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MICHAEL A. SHULL
GENERAL MANAGER

April 14, 2016

Los Angeles City Council Arts, Parks and River Committee
c/o City Clerk's Office
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Eric Villanueva

Dear Honorable Members:

This information is being provided to the Arts, Parks and River Committee regarding Council File #14-0222-S2, concerning the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone and the ability of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to manage recreation activities in the designated recreation zone.

In response to strong community interest in expanding access to the Los Angeles River, the City Council established a pilot program in 2011 to allow recreational activities and public access to the Los Angeles River. As a result, in February 2014 the City Council adopted a motion (Council File #14-0222) to allow the MRCA to manage the program on a year-to-year basis. The City also received a Letter of No Objection from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to allow these activities to take place. The Recreation Zone operates from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and consists of a variety of recreational activities that include fishing, bird watching, hiking, and kayaking.

The City Council's action granted the MRCA authority to manage the Recreation Zone utilizing its existing park ordinance to preserve, protect, and maintain the area. Recently, the City Council also adopted a motion (Council File #14-0222-S2) requesting the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to work with various other city agencies to look at continuing this program and expanding the MRCA's authority for a longer time period.

RAP is prepared to work closely with MRCA, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the City Attorney's Office, and the City Administrator's Office (CAO) to discuss and effectuate the intent of the motion while determining the best methodology for sustained operations of the Los Angeles River's Recreational Zone.



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However, RAP does not currently have funding in its budget to manage or operate this program. While the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone is a recreational activity, it is important to note that RAP has no jurisdiction over the Los Angeles River. Therefore, any evaluation of any programs or operations of the Los Angeles River would need to include appropriate levels of authority, funding strategies, and the resolution of any jurisdictional issues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager

KEVIN W. REGAN
Assistant General Manager
Operations Branch

MAS:KWR/sa