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June 4, 2010

The Honorable City Council
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Mail Stop 160

Attention: Councilmember Ed P. Reyes
Chairperson, Ad Hoc River Committee

Honorable Members:

Subject: Los Angeles River Access and Uses Report; Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration Committee (Initial Report) –
Council File No. 07-1342-S5

This is in response to Los Angeles City Council's Amending Motion 07-1342-S5 (Amending Motion) adopted on December 11, 2009, directing various City of Los Angeles (City) departments to establish the Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) Committee. Enclosed is a copy of the Amending Motion for your reference (Enclosure 1).

DISCUSSION

The Amending Motion directs the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in consultation with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), other appropriate City staff, and external agencies and organizations, to establish the WISER Committee.

The WISER Committee will be tasked with identifying ways to:

- Increase groundwater recharge / increased water supply,
- Improve water quality.
- Expand water attenuation.
- Improve environmental restoration.
- Facilitate development and/or enhancement of open space when feasible.
- Identify opportunities to redevelop Brownfields in conjunction with CRA.

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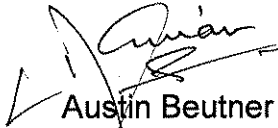


The Honorable City Council
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June 4, 2010

In an effort to update the Ad Hoc River Committee, the WISER Committee will be providing regular progress reports. Enclosed is the initial report describing current and future WISER activities (Enclosure 2) and an Action Items List (Enclosure 3).

If you have any questions or if further information is required, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or have a member of your staff contact Ms. Winifred J. Yancy, Manager, Government and Neighborhood Relations, at (213) 367-0025.

Sincerely,



Austin Beutner
General Manager

TME/AC:lsf

Enclosures

c/enc: Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Vice-Chair, Ad Hoc River Committee
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Member, Ad Hoc River Committee
Ms. Maria Espinoza, Legislative Assistant, Ad Hoc River Committee
Mr. Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer
Mr. Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst
Commissioner Lee Kanon Alpert, President
Commissioner Eric Holoman
Commissioner Jonathan Parfrey
Commissioner Thomas S. Sayles
Ms. Winifred J. Yancy

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



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December 16, 2009

To All Interested Parties:

City Attorney (w/ blue slip)

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council file
No. 07-1342-S5, at its meeting held December 11, 2009.

City Clerk
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COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

FILE NO. 07-1342-S5

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER ED P. REYES, CHAIR
AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE relative to Los Angeles River access and uses.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Garcetti - Reyes - Greuel):

1. DIRECT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), in consultation with the General Services Department (GSD), external agencies, and local river organizations as appropriate, to determine the resources required to deploy the necessary River security personnel and associated equipment, assess enforcement practices, and make recommendations that would facilitate adequate oversight of public access to the 32-miles of the River within the City on a daily basis and report to the Ad Hoc River Committee within 90 days.
2. DIRECT the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to work with the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), the City Attorney's Office, risk management personnel, the LAPD and LAFD, and in consultation with external agencies and organizations as appropriate, to identify resources for maintenance, maintenance personnel and associated equipment, existing barriers to public River access, including physical hazards and solutions to those in order to facilitate safe public access to all or portions of the 32-mile River corridor within the City and report to the Ad Hoc River Committee with a process and key projects to accomplish these goals within 90 days.
3. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in consultation with appropriate City staff and external agencies and organizations, to establish the Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) committee of experts and task the committee with identifying ways to streamline River project guidance information, permitting processes, and regulatory compliance that will result in increased water supply benefits, better water quality and improved ecological health in the River corridor. Specific outcomes may include maps and guidelines designating areas within the River corridor and upstream in the River's watershed where certain projects may take place such as green streets, water attenuation, water quality, groundwater recharge, and brownfield redevelopment. Maps may also indicate the best areas for water-contact recreation versus non-water-contact recreation given water quality and flow concerns. A representative of the WISER committee will participate in the City Interdepartmental Task Force on the River and report to the City's Ad Hoc River Committee with its first report submitted in 90 days outlining a process and key projects to achieve these objectives.
4. DIRECT the CLA to work with the appropriate City departments and external agencies to make recommendations on the establishment of a River Opportunities for Wildlife, Ecology, and Recreation (ROWER) committee of experts and task them with identifying ways to streamline River project guidance information, river projects, codes, permitting processes, and regulatory compliance that will result in increased access, safety, biodiversity and improved ecological health in the River corridor and report to the Ad Hoc River Committee within 90 days.

MOTION

I MOVE that the Communication from Chair, Ad Hoc River Committee relative to the Los Angeles River access and uses, Item No. 10 on today's Council Agenda (CF 07-1342-S5), BE AMENDED to include the following Recommendations, which consist of minor technical changes, in lieu of the Recommendations contained in the report:

1. DIRECT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), in consultation with the General Services Department (GSD), external agencies, and local river organizations as appropriate, to determine the resources required to deploy the necessary River security personnel and associated equipment, assess enforcement practices, and make recommendations that would facilitate adequate oversight of public access to the 32-miles of the River within the City on a daily basis and report to the Ad Hoc River Committee within 90 days.
2. DIRECT the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to work with the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), the City Administrative Officer (CAO), the City Attorney's Office, risk management personnel, the LAPD and LAFD, and in consultation with external agencies and organizations as appropriate, to identify resources for maintenance, maintenance personnel and associated equipment, existing barriers to public River access, including physical hazards and solutions to those in order to facilitate safe public access to all or portions of the 32-mile River corridor within the City and report to the Ad Hoc River Committee with a process and key projects to accomplish these goals within 90 days.
3. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in consultation with Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), other appropriate City staff and external agencies and organizations, to establish the Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) committee of experts and task the committee with identifying ways to streamline River project guidance information, permitting processes, and regulatory compliance that will result in increased water supply benefits, better water quality and improved ecological health in the River corridor. The WISER Committee will have opportunity to contribute to future water supply plans to ensure consistency with established City policies and goals. Specific outcomes may include maps and guidelines designating areas within the River corridor and upstream in the River's watershed where certain projects may take place such as green streets, water attenuation, water quality, groundwater recharge, and brownfield redevelopment. Maps may also indicate the best areas for water-contact recreation versus non-water-contact recreation given water quality and flow concerns. A representative of the WISER committee will participate in the City Interdepartmental Task Force on the River and report to the City's Ad Hoc River Committee with its first report submitted in 90 days outlining a process and key projects to achieve these objectives.

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**WATERSHED INFILTRATION FOR SUPPLY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE
(WISER)**

Ad Hoc River Committee Status Report
June 4, 2010

Background

The Watershed Infiltration for Supply and Environmental Restoration (WISER) Committee was created by Council Motion CF 07-1342-S5 at the December 11, 2009, Ad Hoc River Committee meeting. The WISER Committee is a collaboration of various City of Los Angeles (City) departments with wide-ranging goals relating to the Los Angeles River. Chaired by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the WISER Committee is also comprised of the Los Angeles Department of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and Bureau of Sanitation (BOS). The WISER Committee will invite other stakeholders and organizations as initiatives are further developed.

Current WISER Activities

LADWP, in collaboration with the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), has developed a map overlaying LADWP's proposed stormwater capture projects with CRA proposed redevelopment areas. It is the hope of the WISER Committee to have City departments coordinate efforts where projects from multiple agencies overlap. BOE and BOS will soon incorporate their projects onto the baseline map.

During previous WISER Committee meetings, various goals were identified including:

- Increase groundwater recharge / increased water supply,
- Improve water quality.
- Expand water attenuation.
- Improve environmental restoration.
- Facilitate development and/or enhancement of open space when feasible.
- Identify opportunities to redevelop Brownfields in conjunction with CRA.

The WISER Committee also established a more detailed action items list that will be tracked for progress. The action items list is enclosed and will be part of the regular update reporting to the Ad Hoc River Committee.

Future WISER Activities

The WISER Committee will investigate several potential projects that may achieve the WISER Committee goals such as:

- Large open spaces, including parks, vacant City property, etc.
- Linear corridors, such as streets, paths, and public easements.
- Large paved surfaces, such as parking lots and runways.

A WISER Committee meeting was held on June 1, 2010. The next WISER Committee meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2010.

**WATERSHED INFILTRATION FOR SUPPLY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE
(WISER)**

Action Items List
June 4, 2010

WISER Committee briefing relative to Los Angeles River Access and Uses Report;
communication to the City's Ad Hoc River Committee.

| Goals / Objectives | Maximize Stormwater Capture and/or Recharge | Reduce Peak Stormwater Flows Into the Los Angeles River |
|---|--|--|
| Deliverables / Procedures | Develop and encourage projects that will maximize stormwater capture and recharge the groundwater basin. | Develop and encourage projects that will decrease peak flows in the Los Angeles River. |
| Lead Agency(s) | LADWP, BOE, Green Streets Committee, BOS | LADWP, BOE, BOS |
| Examples | Investigate publicly owned properties for potential multi-benefit projects. | Public Works has begun circulating new "Green Streets" standard plans to City departments (including stormwater capture elements). |
| | Collaborate efforts with the Green Streets Committee and BOS to assist with facilitating stormwater Best Management Practices in highly permeable areas throughout the City. | |
| Quantifiable Measures / Projects | Large open spaces and paved surfaces, and linear corridors. | Develop a watershed-wide project map & project list. |

KEY:

LADWP – Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

BOE – Bureau of Engineering

BOS – Bureau of Sanitation

CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency