

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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When making inquiries relative to  
this matter, please refer to the  
Council File No.

February 26, 2014

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File No. 14-0222,  
at its meeting held February 25, 2014.

City Clerk  
WRQ

174-0222

prior CF 11-1403

FEB 18 2014

MOTION

In March 2013, the Council adopted a Motion (CF# 11-1403) to conduct the Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program in partnership with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The Pilot Program stemmed from strong community interest in expanded public access to the Los Angeles River.

The Recreational Zone Pilot Program took place in the summer of 2013 (from Memorial Day to Labor Day); and consisted of various recreational activities such as non-motorized boating (kayaking), fishing, bird watching and hiking. The boundary of the Pilot Program included the river stretch between Fletcher Avenue/Rattlesnake Park to the North and the Confluence Park/Egret Park to the South.

The Council's action also granted the MRCA the authority to manage the designated Recreational Zone area and utilize its Park Ordinance to preserve, protect and maintain the area. In turn, the City's public safety personnel provided police and fire protection services.

In addition, the MRCA and various Council Districts were requested to create a community advisory committee to assess the function of the Pilot Program and provide recommendations for a potential permanent program. A Community Advisory Committee was subsequently formed consisting of members from the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council, the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council, MRCA and the National Park Service.

On February 10, 2014, the Community Advisory Committee presented its *Summary Report and Recommendations/Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program 2013* to the Council's Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee. The report contained a thorough assessment of the Pilot Program's elements and its high participation rates.

The report noted that extensive community surveys and town hall meetings were conducted to determine impacts on the local community. The feedback received was very positive and contained an expressed desire for increased green space; and interest in an expanded and permanent river recreational zone program.

Given this, the Community Advisory Committee's report recommended the implementation of a permanent program and to grant the MRCA continued authority to manage the program subject to its Park Ordinance. The report also requested that the City and its partners identify potential funding for an expanded and on-going program.

The MRCA urged the City to immediately re-authorize it to manage the River Recreational Zone Program for the summer 2014 season. Immediate re-authorization will allow the MRCA to ensure the season kick-off on Memorial Day – May 26, 2014 through Labor Day – September 1, 2014. The MRCA has ensured that it will provide minimum funding/in-kind services for the Program; yet it can benefit from additional funding to expand Program services.

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