

Executive Meeting Summary

Project Title: AB 466 UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES REVITALIZATION PLAN

Purpose of Meeting: Hydrology and Environment Committee Meeting- September 2018

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REVITALIZATION PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Upon discussion, the goals and objectives are high level themes and key concepts for overall Plan with Working Group (WG) input:

- Focus on community engagement especially in underserved communities
- Focus on Tributaries where there is not already planning or project building efforts; especially those that are neglected shall be prioritized- although all tributaries in study area shall be accounted for.
- Refer to previous planning efforts whenever possible and fill in gaps

PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan is to foster the creation of prioritized opportunities to:

- Provide additional open space
- Have multiple benefits
- Allow for safe access
- Align with community needs and feedback
- Align with funding sources
- Incorporate nature-based solutions

WG member (Brick) emphasized the unique focus on the tributaries, and the opportunity to incorporate and expand upon other river planning efforts. Other WG members (Zaldivar) added that there is an opportunity to reconcile the differences between previous efforts in a collaborative manner; a key example is what to do with the dry weather flow. LA County DPW emphasized the LA River Master Plan intends to fold in the work from this plan.

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hydrology and Environment committee is to identify and prioritize the opportunities that focus on the community need for public safety and responsibility for a sustainable environment for the Upper Los Angeles River and its Tributaries using an integrated approach (water resources/conservation/quality/recreation source).

LACDPW supported the statement because it includes the words “public safety” which addresses the flood control function of the river. WG member T. Brick asked to add language related to an integrated approach for water conservation, water resources, clean water, and recreational activities.

COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Maintain or enhance flood management
- Create equitable opportunities to enhance the ecosystem, watershed health, water supply, and improve water quality
- Balance the utilization of available space and resources for both the environment and the community
- Assess all opportunities for resiliency

Initial committee goals and objectives. Each goal will be assigned metrics to use for baseline conditions and as progress measurements for the projects to show success. The committee discussed the role this committee will be playing as part of the plan to and the necessity of balancing the needs of the community and the environment. *WG member* Brick requested that the committee name be changed to *Water and The Environment*, majority agreement.

Technical committee meeting timeline; purpose goals and timeline, review of existing efforts and example case studies; develop program goals and prioritization framework identify priority opportunities, project concept development, develop revitalization plan. The plan aims to include implementable projects with guidance on funding for each one. *WG Member* T. Brick suggested that a set of guidelines for how to move forward with similar projects after the plan is developed would be useful to pass on for future revitalization activity along the rivers and tributaries.

Overlap between the committees and working group; executive summaries of each committee meeting for the working group, action items from the committee meetings discussed during the working group meeting, and the chair of each committee providing an oral summary of the committee meetings to the working group.

Education and community engagement components. Regional and local non-profits will deliver three sets of community meetings at key points in the process; kick off, middle (after initial development of design concepts), and when the draft plan is developed. A community outreach plan is being developed as a guide. Community engagement will serve to validate or realign the planning effort to coincide with milestones in the planning effort.

PRESENTATION OF LITERATURE REVIEW BY GEOSYNTEC

Literature review included the 16 most applicable documents regarding the Upper LA River and Tributaries. Key themes for all plans include; *water quality, active transportation, water supply, open space and recreation, ecosystem and habitat, community engagement, restore ecosystem function, integration, agency coordination, vision of the community, revitalization, and flood management.* The current draft is a living document and edits are encouraged. MRCA to provide document to all technical committee members for review.

ATTENDEES

Committee Members: Tim Brick (Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation), Viridiana Velez (alternate for Hon. Sheila Kuehl)*, *Carolina Hernandez (alternate for Mark Pestrella)*, Matt Weiner, Enrique Zaldivar
*Non-voting member designee. Pending legislation SB 1126 would allow appointees to designate an alternate in his or her place.

ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

MRCA: Provide draft literature review document to technical committee members.

Project consulting team: Provide technical review of draft literature review, provide summary of input of purpose goals and objectives