

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 27, 2017

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst
Council File No: 17-0002-S56
Assignment No. 17-04-0454

SUBJECT: Resolution (Wesson – Martinez) to SUPPORT AB 466 to create the Los Angeles
River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group.

CLA RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution (Wesson – Martinez) to include in the City's 2017-2018 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 466 (Bocanegra) requiring the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish the Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Wesson – Martinez), introduced April 19, 2017, states that a significant amount of the watershed's rainfall flows into the Los Angeles River from two of its largest tributaries, the Pacoima Wash and the Tujunga Wash. The Resolution states that the Tujunga and Pacoima Washes both flow through disadvantaged communities that lack outdoor park and green space. It also states that recently local non-profits and governmental agencies have developed plans to improve these waterways through public planning processes and grants from California departments. It is essential that the adjacent communities have an opportunity to participate in a planning process that creates new chances to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods through the establishment of the Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 466, if approved, would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish a working group of members from the communities along the Pacoima Wash and Tujunga Wash to develop a plan to improve the waterways along which they live. The bill also requires the secretary to consider requests to participate in the working group from local agency representatives. The bill requires that by March 1, 2019, the working group will develop, through watershed-based planning methods, a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the Pacoima and Tujunga Washes. It also authorizes the incorporation of these working group findings into the County of Los Angeles' Master Plan regarding the river. The bill states

that the plan shall include watershed education programs that help the communities along the Pacoima and Tujunga Washes recognize the value of the waterways as well as the importance of the connection to the watershed's vitality to their communities. The bill also requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to provide necessary staff to assist the working group members. The development and implementation of the revitalization plan, according to AB 466, may be eligible for funding from any public or private source.

BILL STATUS

02/13/17 Introduced in Assembly.
03/14/17 Read second time and amended.
03/15/17 Re-referred to Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.
04/05/17 In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to suspense file.



Blayne Sutton-Wills
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution
SMT:BSW:bsw

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, beginning in the Angeles National Forest, the Pacoima Wash and the Tujunga Wash are two of the largest tributaries to the Los Angeles River, and funnel a significant amount of the watershed's rainfall to the Los Angeles River; and

WHEREAS, both the Tujunga and Pacoima Washes flow through several low-income and disadvantaged communities that lack healthy outdoor park and green space; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, local non-profits and governmental agencies have developed significant plans to improve these waterways through public planning processes and grants from state departments; and

WHEREAS, a working group comprised of members from the communities along the Pacoima Wash and Tujunga Wash will make it easier for the community to coordinate access for resources, including financial support, to improve these rivers and the watershed in which they live; and

WHEREAS, AB 466 (Bocanegra) would direct the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish the Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group for the purpose of developing a revitalization plan for the Pacoima Wash and the Tujunga Wash; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that these communities have an opportunity to participate in a planning process that creates new opportunities to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 466 (Bocanegra) to require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to establish the Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group to develop a revitalization plan for the Pacoima Wash and Tujunga Wash.

Presented by: _____
HERB WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District

Seconded by: _____

APR 19 2017