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May 25, 2016

#1 BOE

City Council
Room No. 395
City Hall

Subject: **THE LOS ANGELES RIVER (RIVER) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT (IFR): CERTIFICATION OF FINAL FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIS/EIR) AND ADOPTION OF IFR RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDED PLAN ALTERNATIVE 20 TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED LOS ANGELES RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT**

As recommended in the accompanying report of the City Engineer, which this Board has adopted, the Board of Public Works hereby recommends that your Honorable Body:

1. Certify that the Final River Ecosystem Restoration IFR/EIR (Transmittal No. 1) was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); the Final River Ecosystem Restoration IFR and EIS/EIR was presented to the City Council, as the decision-making body of the City, and that the City Council reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final River Ecosystem Restoration IFR and EIS/EIR; and that the Final River Ecosystem Restoration IFR and EIS/EIR reflects and expresses the City's independent judgment and analysis;
2. Adopt the attached CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations (Transmittal No. 2);
3. Find that Recommended Plan, Alternative 20, which is also the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP), if implemented, would result in unavoidable significant impacts to land use.
4. Find that five other project alternatives (No Project Alternative, 10, 13, 13v, and 16) which were co-equally analyzed, either result in similar environmental impacts or if they result in fewer, or avoid, environmental impacts relative to the Recommended Plan, Alternative 20, they do not adequately meet Project objectives.
5. Find that the benefits of the Project outweigh the significant and unavoidable environmental impacts of the Recommended Plan, Alternative 20, related to Air Quality and Land Use.
6. Approve the Recommended Plan, Alternative 20, for implementation of the Project, as identified in the Final River Ecosystem Restoration IFR and EIS/EIR with consideration of the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP);



7. Instruct Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and staff, prior to completion of the Project Partnership Agreement with USACE, to execute an Intra-Agency Agreement among relevant City departments regarding how to implement mitigation monitoring and reporting responsibilities in the MMRP.
8. Adopt the MMRP (Transmittal No. 3);
9. Find that all information added to the Final EIS/EIR after public notice of the Draft River Ecosystem Restoration IFR and EIS/EIR availability for review, but before certification, merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes minor modifications to an adequate CEQA document and recirculation is not necessary.
10. Find that the documents constituting the record of proceedings in this matter are in the custody of the City Clerk located at 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, in the files of the Department of Public Works BOE located at 1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015, and in the files of any other relevant departments of the City.
11. Review and Consider the attached final report of the USACE's Chief of Engineers (Chief Report) (Transmittal No. 4), which discusses cost-sharing and other partnership requirements for Project implementation and recommendations for consideration by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and, subsequently, by the United States Congress;
12. Instruct staff to file the attached Notice of Determination (Transmittal No. 5) within five working days of City Council certification of the EIS/EIR and approval of the Project.
13. Forward a copy of the adopting City Council Report, to the Department of City Planning and Planning Commission, Department of Recreation and Parks Board Commissioners, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board of Commissioners to take concurring CEQA actions as necessary, in consultation with the City Attorney, prior to completion of the Project Partnership Agreement with the USACE.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City, as Non-Federal Sponsor of the Project, is required to provide Project-ready lands for implementation of the ecosystem restoration measures, and bear the cost of the LERRD. The LERRD costs for the Project area estimated to be \$771,025,000, approximately 57 percent of the total Project cost.

In addition, the City, as Non-Federal Sponsor, would also contribute \$200,783 for Ecosystem Restoration (Design and Construction) and \$9,027,000 for Recreation (Design and Construction). Total contribution is anticipated at \$980,835,000.

Respectfully submitted,



Fernando Campos, Executive Officer
Board of Public Works