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August 4, 2017

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
Arts, Parks, and River Committee
Los Angeles, City Council

c/o Eric Villanueva
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

**COUNCIL FILE NO. 16-0639 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER
PLAN: PROGRESS REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER 2016 THROUGH JULY 2017**

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell and Honorable Members:

SUMMARY

In 2014 via Council File No. 11-0098-S5, the City Council directed the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to continue to provide regular status reports on implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP). Please find the latest report attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Note and file the report.

Sincerely,

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
City Engineer

Q:\GLM\City Engineer\GLM Signed Documents\2017 Documents\LA River Revitalization Master Plan Recent Progress Report 08042017.pdf

Attachment: Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Progress Report

cc: Barbara Romero, Office of the Mayor
Dr. Carol Armstrong, Office of the Mayor
Ted Bardacke, Office of the Mayor
Heather Repenning, Board of Public Works
Joel Jacinto, Board of Public Works
Deborah Weintraub, Bureau of Engineering
Michael Affeldt, LA RiverWorks, Office of the Mayor



Los Angeles River Revitalization Progress Report

In response to Council File 16-0639

August 4, 2017

Los Angeles River Project Highlights

- G-2: The City finalized its purchase of the Taylor Yard G2 property in March 2017 (see Council File 13-1641). The Bureau of Engineering released a Task for Solicitation for interim and long-term site design and soil cleanup. The G2 Task Force (BOE, CAO, CLA, GSD, City Attorney, BOS, CD 1, CD 13, Mayor's Office) is working to enact a lease agreement with Metrolink, establish a cleanup agreement with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and complete an easement sale over a portion of the site to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for an expected \$20 million. The MRCA will seek funding for the purchase from the Wildlife Conservation Board at its August 24, 2017 meeting in Sacramento.
- LARiverWay: West Valley Bikeway and Greenway Design (CDs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): The Bureau of Engineering is completing a feasibility study with the design team led by Gruen Associates. We presented the proposed bikeway alignment alternatives on June 21, 2017 to Council Offices 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. BOE is currently beginning a series of public engagement meetings to present the findings. Measure M, approved by Los Angeles County voters in November 2016, will provide \$60 million toward project implementation. The final report with cost estimates will be done by the end of 2017.
- LARiverWay: Downtown LA Gap Closure Project (CDs 1, 14): This Metro-led project will complete the LARiverWay through Downtown Los Angeles. Metro is preparing to release a request for design services in late 2017. Measure M will provide \$365 million toward project implementation.
- LARiverWay: Formerly LA Riverfront Park Bikeway & Greenway (CD 2): Phase II of this ½-mile segment of the LARiverWay (Coldwater Ave to Whitsett Ave) is in construction and is expected to open to the public in late 2017. Phase I (Sepulveda Blvd to Kester Ave) opened in June 2015. This Proposition K project is being managed by the Bureau of Engineering and will become a facility of the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- LARiverWay: BOE and LARiverWorks submitted a funding application in May 2017 to the USDOT's Federal Lands Access Program to build a 3-mile segment of the LARiverWay in CDs 3, 5, and 6. Shortlisted projects will be announced in the fall of 2017.
- Los Angeles River & Aliso Creek Confluence Park (CD 3): The park opened in summer 2016, and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is developing Phase II of the park which will include trails along the LA River and a pre-fabricated bridge to span Aliso Creek. Design is at 60% Construction Documents, and TPL is pursuing grant funding to complete design and installation.
- Albion Riverside Park (CD 1): Councilmember Cedillo, Mayor Garcetti, Senator Kevin de León, and others broke ground on the project on May 6, 2017. The park will feature Proposition O-funded water quality features, sports fields and walking paths. The Park is at 15% construction completion, and expands an existing Recreation and Parks facility.
- Taylor Yard Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge (CD 1 & 13): Construction documents are at 75% on this pedestrian and bicycle bridge which will link the communities of Elysian Valley and Cypress Park once complete. Construction is anticipated to start in the Summer of

2018 and be completed by December 2020. Metro is committed to funding construction of the bridge, which is estimated at \$21.7 million.

- North Atwater Multi-Modal Bridge (CD 13 & 4): This iconic cable-stayed bridge across the LA River will connect Atwater Village to Griffith Park and received City Council approval on May 26, 2017. The Bureau of Engineering is leading construction. The project was awarded on June 2, 2017.
- River of Beauty (CD 4): The proposed project will install a mural on the east bank channel wall of the LA River across from Griffith Park's Ferraro Field. Project proponent Unycyn Civic Arts is performing initial permit coordination and expects installation to be complete by September 2018.
- Caballero Creek and LA River Confluence Park (CD 3): The MRCA, in coordination with RAP and Councilmember Blumenfield's office has reached 75% design on the project, which is expecting to break ground by July 2018.
- Sepulveda Basin Waterways: RAP is working with USACE on three small-scale concept projects for restoring the LA River, Encino Creek, and Woodley Creek within the Sepulveda Basin.
- Lincoln Heights Jail: The CAO's office is fielding proposals to redevelop the Lincoln Heights Jail facility in Lincoln Heights, fulfilling an LARRMP project.
- Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement and PARC Project (CD 14): The Viaduct is in construction. The PARC project is in design for the open space and river access improvements, with a robust public outreach effort.

Los Angeles River Governance

- The Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee most recently met on July 9, 2017. The Committee recommended the River of Beauty mural project, which advances Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) Public Art Recommendations #5.15 and #5.16, and heard informational items on the Sixth Street Bridge Project PARC elements (BOE) and an overview of last year's CURRENT:LA Water public art biennial (DCA). The City will host the next meeting on October 2, 2017. YTD the LARCC has recommended the following projects: Arundo donax Eradication in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed (Council for Watershed Health) and the Rio Vistas Project (River LA).
- The Lower Los Angeles River Working Group is continuing to develop a plan and is finalizing a statement of goals and objectives. The most recent Working Group meeting was held on August 3, 2017 in the City of Maywood.
- Los Angeles County is planning to update its 1996 51-mile LA River Master Plan beginning in early 2018. Further details are not yet available.
- Public Works Vice President Heather Repenning, with the LARiverWorks office, is convening a regular City inter-departmental LA River Task Force to coordinate major projects and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Partnerships

- The City welcomed an international Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission delegation from Quezon City, Philippines during Filipino Heritage Month in October 2016 to sign a Sister River Resolution with the Pasig River. This partnership celebrates the revitalization of both rivers and serves as a connection between the Los Angeles Filipino community and the Philippines. It is LA River's fifth Sister River Agreement.

Federal Projects

- The Los Angeles City Council-adopted Recommended Plan of the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (ARBOR) received authorization by US Congress in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in December 2016. The project is now authorized for implementation and eligible for future funding appropriation for both design and construction funding. The City and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are determining the proposed scope of the first phase of the project's implementation, and BOE will seek authority from the City Council to execute a Design Agreement with USACE in the coming weeks.

State and Regional Projects and Programs

- Mayor Garcetti joined Governor Brown and others to open the Los Angeles State Historic Park adjacent to the LA River on April 22, 2017.
- The California High Speed Rail Authority is expected to release its EIR for the Burbank to Union Station segment in the fall of 2017.
- Metro is continuing to evaluate project alternatives for the Doran Street safety and access project in North Atwater Village.

Events, Outreach, and Activities

- The City's Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget allocated funding for a LA River-focused HOPE team to focus on outreach to people experiencing homelessness in the LA River, and to execute cleanup work when necessary.
- The Department of Recreation and Park launched and inaugural "Summer: Down by the River" program of six events to activate four river-adjacent parks (N Atwater Park, Ferraro Fields, N Weddington Park and Reseda Park) with family-friendly activities.
- In the spring of 2017, BOE worked with seven design firms to create visioning concepts for the river through Downtown LA - the LA River Downtown Design Dialogue. The inspiring results were displayed at LA River Day 2017, where the firms were honored, and are hosted at www.lariver.org.
- Various City staff participated in panels, discussions, and other engagement activities about the LA River, including "River Talk" capstone project by UCLA Bohnett Fellow Andrew Stricklin: USC Architecture Studio and LA Trade Tech Urban River Labs, American Association of University Women - Whittier Chapter, Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, CURRENT:LA Water hub, LA River Expeditions, Cal State LA and Cal State Northridge, LA River Valley
- Bikeway and Greenway Community Meetings, Draft: L.A.: Networking For People Who Love Bikes, the Association of California Water Agencies, the American Society of Landscape Architects' Sustainability Symposium, and others.

Other Notable LA River Related Events

- 09/19/16: [Parking] Day pop-up in Chinatown hosted by NPS, CA State Parks and LARiverWorks to celebrate the NPS centennial, promote the re-opening of the LA State Historic Park, and highlight LA River programs.
- 10/02/16: Natural History Museum's LIFE IN THE L.A. RIVER panel discussion
- 10/08/16: Los Angeles River Adventure at Greenbuild International Conference & Expo
- 10/08/16: LA River Panel at New Urbanism Film Festival
- 10/08/16: The FoLAR Fandango - Take Me to the River (celebrating 30 years of LA River activism)
- 10/15/16: Natural History Museum's Citizen Science Meet-up: Rio Hondo BioBlitz
- 10/22/16: City of LA and the Pasig River delegation signed a Sister River Resolution
- 10/24/16: American Planning Association, LARiverWorks moderated an LA River panel and spoke at a LA River mobile bike tour
- 10/29/16: Architecture + Design Museum's podcast panel, Next Up: LA River
- 11/07/16: USACE Glendale Narrows Workshop
- 12/10/16: CD 13 LA River Community Meeting
- 02/07-08/17: CD 14 and BOE's Sixth Street Viaduct Mobility Park, Arts and River Commons (M-PARC) Community Meetings
- 02/09/17: ULI Forum "Navigating the LA River: Real Estate Opportunities and Challenges"
- 03/22/17: Occidental College's "City on the Verge: Mayor Eric Garcetti and Christopher Hawthorne in Conversation" (about the LA River and Olympics)
- 03/28 and 3/30/17: CD 14 and BOE's Sixth Street Viaduct Mobility Park, Arts and River Commons (M-PARC) Community Meetings
- April 2017: FoLAR broke records at its 28th annual Great Clean Up, enlisting 10,000 volunteers and removing 100 tons of trash from the LA River over three Saturdays in the month of April.
- 04/11-04/13/17: Metro's I-710 Corridor Bike Path Project Community Meetings
- 04/22/17: CD 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's Annual Community Bike Ride (including LA River and LA River-adjacent parks)
- 04/26/17: StimULI Breakfast – Breaking New Ground on the LA River: The Future of the River and Real Estate
- 05/03/17: BOE's Sixth Street PARC Project - EIR - Public Scoping Meeting
- FoLAR's Summer 2017 Programming at The Frog Spot including new event series like, "Policy at the River - FoLAR Series"
- MRCA's 2017 Neighborhood Nights at the Los Angeles River Center
- River LA's Micro Grant Activation events for Rio Vistas project
- 06/04/17: Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's 17th Annual Los Angeles River Ride
- 06/07/17: 4th Annual LA River Day
- 06/19/17: Alliance of River Communities Meeting
- 06/29/17: Metro's Active Transportation Rail to River Corridor Project Community Meeting