

Executive Meeting Summary

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

Purpose of Meeting: People and Recreation Committee Meeting- November 2018

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REVITALIZATION PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Upon further discussion, a few minor adjustments were provided for the Plan goals and objectives presented in previous committee meetings (changes in blue):

- Focus on community engagement especially in underserved communities
- Focus on Tributary areas 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, identify and resolve inconsistencies

PLAN MISSION STATEMENT

Additional emphasis on culture and arts was added to the mission statement with input from previous committee meetings (updates in blue).

The mission of the Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan is to develop prioritized opportunities with the following components:

- Nature based
- Multiple benefits
- Alignment with community needs and feedback
- Culture, arts, and education
- Open space
- Safe access
- Alignment with funding sources

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

Additional comments were provided for the committee purpose after input from previous meetings was incorporated. The purpose of the People and Recreation Committee is to identify and prioritize opportunities that focus on the community need for public space and recreation within and along the Upper Los Angeles River and its Tributaries. Opportunities should include special consideration for:

- Culture and arts
- Economic and workforce development opportunities
- Integration of the water and environment.
- The special needs community
- Recreation and equitable access for all
- Safety and access

COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A discussion and chart-scribed exercise delving further into the goals and objectives, modified to include committee feedback, was held to lay the foundation for the next steps for the project team. Committee members were asked to share how they envision the plan moving forward.

- **Feature and promote the importance of the community, local culture, and local businesses**
Meaning: food traditions, tribal representation, no displacement, preservation, strengthen existing, compatible with existing environment, makes economic sense
Metrics: group gatherings, local food establishments, level of community involvement, sales/economic growth
Methods: interpretational signage, art, business resources
- **Identify and create improved, inspirational, inclusive access and connectivity to public space, the river and tributaries for all users**
Meaning: sidewalks, safe for use, signage, perpendicular neighborhood connections to waterways, no barriers to access, cultural spaces, historic location ADA accessibility, access to waterways, access for all communities
Metrics: Lighting, signage, distances, public transit access, connections between parks and open space, proximity to disadvantaged communities
Methods: public transit, cultural spaces, historical locations, land acquisition

- **Incorporate and Identify opportunities for education, recreation, ecosystem and habitat restoration, passive recreation, and examine their relationship with baseflows**
Meaning: places to add habitat (sites and corridors), sports, programming, active play, passive recreation, water-based recreation, right place for the activity, biking
Metrics: length of habitat corridors, acreage of habitat sites, number of recreational locations, number of visitors to recreational locations, signage for history and culture
Methods: land acquisition, utility easements, signage for history and culture
- **Provide safe connectivity to parks, open spaces, trails**
Meaning: No barriers to access, safety, ADA accessibility, access to waterways,
Metrics: miles between access, adjacent publicly accessible land and access points, benches, lighting, wayfinding, shade, educational markers, equitable access for all demographics (age, location, etc.)
Methods: benches, lighting, wayfinding, shade, educational markers, public transit, cultural spaces, multilingual communications
- **Focus on social equity and environmental justice during the planning process**
Meaning: available for everyone
Metrics: disadvantaged community access
Methods: Multilingual communications

GAPS ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS

A brief discussion of the findings of the data and planning gap analysis was undertaken. The main *data gap highlights* were; identification of what makes each of the subwatersheds unique and how they relate and connect to one another, planning for network connectivity for both nature and nonmotorized transportation, consistency in scale of planning, suspected discharges to the tributaries, amenities along the river, community or grant funded park space. *Planning gap highlights* included that there has been planning throughout the watershed however the focus or scale varies drastically with significant room for additional planning in certain portions of the watershed.

TRIBUTARIES OVERVIEW AND CHARACTERIZATION

Tributary Characterization Matrix was revisited. A brief presentation of the *character of the primary tributaries* (Aliso Canyon, Arroyo Seco, Burbank Western, Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash) was given to provide context for committee members who had not previously visited all primary tributaries. Further committee meetings will build on this exercise to explore what it is like to live in and visit these areas.

RELEVANT CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

Tributary scale urban case studies at the following locations were presented to learn about previous planning methods used; Guadalupe River Park (San Jose, California), Conway Urban Watershed (Conway, Arkansas), Mill Creek Watershed (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), San Pedro Creek (San Antonio, Texas). *Common best practices* for habitat restoration, green infrastructure, and connectivity were presented to spark ideas for how other plans have met similar goals and objectives to those discussed earlier in the meeting.

PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF LA BIODIVERSITY INDEX

Isaac Brown of LASAN and UCLA presented a brief overview of his post-doctoral work involving creation and analysis of a Biodiversity index for Los Angeles County. Much of ULART is in the Upper LA River Alluvial plan which shares similar native biodiversity. There are only a few large patches of habitat in the plan and additional work to analyze habitat connectivity is underway. The final report is meant to identify areas of need and standardize metrics and measurements across the County. The report will be complete in 2019.

ATTENDEES

Committee Members: Michael Affeldt (Alternate for Barbara Romero, City of LA), Thomas Seifert (Appointee of the Speaker of Assembly), Brian Stedge (Office of Assembly Member Nazarian), Julian Venegas (Alternate for Mayor Sylvia Ballin, City of San Fernando), Marsha Ramos (Appointee of the Speaker of the Assembly), Humberto Quintana and Paola Bassignana (alternates for Hon. Monica Rodriguez, CD7) Carolina Hernandez (alternate for Mark Pestrella, LACDPW), Clemant Lau (Alternative for Alina Bokde, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation)