

Lower Los Angeles River
Implementation Advisory Group Committee Meeting

June 22, 2023 | 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.
Online Meeting / Conference Call

AGENDA 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. Agency / Project Updates

- San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
- Para Todos

Melissa Bahmanpour (RMC) provided the updates. Lower LA River Para Todos was launched by the RMC. The campaign consists of three goals: advancing equity, revitalizing communities, and realizing the vision of the LLAR. The Purpose – prep next stage of LLARR, which is project implementation. RMC's aim is to ensure equity and community stabilization remain central factors in continued open space development along the Lower LA River. The effort spans three years from 2023-2026: Year 1 consists of research/outreach; Year 2 consists of community engagement; Year 3 consists of releasing the final report on findings in Spring 2026

- Southeast LA (SELA) Cultural Center

Melissa Bahmanpour (RMC) provided the update for the SELA Cultural Center. The RMC has entered into agreement w Ruth Villalobos and Associates (RVA) as the consultant for CEQA. The target launch for CEQA is end of July 2023 and start of the CEQA process and studies in Fall 2023. Additionally, RMC has brought on board Skanska Construction services as the owner's representative.

- Lower LA River Recreation and Park District

Suley Saro (RMC) provided updates on the Lower LA River Recreation and Park District. The vision of the Park District is to create a regional coordinating body and the Board of Director will be made up of 1 representative from 14 cities and the LA County Board of Supervisor may appoint 3 public members, one shall be a representative of a nonprofit serving the Lower LA River region. Legal boundary description completed of the district and will be submitted to the Board of Equalization before it is heard by the LAFCO Commission. Meeting with cities in July.

- Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA)



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

Natalia Doshi (WCA) provided the updates on the River Ranger Pilot Program. Currently in the implementation phase of the program since May 2022, and will continue until February 2024. The River Ambassador Program's second cohort 6-month currently underway. The ambassadors partake in tasks such as graffiti abatement, trash pickup, and educational/job training programs. River in Action has been involved with activities such as water museum field trip; guided bird walks and family birding day; nature walks and Hollydale Park. Nature For All's recent activities include Bike LA River events; a family birding day in June; Lower LA River walking tours at Hollydale Regional Park and Bioblitz event in April. In addition, WCA will be presenting at local City Council Meetings to increase awareness of program (City of Bell Gardens, Downey), meeting with Downey in July.

- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
 - Maywood Riverfront Park
Laura Cortez (EYCEJ) provided the updates on Maywood Riverfront Park The Sleepy Lagoon Memorial project is a community-based process developed to honor the history of the Sleepy Lagoon community, as well as the Tongva indigenous tribe. Developments of the Park are ongoing, and EYCEJ are working with many partners, including LA Neighborhood Land Trust, Communities for a Better Environment, Council for Watershed Health, and others. The project recently received funding from the State Coastal Commission to develop two mural projects. There is an event on June 25th for the second mural concept. For more information, visit <https://sleepylagoonmemorial.squarespace.com/>.

- Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Dan Knapp)

- DeForest Park

Dan Knapp (CCLB) provided the update for Deforest Park. The park is currently up and running. The space serves as a hub for CCLB Operation and Maintenance Services but is also open to the public.

- Wrigley Greenbelt

Dan Knapp also provided the update on the Wrigley Greenbelt Project. The project is complete, and the City of Long Beach Ribbon cutting ceremony was on May 19th.

City of South Gate

- Urban Orchard - No update provided.

Los Angeles Flood Control District



Michelle Loekman (PW) shared general updates from the Flood Control District. The District is still conserving water on our San Gabriel side as a result of a good storm season. In the summer, maintenance crews primarily focus include channel maintenance/ debris basin cleanouts in preparation of the storm season and debris flows from the potential threat of wildfires.

III. Grant / Funding Opportunities

- RMC Lower LA River Grants, On-Going Call for Projects - <http://rmc.ca.gov/grants/>

Melissa Bahmanpour (RMC) provided the update on the RMC Lower LA River Grants and On-Going Call for Projects. Funding is still available for both grants, and applications are still being accepted – primarily for project implementation. Prop 1 grant is focused on park space with focus on water benefits/emphasis, and Prop 68 is focused on new parks and open space.

- Safe Clean Water Program

Tara Dales (LLAR SCW Coordinator) provided the update on the Safe Clean Water Program. The Lower LA River FY 23-24 Project Applications included LB MUST, Spane Park and the Ground Truth Study. Next step is to go to Board of Supervisors for approval. The next application deadline: July 31, 2023. Adaptive management activities are also underway, including, SCWP website refresh, stormwater education programs, workforce development, and metrics and monitoring study. On 6/6/23, the Board of Supervisors authorized PW to enter into a sole source agreement with the Water Foundation for the development and administration of a public education and community engagement grants program as part of the SCWP. The purpose of the program is to increase outreach and engagement related to increasing stormwater and urban runoff capture and/or decreasing stormwater and urban runoff pollution.

- Community Wetlands Grant Program

Maravilla Clemens (SCC) provided the update on the Community Wetlands Restoration Grant Program (CWGRP). The CWRGP aims to fund wetlands/habitat restoration projects that are rooted in and benefit communities that have been historically underserved. The 2023 round of RFPs/ call for projects has recently closed. To promote project funding within the Lower LA River corridor, SCC has received specific funding from RMC. SCC plans to do targeted outreach and workshops in advance of the 2024 round within the LLAR corridor region in hopes of increasing project applicants/projects.

IV. Lower LA River Events

- Water for Life Community Mural Project – Sunday, June 25 from 11am – 1pm. Located at Maywood Riverfront Park, 5000 Slauson Ave, Maywood (hosted by EYCEJ)



- Family Birding Day – Saturday, June 24 at 9 am. Located at Deforest Park in Long Beach (hosted by RIA, CCLB, Nature for all)
<https://lanatureforall.org/2023/05/10/family-birding-day/>
- SELA Summer Festival – tentatively scheduled for July 29th

V. Open Forum / Public Comment

- Lower LA River website changes: MIG Integration

Melissa Bahmanpour (RMC) shared that the Lower LA River Revitalization website will undergo changes to combine both the Revitalization Planning efforts and well as the new Para Todos efforts.

VI. Next Steps

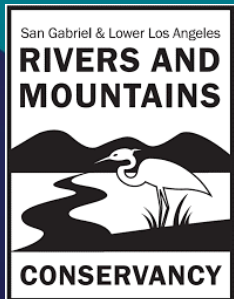
Next IAG Meeting – Thursday, September 28, 2023, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M.



LOWER LA RIVER
PARA TODOS

Lower Los Angeles River Para Todos Campaign

San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy





***ADVANCING
EQUITY***

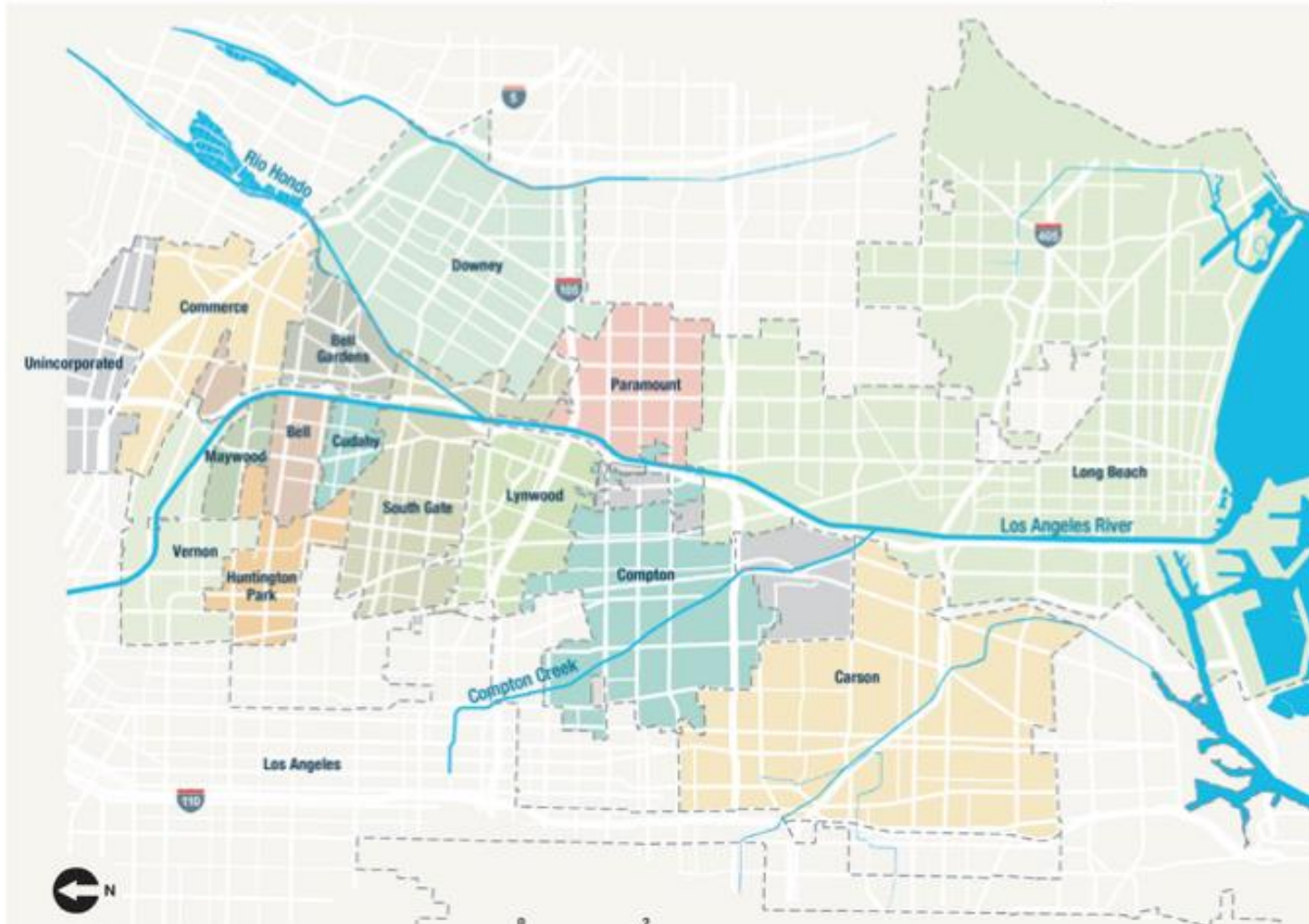


***REVITALIZING
COMMUNITIES***



***REALIZING THE
VISION***

The Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR)



- 19 miles/15 cities
- Southeast Los Angeles (SELA)
- Long Beach

Lower LA River Revitalization Working Group 2016

Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Working Group

The Working Group led the development of the Plan. Members of the Working Group were selected to represent the cities, neighborhoods, and non-profit organizations serving the river corridor.



- 2015 Assemblymember Rendon (**AB530**) establishes Lower LA River Working Group
- **40 members:** advocacy groups, federal and state representatives, and one representative from each of the 15 cities in the LLAR area. **100+ Attendees**
- Chaired by the RMC, facilitator LACPW
- 18 month process that included:
 - 26 outreach meetings
 - 22 public meetings
 - 60 committee meetings

Lower LA River Revitalization Plan

2018



- The LLARRP describes **opportunities** for improving the environment and residents' quality of life along the corridor
- 155 multibenefit project **opportunity sites** identified
- **Community Stabilization** Toolkit developed highlighting policies and programs that can be used to protect river adjacent communities from displacement
- Established an **Implementation Advisory Group** (IAG) to provide guidance on project implementation and ensure the community's voice continues to guide revitalization work

<https://lowerlariver.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Executive-Summary.pdf>

LLAR Para Todos – Purpose

2023

Prepare for the next stage of Lower LA River Revitalization – Implementation



The RMC wants to ensure **equity** and **community stabilization** remain central factors in continued open space development along the Lower LA River.

Mission

1. Advancing equity by safeguarding and centering the needs of existing communities along the river
2. Revitalizing communities through collaboration with other funding agencies and jurisdictions
3. Realizing the vision of a *river for all*

Actualizing the **vision** of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan means supporting sustainable communities through open space development, while also strengthening current communities through stabilization practices and policies that center their needs.



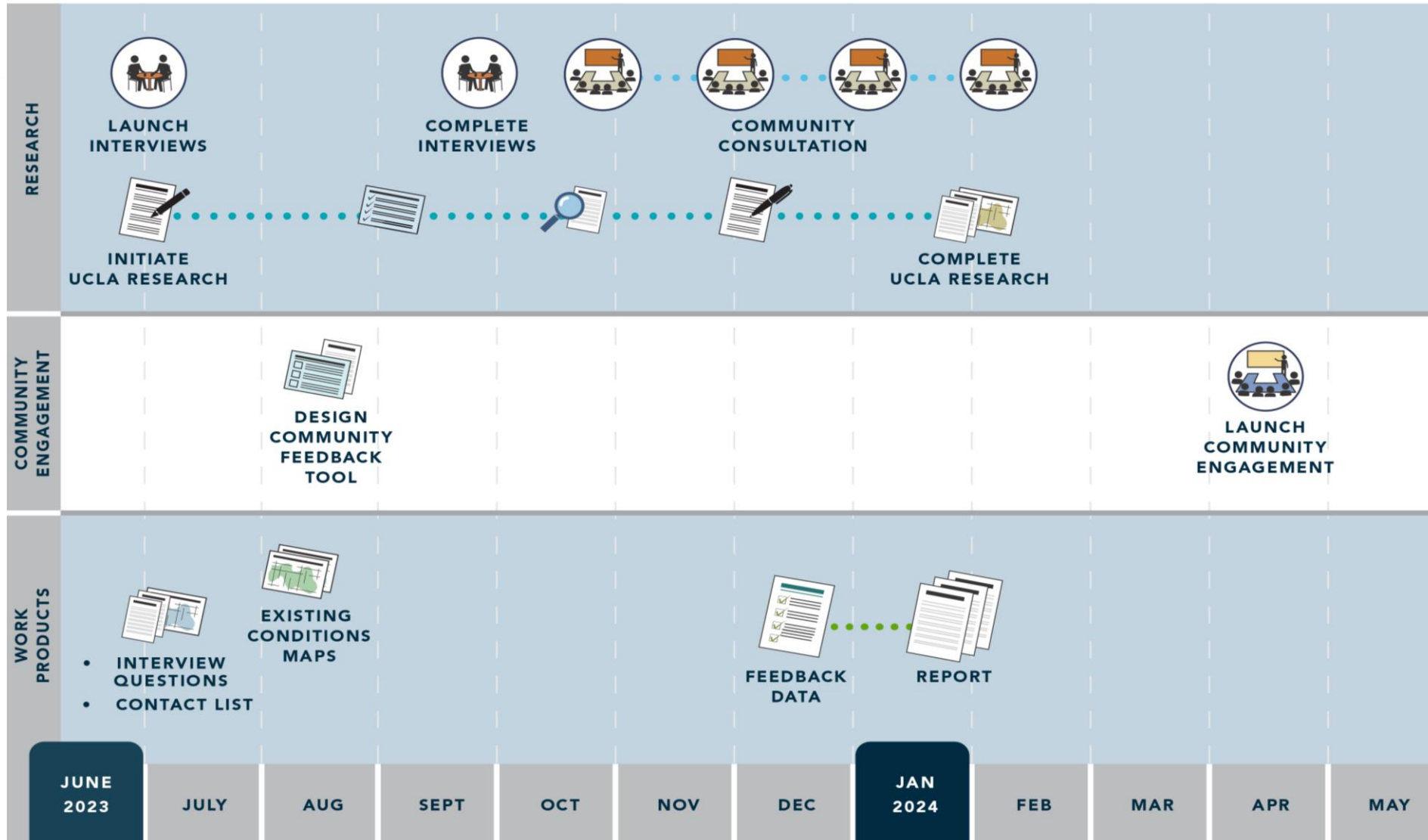
Goals

1. Make the RMC aware of river adjacent projects in order to better leverage partnerships and funding opportunities
2. Cohesively inform the community about river revitalization efforts, projects, and activities since the completion of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan
3. Engage with the community regarding their concerns, ideas, and needs in order to shape current and future projects along the Lower LA River
4. Create feedback loops with the community to help ensure accountability from the RMC to address community concerns and needs
5. Document and reflect findings from the process in a final report

Timeline

Effort spans from 2023-2026

June 2023 – May 2024	Year 1	Research, Outreach
June 2024 – May 2025	Year 2	Community Engagement
June 2025 – March 2026	Year 3	Final Report on Findings in Spring 2026



Research Interviews

Expect contact from one of three organizations:

SGA → Long Beach

SELA Collaborative → Southeast Los Angeles (SELA)

MIG → Los Angeles County, State, and Federal Partners

Purpose of interviews is to **learn about current and upcoming projects along the Lower LA River**, as well as additional insights related to broader community concerns and issues as it relates to open space along the river.



Research Interviews

Interviewer	City/Agency
SELA Collaborative	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. City of Paramount2. City of South Gate3. City of Lynwood4. City of Cudahy5. City of Bell Gardens6. City of Bell7. City of Maywood8. City of Huntington Park9. City of Vernon
SGA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. City of Long Beach Dept. of Parks and Recreation2. City of Long Beach Dept. of Public Works3. City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability4. City of Long Beach Dept. of Health and Human Services5. Port of Long Beach6. Conservation Corps of Long Beach7. LAANE
MIG	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Los Angeles County Public Works2. Los Angeles County Planning3. LA Metro - joint interview4. SGLLA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy5. US Army Corps of Engineers

Questions?

Melissa Bahmanpour

Project Development Manager, RMC

mbahmanpour@rmc.ca.gov



Los Angeles River Ranger Pilot Program Updates

Pilot running from May 2022-February 2024

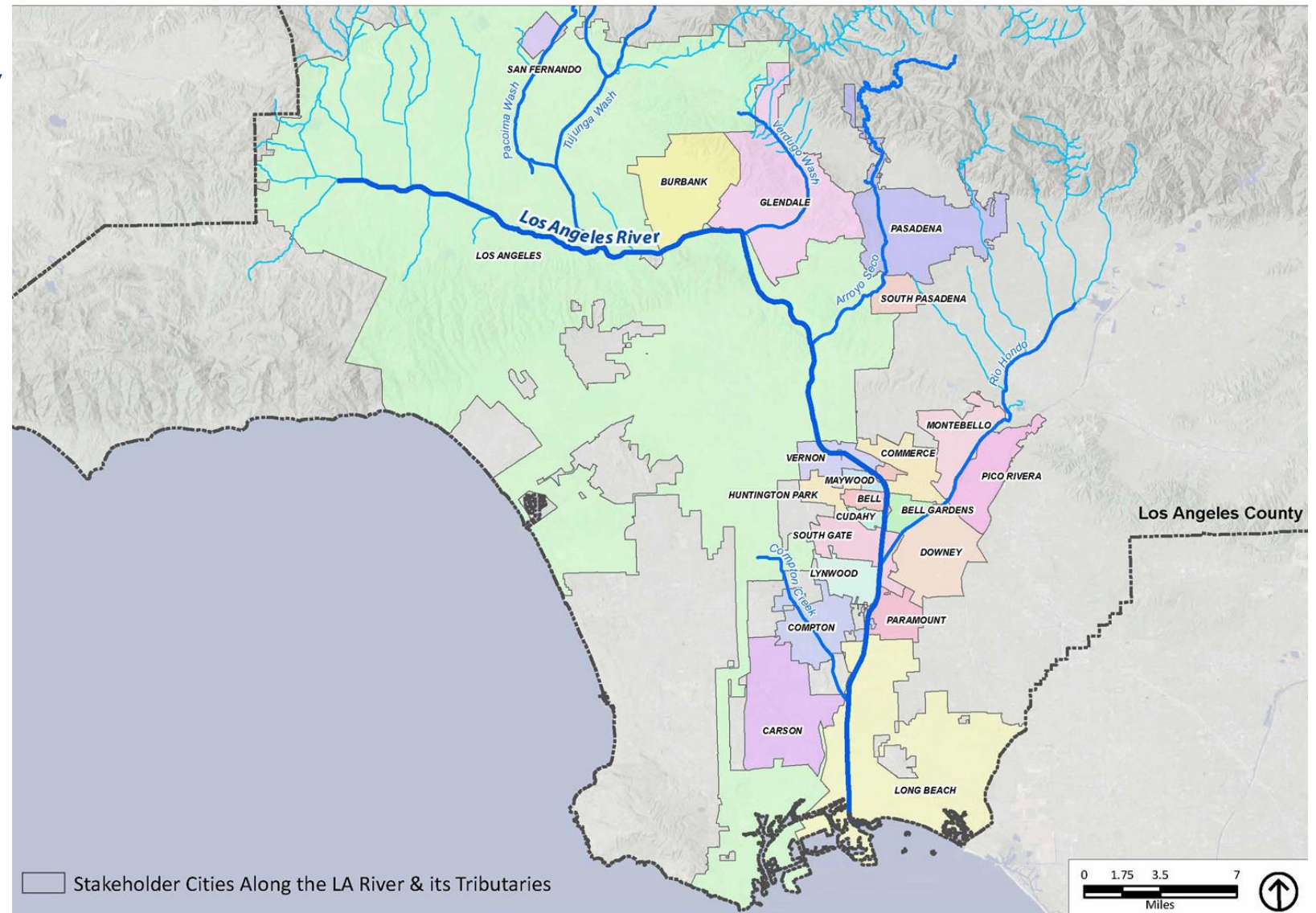


Program Overview

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



Pilot Program Overview

- REACH Zone at Rio Hondo Confluence
- Approximately 5 miles
- Cities of South Gate, Downey, and Bell Gardens
- Advisory Committee meetings since May 2021
- Program Kick-off was April 30, 2022



River Ambassador Program



Safety



Education



Stewardship



➤ Implementation began in June 2022

- Cohort I graduated from their program on January 19th, 2023
- Cohort II began their 6-month program on February 13th, 2023
- Education days on Tuesdays and field work/outreach along the river Wednesdays to Fridays





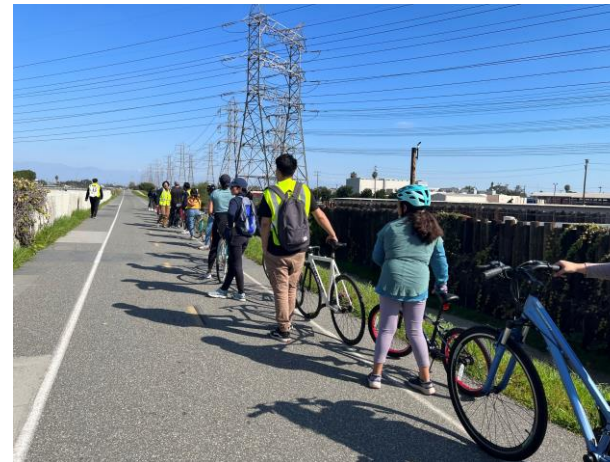
Recreation and Interpretive/ Educational Programming



- Water Museum Field Trip to the WRD's Albert Robles Learning Center in Pico Rivera
- City of South Gate's Farmer's Market
- Leaf Printing Workshop and nature walk at Hollydale Regional Park
- Guided Bird Walks and Family Birding Day

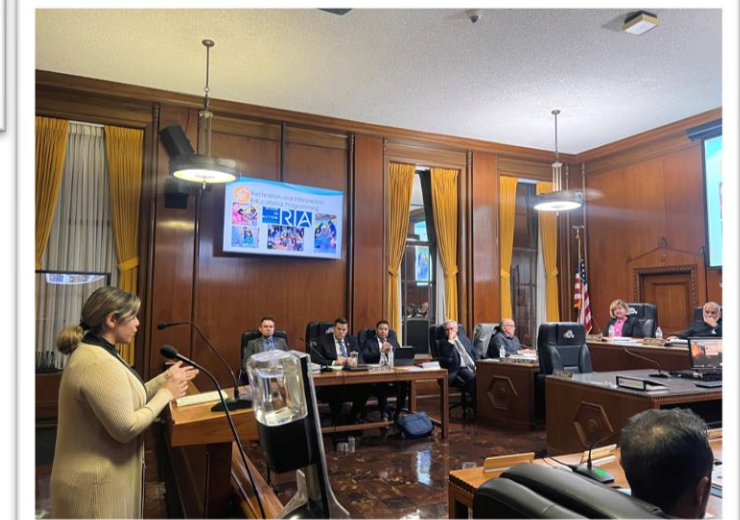


- Bike the LA River Events at Hollydale Regional Park in January, March and May
- Lower LA River Walking Tour at Hollydale Regional Regional Park and a BioBlitz Event in April
- Family Birding Day in June



City Council Meetings

- Increasing awareness of the program to the local cities and communities within the REACH Zone
- Presented at:
 - City of Bell Gardens Council Meeting in April
 - City of South Gate Council Meeting in June
 - Presenting at the City of Downey Council Meeting in July





Recreation and Interpretive/ Educational Programming





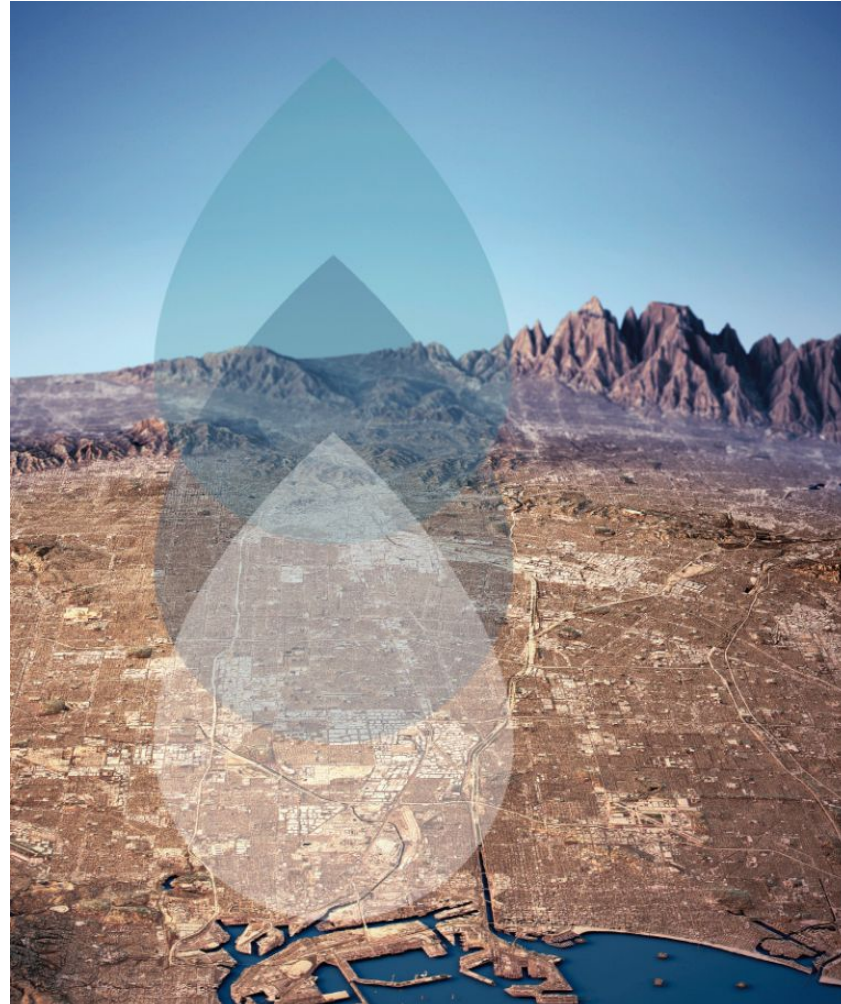
LOWER LA RIVER FY 23-24 PROJECT APPLICATIONS

On April 20, the Regional Oversight Committee reviewed and advanced all approved funding applications for FY 23-24 to the Board of Supervisors for their approval

Project Name ▼	ANTICIPATED TOTAL
● Infrastructure Projects ▼	\$29,300,655
• Spane Park	\$18,913,128
• Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB M...	\$10,387,527
● Scientific Studies ▼	\$446,138
• Ground truth: guiding a soils-based strateg... 1 WA	\$446,138 ⓘ
● Technical Resources ▼	\$0
Grand Total	\$29,746,793



NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE - 31st JULY 2023



Welcome to
Safe Clean Water
Program



Login

Email |

Password

[LOGIN](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[Forgot Password](#)



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT UNDERWAY:

- SCWP website refresh and relaunch
- Stormwater education programs
- Workforce development
- Metrics and Monitoring Study



EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM



On [June 6th, 2023, Board of Supervisors](#) authorized Public Works to enter into a sole source agreement with the **Water Foundation** for the development and administration of a **public education and community engagement grants program** as part of the Safe, Clean Water Program-District Program.

\$10,000,000 over a 3-year term:

- \$8,500,000 for outgoing grantmaking
- \$1,500,000 for program development/ management, grants administration, fiscal management, and indirect costs.

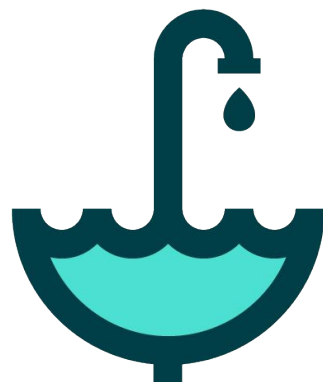
Grants Program Purpose: increase outreach and engagement related to increasing stormwater and urban runoff capture and/or decreasing stormwater and urban runoff pollution



EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

The following activities will be eligible for grant funding, subject to conformance with the Board's CEQA findings:

1. Site visits and **tours.**
 2. Support for **collaboratives, trainings, convenings, water academies,** and water leadership training.
 3. **Community-led project concept development.**
 4. **Community meetings.**
 5. **Project-specific community outreach.**
 6. Community **needs assessments.**
 7. **Community science** initiatives.
 8. Development of **curriculum and educational materials**
-



safecleanwaterla.org

Tara Dales
tdales@sgamarketing.com