



01/24/2017

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers and Mayor Garcetti,

Re: Council File Number: 13- 1641

Council File Title: Taylor Yard G2 Parcel / Union Pacific Railroad Company / Potential Acquisitions

On behalf of Friends of the Los Angeles River, I write to you today in fervent support of the City's purchase of the G2 parcel. For over 30 years, Friends of the Los Angeles River have worked to create an enduring vision for the LA River that acknowledges both her ecological health and potential benefit to her communities. Under your steadfast leadership, a regionally transformative future for this precious urban waterway has been charted and now begins to take root. Together, we supported the completion and adoption of ARBOR and Alternative 20 - a crucial first step towards ensuring a multi-beneficial future Los Angeles River. Today, we stand at the brink of moving this precedent-setting plan into reality as you consider the purchase of the G2 parcel. As the "crown jewel" of Alternative 20, we strongly urge you to approve the purchase of the Taylor Yard's G2 parcel.

The purchase of the G2 will represent the City's first major land acquisition towards Los Angeles River restoration as proposed in *ARBOR's Alternative 20* and the City's 2007 *Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan*. As part of Alternative 20, it will help create 2,671 new long-term jobs, \$4.8 billion in labor revenue, and restore 719 riparian acres to a more natural state. The G2 parcel is one of the critical linchpins in ARBOR's success and is decades in the making. It provides unique potential for a more natural and dynamic LA River that supports flood risk through historic floodplain reclamation, provides significant ecological habitat restoration, and augments connectivity to the Rio de Los Angeles State Park.

In these uncertain times, committing to this investment in our community and our River is important now more than ever. With \$375.8M allocated to ARBOR for the federal cost share in the recently passed WIIN/WRDA and a \$25M purchase contribution from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), the River's financial outlook is more positive than ever.

FGLAS

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You continue to have our commitment as your partner in identifying and securing funds for implementation.

From one Friend of the River to another, I ask you to take a concrete step towards the future that we have built together and close escrow on the G2 parcel. The River and FoLAR thank you for your leadership.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Christiansen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Marissa Christiansen
Executive Director