SECTION 11.0
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
File Code: 1950

Date: March 8, 1996

Mr. Harry Stone
Director of Public Works
County of Los Angeles
900 South Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Ref: Los Angeles River Master Plan Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Stone:

The Angeles National Forest has reviewed the Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment, dated February, 1996.

The Forest Service does not have any lands within the project area. However, the upstream watershed is entirely within the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest.

We do not have specific comments on the draft ND/EA. However, we support the concept embraced within the proposed action. As the recreation pressure increases within the Forest, other areas need to be available to the public as an alternative to use of the Forest. We believe that this approach will provide for a better recreational experience both on and off the National Forest for users of these rather limited resources.

The Angeles National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan was completed in November, 1987 and we are well into the implementation of that plan. We would like to ensure that any new Los Angeles River Master Plan will be compatible with the Angeles National Forest Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the document and to have participated initially in its development.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

MICHAEL J. ROGERS
Forest Supervisor
Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for your response. Your comment will be provided to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in the project decision making process.

Response to Comment No. 2

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the “Corrections, Additions, and Deletions” Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 5.1.1 (Page 5-4).
February 23, 1996

IGR/CEQA 2021
Negative Declaration
Environmental Assessment
For Los Angeles River
Master Plan
Vic: LA-Various

Chris Stone
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91003

Dear Sir:

Thank you for including this department as part of the environmental review process for the above Negative Declaration. We have completed our review of this multiple use Master Plan for the Los Angeles River.

We note when transportation/circulation is identified in the document as a potential environmental issue, it is stated that specific project proponents need to demonstrate that economic development, recreation, etc. would not result in significant impact on transportation and circulation.

We recommend that large size trucks that are transporting construction materials, equipment and exporting hazardous waste be limited to off-peak commute periods and any heavy construction equipment which requires the use of oversize transport vehicles on State's facilities will require a Caltrans transportation permit.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call me at (213) 897-4429.

Sincerely,

Steve Buswell
IGR/CEQA Coordinator
Transportation Planning
Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for your response. Your comment will be provided to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in the project decision making process.

Response to Comment No. 2

It is assumed that most projects proposed pursuant to the Los Angeles River Master Plan will not result in significant impacts on transportation or circulation. Where site-specific projects are unable to avoid significant impacts, the site-specific project proponent will be required to complete supplemental environmental analysis to identify mitigation measures to reduce impacts below the level of significance.

Response to Comment No. 3

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 2.2, Section 5.6.1 (page 5-34), and Section 5.6.4 (page 5-40).
March 4, 1996

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Attention Mr. Chris Stone, Project Manager
Los Angeles River Master Plan Draft Programmatic ND/EA
Planning Division, 11th Floor
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803-1331

Re: Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration Environmental Assessment, Proposed Project: Los Angeles River Master Plan.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is charged with protection of water quality for all waterbodies in the Los Angeles and Ventura coastal watersheds. The Regional Board protects water quality by implementing regulations, policies, and programs authorized by the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and by administering certain regulations established by the Federal Clean Water Act. As a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Regional Board also reviews CEQA documents and comments upon water quality issues.

Regional Board staff have reviewed the Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration Environmental Assessment for the proposed project: Los Angeles River Master Plan, dated February 1996. This document explains how the Los Angeles River Master Plan will improve and enhance recreation facilities along the river. These projects will also provide habitat restoration by planting native species. In addition, the Master Plan describes the type of mitigation measures that will be taken during the construction of these areas to avoid potential impacts from surface runoff. On page 5-22 you cite the Draft Water Quality Control Plan. Please note that the Regional Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan in June 1994; accordingly, you may delete the word "Draft."

The Regional Board is pleased with the Los Angeles River Master Plan, since it will improve the beneficial uses of the Los Angeles River without any increase of contaminants entering the River.

Please contact Ana Corado at (213) 266-7579 should you have any questions.

Wendy Phillips
Chief, Planning Unit

Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 5.4.2 (page 5-22).

Response to Comment No. 2

Thank you for your letter of support.
March 11, 1996

CHRIS STONE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DPW
PLANNING DIVISION, 11TH FLOOR
900 S. FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CA  91001-1331

Subject: LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN SCH #: 96021024

Dear CHRIS STONE:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental
document to selected state agencies for review. The review period
is closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This
letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State
Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental
documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding
the environmental review process. When contacting the
Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight-digit State
Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,

ANTERO A. RIVASPLATA
Chief, State Clearinghouse
Notice of Completion

Form A

Notice of Completion

SCH # 96021024

Recipient: Los Angeles River Master Plan

Project Title: Los Angeles River Master Plan

Lead Agency: LA County

County Address: 300 N. Flower St.

City: Los Angeles

State: CA

Zip Code: 90071

Contact Person: Chris Stone

Phone: (213) 471-8788

County: LA

City: Los Angeles

Area/Region:

Description of Project:

The project area addressed in the Los Angeles River Master Plan consists of approximately 51 linear miles of the Los Angeles River from its headwaters at the confluence of Colorado and Well Creek in the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean and 8 linear miles of Well Creek from its mouth to its confluence with the LA River. The LA River flows through 21 jurisdictions, including the Cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, South Gate, Bell Gardens, Bell, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Monterey Park, and El Monte, and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. For the purpose of planning and environmental analysis, the study area has been organized into 16 sectors.

The Los Angeles River Master Plan considers five primary issues identified in the public outreach program: environmental assessment; economic development; cultural development; and cultural development. The proposed plan would be consistent with the primary issues. Implementation of the litigation agreement will require the consideration of the impacts on the quality and cultural resources in a manner that is responsive to the community's needs.

Recipient Agency Contact:

Mr. Chris Stone

(213) 471-8788

Project Sent to the Following State Agencies:

Yuba/Altamont Corridors

State/County Corps

General Services

CAL-0PA

ARS

CA Waste Minn Bd

SWRCB: Delta

Ring, Wood & Associates

DNREC

DWR

OCR

State/County Corps

Independent Council

Energy Council

MHC

FPC

State Water Bd

State Land Comm

Tabor Rick Plan

Other:

AAMD AMT: 157.6 (Revised: 2.10)

LA County

SCH CUMPLIANCE: 3.11

Other:

Recording: 3.9

Dept. Review to Agency: 3.4

Agency Rev to SCH: 3.8

SCH # 96021024

Please send SCH Number to all Commenter:

96021024

Please forward late comments directly to the

Lead Agency:

LA County

Area/Region:

Description of Project:

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Recipient Agency Contact:

Mr. Chris Stone

(213) 471-8788

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Energy Council

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State Land Comm

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Other:

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Agency Rev to SCH: 3.8

SCH # 96021024

Please send SCH Number to all Commenter:

96021024

Please forward late comments directly to the

Lead Agency:

LA County
Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for your letter acknowledging compliance with the State Clearinghouse's review requirements for draft environmental documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

March 1, 1996

File No.: 01-00.04-00
          02-00.04-00
          03-00.04-00
          08-00.04-00
          23-00.04-00

Mr. Chris Stone, Project Manager
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Los Angeles River Master Plan Draft Programmatic ND/EA
Planning Division, 11th Floor
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Dear Mr. Stone:

Los Angeles River Master Plan

The County Sanitation Districts received a Draft Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment for the subject project on February 15, 1996. The proposed development is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8 and 23. We offer the following comments regarding sewerage service:

- The Sanitation Districts maintain facilities within the project area which may be affected by the proposed project. Approval to construct improvements within a District's sewer easement and/or over a District's sewer is required before construction may begin. For specific information regarding the borrower procedure, please contact Sean Christian at (310) 699-7411, extension 2707.

- The Sanitation Districts are empowered by the California Health and Safety Code to charge a fee for the privilege of connecting (directly or indirectly) to the Sanitation Districts' Sewerage System or increasing the existing strength and/or quantity of wastewater attributable to a particular parcel or operation already connected. This connection fee is required to construct an incremental expansion of the Sewerage System to accommodate the proposed project which will mitigate the impact of this project on the present Sewerage System. Payment of a connection fee will be required before a permit to connect to the sewer is issued.

- The design capacities of the Districts' wastewater treatment facilities are based on population forecasts adopted in the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 1994 Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The RCP is part of the 1994 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The AQMP and 1994 RCP are jointly prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and SCAG as a requirement of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA). In order to conform with the AQMP, all expansions of District facilities must be sized and phased in a manner which will be consistent with the Growth Management element of the 1994 RCP.

The Growth Management element contains a regional growth forecast for the counties of Los
Mr. Chris Stone

March 1, 1996

Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial which was prepared by SCAG. Specific policies included in the 1994 RCP which deal with the management of growth will be incorporated into the AQMP strategies to improve air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. The available capacity of the Districts' treatment facilities will, therefore, be limited to levels associated with approved growth identified in the 1994 RCP. As such, this letter does not constitute a guarantee of wastewater service, but is to advise you that the Districts intend to provide this service up to the levels which are legally permitted and to inform you of the currently existing capacity and any proposed expansion of the Districts' facilities.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (310) 699-7411, extension 2717.

Very truly yours,

Charles W. Cary

Marie L. Payntopp
Engineering Technician
Planning & Property Management Section

M.L.Peg
Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 5.12.1 (page 5-76a).

Response to Comment No. 2

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 5.12.1 (page 5-76b).

Response to Comment No. 3

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Please reference the "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, for the appropriate incorporations to Section 2.2 (page 2-13) and Section 5.12.4 (page 5-78). The proposed correction makes clear the need for individual site-specific proponents for projects that require a sewer connection to coordinate with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County early in the planning process.

As described in Section 5.15 of the Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment there is an existing deficiency of recreation facilities and programs within Park Planning Areas designated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation that are crossed by the Los Angeles River. The proposed enhancements are intended to provide facilities and programs to partially offset existing deficiencies. The proposed improvements are not expected to induce growth beyond the levels anticipated by the 1994 Regional Comprehensive Plan as summarized in Section 5.2 of the Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment.
March 12, 1996

Mr. Chris Stone
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91802

Dear Mr. Stone:

Thank you for providing the LACMTA with the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Project: Los Angeles River Master Plan Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration Environmental Assessment. MTA strongly agrees with the stated goal to achieve a nearly continuous greenway adjacent to the 51 mile reach of the Los Angeles River and the nine mile reach of Tujunga Wash. MTA feels that your level of analysis is appropriate to the proposed Master Plan. MTA looks forward to working with the Department of Public Works in the future on any detailed refinements necessary for the implementation of the Plan in areas in which MTA can be of assistance, such as detailed bicycle route planning and possibly certain aspects of habitat restoration.

If you like, perhaps we can work together with other groups such as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to develop a brochure to show the public how to use public transit to access appropriate recreational improvements your Plan will develop along the River and elsewhere.

For any bicycle planning issues you might wish to consult with us about, please contact Robin Blair of our staff at 922-3074 and for greenway issues, including transportation related funding sources, please contact Dale Royal at 922-3095.

Sincerely,

ALAN E. PATASHNICK
Interim Director
Central Area Team

c: Robin Blair
   Dale Royal

sb/river2.312
Response to Comment No. 1

Thank you for your letter of support.

Response to Comment No. 2

See "Corrections, Additions, and Deletions" Section of this Memorandum for the Record, Section 2.2 (page 2-12) for addition acknowledging MTA's availability to assist Department of Public Works for detailed bicycle route planning and certain aspects of habitat restoration.

Response to Comment No. 3

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority are Los Angeles River Advisory Committee Members and Participants. In addition, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy participated as a member of the Demonstration Project Subcommittee, provided Public Workshop Assistance and participated in the Implementation Team. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority also participated on the Implementation Team.

As indicated on Page 2-6 of Section 2.2 of the Draft Programmatic Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment, the Master Plan includes a mapping a signage system to be placed at major trail entrances and interpretation sites. Recreation Policy No. 32 of the County of Los Angeles Streamlined General Plan encourages improved public transportation to recreation sites. The type of map proposed by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority would support the Master Plan and be consistent with the policies of the County of Los Angeles Streamlined General Plan.

Response to Comment No. 4

Thank you for identifying a MTA point-of-contact for funding sources. This information will be included in Appendix E, Funding, Funding Resource List of the Los Angeles River Master Plan.