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JON KIRK MUKRI
GENERAL MANAGER

June 8, 2010

Honorable Ed P. Reyes, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River
Los Angeles City Council
c/o City Clerk, ATTN: Maria Espinoza
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Reyes and Honorable Members:

**COUNCIL FILE NO. 07-1342-S5 - LOS ANGELES RIVER ACCESS AND USES
REPORT - RECOMMENDATION NO. 2**

At the instruction of the City Council (Council File No. 07-1342-S5) the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) was directed to report to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River. The report is to include a process and key projects to identify resources for maintenance, maintenance personnel and associated equipment, existing barriers to public river access, including physical hazards, and solutions to those existing barriers in order to facilitate safe public access to all or portions of the 32-mile river corridor within the City.

Currently, the Los Angeles River is maintained by a number of agencies and organizations, and falls under several jurisdictions within the City, County, and Army Corps of Engineers. RAP operates and maintains a number of parks and facilities along, or adjacent to, the Los Angeles River; including Griffith Park, Elysian Park, and the Sepulveda Basin.

In 2008 the City adopted (Council File No. 07-1342-S4) the Los Angeles River Memorandum of Understanding (River MOU) with the County of Los Angeles (County). Section 4 of the River MOU specified that the City and County would cooperate with each other to develop a Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement that would establish the general rights and responsibilities of each party with respect to the use, by the City, of County property within the Los Angeles River. The River MOU further specified that the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement shall, at a minimum, address the following: (1) operation and maintenance issues, including but not limited to trash and rubbish removal, graffiti removal, repairs, landscaping, and public access; (2) liability, including but not limited to insurance and indemnification requirements; and, (3) security, including but not limited to patrolling by law enforcement and the prevention of criminal or dangerous activities.

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In order to develop the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement, RAP staff, along with staff from the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering's Los Angeles River Project Office and personnel from various other City agencies, departments, and offices, has been participating in a monthly Staff Focus Group with representatives from the County.

The Staff Focus Group is currently working to identify the types of maintenance and security services that are anticipated to be provided under the proposed Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement. While a significant amount of progress has been made towards the development of the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement the Staff Focus Group has not yet determined the expected maintenance and security functions nor developed a set of performance standards and requirements.

As the proposed Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement is further developed and refined, RAP staff will continue to coordinate with the appropriate City agencies, departments, and offices to identify and secure sufficient funding to support the activities associated with its implementation.

Providing for the recreation and park needs of residents of Los Angeles' diverse communities is one of the greatest challenges facing the City. RAP is committed to expanding the amount and quality of public parkland and open space in the City of Los Angeles; particularly in those communities along the Los Angeles River that lack sufficient park space to meet the needs of area residents. RAP will continue to participate in the Staff Focus Group, along with other City representatives, to further the development of the Los Angeles River Master Use Agreement.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Darryl Ford, of my staff, at (213) 202-2682.

Sincerely,


JON KIRK MUKRI
General Manager

JKM/MAS/DF:ls