



Dear Committee Member Cedillo,

On behalf of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation, I write to express our support for the establishment of a new Supplemental Use District called the Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay (RIO) District and the first RIO District for the Los Angeles River, as proposed in the LA River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP). The enabling ordinance and first district (LA-RIO) are excellent mechanisms to ensure the health of the LA River watershed. In addition, we see the Supplemental Use District and resulting RIO District as tools that will help: (1) make connections from river-adjacent property to river parks and greenways, (2) support native habitat, and (3) promote pedestrian and bicycle access to the river.

As you know, the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation (LA River Corp) is a non-profit venture charged with catalyzing sustainable development along the Los Angeles River. We apply an entrepreneurial approach to the implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP), our blueprint to restore the river's ecological functions and transform it into a valuable, celebrated resource for the City.

The LA River Corp believes the first RIO District (LA-RIO) will help implement the LARRMP by focusing on the establishment of a distinct, sustainable environment in the river's surrounding neighborhoods, including guidelines for both private property and public rights-of-way. One of the major benefits of the LA-RIO is that the majority of the guidelines proposed are low-cost, low-tech solutions that will result in long-term region-wide quality of life improvements for communities along the LA River corridor.

It is vital that you support the RIO ordinances to enable the city to better coordinate land use development all along the city's 32-mile corridor of the LA River. Now is the time given the US Army Corps of Engineer's recommendation of Alternative 20 and the large influx of both private and public investment that the LA River Corridor will see in the next ten to twenty years.

Sincerely,

Omar Brownson
Executive Director



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July 1, 2014

Planning & Land Use Management Committee

Los Angeles City Council

200 N. Spring St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support - LA River Improvement Overlay (RIO) District and first RIO District