

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.

5. REQUEST that the City Attorney, in consultation with the BOE, the CAO, and other appropriate City staff, recommend strategies to identify the prevailing codes, covenants, restrictions, regulations, laws, other legally-binding measures (such as permitting requirements), that would need to be amended in order to facilitate public access to the 32-mile River corridor (easements and channel areas) within the City and report to the City's Ad Hoc River Committee within 90 days.
6. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), in consultation with appropriate City staff and external agencies and organizations, to develop a process and key projects to accomplish simultaneous River access and bicycle safety improvements, including the prioritization of the River bike path per the City's Bicycle Plan, intersection improvements, grade crossings, etc. and report to the City's Ad Hoc River Committee within 90 days.
7. DIRECT the BOE's Los Angeles River Project Office to develop recommendations for a comprehensive River signage program, including scope, design, cost, funding, and implementation strategy, in consultation with appropriate City staff and external agencies and organizations, and report back to the Ad Hoc River Committee within 60 days.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the BOE. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

(Public Works Committee waived consideration of the above matter)

Summary:

On June 15, 2009, your Committee Chair considered reports from the BOE in response to Motion (Garcetti - Reyes - Greuel) relative to Los Angeles River access and uses. The reports, attached to the Council file, provide details on this subject. During the discussion of this matter, the BOE representative provided an overview of these reports and responded to related questions posed by the Committee Chair.

After additional discussion and offering the opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair recommended that Council approve the recommendations reflected above. This matter is now submitted to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ED P. REYES, CHAIR
AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
REYES	YES
GARCETTI	ABSENT
LABONGE	ABSENT
HUIZAR	ABSENT
PERRY	ABSENT

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- Not Official Until Council Acts -