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MAYOR

REC'D SEP 29 2010
FIRE DEPARTMENT

MILLAGE PEAKS
FIRE CHIEF

200 NORTH MAIN STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 978-3800
FAX: (213) 978-3815

<http://www.lafd.org>

REC'D SEP 29 2010

September 28, 2010

Honorable Ed P. Reyes
Council District 1
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman Reyes,

REPORT TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The attached reports contain the Los Angeles Fire Department's public safety recommendation, with associated costs, for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Project. These reports were prepared by Battalion Chief Jack Wise, Commander, Disaster Preparedness Section.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 978-3800.

Sincerely,

MILLAGE PEAKS
Fire Chief

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



2010 AUG 11 11:41

MILLAGE PEAKS
FIRE CHIEF

July 23, 2010

TO: M.D. Rueda, Deputy Chief, Emergency Services Bureau
THROUGH CHANNELS

FROM: Jack Wise, Battalion Chief, Disaster Preparedness Section

SUBJECT: REPORT TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION PROJECT –
RIVER AD HOC COMMITTEE

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EMERGENCY
SERVICES BUREAU

10 JUL 23 PM 12:01

SUMMARY

This attached report is in response to City Councilmember Ed P. Reyes' request for the Los Angeles Fire Department (Department) to provide public safety recommendations and associated costs for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Project (River).

The Disaster Preparedness Section was tasked with completing the necessary research, recommendations, and oversight as requested by the City Council Motion. Department personnel attended several planning meetings chaired by Lupe Vela, Senior Staff member of the River Ad Hoc Committee, as well as other members of the Committee including: Carol Armstrong, Project Manager Environmental Supervisor; Lawrence Hsu, Project Manager Senior Civil Engineer; members from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); and other agencies has a interest in the project.. The Committee's expectations of the Department were to evaluate and identify Safety concerns and associated costs for public access to the Los Angeles River.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached report be approved and forwarded to the Ad Hoc Los Angeles River Committee.

COMPANY/STATION/UNIT COMMANDER	DATE	EMS BATTALION CAPTAIN	DATE	BATTALION COMMANDER	DATE	DIVISION COMMANDER	DATE
						<i>T.V. Manning</i>	<i>7/23/10</i>
BUREAU COMMANDER	DATE	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMANDER	DATE	ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS COMMANDER	DATE		

FINDINGS

This report is in response to City Councilmember Ed P. Reyes' request for the Los Angeles Fire Department (Department) to provide public safety recommendations and associated costs for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Project (River). This project will create public access to 32 miles of the River.

The 32-mile span of the River affects eight geographic areas and to anticipate the extent of future needs would be complex. The required resources will be dependent on the number of projects approved over the long term and the scope of each project. Currently, the River basin is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Sepulveda Basin is leased from the Corps by the City and managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The portion of Elysian Park where the River runs from the City of Glendale to North Broadway is leased from the Corps and managed by a partnership between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Water and Power. The Department of General Services, Office of Public Safety, currently patrol those two areas. The Department handles emergency calls generated along the River within the City.

As the project is implemented and long-term development progresses, the Department of General Services Police will have primary responsibility for providing routine enforcement for the River and adjacent parks. As public use of the River and parks increases, the utilization of private security may be an option to supplement the Department of General Services Police patrols. The Department will respond to emergency calls for service and will need to develop and implement a training program for First Responder in water related emergencies.

In order to ensure the appropriate recommendations and oversight was given, the Department conducted a tour of the River with members of the Ad Hoc River Committee. Based upon the tour and engineering plans, the Department has identified several areas of concern to the project.

1. Lack of lifeguards or patrols for the public.
2. Lack of a notification system to alert emergency responders to an emergency in this River.
3. There are no identifiers in the River to denote a location of an emergency.
4. Our current dispatch only denotes streets along the River.
5. Lack of an alert system to evacuate the River due to flooding or imminent danger.

6. Lack of public information and education to alert the public to the dangers of the River.
7. Currently Swift Water Rescue Teams (SWRT) are pre-deployed only on anticipated rainfall. Additional Department first responders will have to be trained and equipped to provide for the public safety on a 24/7 basis.
8. Those allied agencies providing patrol and/or with interests along the River will be required to take first responder training in order to provide safety to the public.

Consultation between City planners and Department personnel should continue in order to provide environmental input in regard to the layout and design of the parks.

Each entry point to the River should be equipped with adequate signage to inform the public of potential hazards, hours and conditions of prohibited entry, and rules and regulations associated with its use. Each entry point should include a locking gate and a uniquely identifiable name to assist visitors in providing emergency responders with their location. Due to the limited cell phone coverage a system needs to be installed to alert the authorities to calls for assistance from the public. This system should be available for the public's use at frequent intervals along the River. At each one of those locations an emergency floatation device should be available for the public use with instructions. These items must be strategically placed and secured to deter vandalism.

Clearly visible markers should be conspicuously posted at frequent intervals within the River in order to assist public safety personnel in locating requests for public assistance.

A warning system is recommended to be installed at frequent interval along the River to alert the public of evacuation due to unsafe conditions.

Securable pedestrian and vehicle access gates should be installed at frequent points along the River. These securable gates will limit public access during the hours of non-operation and inclement weather and limit vehicular access to authorized public safety and other entities.

Vehicular access to the River basin by public safety personnel is somewhat restricted due to narrow right of ways and limited points of entry. As a result, there will be challenges for the Department accessing the River with large vehicles; this could result in delays of providing adequate assistance. The Department of General Services and LAPD personnel will often be the first responders to an emergency incident. As such, it will be imperative that personnel be proficiently trained in the inherent swift water dangers of the River.

Sufficient lighting sources installed throughout the River are vital for public safety. Adequate lighting will also assist first responders and emergency personnel responding

to the River. Access to lighting control overrides should be available by emergency responders during hours of closure.

Public Awareness and Education

An education program must be established to alert the public to the dangers of the River and boundaries along the River. This information must be disseminated to the public within the boundaries of the River, through the Los Angeles Unified School District through Public Service Announcements (PSA), and to the public on a continuous basis. Printed material alone would exceed \$75k annually. The costs associated with the other public outreach education programs through the LFD would be the cost associated with establishing a Disaster Awareness Course (DAC) and the necessary personnel to provide such training.

Projected Associated Costs

1. Non-LFD agencies should be trained and equipped for continuous patrols during those times of use and to evacuate the River upon alert.
 - a. The associated cost to train first responders to assist in land-based rescues and self- rescues are: five-day class for each student with associated instructor costs of \$3,000 per five through seven students. The recurring annual costs would be: one-day refresher class for each student with associated instructor costs of \$750 per five through seven students.
 - b. Costs to equip those patrols with the necessary equipment to provide victims with flotation: \$250.
 - c. The costs are exclusive of any hiring or backfill costs for the students to attend this training.
 - d. The costs associated with providing any lifeguards or patrols are not reflected in the above.
2. Provide call boxes with emergency lights every quarter to half mile along the R River with a throw ring and simple instructions for the public use.
 - a. The cost of these call boxes are not within the scope of the LFD.
3. Provide a marking system to denote location and modify the existing LFD dispatch system to accommodate that.

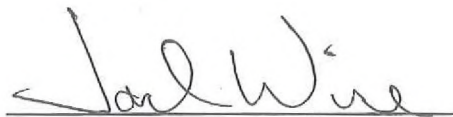
- a. The cost to develop a system along the River by the public is not within the scope of the LFD.
4. The cost to modify the existing LFD dispatch system to accommodate this marking system is unknown but may reach \$150k or higher.
 5. An alert system must be put into place to alert the public within its vicinity to a potential flood or significant increase of the flow of the River or other anticipated danger within. The cost of this alert system is not within the scope of the LFD.
 6. An education program must be established to alert the public to the dangers of the River and boundaries along the River. This information must be disseminated to the public within the boundaries of the River, through the Los Angeles Unified School District through Public Service Announcements (PSA), and to the public on a continuous basis. Printed material alone would exceed \$75k annually. The costs associated with the other public outreach education programs through the LFD would be the cost associated with establishing a Disaster Awareness Course (DAC) and the necessary personnel to provide those programs to the public. Recurring annual costs would be \$850k for the DAC management and another \$90k for training materials. Start-up costs would be approximately \$100k for presentation equipment. These start-up costs would be recurring every five years to replace worn and obsolete presentation equipment. The costs to develop and disseminate PSA are not within the scope of the LFD.
 7. The current deployment model for activation of the Department's SWRT are based on anticipated rainfall and other types of events that would exceed the capability of first responders to effect rescue of persons swept into the River. The current City prohibits the public from entering the boundaries of the River. With the authorized public use and the increased potential of more victims in the River during non-typical times, the Department must increase their response capabilities every day. The recommendation would include the following:
 - a. Establish two additional SWRT that would be available 24/7 to respond to a water related emergency. Those two identified resources would be US&R 3 and US&R 88. Augment equipment on the existing other 4-SWRT to accommodate the increase response need. Start-up cost include:
 - i. Provide US&R 3 and US&R 88 each with two Rescue Water Craft with trailers and tow vehicles at a cost of \$472k.
 - ii. Provide proper SWRT Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for US&R 3 and US&R 88 at a cost of \$1,200 per member with 72 members equal \$86.4k.
 - iii. The cost to train those 72 members in SWRT operations would be \$250k.

- iv. Increase the capability of the four existing SWRT at \$160k per team equals \$640k.
8. Recurring annual costs to maintain the SWRT would include the following:
- i. The cost to maintain training those in SWRT operations would be \$250k annually.
 - ii. Replace worn and obsolete tools and equipment and PPE \$86k annually.
 - iii. Currently staffing allows for 14 days of deployment annually for four teams. The staffing model would be increased by two teams for those same 14 days equal \$134.k annually.
9. For all members of the Department shore based rescue options would be required to be reinforced Department-wide bi-annually at a cost of \$70k annually to train half the LFD each year.
- i. See #1 above for associated costs to train other first responder agencies in shore based rescue of victims.

The attached cost matrix identifies the above associated costs.

CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Project presents a unique concept with ongoing projects lasting for several decades. It is the Department's goal to work in partnership with the Ad Hoc River Committee and City Council to provide recommendations and oversight related to safety of the public. The River project will likely place significant additional burdens upon the Department in subsequent years. The impact of these burdens can be mitigated by implementation of preemptive measures as outlined and extensive consultation between City planners and Department personnel. As public use of the River and parks increases, the Department will respond to emergency calls for service and will monitor and address emerging trends as needed.



Jack Wise, Battalion Chief
Disaster Preparedness Section

Attachments

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT II

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MAYOR

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FIRE CHIEF

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July 23, 2010

Ms. Lupe Vela
Policy Director Ad Hoc Los Angeles River Committee
Office of Councilman Ed P. Reyes
Council District 1
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Vela:

Safety Concerns and Associated Costs for Public Access to the Los Angeles River

As directed, the following are concerns and associated start-up costs from the Los Angeles Fire Department (LFD) for creating public access to the 32 miles of the Los Angeles River (River). As a reminder, this draft report is based on the current preliminary information that was given to this Ad Hoc River Committee and in no way should be indicative of actual needs or costs for the ongoing project once it is put into place.

Concerns

1. Lack of lifeguards or patrols for the public.
2. Lack of a notification system to alert emergency responders to an emergency in this River.
3. There are no identifiers in the River to denote a location of an emergency.
4. Our current dispatch only denotes streets along the River.
5. Lack of an alert system to evacuate the River due to flooding or imminent danger.

6. Lack of public information and education to alert the public to the dangers of the River.
7. Currently Swift Water Rescue Teams (SWRT) are pre-deployed only on anticipated rainfall. Additional LFD first responders will have to be trained and equipped to provide for the public safety on a 24/7 basis.
8. Those allied agencies providing patrol and/or with interests along the River will be required to take first responder training in order to provide safety to the public.

Remedies

1. Non-LFD agencies should be trained and equipped for continuous patrols during those times of use and to evacuate the River upon alert.
 - a. The associated cost to train first responders to assist in land-based rescues and self-rescues are: five-day class for each student with associated instructor costs of \$3,000 per five through seven students.
 - b. The recurring annual costs would be: one-day refresher class for each student with associated instructor costs of \$750 per five to seven students.
 - c. Costs to equip those patrols with the necessary equipment to provide victims with flotation: \$250.
 - d. The costs are exclusive of any hiring or backfill costs for the students to attend this training.
 - e. The costs associated with providing any lifeguards or patrols are not reflected in the above.
2. Provide call boxes with emergency lights every quarter to half mile along the River with a throw ring and simple instructions for the public use.
 - a. The cost of these call boxes are not within the scope of the LFD.
3. Provide a marking system to denote location and modify the existing LFD dispatch system to accommodate that.
 - a. The cost to develop a system along the River by the public is not within the scope of the LFD.

4. The cost to modify the existing LFD dispatch system to accommodate this marking system is unknown but may reach \$150k or higher.
5. An alert system must be put into place to alert the public within its vicinity to a potential flood or significant increase of the flow of the River or other anticipated danger within. The cost of this alert system is not within the scope of the LFD.
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7. The current deployment model for activation of the LFD SWRT are based on anticipated rainfall and other types of events that would exceed the capability of first responders to effect rescue of persons swept into the River. The current City prohibits the public from entering the boundaries of the River. With the authorized public use and the increased potential of more victims in the River during non-typical times, the LFD must increase their response capabilities every day. The recommendation would include the following:
 - a. Establish two additional SWRT that would be available 24/7 to respond to a water related emergency. Those two identified resources would be US&R 3 and US&R 88. Augment equipment on the existing other 4-SWRT to accommodate the increase response need. Start-up cost include:
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 - iii. The cost to train those 72 members in SWRT operations would be \$250k.
 - iv. Increase the capability of the four existing SWRT at \$160k per team equal \$640k.

Ms. Lupe Vela
July 23, 2010
Page 4

Recurring annual costs to maintain the SWRT would include the following:

1. The cost to maintain training those in SWRT operations would be \$250k annually.
 2. Replace worn and obsolete tools and equipment and PPE \$86k annually.
 3. Currently staffing allows for 14 days of deployment annually for four teams. The staffing model would be increased by two teams for those same 14 days equal \$134.k annually.
8. For all members of the LFD shore based rescue options would be required to be reinforced LFD wide bi-annually at a cost of \$70k annually to train half the LFD each year.
- a. See #1 above for associated costs to train other first responder agencies in shore based rescue of victims.

If you have any questions or need future assistance, please contact Battalion Chief Jack Wise at the Disaster Preparedness Section (818) 756-9678.

Very truly yours,

MARIO RUEDA
Deputy Chief, Bureau of Emergency Services



Jack Wise, Battalion Chief
Commander, Disaster Preparedness Section
LFD Representative to the Ad Hoc Los Angeles River Community

MP:JW/cl

Attachment

LFD COST ESTIMATES FOR THE AD HOC LOS ANGELES RIVER COMMITTEE

Non-LFD First Responder Training - Five Day Class	\$3,000 per 5-7 Students
Non-LFD Annual First Responder Training – One Day Refresher	\$750 per 5-7 Students
LFD Annual First Responder Training	\$70k
Cost of Lifeguards or Patrols	Unknown
Call Boxes with Throw Rings Every ¼ - ½ Mile	Unknown
Marking System Along River	Unknown
Cost to Modify Dispatch System	Unknown
Cost to Install and Maintain Alert System	Unknown
Annual Cost of Printed Public Education Material	\$75k
Annual Cost to Staff LFD DAC Unit	\$850k
Annual Training Material For DAC	\$90k
Start-up Costs for DAC Recurring Every 5 Years	\$100k
PSA Development and Presentations	Unknown
Augment US&R 3 and US&R 88 Start-Up Cost	\$472k
Additional Annual Cost for PPE	\$86.4k
Annual Training for SWRT	\$250k
Increase the Capabilities of the Current 4-SWRT	\$640k
Annual Cost to Increase Staffing for US&R 3 and US&R 88 on High Hazard Days	\$134k
TOTAL of know costs	\$2,771,150.00