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**BUREAU OF
ENGINEERING**

GARY LEE MOORE, PE, ENV SP
CITY ENGINEER

1149 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 700
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015-2213

<http://eng.lacity.org>

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
c/o Holly L. Wolcott
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

**REVISED: UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOS ANGELES RIVER
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY OR "ARBOR STUDY" NEXT
STEP REQUIREMENTS (C.F. 14-1158-S1)**

Dear Honorable Members:

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles (City) has been serving as the local or Non-Federal Sponsor of the Federal United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study also known as the "ARBOR Study" (Study) since 2006. The County of Los Angeles and Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) have served as City partners in the Study. The Study is on track for completion in 2015 and will result in the recommendation of a preferred plan to restore ecosystem values to approximately 11 miles of the Los Angeles River (River) from Griffith Park to 1st Street in Downtown Los Angeles in Council Districts 1, 4, 13, and 14.

The Study's recommended plan, widely known as "Alternative 20" and now known as "Plan P" (Project), will be cost-shared between the Federal government and the City with its partners as Non-Federal Sponsor. The Project will be constructed by the USACE and owned and operated by the City and its partners. In providing new public access to restored natural open space from both banks of the River, this restoration effort will be the most far-reaching, systematic intervention since the River was channelized for flood control purposes and is within walking-distance of thousands of people.



NEXT STEPS

According to USACE procedure, for the project to be considered for approval by the USACE at its Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) in late June, the City must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) affirming its commitment to the Project as Non-Federal Sponsor and complete a "Non-Federal Sponsor's Self-Certification of Financial Capability for Decision Documents" form demonstrating its capability to meet its obligations. Detailed financial information is not required to be submitted by the non-Federal sponsor nor is it assessed. The self-certification statement advances the Project for consideration by the USACE's CWRB. According to the USACE, submitting these by March 31, 2015, places the Project on track for approval via consideration by the CWRB in late June. The City Council will consider the Project and its associated costs for approval at a later date, subsequent to the CWRB's approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bureau of Engineering recommends that the following happen by March 31, 2015:

1. The City Administrative Officer or equivalent official completes and signs the "Non-Federal Sponsor's Self-Certification of Financial Capability for Decision Documents" form for the Project; and
2. The City Engineer, complete and sign the "Non-Federal Sponsor's Letter of Intent" for the Project and submit it with the above-referenced form to the USACE on behalf of the City.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 485-4935.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Lee Moore".

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer

GLM:kjd

Q:\GLM\City Engineer\ARBOR Study Next Steps 031615.docx

Attachments:

1. Non-Federal Sponsor's Self-Certification of Financial Capability for Decision Documents form (1 page)
2. City of LA Non-Federal Sponsor's Letter of Intent from City Engineer to LA District Commander (2 pages) Revised March 16, 2015

cc: Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer

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March 16, 2015

Colonel Kimberly M. Colloton, PMP
Commander and District Engineer
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90053

LOS ANGELES RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT: LETTER OF INTENT

Dear Colonel Colloton:

The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Los Angeles's (City's) support for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps') Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Project, also known as "Alternative 20." The City confirms its intent to participate as a Non-Federal Sponsor for the design and construction of this critical project that will restore ecosystem values along 11 miles of the Los Angeles River, impacting millions of people in the Nation's second largest urban region.

This restoration project will be implemented in an area of unique biological character—within one of only five global Mediterranean-type climate regions and the only one in the US; within one of the worlds' top 25 biodiversity loss hotspots (the California Floristic Province) and the only one in the US; and within a significant international bird migratory treaty path (the Pacific Flyway). Additionally, this project will directly benefit thousands of residents in neighborhoods that were divided by the river's channelization and who have been historically-underserved in terms of access to nature and environmental education/stewardship opportunities.

The City has appreciated the opportunity to serve as Non-Federal Sponsor of this effort since 2006. The City fully understands both of the cost-sharing options included in the Recommended Plan and acknowledges its financial capability to cost-share in either case. The City also reserves the right to seek further consideration of cost-sharing options. The City understands that this letter of intent does not financially commit the City to future expenditures without execution of a formal agreement with the Army.

Attached please find the Non-Federal Sponsor's Financial Self-Certification for Decision Documents. We look forward to participating in the Civil Works Review Board this June and subsequently celebrating the Recommended Plan's approval. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: (213) 485-4935.

Sincerely,

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer

Attachment: Non-Federal Sponsor's Financial Self-Certification for Decision Documents

cc: Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles
Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, District Thirteen; Chair, Los Angeles City Council Arts,
Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee
Rick Jacobs, Assistant Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Rick Cole, Deputy Mayor of Budget and Innovation
Barbara Romero, Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commissioner
Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer
Deborah Weintraub, AIA, LEED_{AP}, Chief Deputy City Engineer
Carol Armstrong, Mayor's LARiverWorks Team
Michael Affeldt, Mayor's LARiverWorks Team

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR'S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
FOR DECISION DOCUMENTS**

I, _____do hereby certify that I am the City Administrative Officer or Equivalent Official:_____of the City of Los Angeles (the "Non-Federal Sponsor"); that I am aware of the financial obligations of the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report's Recommended Project; and that the Non-Federal Sponsor will have the financial capability to satisfy the Non-Federal Sponsor's obligations for that project. I understand that the Government's acceptance of this self-certification shall not be construed as obligating either the Government or the Non-Federal Sponsor to implement a project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification this _____ day of _____, 2015.

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____