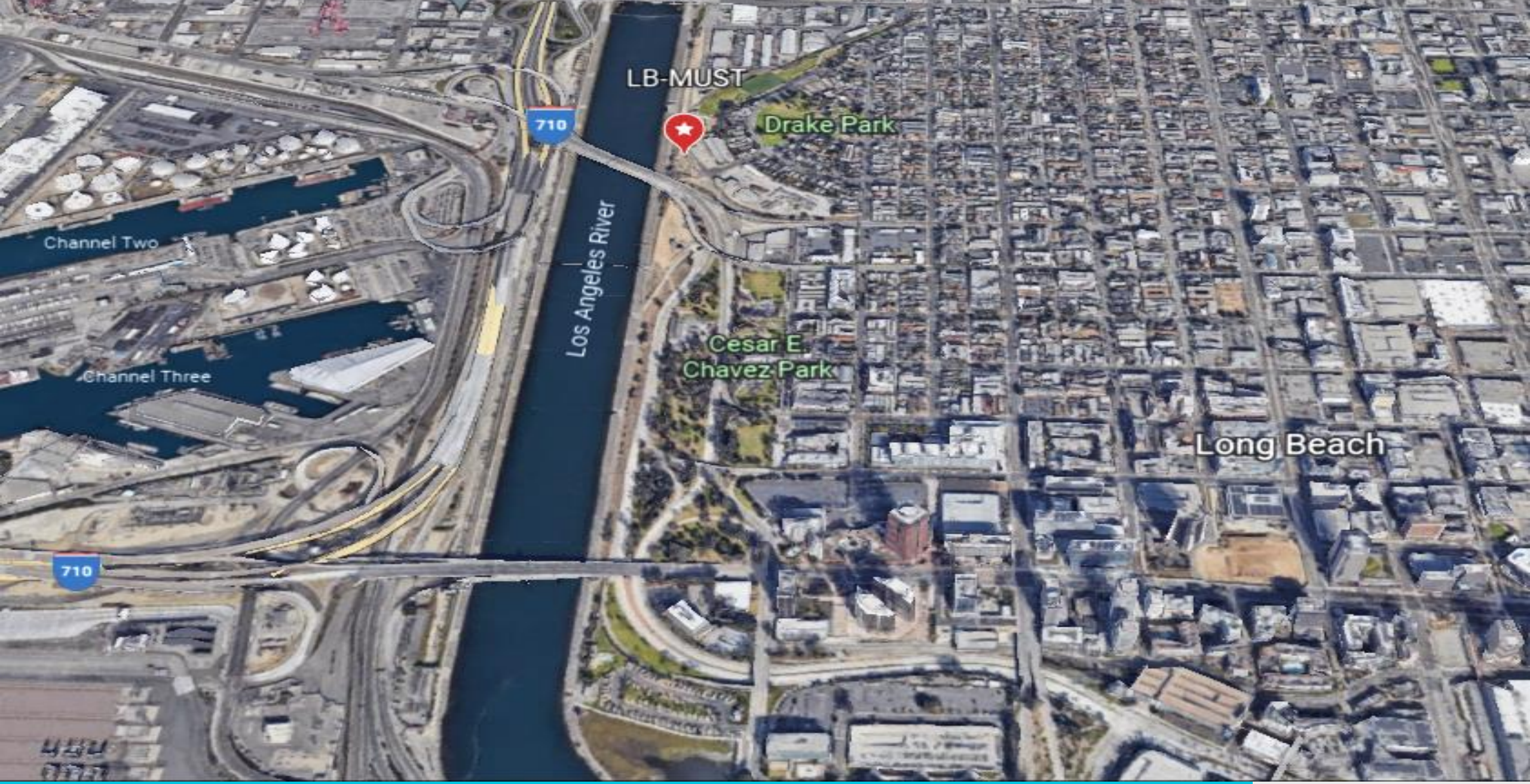
N

SCALE
0' 10' 30'

CITY OF LONG BEACH

LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL URBAN STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECT (LB-MUST)

Project Update - June 2022



CITY OF LONG BEACH

Treatment Facility
Stormwater Conveyance
Outflow to LA River
Wetlands Water Reuse
Conceptual Depiction – Not to Scale

Project Updates

2020

- Completed: Street, Utility, & Ground Improvements

2021-2023

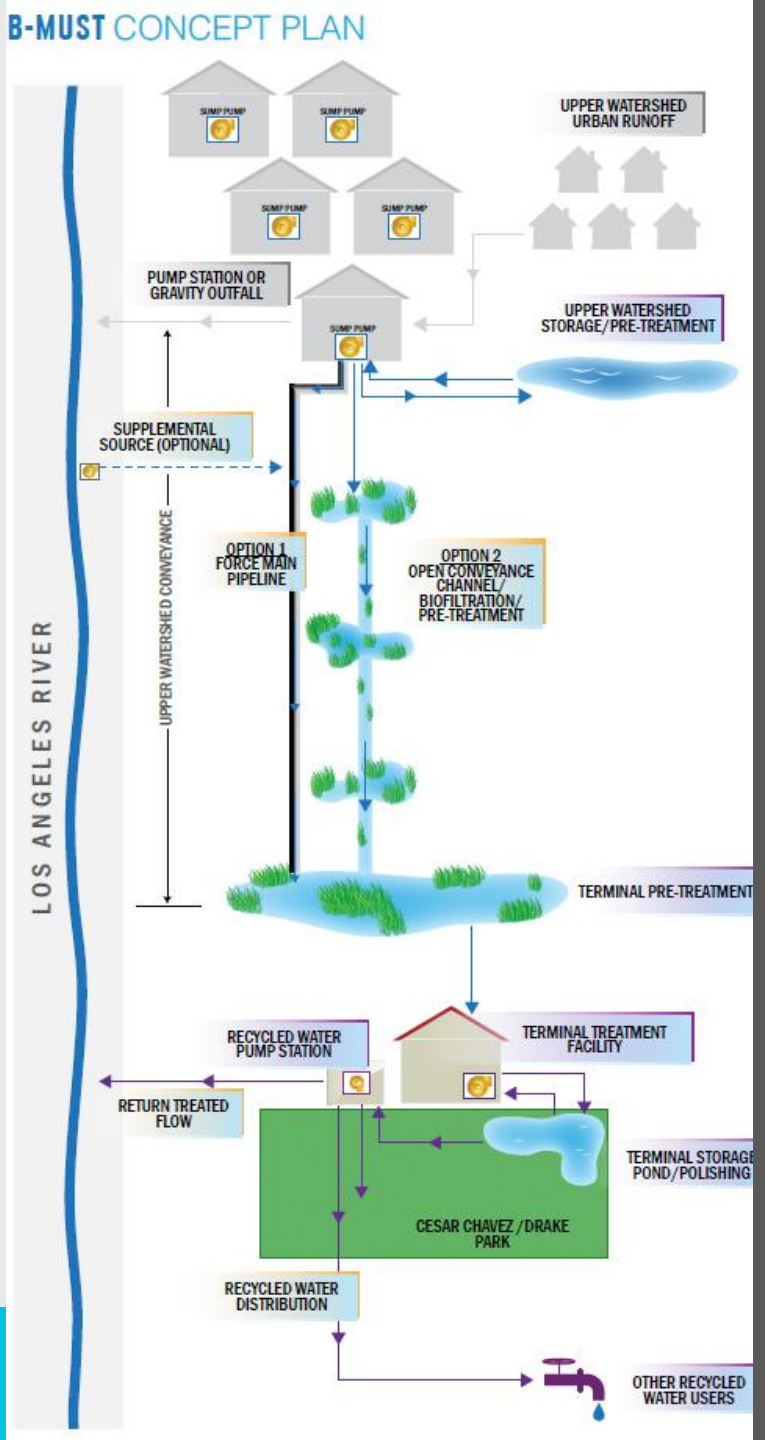
- Phase 1: In Construction: Facility & Brackish Wetlands
- SD-02 Pump Station Connection

2022-2024

- Phase 2 (expand conveyance network): Design Phase
- Pilot irrigation & Reuse at Facility/Wetlands

2024-2026

- Phase 2 Construction

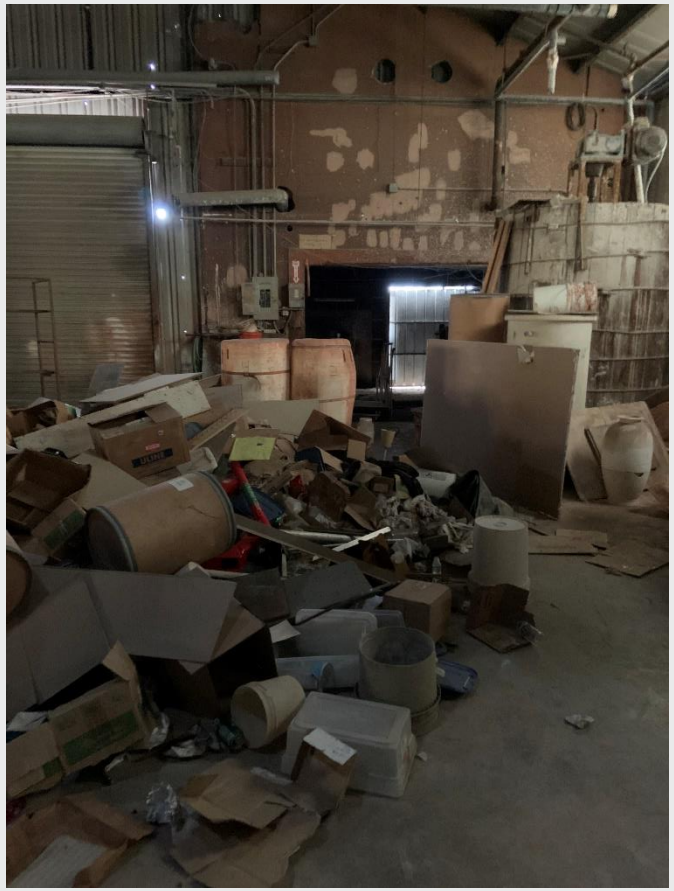


Progress Photos

Facility Construction

Progress Photos

Warehouse Cleanup and Abatement



Thank you!