



JAN PERRY
COUNCILWOMAN
NINTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

January 28, 2012

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY &
GENERAL SERVICES
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MEMBER

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, Chair
Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Vice Chair
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Member
Ad Hoc River Committee

Re: Item 4 – Motion (Perry – LaBonge) relative to the eradication and loss of habitat in the San Fernando Valley Sepulveda Basin

Dear Councilmember Reyes:

Before you today is a motion I introduced on January 4th after reading in the *Los Angeles Times* and *Daily News* articles about the actions taken by the Army Corp of Engineers at the Sepulveda Basin. Both papers reported that 43 acres of natural brush and shrubbery were cleared by the Corp with little notice to the surrounding communities.

The habitat and its vegetation dates back to the 1980s and is part of an Army Corp project. The action came as a surprise to many since, as recently as 2010, the Army Corps' intent was to create a "vegetation management area" within five years that would replace trees and shrubs with native grasses in the area.

I have personally met with Colonel Toy of the Army Corp of Engineers and have a better idea of the vegetation management project that they are undertaking. I applaud his efforts for working to rectify the public outcry through planned community engagement. I look forward to continuing to work with the Army Corps, and the Audubon Society as well as the many other community groups that are engaged in the betterment of the Los Angeles River. I recommend that the Army Corp work with all groups that would like to participate in the restoration of the Sepulveda Basin as the river and its development impacts many communities.

Additionally, I request that this Committee direct the Bureau of Sanitation work with the California Department of Fish and Game to review the bird and fish habitats that have been affected by the changes to the Sepulveda Basin area, to develop a strategy of how to move forward with the Army Corp to ensure no further damage is reaped on this basin, and to provide a written report to ensure transparency moving forward.

I appreciate everyone who is working together to ensure that we develop an open process that engages and informs the community. The Sepulveda Basin and the LA River are rare gems in the City and must be developed and cared for with a clear sense of purpose and community engagement.

Sincerely,

Jan Perry
Councilwoman, Ninth District

