## Los Angeles River Master Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting #1 Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 9:00 am to Noon

# **Meeting Summary**

#### Location

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 900 South Fremont Avenue, Conference Room B-C Alhambra, CA 91803

#### **Attendees**

# **Steering Committee**

Maria Chong-Castillo, Los Angeles County 3rd District

Eileen Alduenda, Council for Watershed Health

Shelley Luce, Heal the Bay

Wendy Macias attending for Chris Cash, City of Paramount Public Works

Daniel J. Lafferty, Los Angeles Flood Control District

Bruce Reznick, Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Kimberley Badescu attending for Sergio Calderon, Water Replenishment District

Michael Affeldt, Mayor's Office, City of Los Angeles

Dan Knapp, Long Beach Conservation Corps

Mary Leslie, Los Angeles Business Council

Lena Gonzalez, City of Long Beach

Julia Salinas, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Jesi Harris, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Antonio Hicks, Public Counsel

Julia Carnahan, The Boethius Initiative

Marissa Christiansen, Friends of the LA River

Mark Stanley, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

Sarah Rascon attending for Joseph Edmiston, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Veronica Padilla-Campos, Pacoima Beautiful

Gabrielle Weeks, Sierra Club Long Beach

Justin Yee, Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Mia Lehrer, LA-Mas

Shona Ganguly, The Nature Conservancy

Robin Mark, The Trust for Public Land

Rafael Villegas, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

## **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Los Angeles County 1st District

# Los Angeles County Public Works Staff

Gary Hildebrand
Kenny Chow
Armando D'Angelo
Carolina Hernandez
Keith Lilley
Helen To
Edel Vizcarra
Christine Wartman
Yisak Kim

Stella Lee Miguel Carrillo

Enrique Baul

Edel Vizcarra

Jennifer Aborida

# Additional Los Angeles County Staff

Mayen Alcantara, Los Angeles County Arts Commission Pat Hachiya, Department of Regional Planning Gina Natoli, Department of Regional Planning Clement Lau, Department of Parks and Recreation Michelle O'Connor, Department of Parks and Recreation Jennifer Jung, Department of Parks and Recreation Sheela Mathai, Department of Parks and Recreation Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Office

#### Consultant Team

Mark Hanna, Geosyntec Ken Susilo, Geosyntec Najwa Pitois, Geosyntec Paul Senker, Geosyntec Richard Roark, OLIN Jessica Henson, OLIN Angela Barranco, River LA Jon Switalski, River LA Jason Foster, River LA Rachel Bush, River LA Eli Kaufman, River LA Tensho Takemori, Gehry Partners
Glenn Gritzner, Mercury
Jenna Dresner, Mercury
Kris Helm, Kris Helm Associates
Miguel Luna, Dake Luna
Joan Isaacson, Kearns & West
Taylor York, Kearns & West
Jenna Tourje, Kearns & West
Jack Hughes, Kearns & West
Delia Torres, Languages4you Translation Agency

# 1. Kickoff

On April 11, 2018, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works hosted the first Steering Committee meeting for the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Steering Committee members to each other, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) staff, and consultants working on the project; orient the Steering Committee to protocols and operating procedures; provide the Committee with project history and process; and begin visioning for the plan update. Joan Isaacson of Kearns & West facilitated the meeting, and staff from LACDPW, Geosyntec, OLIN, River LA, Gehry Partners, and Kearns & West supported the meeting.

County of Los Angeles Chief Deputy Gary Hildebrand opened the meeting by sharing his personal experiences growing up near the Los Angeles River. He observed that the Steering Committee had an exciting but tremendous challenge ahead of it. Chief Deputy Hildebrand introduced Supervisor Hilda Solis from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Solis thanked the attendees and commented that it was exciting to see so many people and ideas coming together.

#### 2. Introductions

Carolina Hernandez from Los Angeles County Department of Public Works introduced Public Works staff involved in the project. She said that they were committed to public service and the progressive planning process of the Master Plan Update and were looking forward to working with the Steering Committee. Mark Hanna then introduced the consultant team from Geosyntec, OLIN, Gehry Partners, River LA, Kearns & West, and Mercury.

Joan Isaacson of Kearns & West presented the agenda. Appendix A contains the meeting agenda, and Appendix B contains the presentation slides.

The Committee members then introduced themselves and answered the following question: What about the Master Plan Update most interests you? Responses included:

- Considering issues of gentrification and displacement.
- Maintaining or creating affordable housing.
- Including a menu of recreational opportunities for people with a range of abilities.
- Implementing the City's 2007 Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan and addressing gaps in strategies.
- Examining and incorporating the cultural components of the Los Angeles River.
- Engaging in projects along entire length of the river.
- Bringing planning for the north and south sections of the river together.
- Ensuring an urban river that values ecological functions, public health, recreation, and climate adaptation.
- Connecting Angelenos to a living river and connecting the entirety of the river, including tributaries.
- Protecting ecology and equity and connecting people to the river, while also maintaining flood protection.
- Integrating with other plans that have taken a lot of time and money to create.
- Collectively producing a document that reflects the dreams and desires of all the communities.
- Ensuring not just the health of river but the health of the whole watershed and community.
- Balancing water supply and all other beneficial uses.
- Protecting public health, recreation, and the state of ecology.
- Figuring out what the Master Plan is, how it integrates with other planning efforts, and how we can manage expectations.
- Developing recreational opportunities along river and establishing connectivity to existing bike path.
- Bringing everyone's interests together, including an emphasis on sustainable ground water management.
- Engaging young people by giving them opportunities for involvement and ownership.
- Ensuring equitable development.

#### 3. Protocols

Isaacson presented the anticipated protocols and operating principles for the Steering Committee including its composition, role in the creation of the Master Plan Update, principles of participation and collaboration, logistics, and communication procedures.

She then outlined the Committee's relationship to the Internal County Team and the Subcommittees. Associated presentation slides are in Appendix B.

Questions and Comments from the Steering Committee

- What is the relationship between Steering Committee discussions and Subcommittee discussions?
- Please distribute meeting materials a week before the meeting.
- How will the new Master Plan be implemented?

# 4. Project Framework

The project team gave presentations meant to establish the background and context for the Master Plan Update. The presentation first covered the hydrology and history of the Los Angeles River and then gave an overview of the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update project, including the following: its purpose and components, methods and schedule, Steering Committee meeting road map, and public engagement plan. The presentation is summarized below, and the presentation slide show is included in Appendix B.

# History and Hydrology of the Los Angeles River

Mark Hanna, Geosyntec, presented a short primer on hydrology and the history of the Los Angeles River to establish the context and events that led to the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update. He began with a brief explanation of the water cycle before talking about the river's past importance for domestic, industrial and agricultural uses; history of flooding; process of channelization; and the settlement of the historic floodplain. Hanna then described the current range of flow levels in the channel, the river's hydraulics, and present day flood risk. More information on the history and hydrology of the Los Angeles River can be found on pages 23 through 28 in Appendix B.

# **Purpose and Components of the Master Plan Update**

The Master Plan Update will be an update of the 1996 Los Angeles River Master Plan. The consultant team is conducting a literature review of over 114 other planning documents, including the recently completed Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, which will be a crucial component in guiding the Update. The 1996 Master Plan addresses many issues that are still important today, although policies, considerations, and priorities have changed since 1996, and infrastructure has aged.

Jessica Henson, OLIN, explained the planning scope and components of the Master Plan. The first step is inventory and analysis, followed by corridor-level proposals. These steps will be accomplished through a "three-legged stool approach" of public engagement, the Steering Committee process, and the work of the technical/design team. For more

information on the purpose and components of the Master Plan Update, see pages 30 and 31 in Appendix B.

## Methods, Schedule, and Steering Committee Roadmap

The target for completion of the updated Master Plan is late winter 2020. Henson described the planning process, beginning with quarterly meetings of the Steering Committee, which will meet eight times with each meeting focused on a key phase of project development. Each of these Steering Committee meetings will be followed by subcommittee meetings that will explore topics in more detail. The Internal County Team will meet before each of these meetings to vet materials. Public engagement opportunities will be integrated into the entire process. More detail on the process and phases can be found on pages 31 and 32 in Appendix B.

# **Public Engagement Plan and Upcoming Activities**

Jon Switalski, River LA, presented an overview of the public engagement components of the project which will be conducted through a diverse series of activities, including community meetings and workshops, online engagement, a youth summit, a series of "river story" videos, and a community festival. A critical component will be establishing community partners who will expand outreach by customizing meaningful engagement activities for their constituents. Pages 32 through 37 in Appendix B have more details on the public engagement plan and upcoming activities.

# **Plan Priorities**

Hanna and Richard Roark, OLIN, outlined a preliminary set of priorities that will guide the update process: flood risk, water quality, and water supply; environment and open space; and public health and equity. Henson then provided an overview of possible design approaches from past planning work for river improvements, explaining that solutions will vary throughout the river corridor.

Questions and Comments from the Steering Committee.

The project team addressed the following questions and comments from the Steering Committee:

- Please restate the overall need and purpose for the plan update.
- Has there been any user testing of the website?
- How will MS4 compliances tie into the update?
- How long is the current flood control infrastructure supposed to last and is there an inventory?
- How is climate change being incorporated?
- Arundo donax removal will increase channel capacity.

- People benefit from improved environment; be careful not to frame issues as making a choice between people, water, or environment.
- How is additional data integrated into the Master Plan Update process?
- The update should consider a more holistic watershed approach.
- Paths should be tailored to active transportation, allowing access to jobs and other opportunities, instead of being considered primarily for recreation.
- The jurisdictional responsibilities are complex. We must be aware of those as we consider implementation.
- What is the motivation to do this now? Will it slow momentum?
- We want to create value, not displacement.
- We must recognize all the plans and projects that are being implemented now as we start this planning process.
- Is communicating with adjacent businesses and the private sector part of the public engagement plan?
- Will the Master Plan Update integrate upper river efforts like those in the Santa Monica Mountains and tributaries?
- How can we talk to the media, our members, and other audiences about the Master Plan Update?
- It is important to communicate that there are other plans being implemented, and this process does not stall them.
- Does the public engagement plan target specific non-profits to help with public engagement, and is there a door-to-door component?

# 5. Work Session

#### **Subcommittee Selection**

Isaacson explained the Subcommittee selection process and asked committee members to indicate their first and second choice preference on distributed cards.

## **Initial Vision Question**

In a preliminary visioning activity, the Steering Committee answered the following question: What do you want the new Master Plan to accomplish?

Committee members wrote their answers on notecards. The attending members of the public were also invited to write answers. The following is a transcription of responses received.

## Steering Committee Member Responses

Each cell below represents the response of one Steering Committee member.

I hope that this LARMP update centers transportation as a primary function of river infrastructure, taking into consideration the degree of displacement that can result from this kind of development. The communities at highest risk of being displaced (including the houseless) are also those who depend on active transportation to get to resources. Let's engage those folks and integrate their needs into the place.

- Slow the flow to recharge our aquafers
- Support robust areas of flora and fauna
- Facilitate humans doing stuff, with each other canoeing, fishing, biking, hiking, skateboard parks, dog walk areas, and the horses that have been there since 1600's
- Nesting/breeding areas for birds, fish and wildlife
- Areas for fun that are more accessible for people who can't afford to live near the beaches

# Inventory of efforts (highlighting existing vs. new)

- Goals of efforts
- Tradeoffs between projects, designs, approaches, etc.
- Who is responsible for implementing

#### What does this all mean?

- What goals are shared by all relevant jurisdictions?
- What goals are specific to some jurisdictions?
- Are there competing goals?

## Strategies to Implement

- Prioritize
- Fund
- Delegate responsibility for funding, delivery, ownership, operations and maintenance
- Provide a new framework to realize the often under-prioritized benefits of a healthy ecosystem with public health as the driver of a changing future LA River watershed.
- The plan should clearly identify the regional goals for the LA River for critically missing water supply, water quality, ecological restoration, floodplain reclamation, public access to open space, and benefits through the lens of equity.
- Ways to connect surrounding communities to the river.
- Creation of recreational spaces or projects adjacent to the river.

- Active transportation opportunities/connectivity to LA River bike path.
- Change in perception of how the river is viewed by the surrounding communities... unsafe, closed off to daily use.

The main goal should be a realistic management plan for a regional waterway.

- Clean/concise messaging about subcommittee elements
- Visual progress from '96 plan, lower/upper LA plans to where we are now
- Clear gap analysis to future-proof the plan
- Visual options for key components:
  - o Transportation
  - Housing
  - Flood prevention
  - o Etc.
- 1. Create a clearinghouse of plans, projects, and programs that lead to actionable process and results for the benefit of LA River communities.
- 2. Include a foundation in resilience and sustainability.
- 3. Embrace and empower the diversity of stakeholders already doing work.

Collect and reflect the comprehensive desires of the communities along the river and those with interests within the river of what the river could be.

That interaction efforts consider balance of beneficial uses with accomplishing local water supply and water quality objectives.

It would be valuable for this plan to reflect and address both the health of the river and the watershed and the health of the communities.

I want the new Master Plan to allow connectivity and accessibility for all residents, while using existing resources to create more greenways.

- Create more local sources to fill our unused storage in the basins
- We are looking into installing dry wells that would filter and be a mechanism to feed water into aquifers
- Maximize storm water capture for replenishment purposes
- Identify gaps among all plans in the region and create planning for those gap areas that are of high need and are disadvantaged communities.
- Integrate climate resiliency and climate adaptation planning, as well as water treatment, storm water, run-off, and water quality elements.

- Multi-benefit projects in areas of highest need without displacement.
- Funding solutions for projects, as well as operations and maintenance.

The new Master Plan should be dynamic not static. A living document that is as current, relevant, and flexible as possible. Adaptive to changing social, economic, and natural forces. Don't reinvent the wheel but rather improve on the design and allow for edits, revisions, and additions.

- 1. Comprehensive recognition of planning processes conducted.
- 2. Provide a vision for the river and communities along the corridor that extend benefits throughout this watershed for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- Be sustainable!

Crafting a new holistic vision for the entirety of the LA River (including tributaries) that maximizes ecological value while also preserving communities, promoting access and recreation, and providing economic development opportunities. Such a plan/vision should look at what happens in the channel and on adjacent lands and throughout the watershed.

To elevate the importance of community-driven process and equity considerations in redevelopment activity.

An equitable inclusive plan which considers communities along the river and provides opportunities for it to be an asset to the community.

- Advance ongoing efforts to provide LA River projects and programs
- Develop 51-mile funding opportunities
- Consider a unified maintenance program for revitalization projects
- Look at watershed scale water capture and peak flow reduction
- Update branding/signage/place-making approaches
- Address flood risk reduction strategies
- Real solutions to complications related to project implementation re: land use, safety, right-of-way, other ownership conflicts, etc.
- Real engagement with local businesses, residents, schools, and homeless how
  can we support local businesses with river revitalization? How can we retain,
  preserve, community diversity with revitalization?
- I hope the Mater Plan will recognize and include the need for a strong cultural component for the LA River. It can include ideas for multiple art forms and should

also include a broader concept for how the river reflects our hopes, goals, morals, etc.

## Members of the Public Attendee Responses

Each cell below represents the response of one member of the public.

Long-term, watershed-based plan that connects a healthier community with a healthier river and is the result of a transparent, innovative, equitable process.

- A realistic set of goals that can be accomplished in the near future, i.e. 5 and/or 10 years
- More plans for river-adjacent parks/open space to the river
- Narrow down everyone's input/wants and agree to these goals
- Sources for funding to implement these projects in the near future, again 5 or 10year projects
- Focus on park projects, not necessarily large housing projects

I'd like the Master Plan to accomplish a maximized ecologically sound restoration project. Public access/recreation is a must to integrate our people to the environment – which benefits them in a variety of ways: health, happiness, appreciation of nature. The river should play a role in the overall watershed, rather than a separate aqueduct entity. I'd like to see more room for the river, more native vegetation, removal of concrete, higher water quality, and a more natural meander. The LLAR seemed to focus on the beautification of the river and doesn't address the ecological aspect; thus I hope the Master Plan would be able to tap on these issues.

A comprehensive corridor plan that balances flood control w/ecological and social considerations. Would want to see a naturalized river – though understand it requires a watershed approach. Continuous trail along the river, flanked by open space and connects to a series of parks, open spaces, schools, transit stops, commercial services, etc., and of course celebrates the water cycle, ecology, habitat, and cultural history.

- Unified vision for River efforts that demonstrate combined community/government agreement
- Punch list for projects to complete
- Need for new River funding sources to be created such as storm water measure
- Watershed approach that enables ecology to be cohesively...
- Integrate all work that has been done to date
- Find and encourage to develop areas that channel capacity can be expanded

Phasing – with goal of long-term integration

Restoration of the more natural environment of the river without the exploitation of river communities.

#### 6. Public Comments

During public comment, three people spoke, as summarized below:

- There are many other organizations that have been engaged in the Los Angeles River planning for years, and many are not included on the Steering Committee. Can they be added? What was the process for selecting Steering Committee members?
- It is important to highlight where channel design approaches provide short-term and long-term benefits.
- Will members of the subcommittee be able to see models that underlie the hydrological analysis?
- There is still a lot of trespassing signage near the river; how do we reconcile that with the plans for creating more access?

# 7. Wrap Up

Isaacson and Hanna thanked everyone for coming and participating and noted that the Subcommittee meetings would occur on April 25, 2018. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2018, with another round of Subcommittee meetings on July 11, 2018. Hanna introduced a project outlook sheet containing a background reading list for the Steering Committee/subcommittees. It can be viewed in Appendix F. He encouraged everyone to watch for information on upcoming public engagement activities.

Appendix A

**Meeting Agenda** 

Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 April 11, 2018 • 9 a.m. to Noon

**LOCATION** County of Los Angeles, Public Works

900 S Fremont Ave, Conference Room A-B

Alhambra, CA 91803

## 1. Kick-off

Welcome Meeting Purpose and Agenda

#### 2. Introductions

Introduction to Public Works Team and Consultant Team Roundtable Introductions

#### 3. Protocols

Steering Committee Protocols and Operating Procedures Q&A/Discussion

## 4. Project Framework

Hydrology and History of the Los Angeles River Overview of Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Project

- Purpose and Components
- Methods and Schedule
- Steering Committee Meeting Road Map
- Public Engagement Plan and Upcoming Activities

Plan Priorities Q&A/Discussion

#### 5. Work Session

Subcommittee Selection Initial Vision Question

#### 6. Public Comment

Verbal Comments Comment Cards Email Comments Anytime to LARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov

#### 7. Wrap Up

**Upcoming Steering Committee Dates** 

- Subcommittee Meetings #1: April 25, 2018
- Steering Committee Meeting #2: June 27, 2018
- Subcommittee Meetings #2: July 11, 2018

**Upcoming Community Outreach Activities** 

Input, questions, ideas? Contact Carolina Hernandez at (626) 458-4322 or LARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov

Appendix B

# **Meeting Presentation**

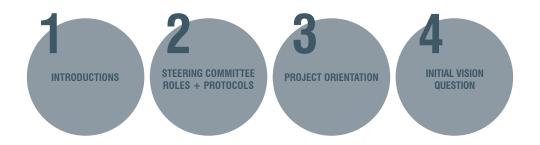








## PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING



KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP •

# MEETING AGENDA

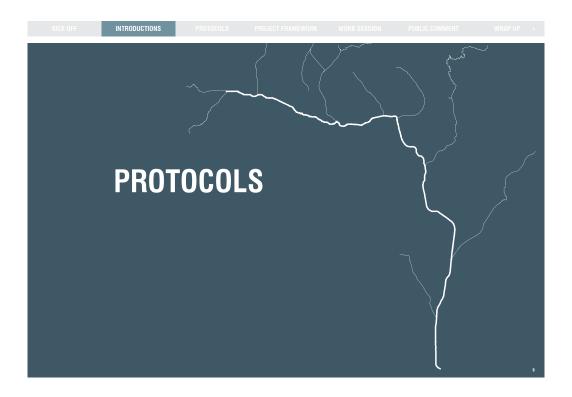
KICK OFF	INTROS	PROTOCOLS	PROJECT FRAMEWORK	WORK SESSION	PUBLIC COMMENT	WRAP UP
Welcome     Meeting     Purpose and     Agenda	Introduction to Public Works Team and Consultant Team     Roundtable Introductions	Steering Committee Protocols and Operating Procedures     Q&A/Discussion	Hydrology and History of the Los Angeles River     Overview of Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Project     Plan Priorities     Q&A/Discussion	Subcommittee Sign-Ups     Initial Vision Question	Verbal     Comments     Comment Cards     Email Comments     to LARiver@     dpw.lacounty.gov	Upcoming Steering Committee Dates     Project Outlook     Upcoming Community Outreach Activities     Input, Questions, Ideas?

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# INITIAL VISION QUESTION

What about the Master Plan Update interests you?



Introduction

KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMME

## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update

KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP

## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

#### **Role of the Steering Committee**

- . The Steering Committee's charge is to play an essential role in helping to guide the Master Plan Update by providing input, ideas, comments, and feedback throughout the planning process, incorporating members' expertise, knowledge, and resources.
- . The consultant team and Department of Public Works will consider the Steering Committee input when preparing the updated Master Plan, along with input from the broader community and stakeholder involvement process, technical and regulatory requirements, and other County needs and goals.
- . Adoption authority for the updated Master Plan is held by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, based on the recommendation of the Department of Public Works.

#### As part of accomplishing the charge, the Steering Committee members commit to:

- . Contribute input based on knowledge and expertise in policy, technical, and community matters, while also considering planning considerations from a holistic River-wide perspective, seeking opportunities for a unified vision, continuity, balanced with recognition of the diversity in goals and needs in River communities.
- . Partner with the project team in publicizing community engagement activities and generating involvement that represents the range and diversity of communities in the 51-mile Los Angeles River corridor, and attend community engagement activities on a regular basis.
- . Consider community input and input from other stakeholders in Steering Committee meeting discussions.
- . Participate in-person in all meetings, or send an alternate, for the entire two-year planning process.
- . Review reference materials in advance of Steering Committee meetings.

KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP 19

## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Introduction
- · Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles

KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP 14

#### PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- · Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition

- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition
- Primary members and alternates

	PROTOCOLS	PROJECT FRAMEWORK		

## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition
- Primary members and alternates
- Meeting logistics and communications



## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

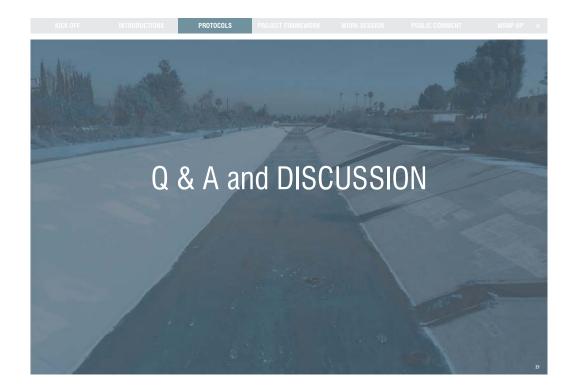
- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition
- Primary members and alternates
- Meeting logistics and communications
- Member-to-member communications

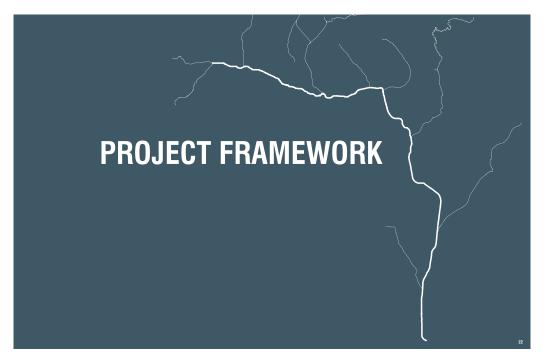
- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition
- Primary members and alternates
- Meeting logistics and communications
- Member-to-member communications
- Media interaction

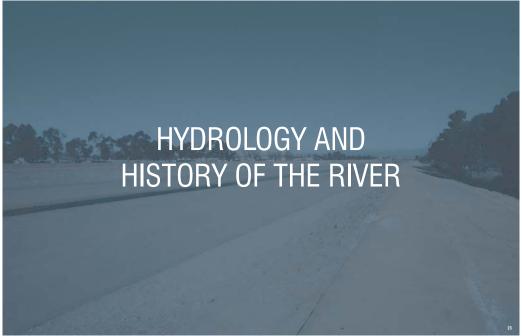
KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP 19

## PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

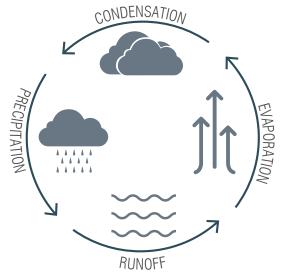
- Introduction
- Steering Committee role and charge in Master Plan Update
- Participation and collaboration principles
- Steering Committee composition
- Primary members and alternates
- Meeting logistics and communications
- Member-to-member communications
- Media interaction
- Point of contact for Steering Committee members







THE WATER CYCLE

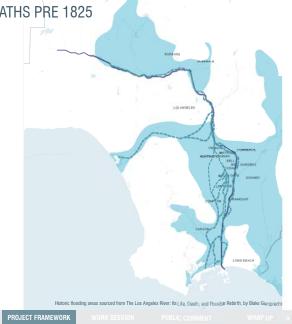


# LA RIVER 1887



HISTORIC FLOODING AND RIVER PATHS PRE 1825

The Migration of the LA River and Area Subject to Inundation Before Flood Control



# LA RIVER HISTORY



c1880 from Boyle Heights, Image Source: Los Angeles Public Library

# LA RIVER HISTORY: NORTH FIGUEROA BRIDGE AT ARROYO SECO 1938



PROJECT FRAMEWORK

# LA RIVER HISTORY: GRIFFITH PARK 1938



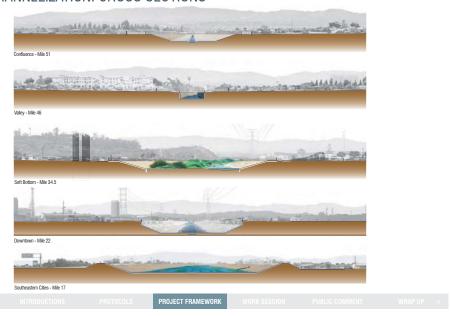
PROJECT FRAMEWORK

# LA RIVER HISTORY

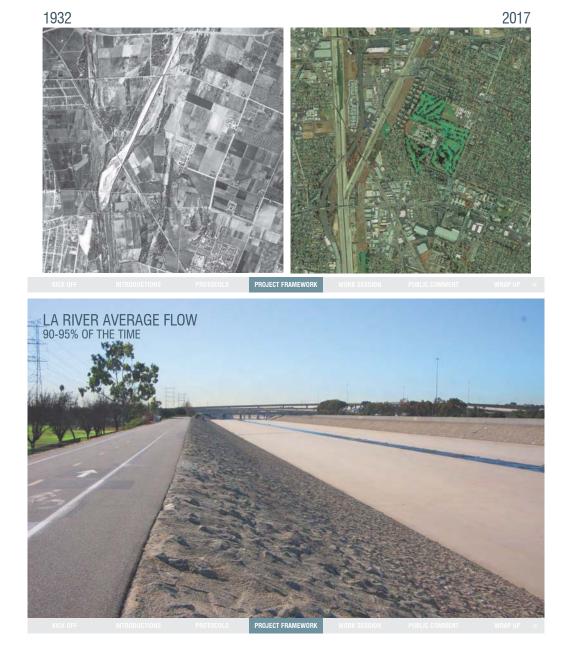


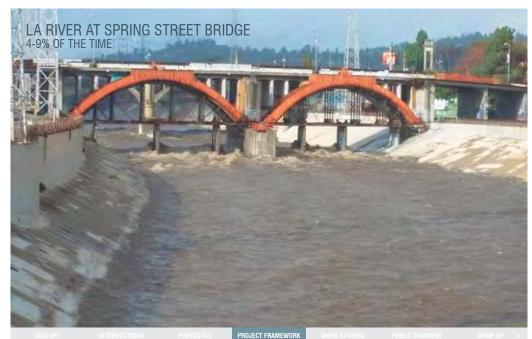
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# RIVER CHANNELIZATION: CROSS SECTIONS

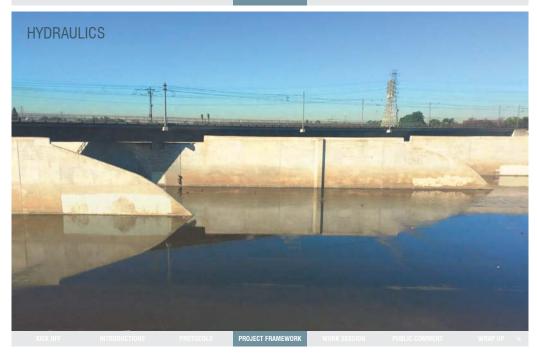


# RIVER CHANNELIZATION: RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE









#### FLOOD RISK





Over 3,300 PARCELS across Los Angeles County will be submerged by an average of 5 to 10 feet of water when a 100 year flood event occurs.

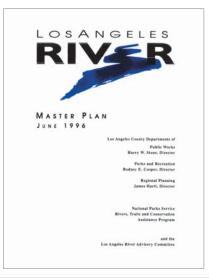
PROJECT FRAMEWORK



PREVIOUS PLANNING 1996 LOS ANGELES COUNTY LA RIVER MASTER PLAN

"The Los Angeles River Master Plan provides for the optimization and enhancement of aesthetic, recreational, flood control and environmental values by creating a community resource, enriching the quality of life for residents, and recognizing the River's primary purpose for flood control."

-Mission Statement from the 1996 Master Plan



http://ladpw.org/wmd/watershed/la/larmp/

## VISION OF THE 1996 MASTER PLAN

#### **Role of Advisory Committee:**

- · Identify issues critical to the enhancement of the river

- Develop a community involvement program, including public meetings
   Make project recommendations based on Master Plan findings
   Develop an implementation plan for the projects identified in the Master

#### Planning Team created a list of key issues discussed by the Advisory Committee:

- Aesthetics

- Economic development
   Environmental quality
   Flood management and water conservation
- · Jurisdiction and public involvement
- Recreation

#### Each of the key issues addressed:

- · Existing conditions
- Recommendations
- Suggested policy changes
- · Adoption of new policies



#### Los Angeles River Master Plan Goals:

- Ensure flood control and public safety needs are met.
  Improve the appearance of the river and the pride of local communities in it.
- Promote the river as an economic asset to the surrounding communities
- Preserve, enhance and restore environmental resources in and along the river.
- Consider stormwater management alternatives .
   Ensure public involvement and coordinate Master Plan development and implementation among jurisdictions.
- Provide a safe environment and a variety of recreational opportunities along the river.
- Ensure safe access to an compatibility between the river and other activity centers.



#### RELEVANT PLANNING EFFORTS



- Community Plans
- . Regional Plans
- . River Related Plans
- . General Plans
- . Bike and Pedestrian Plans
- . Design Guidelines and Standards

29



## INVENTORY + ANALYSIS

- . Flood Risk
- . Ecosystem and Habitat Conditions
- . Open Space, Recreation, and Trails
- . Significant Community Programming and Institutions
- . Operations and Maintenance Conditions
- . Access, Security, and Safety Conditions
- . Demographics, Public Health, and Social Equity
- . Sustainability and Resiliency



KICK OF

INTRODUCTIONS

PROTOCOLS

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

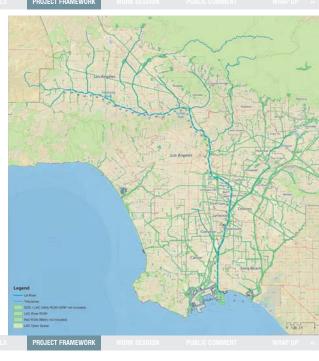
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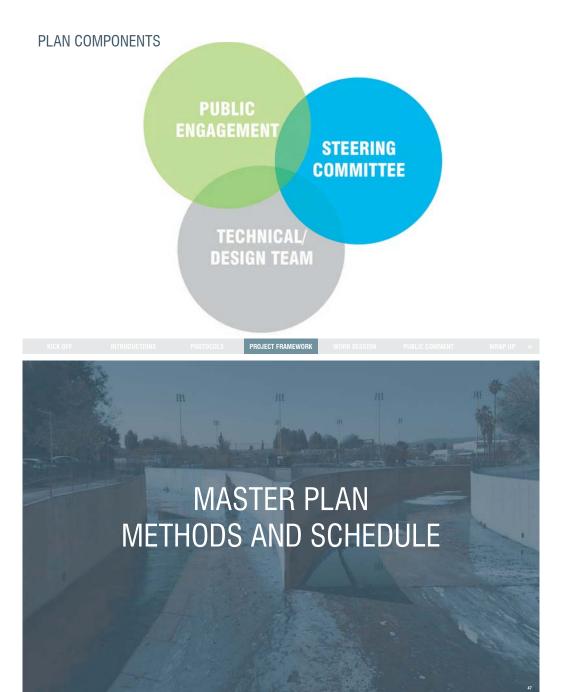
IBLIC COMMEN

WRAP UP

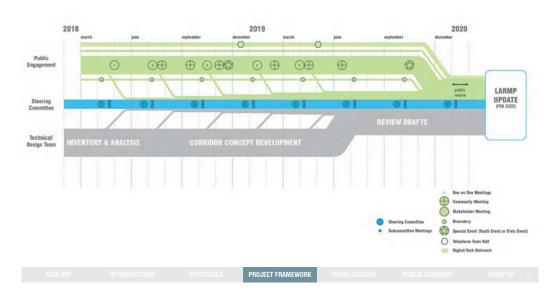
## **CORRIDOR PROPOSALS**

- . Flood Risk Management Strategies
- . Access Points, Gateways
- . New Park Recommendations
- . Water Quality Strategies
- . Water Recharge Strategies
- . Affordable Housing Strategies
- . Strategies for Unsheltered Populations
- . Update of Planting Design Standards
- . Consolidate Signage Standards
- . Consolidate Trail Standards
- . Consolidate Proposed Improvements
- . Implementation Plan
- . Funding Strategies

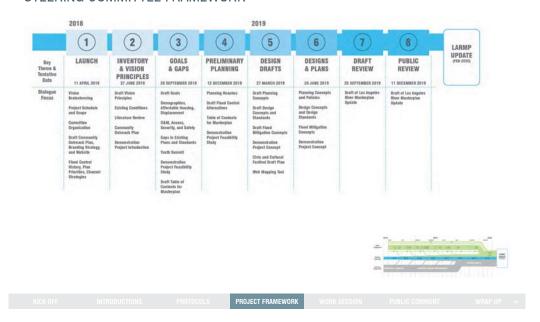




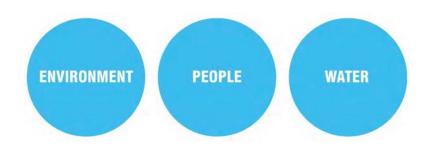
PROJECT SCHEDULE



#### STEERING COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK



## STEERING COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEES



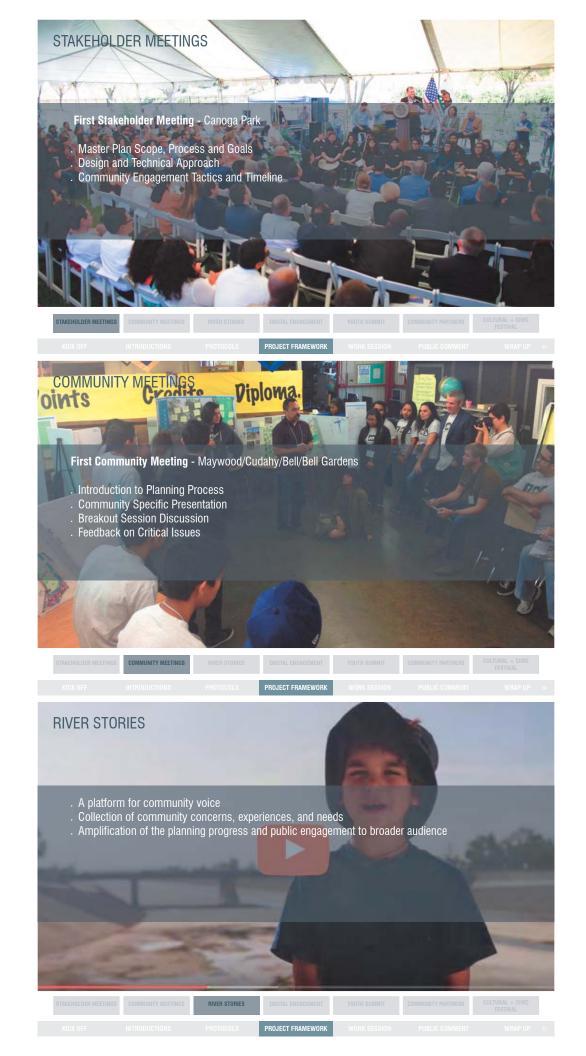




# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS	Five Total - One per Quarter	
COMMUNITY MEETINGS	Seven Total - One every other Month	A STATE OF THE STA
RIVER STORIES	Voice of the People Captured in Video	
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT	Extends the Public Engagement Reach	16-17
YOUTH SUMMIT	November 2018	
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	Localized Outreach Throughout the Region	
CIVIC + CULTURAL FESTIVAL	Summer 2019	The state of the s





#### DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT





## **WEBSITE**

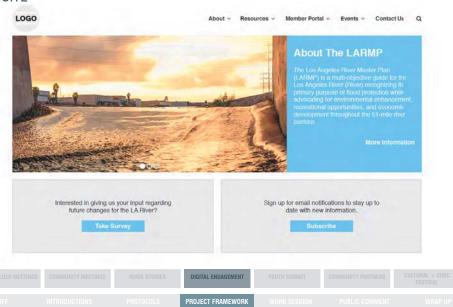
- Focused user experience for community members A member portal for steering committee members

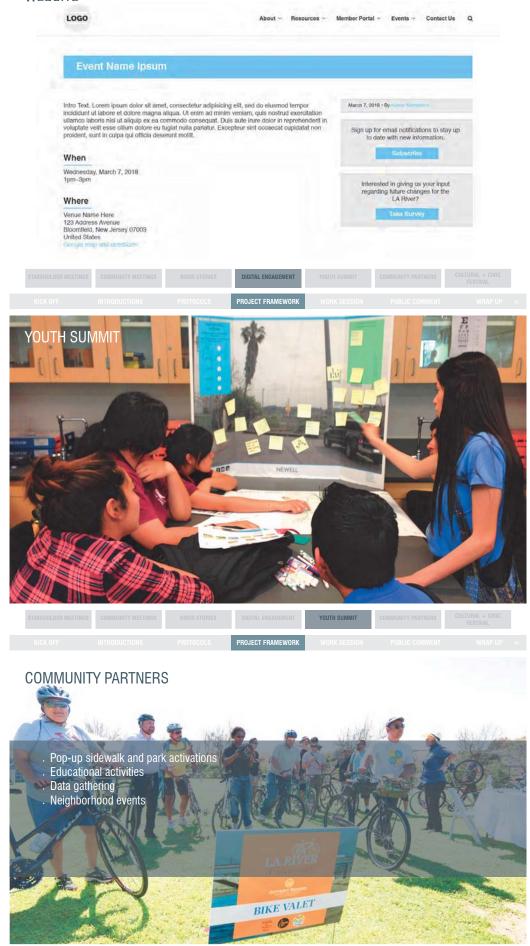


Current Landing Page Master Plan Website Under Construction



## WEBSITE





PROJECT FRAMEWORK

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

OMMIINITY MEETINGS

DIVED STADIES

IGITAL ENGAGEMENT

OUTH SUMMIT CO

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CULTURAL + CIVIC

KICK OF

NTRODUCTION

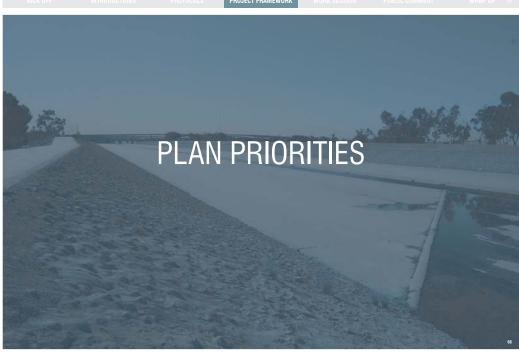
PROTOCOLS

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

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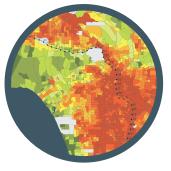
http://riverlareports.riverla.org/



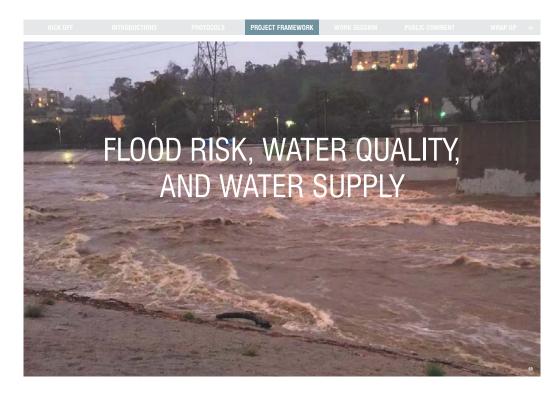
FLOOD RISK, WATER QUALITY, AND WATER SUPPLY



ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE

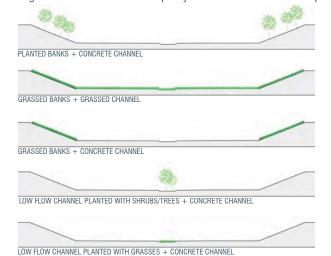


PUBLIC HEALTH AND EQUITY



### VEGETATION AND WATER CONVEYANCE

Vegetation and Flood Control Capacity Have an Inverse Relationship



40%-50% CAPACITY

55% CAPACITY

**75% CAPACITY** 

80% CAPACITY

95% CAPACITY

#### WATER QUALITY



Region-Wide Water Quality Priorities:

- 5 Represents the Highest Priority 1 Represents the Lowest Priority

#### WATER SUPPLY

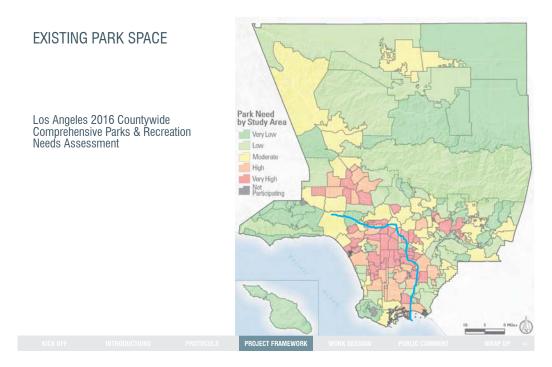
**Average Wet Weather Flow of the LA River:** 275,000 Acre Feet Per Year

Wettest Year - 2005 (in the past 20 years): 950,000 Acre Feet Per Year

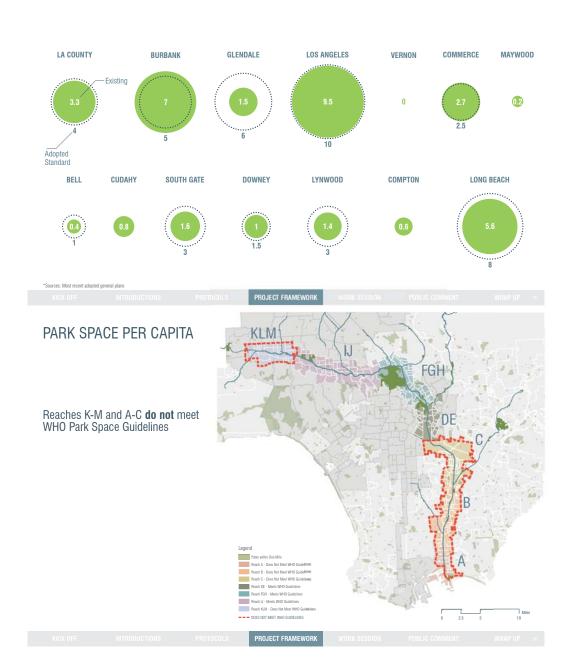
Driest Year - 2007 (in the past 20 years): 50,000 Acre Feet Per Year







#### PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS



#### HABITAT AND SPECIES

- Foothills
  -Mixed coniferous forest
  -Coastal sage scrub
- -Chaparral -California walnut woodlands









- Canyons
  -Coast live oak woodlands
  -Mixed coniferous forest
- -Coastal sage scrub -Chaparral
- -California walnut woodlands









#### Urban Matrix

- -Alluvial fan sage scrub -Coast live oak woodlands
- -Riparian woodlands
- -Riparian wetlands

River Mouth -Coastal wetlands -Riparian woodlands -Riparian wetlands



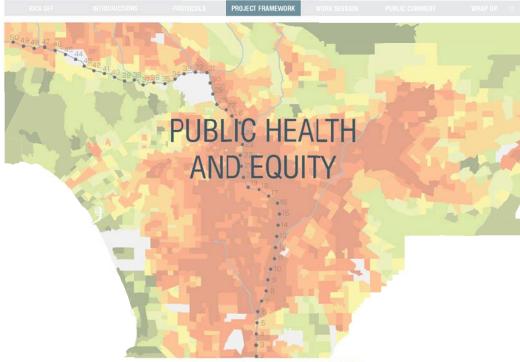






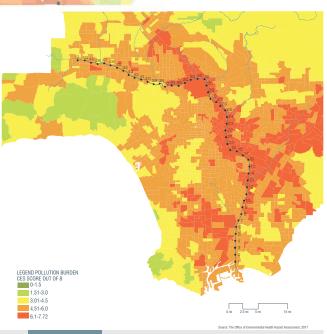


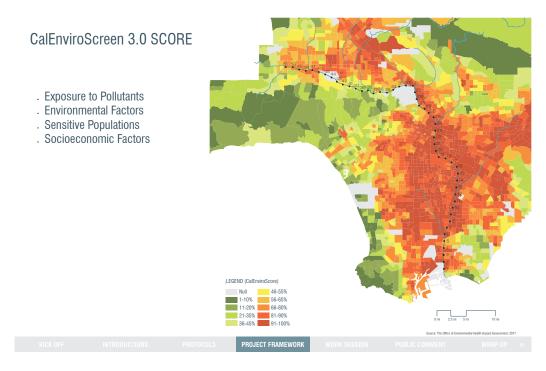




## POLLUTION BURDEN

- . Ozone Concentrations
- . PM2.5 Concentrations
- . Diesel PM Emissions
- . Drinking Water Contaminants
- . Pesticide Use
- . Toxic Release Facilities
- . Traffic Densities
- . Cleanup Sites
- . Groundwater Threats
- . Hazardous Waste
- . Impaired Water Bodies
- . Solid Waste Sites and Facilities





#### THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

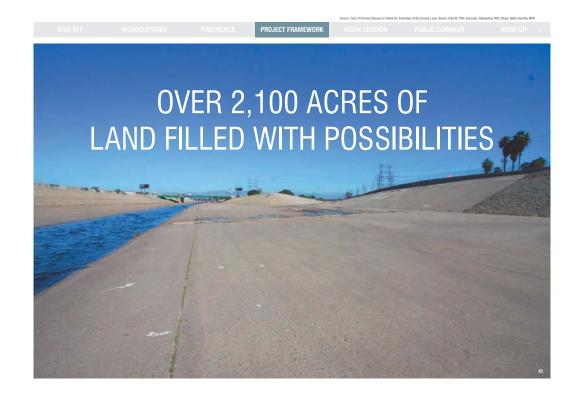
**\$25.4** billion

spent annually to treat

6 Chronic Health Conditions in LA County

> 1 in 4 children ages 5-19 are OBESE in LA County

\$1.3 billion was spent on ASTHMA hospitalizations in California in 2010



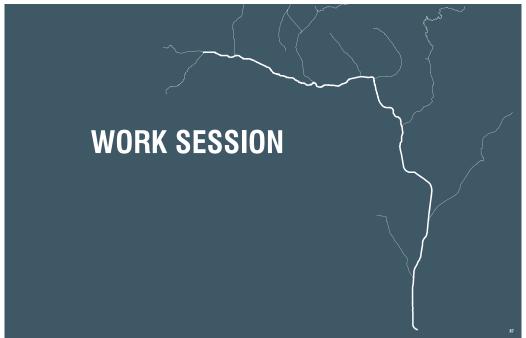
#### EXISTING DESIGN APPROACHES



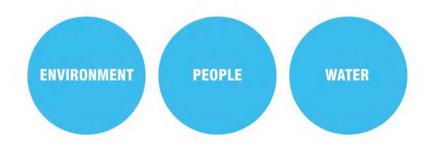
#### **EXISTING DESIGN APPROACHES**







SUBCOMMITTEE SIGN-UPS



What do you want the new Master Plan to accomplish?



#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- . Verbal comments
  - . Speakers to be called in order of speaker cards submitted
  - . Up to 15 minutes total for the Public Comment item
  - . Total time per person will depend on number of speaker cards received
- . Comment cards
- . Email comments to LARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov



#### KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

Subcommittee Meeting #1: April 25, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting #2: June 27, 2018 Subcommittee Meeting #2: July 11, 2018

Project Outlook

Upcoming Community Outreach Activities

Questions, Input and Comment: Carolina Hernandez (626) 458-4322 LARiver@dpw.lacounty.gov

KICK OFF INTRODUCTIONS PROTOCOLS PROJECT FRAMEWORK WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT WRAP UP



Appendix C

# **Input from Steering Committee Comment Cards**

#### Card 1

1) How is the LARMP going take into consideration the issue of green gentrification which is in part fueling the affordable housing and homeless crisis? 2) How is LARMP coordinating with the county's Homelessness initiative? 3) What's the anti-displacement/neighborhood stabilization plan? 4) How are the hydrology plans taking into consideration shifting climate science around flood risk? I.E. Houston was built on a 500 year flood plain has seen 3 floods in the last 10 years so flood risk is increasing. 5) How is the outreach going to take into consideration the needs of limited English proficient stakeholders and those with limited interned access/tech literacy (i.e. low income seniors)?

Appendix D

**Input from Public Comment Cards** 

#### Card 1

How is the Master Plan/Steering Committee going to handle contaminated soil? (along the River/viaduct) [arsenic, lead, etc.]

#### Card 2

Considering any action in the River will require Corps authorization and that flood control is the #1 priority of the master plan, why isn't the Corps part of the Steering Committee? Their involvement and input up front can greatly help inform the feasibility of the design options in the plan.

#### Card 3

I hope to see an ecological sound restoration for the Master Plan. This includes removing concrete, providing more space for the river including native vegetation, ensure higher water quality, and providing public access to and recreation opportunity.

Appendix E

**Steering Committee Sign in Sheet** 



Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 April 11, 2018 • 9 a.m. to Noon Sign In for Steering Committee Members LOCATION

County of Los Angeles Public Works 900 S Fremont Ave, Conference Room A-B Alhambra, CA 91803

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	Initials
Affeldt, Michael	City of Los Angeles (Mayor's Office)			M
Alduenda, Eileen	Council for Watershed Health			re C
Allen, Cory	City of Long Beach			0
Ashton, Sean	City of Downey			
Butler, Tamika L.	Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust			
Carnahan, Julia	The Boethius Initiative UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures	_		
Cash, Chris Wandy Macias	City of Paramount Public Works			III wm
Calderon, Sergio	Water Replenishment District			
Chong-Castillo, Maria	Los Angeles County 3rd District		J	hc
Christiansen, Marissa	Friends of the LA River (FoLAR)			MC.
Cortez-Davis, Evelyn	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power		9	
Demesa, Ed	US Army Corps of Engineers			
Edmiston, Joseph T.	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy			Sn.
Ganguly, Shona	The Nature Conservancy		Bar	S S
Gonzalez, Lena	City of Long Beach	100		- Sex



Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 April 11, 2018 - 9 a.m. to Noon Sign In for Steering Committee Members LOCATION

County of Los Angeles Public Works 900 S Fremont Ave, Conference Room A-B Alhambra, CA 91803

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	Initials
Harris, Jesi	Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition	الدراء و مسمل ا		JCH
Hicks. Antonio	Public Counsel	el 15 es	15 and 4.6. and	AR4
Katona, Karty	Los Angeles County 2nd District			
Kjer, Tori	The Trust for Public Land			
Knapp, Dan	Long Beach Conservation Corps	6		8 K
Lafferty, Daniel J.	Los Angeles Flood Control District		10	1 552
Lehrer, Mia	LA-Mas			I m Mel
Leslie, Mary	Los Angeles Business Council			imal.co
Lipa, Jacob	Los Angeles Business Council			
Louie, Pauline	US Department of Housing and Urban Development			
Luce, Shelley	Heal the Bay			Sh
Mark, Robin	The Trust for Public Land			per -
Mejia, Stephen	Friends of the LA River (FoLAR)			
Munoz, Irma R.	Mujeres De La Tierra			
Norton, Hilary	Los Angeles County Business Federation			
Padilla-Campos, Veronica	Pacoima Beautiful	<b></b>	والمسيور والمثرور	w.
Perry, Chris	Los Angeles County 5th District			53



Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 April 11, 2018 • 9 a.m. to Noon Sign In for Steering Committee Members LOCATION

County of Los Angeles Public Works 900 S Fremont Ave, Conference Room A-B Alhambra, CA 91803

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	Initials
Reznisk, Bruce	Los Angeles Waterkeeper			R
Rivera-Olivas, Jocelyn	Los Angeles County 4th District			
Salinas, Julia	Metropolitan Transportation Authority			+5.
Sellars, Peter	The Boethius Initiative UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures			
Stanley, Mark	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy			1 Att
VanDorpe, David	US Army Corps of Engineers			
Villegas, Rafael	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power		سه و با سند ا	R/
Villegas, Teresa	Los Angeles County 1st District			
Weeks, Gabrielle	Sierra Club Long Boach (hopter		e e	S GW
Yee, Justin	Urban Waters Federal Partnership		ا غوا سا	122
		11-27		

Appendix F

**Project Outlook #1** 



Los Angeles River Master Plan Update Steering Committee Meeting #1 PROJECT OUTLOOK #1

#### **Tasks**

Provide name of alternate representative **By Thursday, April 19, 2018** 

Review draft bibliography **By Wednesday, April 25, 2018** 

Attend Subcommittee Meetings **Wednesday, April 25, 2018** 

The following is a list of background reading material to prepare for the next Steering Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.

#### WATER

"Hydraulics Report: Floodplain Analysis." U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch. October 2016. Available at http://eng2.lacity.org/projects/LARIVER\_Glendale\_Narrows/docs/LAR\_FPMS\_Hydraulic\_Report\_FINAL\_October2016\_CompleteDocument.pdf
(Reading: Section 3 and Plates 12 through 29; General Review: Entire report)

#### **PEOPLE**

Solomon, Adina. "Atlanta Scrambles to Fix the Beltline's Affordable Housing Failures." Citylab. 1 Sep 2017. Available at https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/09/atlanta-beltline-affordable-housing/538515/

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE**

"The Greater Los Angeles Open Space for Habitat and Recreation Plan." (Prepared for the Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan). 2012. Available at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/irwmp/docs/Prop84/GLAC\_OSHARP\_Report\_Final.pdf (Reading: Pages 16-20, 29-68)

## The following book is recommended for all Steering Committee members:

Gumprecht, Blake. *The Los Angeles River: Its Life Death and Possible Rebirth.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.