

10-0270-53
Related CFS 06-0496
07-1342 & 58

AUG 07 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, recognizing the environmental degradation occurring in and along the Los Angeles River within the City's boundaries, the City Council authorized the Board of Public Works to execute an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the *Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study* also known as the ARBOR Study (Study), committing the City to a fifty (50) percent share of the cost as local sponsor (C.F. 06-0496), which was increased in 2009 as the total Study cost was raised to nine million seven hundred ten thousand dollars (\$9,710,000) (C.F. 07-1342-S8); and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the County of Los Angeles contributed one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) to the Study because of the Study's role in furthering its Los Angeles River restoration goals (C.F. 07-1342-S8); and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR), the longest-standing advocacy group supporting restoration of the river, committed nine hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$970,000) to the Study for its completion (C.F. 10-0270-S2); and

WHEREAS, The Study is consistent with the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, which includes direction to "Reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways..." and to "Build upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing neighborhood parks..." asking federal agencies to "...determine how the Federal Government can best advance those priorities through public private partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies"; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles River watershed was selected as one of only seven nationwide first-phase pilots of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, an implementation piece of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, which aims to "stimulate regional and local economies, create local jobs, improve quality of life, and protect Americans' health by revitalizing urban waterways in under-served communities across the country" and the Study was selected as the top priority of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the Corps has developed a final array of four "best buy" alternatives for the Study and only one of those alternatives includes both significant restoration at the Los Angeles River's confluence with the Verdugo Wash near the City's border with the City of Glendale, and the only substantial western bank connection—providing a profound hydrological link between the Los Angeles State Historic Park (Cornfields site) and the river, leveraging a significant investment made by the State of California toward river restoration; and

WHEREAS, The City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan identified these two "opportunity areas" as critical opportunities for restoration (C.F. 07-1342);

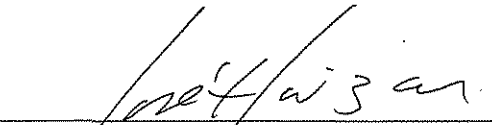


NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RESOLVED, that the Council, with the concurrence of the Mayor, by the adoption of this Resolution, endorses a Study alternative that results in the most expansive ecosystem restoration, specifically that in which includes the following priorities for the City of Los Angeles:

- Verdugo Wash Confluence
- Taylor Yard/Bowtie
- Taylor Yard/G-2
- Arroyo Seco Confluence
- Cornfields LA State Historic Park
- Piggyback Yard (Union Pacific Railroad)

Presented By: 
MITCH O'FARRELL, COUNCILMEMBER 13th District


GIL CEDILLO, COUNCILMEMBER 1st District

Seconded by: 



ORIGINAL