



Public Engagement Report

July 2018

I. Community Meeting #1 - Canoga Park - 7.25.18

Meeting Summary & Findings

The first community meeting for the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update (LARMP) was held on July 25, 2018 in Canoga Park. One hundred and sixty seven community members signed in, with an estimated 200 in attendance overall. Attendees were primarily residents of the communities in west San Fernando Valley.

Attendance was generationally diverse, with the Baby Boom and Millennial generations having the highest representation. Almost half of the survey respondents were born and raised in LA County and nearly 40% are active users of the LA River, primarily for walking or biking, though nearly 50% of respondents do not visit the river due to safety concerns.

However, more than half of respondents spent more than one day per week interacting with nature. When asked to prioritize issues related to the river,





respondents chose addressing homelessness, affordable housing, protecting plant and animal species, and access to public transportation as their top issues. Respondents also indicated that they would travel no more than 22 to 25 minutes to the LA River regardless of mode of transportation including walking.



Purpose

The goal of the first LARMP community meeting was focused on sharing the draft goals, presenting an outline of the master plan schedule and process and gaining an understanding of community members' high level priorities. Our overall aim is to 1) objectively inform and engage the public on the Los Angeles River, and 2) to create a two-way communication opportunity that



ensures community concerns and aspirations are recognized and included in the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update. Further, the overarching aim is to create and maintain a dynamic communication loop between the community, the planners, and the steering committee over the two year planning period.

Outreach Tactics - Turnout

An array of tactics were deployed to help ensure robust attendance and boost RSVPs for the event. Thousands of flyers were delivered by hand to the neighboring communities surrounding the event location. Both elected officials and community organizations notified their constituents through email and social media. A multi-week targeted digital ad campaign significantly added to the meeting's awareness and attendance. Personal one-on-one outreach was made to community leaders and organizations, public officials, and key stakeholders.

Meeting Format

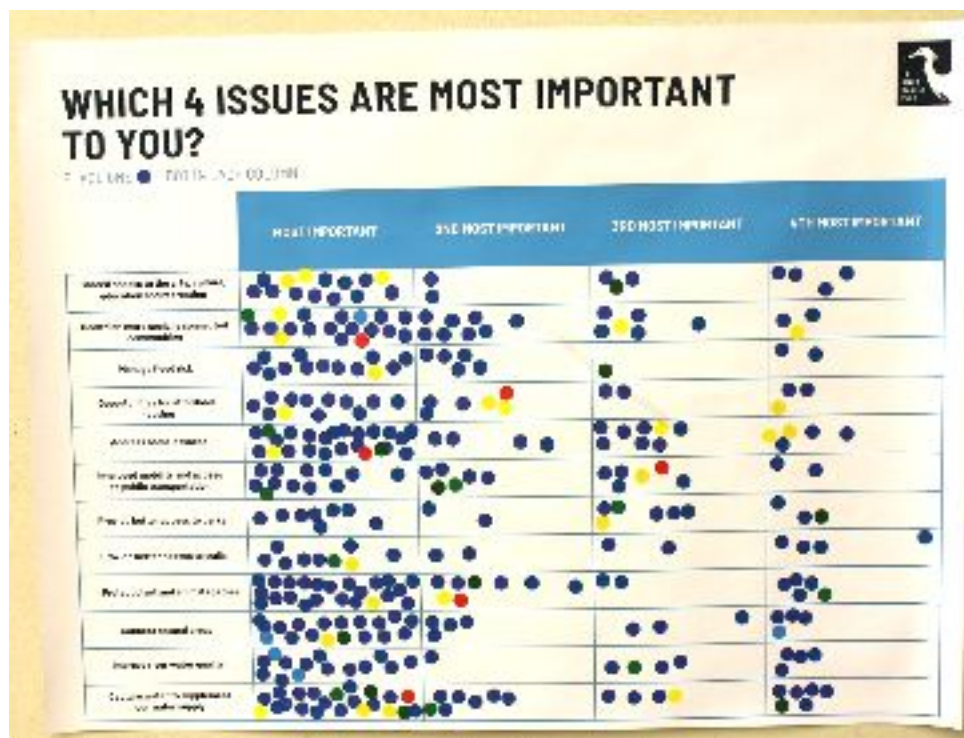
The meeting began with a welcome from Michelle Miranda, Canoga Park Neighborhood Council President and Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Empowerment. Los Angeles City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield then provided welcoming and informative remarks. Third, Viridiana Velez provided warm words from Supervisor Kuehl's office. Finally, Dan Lafferty, Assistant Deputy Director with LA County Department of Public Works provided context and an overarching vision for the plan update.

The plan update's consultant team provided a 15 minute presentation covering the topics of the plan's draft goals and priorities and the schedule of development.

The open house format included 14 stations that were used to provide an ideal environment for one-on-one discussions, direct dialogue with experts, and empowerment of participants to prioritize their own engagement experience. This also allowed for direct and unfiltered input from the public to the planning team. Each station featured a large poster with one survey question



and space for community members to mark their responses (see photo). The questions from the meeting stations were also represented in the digital survey to sync all the responses accordingly. Members from the consultant team consisting of Geosyntec, OLIN and River LA were present to answer questions and actively engage with community members.



Incorporating Data

Community members were asked to prioritize which issues are most important to them and provide their preference for uses of the river, including flood control, recreation, public health, habitat and ecology, affordable housing and homelessness. The community data received at the community meeting will be incorporated directly into the planning process and become a part of the plan's priorities. The Department of Public Works and members of the steering committee participated in the community meeting as well to learn first hand community insights.



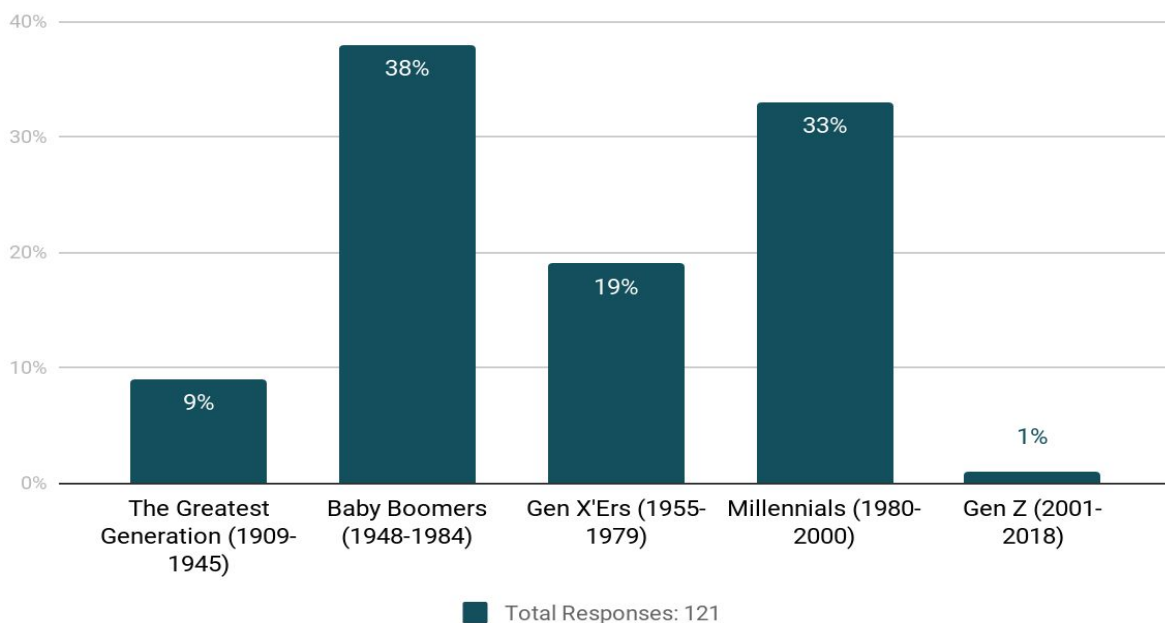


Appendix I

Findings from the 14 Stations at the LARMP Community Meeting

Demography

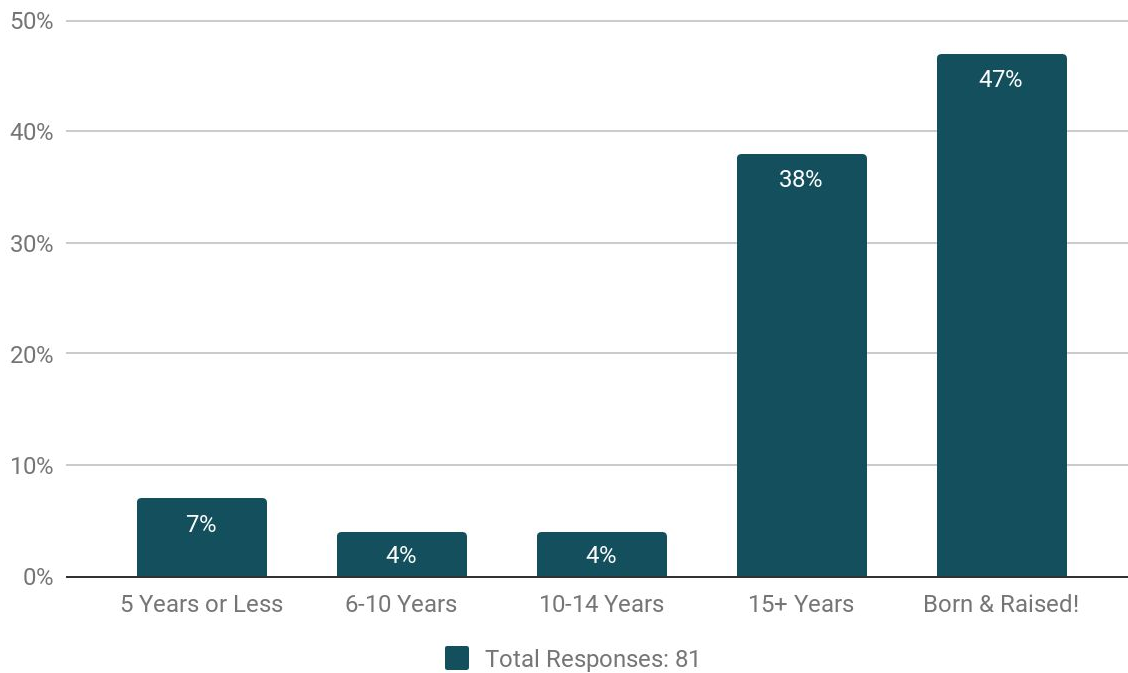
1. What Generation Do You Belong To?



The Greatest Generation (1909-1945)	9%	11
Baby Boomers (1948-1984)	38%	46
Gen X'ers (1955-1979)	19%	23
Millennials (1980-2000)	33%	40
Gen Z (2001-2018)	1%	1
		121



2. How Long Have You Lived in LA County?



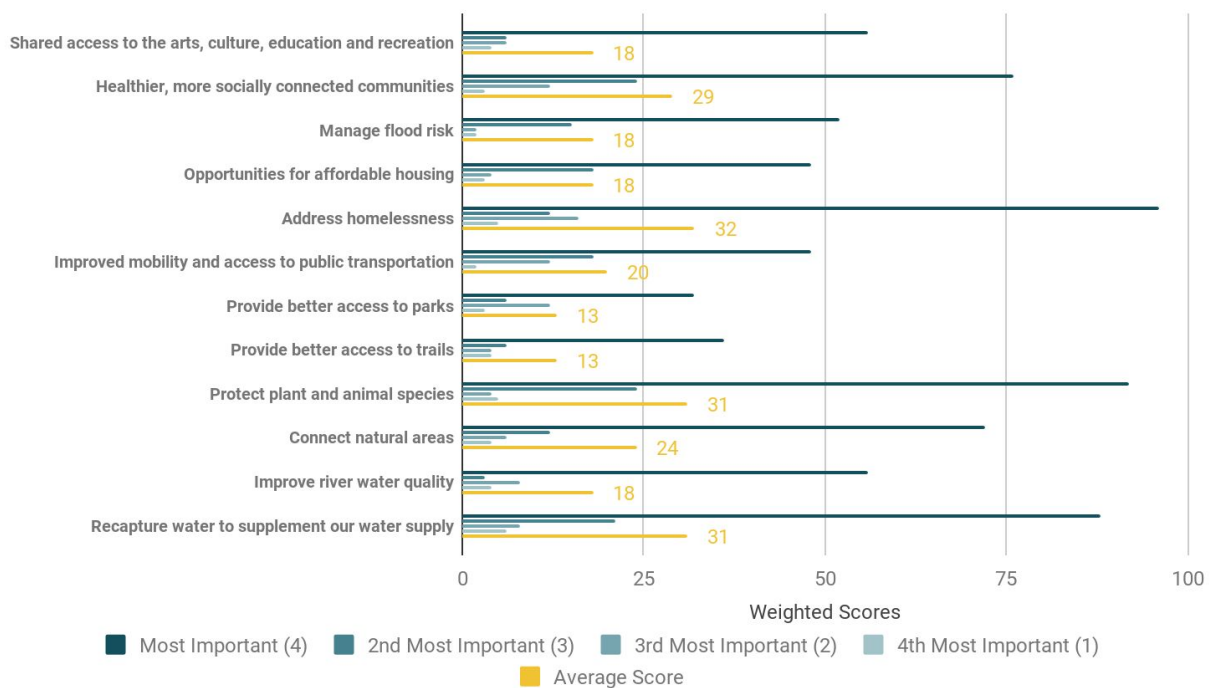
5 Years or Less	7%	6
6-10 Years	4%	3
10-14 Years	4%	3
15+ Years	38%	31
Born & Raised!	47%	38
		81



Overview of the River

3. Which 4 Issues Are Most Important To You?

Total Responses = 337



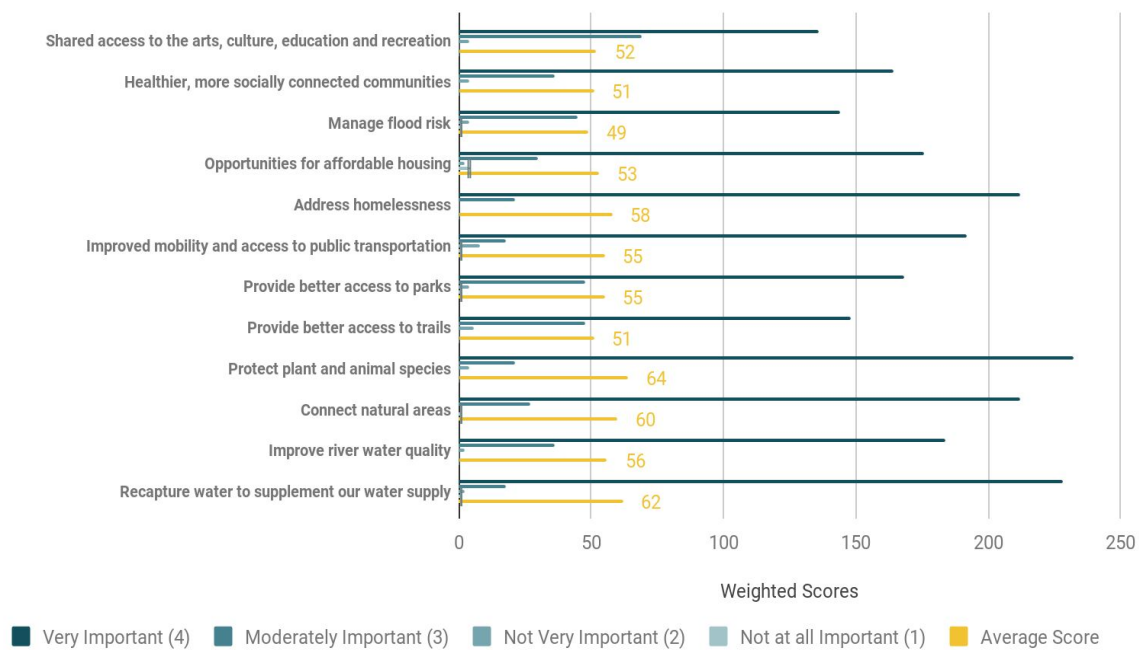


	Most Important (4)	2nd Most Important (3)	3rd Most Important (2)	4th Most Important (1)	Responses T=337	Average Score
Shared access to the arts, culture, education and recreation	56	6	6	4	23	18
Healthier, more socially connected communities	76	24	12	3	36	29
Manage flood risk	52	15	2	2	29	18
Opportunities for affordable housing	48	18	4	3	23	18
Address homelessness	96	12	16	5	38	32
Improved mobility and access to public transportation	48	18	12	2	26	20
Provide better access to parks	32	6	12	3	19	13
Provide better access to trails	36	6	4	4	17	13
Protect plant and animal species	92	24	4	5	38	31
Connect natural areas	72	12	6	4	26	24
Improve river water quality	56	3	8	4	23	18
Recapture water to supplement our water supply	88	21	8	6	39	31



4. How important are the following for residents of LA County?

Total Responses = 717





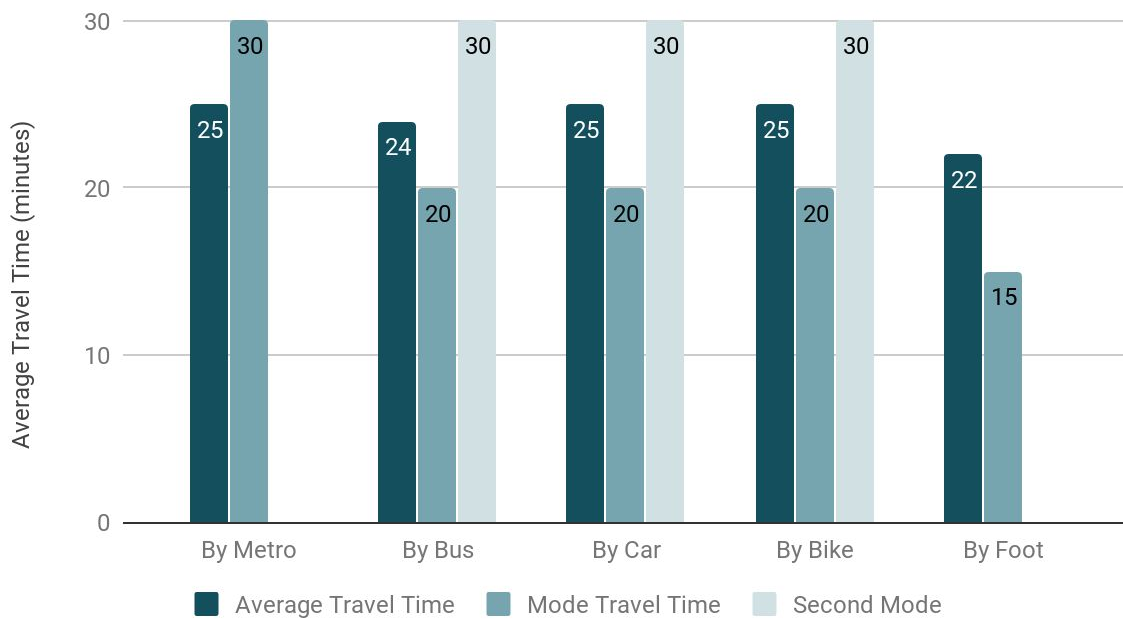
	Very Important (4)	Moderately Important (3)	Not Very Important (2)	Not at all Important (1)	Responses T=717	Average Score
Shared access to the arts, culture, education, and recreation	136	69	4	0	59	52
Healthier	164	36	4	0	55	51
Manage flood risk	144	45	4	1	54	49
Ensure opportunities for affordable housing	176	30	2	4	59	53
Address homelessness	212	21	0	0	60	58
Improved mobility and access to public transportation	192	18	8	1	59	55
Provide better access to parks	168	48	4	1	61	55
Provide better access to trails	148	48	6	0	56	51
Protect vulnerable plant and animal species	232	21	4	0	67	64
Connect natural areas	212	27	0	1	63	60
Improve river water quality	184	36	2	0	59	56
Capture water to supplement our water supply	228	18	2	1	65	62



People – River Access & Health

5. What is the longest you would travel to the LA River?

Total Responses = 216



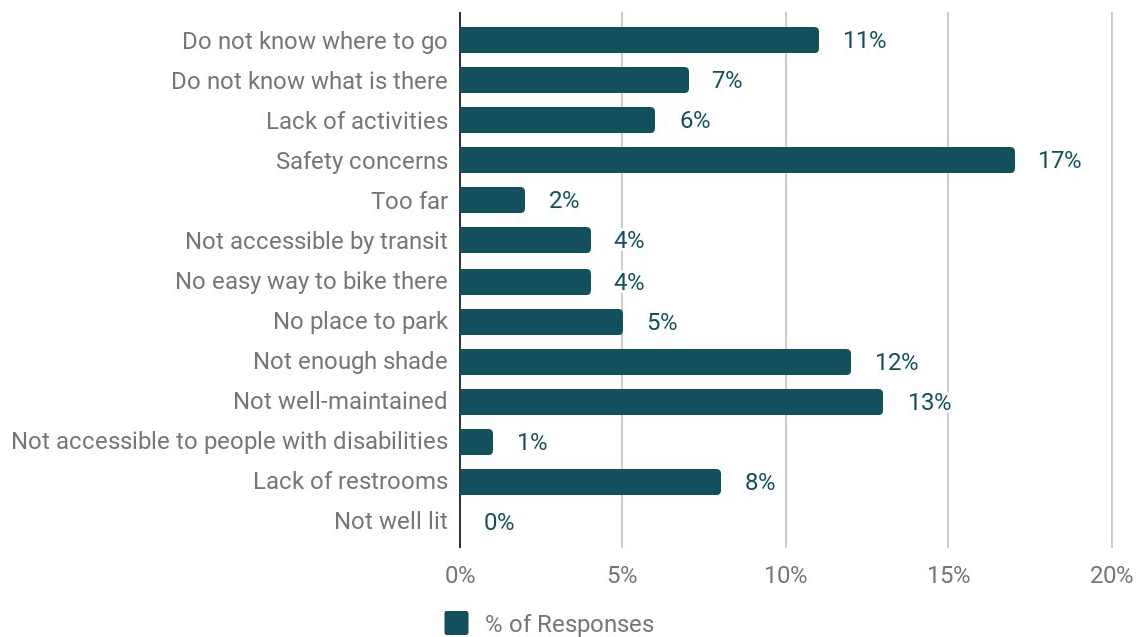


	By Metro	By Bus	By Car	By Bike	By Foot
5 minutes	1	2	2	2	2
10 minutes	1	1	3	2	4
15 minutes	2	2	2	2	6
20 minutes	1	3	4	3	4
25 minutes	1	2	2	2	1
30 minutes	5	3	4	3	3
35 minutes	2	1	1	0	0
40 minutes	1	0	1	1	1
45 minutes	0	1	1	1	0
50 minutes	2	1	2	2	1
Mode Travel Time	30	20,30	20,30	20,30	15
Average Travel Time	25	24	25	25	22
Total Responses	216				



6. What keeps you and members of your household from visiting the LA River?

Total Responses = 194





Do not know where to go	11%
Do not know what is there	7%
Lack of activities	6%
Safety concerns	17%
Too far	2%
Not accessible by transit	4%
No easy way to bike there	4%
No place to park	5%
Not enough shade	12%
Not well-maintained	13%
Not accessible to people with disabilities	1%
Lack of restrooms	8%
Not well lit	0%
Total Responses	194

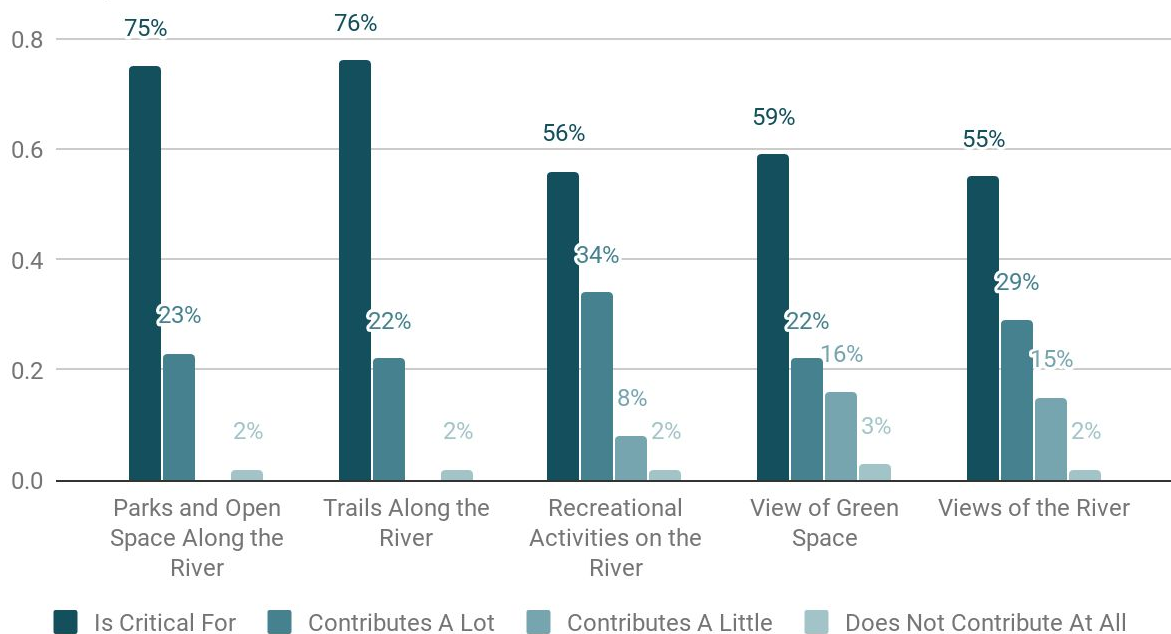
"Other" Responses

Homeless encampments/ gangs	9
Heroin use under bridges	2
Uncertain about gate closure times	2
Doesn't occur to me	2
More parklike	1



7. How much do you think the following contribute to a healthy lifestyle?

Total Responses = 277



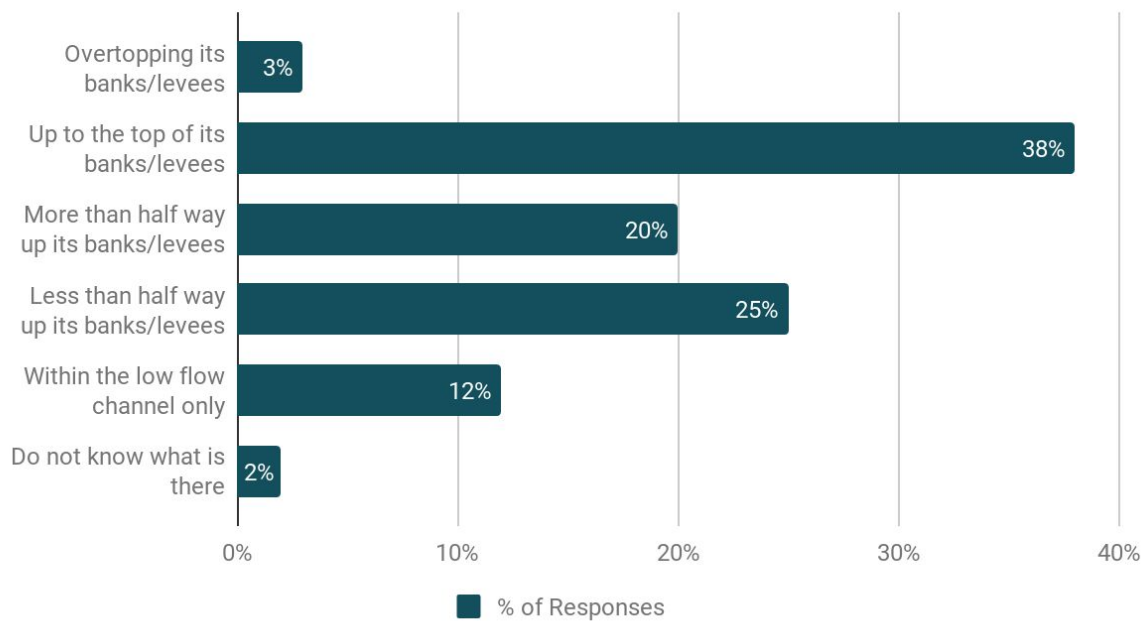
	Is Critical For	Contributes A Lot	Contributes A Little	Does Not Contribute At All	Responses
Parks and Open Space Along the River	75%	23%	0	2%	56
Trails Along the River	76%	22%	0	2%	55
Recreational Activities on the River	56%	34%	8%	2%	53
View of Green Space	59%	22%	16%	3%	58
Views of the River	55%	29%	15%	2%	55
					277



Water

8. What is the highest you have seen the water level in the river?

Total Responses = 60

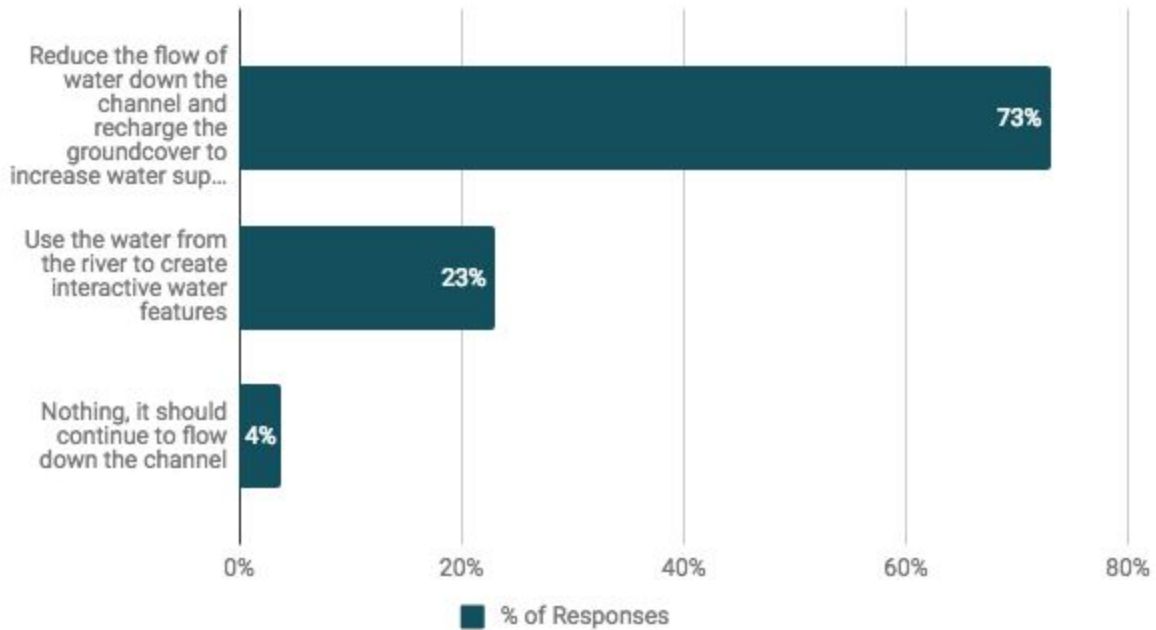


Overtopping its banks/levees	3%
Up to the top of its banks/levees	38%
More than half way up its banks/levees	20%
Less than half way up its banks/levees	25%
Within the low flow channel only	12%
Do not know what is there	2%
Total Responses	60



9. What would you do with the low flow water in the river?

Total Response = 78



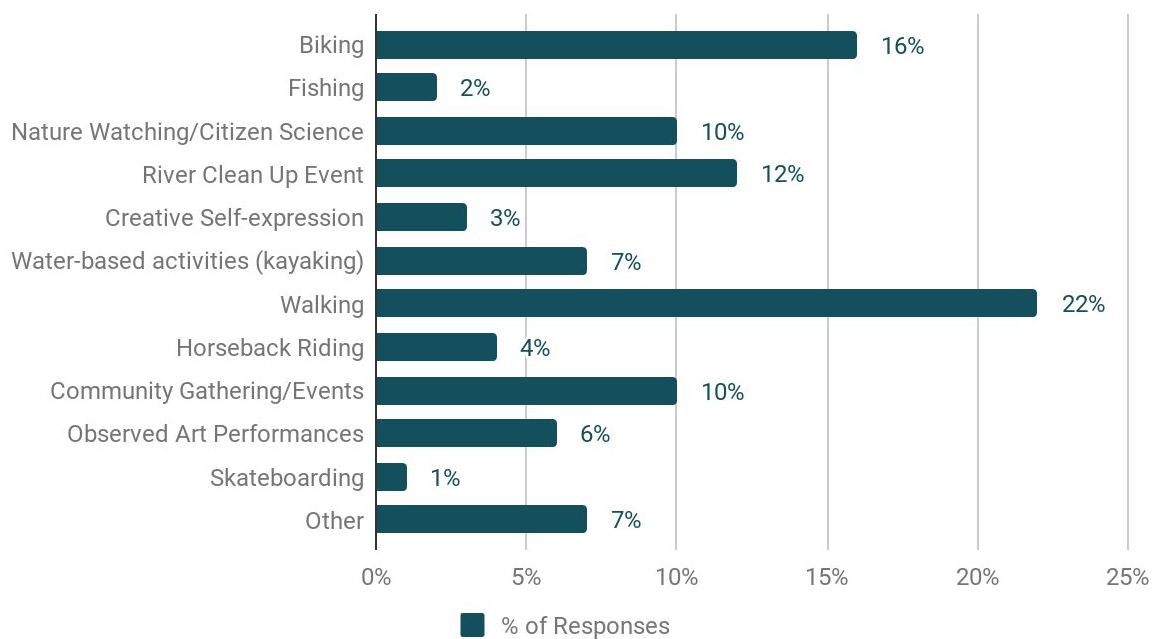
Reduce the flow of water down the channel and recharge the groundcover to increase water supply	73%
Use the water from the river to create interactive water features	23%
Nothing, it should continue to flow down the channel	4%
Total Responses	78



Environment and Open Space

10. In which of the following activities along the LA River have you [or a member of your household] participated within the last 12 months?

Total Responses = 234



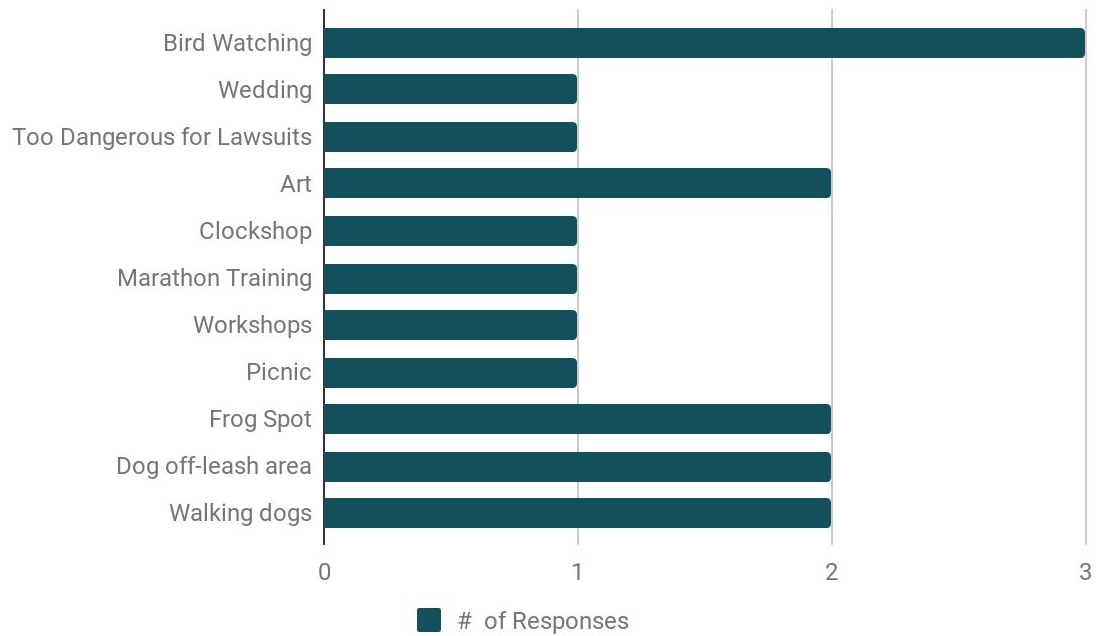


Biking	16%
Fishing	2%
Nature Watching/Citizen Science	10%
River Clean Up Event	12%
Creative Self-expression	3%
Water-based activities (kayaking)	7%
Walking	22%
Horseback Riding	4%
Community Gathering/Events	10%
Observed Art Performances	6%
Skateboarding	1%
Other	7%
RESPONSES	234



"Other" Responses

Total Responses = 17

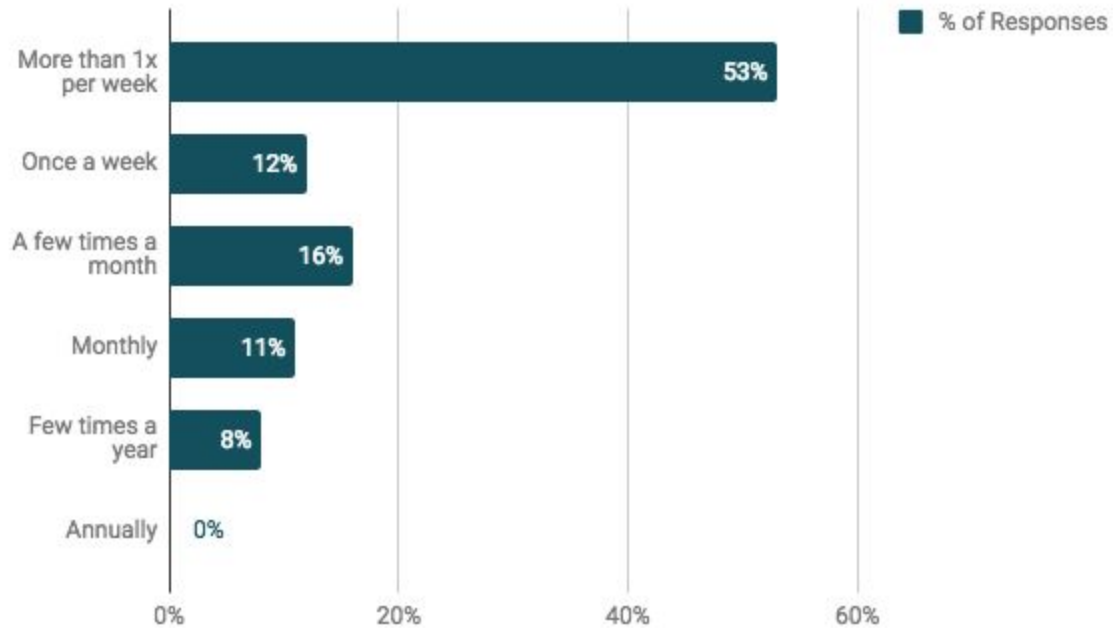


	# Responses
Bird Watching	3
Wedding	1
Too Dangerous for Lawsuits	1
Art	2
Clockshop	1
Marathon Training	1
Workshops	1
Picnic	1
Frog Spot	2
Dog off-leash area	2
Walking dogs	2



11. How frequently do you spend time in nature?

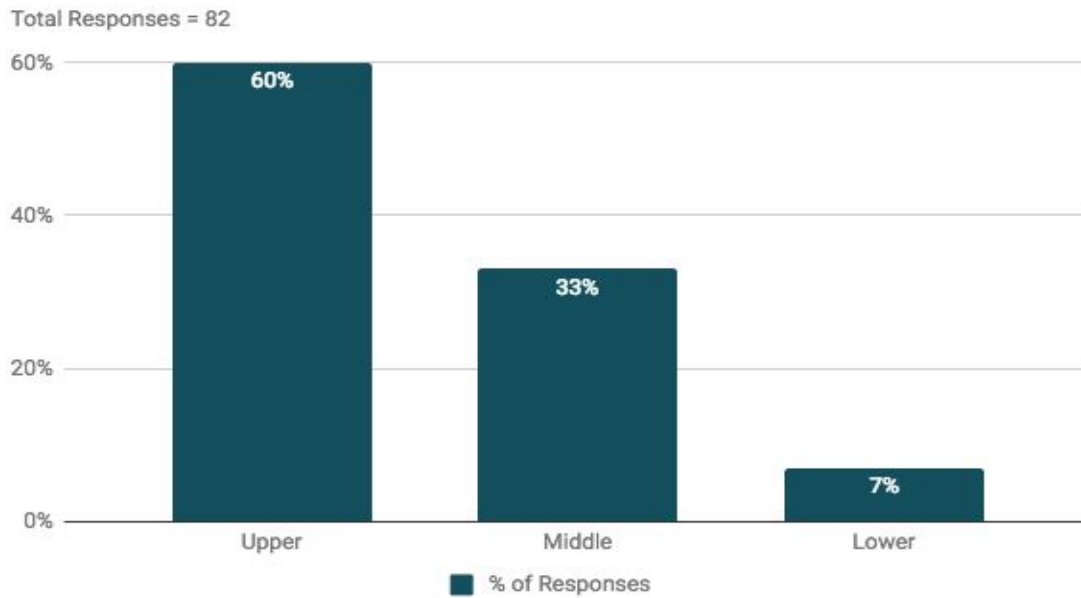
Total Responses = 75



More than 1x per week	53 %
Once a week	12%
A few times a month	16%
Monthly	11%
Few times a year	8%
Annually	0%
Total Responses	75



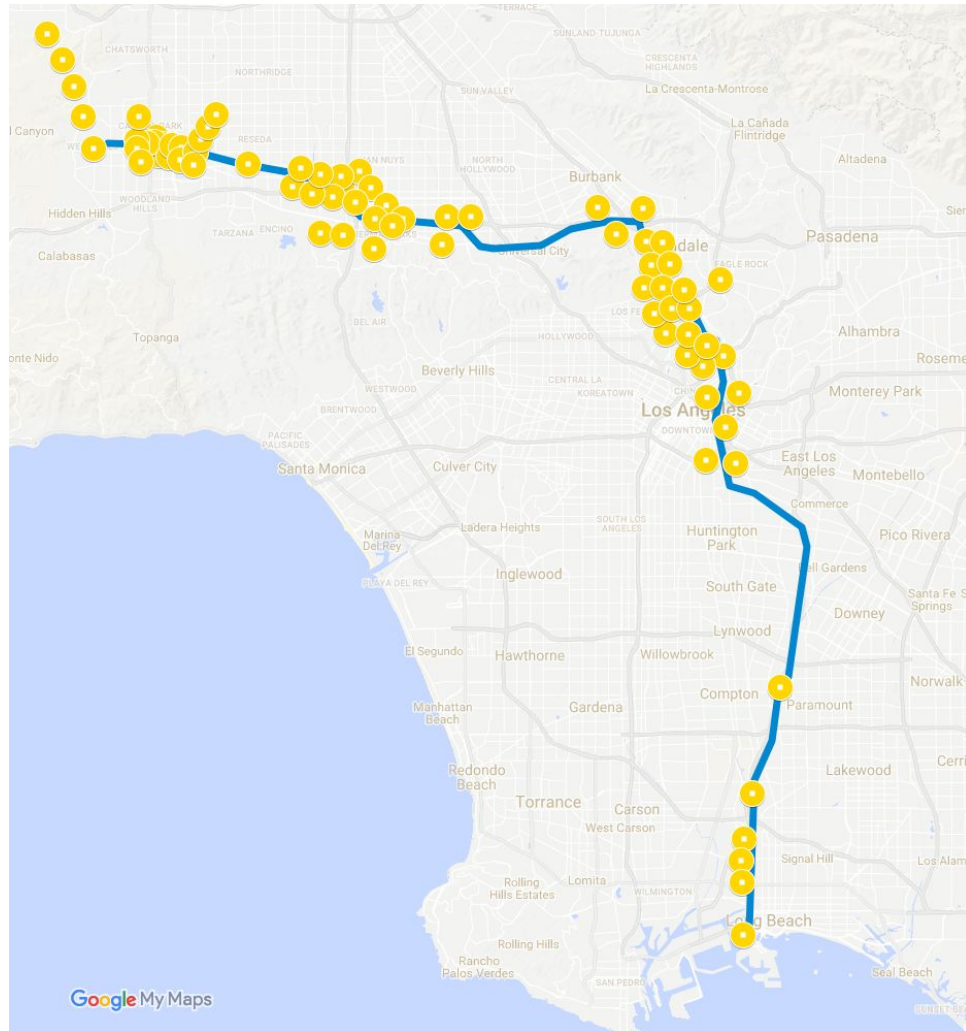
12. Where have you observed animals along the LA River?



Upper	60%
Middle	33%
Lower	7%
Total Responses	82



Map of where animals were observed along the LA River





Final Thoughts

13. What 3 words would you use to describe the LA River?

future river activities		
Living	River	Important
Restricted	Polluted	Dangerous
Life	Nature	Strong
Patrol the River		
Neglected	Valuable	Ignored
Needs concrete removed		
Necessary	Refreshing	Life-sustaining
Animals	Trash	Forgotten
Suffocated	Unnatural	Injustice
Hard	Bright	Bland
Give us green space and all will benefit		
Art	Nature	Play
Dirty	Potential	Exciting
Keep it Clean		
Potential	Recreation	Flood Safety
Tragic	Re-imagined	Hopeful
No Condos Allowed		
A living being		
Clear them out		
Put trash cans		
Wonderful	Potential	Opportunity
Barren	Brutal	Dry
Keep the public out		
Ducks	Trash	Concrete



Quiet	Nature	Retreat
Place trash bins along the river		
Secluded	Trashy	Potential
Toxic	Hopeful	Needed
Opportunity	Life	Access
Opportunity	Living	<i>Life</i>
Trees	Vegetated	Islands
Meandering Earth Paths		
Possibility	Chained	Beautiful/Ugly
Needs less concrete		
Concrete	Wildlife	Trees
Wildlife	Nature	Hope
Alive	Green	Desolate
Concrete	Native	Health (needs improvement)
non-anthropocentric	dirtied	hope
Unsafe	Concrete	"river"
Bikeable	Concrete	Exposed
Homeless	Smells Bad	Opportunity
Mostly concrete with random trees	Smells Strange	
Wildlife	Dirty	Not maintained
Wildlife	Requires Aid	
Awesome	Almost heaven	



14. What We Missed

Army Corps, you have no jurisdiction in their section and they do not maintain endangered species
Watershed Management
Transport - I want to bike along it
Tributaries! (The other 200 miles of paced river that feeds in)
Reach out to non-English speaking communities
Missing community conversation element of input. More education focused and data gathering than input happening
More space for river to flood naturally
I just learned that there are Redwoods by the river at Canogy H.S.!!
Connecting the length of the river is critical
You missed the West Hills
Um, climate change
Teach people to take home their trash (pack it in, pack it out) Use icons instead of language
Need to address protection of established wildlife and habitat during transition periods for redevelopment and revitalization
SFV superfund polluters penalty/payment status
SFV wellhead status re: basin flush of toxins
I think you should extend your plan to include the Dayton Creek, all the way to the Chatsworth Reservoir where you can put in parking, bike racks, restrooms and a preview center for an official beginning of the River Plan. Start your plan at Chatsworth Reservoir and include Dayton Creek to the Canoga H.S.
Restrooms, Safety, Lighting, Parking, Access
Include Bell Creek
Fish
Look at how to reduce waste and keep trash from entering the river
Providing more soft bottom sediment areas for groundwater recharge in Los Angeles County
Look around the room, 75% white in a Latino neighborhood Why?
Get kids involved so they have a stake in it.
Use greywater (treated and reclaimed) to fill watershed for aquatic habitat connectivity and



groundwater recharge
We need these meetings on westside etc. to get countywide buy-in!
All Reg. Police Patrol by motorbike
Parking Issue
Don't allow street vendors
Provide housing for homeless along river
Incorporating the federal endangered species and migratory bird treaty acts in the LA River Master Plan! River that are restored should possess some indigenous wildlife
No police along river unless emergency
Restore the watershed so that at least 50% has natural, endemic vegetation for the plan
Allow street vendors
Art
Comments on other cities, Seoul, Munich, Missoula
I'm against EIFD's, it's another type of development
Open all the existing service roads
Water Quality for ecological and public health
Any potential for water sports (parks)?
Need to look at how to greatly increase open space to work with along river to increase native habitat and wildlife connections, urban forest, a lot less concrete, and expanded not urban development zones
Floodplain buy back
Stinky Algae
Alive
Concerned about real estate development priorities overriding greenway increase and feel Frank Gehry should not be on this
Look at LA River as an important biodiversity hub and maintain as such
Before taking out the bottom of the river to allow percolation of water consider the risk of liquefaction of the soil - we are on earthquake land
Dedicated rangers
Include Arroyo Calabasas greening
Include Ventura County Watershed
Needs to connect better to bike lanes/paths



Homeless encampments, taggers, gangs
More parklike
Reseda to Lindley - Raise the civic infrastructure to the level of the community
Uncertain gate closure times - Locked in?
Heroin use under bridges
Chatsworth Reservoir - Start
Cisterns to hold H2O outside
Need one authority - no hope if every city takes control
Flood lights under the overpasses to discourage homeless
West Hills
Abandoned Infrastructure, creative reuse
Oral history and recent history
Emulate Choenggyeong River in S. Korea
Murals
Add transit center on Reseda
Homeless cleanups
Separate flood control from open space
Impact of high density transit development along orange line i.e. Reseda/Oxnard st.
Use of reclaimed water for irrigation including white oak avenue medians
What about improvements along tributaries?
Invite health plans to contribute to LA River efforts as we become healthier with river improvement they will save \$! Connect to research on social-recreational determinants of health
Prepare for dam breaking
Identify low points likely to overflow
Drinking fountains
Perhaps add a station: what happens to water we use? that is reclamation plants
Is Frank Gehry still involved?
Update maps to include all parks on river
More water fountains
More tree coverage



More contiguous bike paths
Restrooms, Potable water stations, patrol, trash collection
The channel was built for a reason, keep it
Advertise meetings in newspapers
Include SSFL/Boeing in process



Comment Cards: How did we do?

Star Rating (1-5)	Comment
5	This was great - wonderful to have knowledgeable people to discuss plans
5	Live stream the next meeting
5	Get it online too
5	Your staff and organization was amazing tonight! Better than expected! :)
5	A location that works better for night
5	Plans to integrate private development?
5	Relate some of the data to how the plan can solve the issue. i.e How can the plan lower obesity
5	More interactive goal station
5	You're on point!
5	Really great engagement! Maybe more community - specific info = more personal
5	If you need volunteers I would be willing to help
5	Show something of proposed projects if possible
5	Keep cool, great staff - keep them
5	Very receptive staff
5	More info on website and more info on master plan
5	More resources / reading materials about the river and proposed changes
5	
5	
5	
5	
5	
4.5	More open spaces for other suggestions
4	Air conditioning
4	Recreational activities
4	Engage more communities of color, BIPOC. Their involvement is key to equity.
4	Better parking / entry, directions, but I loved my longer walk around the block
4	More AC
4	Better air conditioning
4	Provide some focus on the LA River tributaries
3	Better graphics for plant life
3	Tell us what was accomplished after the 1996 master plan
1	Purchase jugs for water and compostable cups, please
N/A	More in depth discussions are necessary to clearly understand the public concern - comment period
N/A	Community comment period
N/A	Beverages, cooler place
N/A	Suggestions for master plan
N/A	signage was terrible for those not familiar with area
N/A	Better signage on where to park on flyer / website
4.52	Average rating



Attendees by zip code

Zip Code	# Attendees	Zip Code	# Attendees	Zip Code	# Attendees
91303	19	90066	2	90265	1
91304	13	91108	2	90290	1
91335	11	91214	2	90715	1
91367	10	91305	2	91001	1
91307	8	91340	2	91030	1
91401	6	91342	2	91101	1
91403	6	90006	1	91208	1
91306	5	90007	1	91302	1
90039	4	90018	1	91325	1
91316	4	90020	1	91354	1
91344	4	90029	1	91384	1
91356	4	90031	1	91387	1
91601	4	90034	1	91392	1
91311	3	90036	1	91402	1
90012	2	90041	1	91405	1
90013	2	90049	1	91423	1
90017	2	90057	1	91602	1



90019	2	90064	1	92660	1
90024	2	90065	1	93063	1
90033	2	90068	1	95765	1
90046	2	90094	1	91305	1

