

Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan

Community Workshop

Thursday, July 11th, 2019

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

DreamWorks Animation (1000 Flower St, Glendale, CA 91201)

S U M M A R Y

Introduction

On July 11th, 2019, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority held their second of two Conceptual Design Workshops, phase 2 community meetings to solicit input into proposed project concepts that will be included in the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan. The workshop opened with a presentation that provided background on the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan, overview of the process, and introduction of proposed projects for each of the six tributaries included in the Plan. At the end of the presentation, participants were invited to assemble into one of six smaller groups. Participants rotated from one table to the next in order to provide input into all six tributaries.

Each group focused on one of the six tributaries, these include:

- Aliso Canyon Wash
- Pacoima Wash
- Tujunga Wash
- Burbank-Western Channel
- Verdugo Wash
- Arroyo Seco

Participants were asked to provide input into the project that is being recommended for each tributary. The following questions were used to generate input.

Question #1 - What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

Question #2 - What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

Each tributary discussion area had several exhibits to inform the conversation. These included a map delineating the recommended project area and proposed project elements, tributary map with a summary of opportunity sites proposed by the Working Group and community, and a poster for gathering comments and ideas.

A set of index-card size images which represented improvements to opportunity sites were also provided to participants to inspire ideas for the types of elements they would like to see. Participants were encouraged to post these images or write their comments on the map or on the poster. A comment sheet was also provided to everyone and participants were encouraged to write down additional ideas to help guide design.

Approximately 125 community members attended, not including families and children. The following is a synopsis of the input provided on the maps, posters, and comment sheets. Images of the posters are included in the appendix.

Key Themes by Tributary

The key themes for each tributary are listed below

Aliso Canyon Wash

- Create a Natural Space where people can do things
- Link the community and the tributaries
- Make it a place where the community can grow, gather, and sell

Pacoima Wash

- Ensure more natural parks and open space
- Create ways for us to move around the city safely
- Celebrate OUR community
- Create Flood Protection that is beautiful

Tujunga Wash

- Make the park safer and easier to get to
- Educate people about the story of our community
- Create pockets for recreation and places for nature
- Enhance the opportunity for ecological habitat

Burbank-Western Channel

- Make Connections to other parks and schools
- Create a place where people can learn about nature and our community
- Create places to rest along the path
- Mitigate the pollution from the highway

Verdugo Wash

- Ensure design and features that create safe access
- Create areas that provide small gathering spaces
- Incorporate trails and pathways

Arroyo Seco

- Create more greening opportunities
- Incorporate educational components
- Include design elements that make it more inviting and safe

Aliso Canyon Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Heat island planting
- Tree canopy
- Reforestation
- Native planting
- Green roofs
- Lighting
- Wayfinding
- Emergency phones
- Ecological connections
- Adventure play
- Viewing platforms
- Kiosks and restrooms
- Group exercise
- Markets
- Interactive exhibits
- Create wooded areas (more trees)
- Integrate flowering plants (California poppy)
- Integrate filtration rock and soils
- Incorporate meadows, shade trees, hills to climb, fields of grass, and flowers
- Integrate solar powered lighting
- Add larger areas for bikes and pedestrians
- Integrate restroom access throughout
- Add ramps for wheeled strollers, handicap accessibility, etc.
- Incorporate areas for education
- Add areas for entertainment and activities, venues for music, events and outdoor movies
- Conduct a flooding assessment of roads and highways within 0.5 miles
- Integrate areas for children and families

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Create connection to Metrolink stop and major transit stops – wayfinding. Art along the path.
- Focus on ground water infiltration – Recharge the San Fernando Aquifer!
- Climate change mitigation in every plan – native trees, transit options, support biodiversity – less pavement, more dirt and trees, engage schools and libraries in rewilding in every plan
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly
- Recreation and cultural improvements, bike path with small parks along the way being careful of displacement
- Ecosystem services included at every level. Multi-use for community members (cycling, birding, walking) Programming to connect and interpret the nature and eco design elements
- Integrate biking and walking paths along Aliso Canyon Wash
- More trees and green space for water filtration
- I believe the valley is going to become more vertical and higher density quickly. So we need to find ways to create the feeling of “shared backyards” because we won’t have them anymore.
- Urban gardens, bike paths, increase shading/cooling, wildlife corridor
- Shaded trails, flood risk prevention with utilization of underground resources, connecting green spaces through walkways, bike paths with minimal disruption to connectors
- Trail through entire length considered walkways to schools and parks
- Add a pedestrian and bike trail along the entire wash, provide access from both sides, provide connections to the Metrolink Station, parks, and schools along the path.
- Consider river maintenance, green areas, maps for pedestrians

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Neutral. All are good.
- It’s a great idea. I feel the project should be fleshed out and more community engagement done more extensively. Where are the anti-displacement measures?
- I like the connection to the Northridge community
- Because this area is so heavily residential amenities which support day to day life are good. Bike paths, community and farmers gardens/markets, nice walking paths, shade.
- I like it but we need a wildlife corridor for all the coyotes that come down from the Porter Ranch Hills
- Requesting more green space in allocation

- Very good, this will be good for the community

Pacoima Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Native planting
- Border planting
- Vegetated swales
- Arboretum
- Ecological connections
- Boardwalks
- Lighting
- Trails
- Performances
- Art installations
- Bridges
- Wetlands
- Biofiltration
- Bike path
- Markets
- Consider connectivity to the Metrolink
- Enhance safety by adding lighting in the underpass for the Highway 118 and Interstate 5 intersection
- Enhance visibility and connect the project to Ritchie Valens Park

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Shade trees, history/archaeological cultural artifacts, gathering space
- Focus on ground water infiltration – Recharge the San Fernando Aquifer!
- Climate change mitigation in every plan – native trees, transit options, support biodiversity – less pavement, more dirt and trees, engage schools and libraries in rewilding in every plan
- Please connect the San Fernando High School area project to the Tataviam Native American Center by a stretch/green street, their traditional territory at 2nd and MacClay
- The Pacoima wash spreading grounds can be used as a green recreational space
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly

- Habitat enhancement with native plants, engaging the community in restoration, also engaging the high school in stewardship and teaching them about habitat restoration
- Water infiltration, multiuse for community, biking, hiking and birding. Trees? [...] in multi-languages, lighting features
- Habitat restoration and native plants in the Pacoima Wash area. Remove fencing along Pacoima Wash
- Housing is going vertical and dense we need “shared backyards” to have access to nature
- More wildlands and green space
- [...] utilize space to make it a recreational area for [...] and exercise
- Add a pedestrian and bike path along the entire wash
- A lot of trees, plants, flowers, security, and eco-tourism.
- Pacoima Wash – H.S., Existing park and spreading ground “The Pacoima Junction” SB 541 reg. storm water

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- This is at the intersection of two freeways – not sure it’s the best choice – why not just use the open space and line to the project Design Area A
- The stretch portion of the proposed designs are great ways to link green space not community organization, please include Native American communities in your stretch consideration. Increasing surface permeability great idea!
- I think there is a lot of potential for great community space
- I like the idea of incorporating the high school and making all the important connections with the other two parks and spreading grounds. Is the high school on board to become an eco-school?
- Great link between surrounding neighborhoods
- Great!

Tujunga Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Green Roofs
- Kiosks and Restrooms
- Ecological Connections
- Reduce concrete
- Prevent pollution
- Remove invasive species
- Replenish native fish
- Clean the water table
- Private golf course versus public land

- Consider the public health and safety concerns due to the homeless population in the vicinity of the project
- Expand the lake
- Consider birding opportunities
- Look at the Reno Waterway development as an example, it has high and low flow activities
- Add Native American gathering spaces
- Invest in trash cans, restrooms, and light
- Add shade

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Connect to upper trails into the mountains, and to the Verdugo Hills trails. Lots of trees. Local history signage.
- Climate change mitigation in every plan – native trees, transit options, support biodiversity – less pavement, more dirt and trees, engage schools and libraries in rewilding in every plan
- “Tujunga” is a Tongva word – please find a way to build a co-management agreement with the Tongva to manage some portion of the natural area around the Hansen Dam (Area A) or the spreading grounds below the Dam (Area B), since it is their historical territory.
- More accessible and friendly, more vegetation, tourist attraction
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly
- Bringing students and schools out to the space, making sure we’re talking to the community and people who are currently using the space to see what kind of improvements they want
- Something that will be a resource for homeless (restrooms, showers, charging stations), nature programming
- A local connection to Theodore Payne Foundation? Wildlife and nature improvements – walking, biking, hiking, wildlife viewing. Hansen Dam is huge – opportunities to connect with a body of water there
- Include emphasis in habitat, wildlife, nature, education, preservation versus vandalism and trash, beauty, respite for locals
- We need to really focus on watershed management in this area. Flooding is a big issue here so we shouldn’t build things around unsafe space.
- Make sure to leave large areas accessible but wild looking – redeveloped to look and feel un-developed
- Flood buffer and wildlands
- Revive amphitheater that is abandoned need for arts education, incorporate shaded trails
- Add a pedestrian and bike path along the entire wash

- Cleaning/maintenance of the river

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- I like this choice the area needs to be improved.
- Focus on ground water infiltration – Recharge the San Fernando Aquifer!
- Great idea to turn Hansen Dam into a cultural center by restoring native plant habitat, including willow
- Lots of potential, a lot of space
- Very favorable
- I like the idea of restoring the lake and I think that's a cool opportunity to restore habitat and provide educational opportunities.
- Needs work, please develop a maintenance strategy. Homeless engagement and resources need to be worked in
- Interested in Bird Island access
- Overall good. Needs to connect more of the adjacent area equestrians north, golf course east, etc. Needs to plan for the dumps which will soon be full.
- I think infrastructures should not be built right next to the river if we are trying to implement flood management
- Lacks a fire control repository, expand the lake
- This will provide health to people

Burbank-Western Channel

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Habitat
- Reforestation
- Infiltration basins
- Terraced streams
- Vegetated swales
- Bioretention
- Arboretum
- Open fields
- Playgrounds
- Riverfront seating
- Bike path
- Emergency phones
- Markets
- Viewing platforms
- Field trips
- Kiosks and restrooms
- Stepped seating
- Sculptural shade structures

- Outdoor movies
- Integrate trail access for cyclists and people for the entire length of the project
- Use this as a space for environmental education in school systems
- Remove pavement and rewild schoolyards and outdoor library space
- Increase tree canopy coverage with drought tolerant heat tolerant shade trees
- Plant native trees along the freeway, incorporate a green lung throughout the project
- Utilize green bridges for wildlife and people

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Screening of freeway noise, visuals/relocate the recycling businesses, underground the utility poles
- Would love to see an emphasis on channel bikeways – connect downtown Burbank/Metrolink with continuous walk/bikeways to Bette Davis Park!
- Climate change mitigation in every plan – native trees, transit options, support biodiversity – less pavement, more dirt and trees, engage schools and libraries in rewilding in every plan
- Please develop a way where the Tongva could co-manage the native plants in the green lung native habitat and ground water recharge area, so they can return to their historic practices of caring for the land.
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly
- Homeless services (showers, clean drinking water, and restrooms) hiking, biking, fishing trails, water infiltration.
- Connect to Metrolink and future public transportation in the Burbank/Glendale area.
- Arboretum trees air filtration shade, green space
- Greater connectivity with Glendale's areas and down to LA River bike paths, native plantings
- Planted in such a way to feel very lush and shady, truly verdant. Man-made structures discrete and hidden where possible.
- Bridges across to connect to and through the LA River, paths to connect communities for biking and walking
- Carbon sequestration, greenway, nature
- Shaded trails, waterway activities for kids, playgrounds
- Add a pedestrian and bike path along the entire channel, connect both sides of the freeway and railway with a large and safe bridge that is car free
- Cleaned channel, happy people

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Great one connecting Metrolink and transit to bikeways/LA River needs to be well lit, safe, and maintained
- Great
- Very favorable
- I like the idea of a multipurpose project and incorporating the idea of the green lung
- Anti-displacement policy adopted for surrounding communities
- Connection to Chandler Bike Path, the green lung concept is cool
- I like the “lung” project because I feel like it would help with pollution and that area is extremely paved so more greenery would be awesome
- I see the need for it but don’t feel too excited by this one, even though it is very close to my home and work
- Ok but if connectivity is there existing local (recreational) points and parks can be accessed by more people at less cost Bridges are cost effective and doable
- I believe we need to make this most polluted tributary into carbon sequestration area. It is vital with our rising carbon emissions
- I like it but I think there needs to be a focus on connecting both sides of the freeway and railway to the project. There is not a safe way to access today

Verdugo Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Reforestation
- Vegetated swales
- Stepped seating
- Trails
- Crossing
- Interpretative Signage
- Nature walks
- Field trips
- Make nature-based design elements safe for wildlife and people
- Maintain “wild” features for animals
- Restore natural habitats
- Utilize retaining walls for protection against mudslides
- Incorporate lighting, fire road access, and helipads
- Integrate small spaces performances
- Streamline funding to maintain safety, emergency responsiveness, security, and clean up
- Consider hours of access
- Build sustainable amenities
- Integrate an “outdoor classroom”

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Create clear hiking trails and wayfinding all the way across to Brand Park and Hansen Dam!
- There is a bikeway proposed for Verdugo Wash – would be great if any changes could work with / not conflict with it
- Blanchard Canyon Channel under the VHGC Verdugo Hills Golf Course this is the most upper part of the Verdugo Wash / Perfect for cultural monuments for the Japanese detention, recreational (soccer field), equestrian trails, Between Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains
- Climate change mitigation in every plan – native trees, transit options, support biodiversity – less pavement, more dirt and trees, engage schools and libraries in rewilding in every plan
- Please develop a way for the Tongva to take on native plant and land co-management of the San Rafael Hills and/or the Verdugo Wash area after the native habitat has been restored.
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly
- Nature based, safe access, I like the idea of nature walks
- Wildlife protection plan. Hiking, birding trails. Community access. Restrooms, drinking H2O station wildlife viewing
- Connect the San Rafael Hills wildlife to the Verdugo Mountains. Make the whole area more friendly for pedestrians, nature trails
- Connectivity for safe passage for wildlife
- Bike path from Glendale Community College down the wash to the LA River and parks and new bridge! More places to safely and completely sit along [...] control cement embankments – wood, terraces?
- What type of native-based solutions would be implemented?
- Housing is going vertical and dense
- Keep the wildlife corridors! Wildlife corridors separate from people crossways.
- [...] Industrial areas to incorporate green spaces, shaded trails, connectors within walkways and bike paths
- Integrate bike and pedestrian access to the Verdugo Canyon Wash and LA River from Crescenta Valley
- Add a pedestrian and bike path along the entire wash, add safe access from both sides of the path and the freeway crossing
- Controlled pollution
- Turn the golf course into an actual recreation area (soccer, biking, equestrian, and other games) Not much benefit to Glendale residents in park poor [...] Glendale
- San Rafael Eco Connection – This is already existing natural areas, which are merely being tied together somehow. I don't see much benefit. Whereas the

Verdugo Wash Bike/Pedestrian Pathway would be a recreational and practical transportation [...] connecting N. Glendale/La Crescenta with downtown Glendale, a much better choice.

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Not the best - instead, a walking and biking trail from Glendale Community College to the LA River along the wash. This will serve more people in more ways. Include recycling centers at the River
- Like the wildlife connector, but also like the confluence proposal (maybe more). Many of us fought hard to make Alternative [...] (LA River Revitalization Program) a reality. Any work done at the [...] will help the river [...]
- Good idea
- I like the wildlife corridor and especially like the idea of a multifunctional corridor that could be used by the community as well, with lots of native plants and trees.
- Awesome, please keep NIMBYs in mind. We must have community access. Work with the City of Glendale to address landfill
- Feels a little far from LA area but maybe it is needed for local ecology
- Keep it green – focus on wildlife and not just human use
- I love this proposal, lets connect wildlife
- I like it but I am not sure how practical it is and if the golf course will go along with the plan. Wildlife should have a safe pathway between the hills
- Much rather see one of the following: (1) bike path from GCC to the LA River OR (2) Huge park and affordable housing where Grayson Power Plant is now

Arroyo Seco

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Integrate more green areas with native plant species
- Incorporate onsite areas capable of treating water as opposed to additional runoff
- Improve habitat for wildlife at Ernest Debs Park
- Integrate “floodable” green paths with natural stormwater infiltration
- Asses opportunities to use State funds for improving road flooding
- Make the tributary inviting
- Create mini-park spaces for community gathering
- Naturalize and add additional greening to flood plain areas as opposed to infrastructure
- Use the public right-of-way for man-made aquifers for natural water filtration
- Make the bridge near Sycamore green
- Make the trails safe for walking
- Capitalize on transit connectivity opportunities
- Connect the path and edge of the Rose Bowl to the river
- Incorporate educational signs

- Include Franklin High School connectivity
- Consider the implications of homelessness on future projects
- No development near flood prone areas
- It is important to the city because it will be an attraction to the people and this will generate opportunities

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Transit stop improvements – big improvements to Heritage Square station. Protected bike lanes/Trailways throughout.
- Green the foot bridges that cross the freeway with native habitat include connectivity to open spaces such as Flat Top, Elephant Hill, Ascott Hills, Elysian Canyon
- Please find a way to develop a co management agreement for portions of the Hahamonga (Tongva term) and Flint Canyon or Lower Arroyo Seco area above and below the dam with the Tongva to return them to their native plant and land management historic practices.
- Connectivity between both sides of the bank. In particular the side of the borders between Cypress Park and Lincoln Heights.
- Bird friendly lighting and native only plants and trees. Green lung area, information center that is staffed 7 days a week, permanent ecofriendly restrooms, access for orthopedically-impaired people, dog friendly
- Accessible, natural running paths, community/school gardens, lots of open space for families to get together (parks that don't lose the natural habitat of the arroyo), bike paths so that areas are accessible between urban and park areas
- Community based, education-based improvements, working with the city to address homelessness along the Arroyo Seco – currently there isn't anywhere for them to go (Work with the Audubon Center)
- Connectivity to Ernest E. Debs Park. There are large parcels of land in this area and we need public transit to connect community access.
- I walk in this area a lot, there is a lot of green space intersected by the freeway and cement. Please make more pedestrian friendly to cross the freeway. More nature and less cement. Connections to nearby Montecito open space areas – trails?
- Wildlife connectivity from Ernest Debs Park to Sycamore Park, daylight the creek
- Stop highlighting my neighborhood
- Make more accessible but also wilder and very sylvan and natural. Rewild, develop to feel undeveloped
- Do not build infrastructure in flood prone areas we need more flood zone buffers
- Connect to LA River Trail, cornfields, LA River Park as well as proposed
- Integrate a pedestrian and bike path along the entire arroyo
- Plan for promoting tourism to the site/location

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Great
- Include the Southwest Museum in cultural connectivity – opportunity to connect to indigenous heritage in the area
- Great water capture Location
- I love it
- I like the area of choice, I think it's an important area to work on, I would just be extra careful regarding "greening" the area resulting in displacement given that the area is already facing a lot of gentrification.
- Homeless services. (showers, restrooms, safe parking), anti-displacement measures?
- Great area. Love the connection to Metro Gold Line and urban communities on all sides. I like Heritage Square recommendation.
- Long term connect path to San Pascual and ultimately to the Rose Bowl
- Great choice! This is such an historical part of LA and a spine in the City that deserves attention
- I am all for removing the concrete and reclaiming our river!
- Beach for recreation, hiking trails, wildlife conservation. Native plants, helping butterflies and bees.
- It is an example to the world

Questions

- How will the homeless that live in the Arroyo Seco be incorporated?
- Look to how urban interstitial spaces in Berlin connect people in nature?
- When will this project be finished?

Additional Comments

- Connectivity is important for all of the tributaries
- Integrate water and bathrooms every mile or so
- All should incorporate ADA accessibility and biking