

**ASSEMBLY BILL 466**  
**UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES REVITALIZATION PLAN**  
**WORKING GROUP MEETING #3**

Thursday, January 24, 2019 ♦ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 1B Van Nuys, California 91401

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**S U M M A R Y   R E P O R T**

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**INTRODUCTION**

On January 24, 2019, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) hosted the third meeting of the Working Group for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries (ULART) Revitalization Plan (the Plan). The purpose of the meeting was to: receive reports from the Water and Environment Committee and the People and Recreation Committee; review and provide feedback on emerging data and the committees' inputs about each tributary and the river through an interactive map exercise; consider a resolution for adopting the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan; consider a resolution recommending that the MRCA Governing Board authorize non-governmental organizations to provide community engagement and outreach services; consider a resolution adopting goals and objectives for the revitalization plan; and consider a resolution adding the Burbank Western Channel to the revitalization plan.

**Meeting Format and Agenda**

The third meeting of the Working Group occurred on January 24, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. at the Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 1B Van Nuys, California 91401. Approximately 18 Working Group members and approximately 35 community members participated in the meeting.

Hon. Monica Rodriguez, Los Angeles City Councilmember, and Working Group Chair, called the meeting to order. Following the administration of the oath of office to Working Group members and alternates who had not yet received the oath, Chair Rodriguez called for approval of the meeting minutes among the Working Group members and opened the public comment period. Chair Rodriguez then called for reports from the chairs of the Water and Environment Committee and the People and Recreation Committee. Mia Lehrer of Studio MLA, part of the project team, then presented on the latest project data and inputs from the committees on each of the tributaries and the river, which were displayed around the meeting room on poster boards. Chair Rodriguez then asked Working Group members and attending audience members to provide any feedback directly onto the poster boards with sticky notes.

After the interactive map session, Chair Rodriguez asked the following project team members for presentations to the Working Group on the following topics:

- Staff update from Sarah Rascon of MRCA.
- Presentation by Andy Pendoley of MIG, part of the project team, for consideration of a resolution adopting the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan. The Working Group unanimously adopted the resolution.
- Presentation by Ms. Rascon for consideration of a resolution recommending that the MRCA Governing Board authorize non-governmental organizations to provide community engagement and outreach services. The Working Group unanimously adopted the resolution.
- Presentation by Oliver Galang of Tetra Tech, part of the project team, for consideration of a resolution adopting the goals and objectives for the revitalization plan. The Working Group unanimously adopted the resolution.
- Presentation by Mr. Galang for consideration of a resolution adding the Burbank Western Channel to the revitalization plan. The Working Group unanimously adopted the resolution.

During Working Group discussions and public comment periods, Mr. Pendoley of MIG recorded key outcomes and discussion points on a wall-sized piece of paper, or “wallgraphic,” and Gina Palino of Tetra Tech provided additional detailed notes to inform this summary report. The following sections include a summary of the discussion points, and a copy of the wallgraphic is included at the end of this report. Meeting materials are available on the project website: [www.upperlariver.org](http://www.upperlariver.org).

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Agenda Item #5. Public Comment**

Comments provided by members of the public in attendance included the following:

- Include the Burbank West Channel in the study to consider many options near the river that score highly on Cal EnviroScreen
- Consider extending the Pacoima Wash Bikeway to Mission College to support Pacoima Beautiful’s grant to extend to Foothill.
- Support building a network of bikeways before the Olympics by leveraging LA Metro’s funding
- Plan to accommodate wildlife corridors as animals use existing culverts and right-of-ways, but face many barriers that affect negatively their health and well-being
- Include the Tujunga Wash Plan goals, objectives and projects in the revitalization plan, which have been lauded by the State for aligning with its goals

- Ensure outreach to first peoples and Native Americans located in the planning area to as part of the community engagement efforts, and consider project opportunities that may highlight their history

### **Agenda Item #6. Committee Reports**

Keith Lilley of the Water and Environment Committee reported that the committee updated the proposed goals and objectives and re-ordered the goals to more effectively reflect the committee's focus. The committee also added flood risk as part of the mission statement. Finally, the committee reviewed the biodiversity index and conducted the gaps analysis and prioritization with the project team.

Miguel Luna of the People and Recreation Committee reported that the committee focused its discussions on the goals and objectives around safety, access, local businesses, education, recreation, ecosystems and connectivity. The committee also conducted gaps analysis and prioritization with the project team.

### **Agenda Item #7. Interactive Map Exercise**

Ms. Lehrer provided the overview of the exercise and the content on the map posters displayed in the meeting room. The purpose of the exercise is to catalogue and link data and projects, identify gaps, and identify emerging priorities. She explained that the maps have been updated with the committees' input, and it's important for the full Working Group to verify that their input is captured. Overall, she explained that the Working Group's priorities thus far are river-oriented development, water management, watershed, connectivity, education, expansion of river adjacent areas for ecological use, innovative design, fire prevention, local flooding, wayfinding, appropriate restoration, and providing access to the river. Finally, she explained that the provided sticky-notes are available for posting comments on the map posters: green sticky-notes for Working Group members, and orange sticky-notes for community members in the audience.

### **Agenda Item #9. Resolution: Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

Mr. Pendoley provided a brief presentation of the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan, which reviewed the outreach objectives, methods and phases as linked to the technical process. Working Group questions and discussion points are included as part of the next section.

### **Agenda Item #10. Resolution: Non-Governmental Organizations**

Ms Rascon presented the process for recruiting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support community engagement and outreach efforts. Over 20 NGOs with known connections

to the LA River and communities along the tributaries received the request for proposals (RFP). The RFP was also shared via the City of Los Angeles' river announcements.

The MRCA received six (6) NGO proposals, all of which who met the qualifications. Each of the proposed NGOs also provided input to the Community Engagement and outreach Plan. Each NGO will focus on a targeted disadvantaged community based on the CalEnviroScreen results. Outreach will involve notifying the community about information meetings in February and conducting the meetings in March. Locations and times for meetings will be optimized to accessible, known, attractive and desirable locations among the target communities, and at times that are convenient for participants.

Working Group members' discussion points and questions, with project team responses noted in *italics*, included the following:

- What will be the outreach methods? – *The focus will be on disadvantaged communities as identified by the CalEnviroScreen method. In-person meetings will be conducted and focus on interactive discussions and activities that generate meaningful input.*
- How will “200 touchpoints” be defined? – *At minimum, this will include participants who sign-up to participate in informational meetings or to receive more information. However, these will vary by each NGO and target community*
- How may organizations request presentations for their constituents? – *Contact MRCA staff, who will assist with connecting to the appropriate NGO.*
- How will public noticing be conducted? – *Each NGO has developed a noticing plan for its target community.*
- How will this process avoid confusing community members with concurrent efforts, particularly the LA River Master Plan Update? – *Project branding may be applied to further distinguish the projects. Share outreach efforts between the projects may be considered via coordination between the project teams*
- How much funds are made available to the NGOs? – *These are tailored to each NGOs community, scope of work, and level of effort.*
- Will outreach occur in the Flint Canyon Wash? – *It will occur as part of outreach in the Arroyo Wash.*
- Ensure that River LA's outreach work extends past the river into the Arroyo Seco tributary
- Emphasize outreach activities that are experiential for participants, such as kayaking and site tours.

The Working Group unanimously adopted the resolutions for the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan and the recommendation to the MRCA Board for the NGOs to provide community engagement and outreach services

### **Agenda Item #11. Resolution: Goals and Objectives**

Mr. Galang reviewed the proposed revisions to the project and each committee's goals and objectives. Working Group members proposed adding habitat and biodiversity to the first bullet in the Water and Environment subcommittee. The Working Group unanimously adopted the goals and objectives.

Mr. Galang also presented the framework for developing the revitalization plan and informing prioritization of projects. Working Group members' discussion points and questions, with project team responses noted in *italics*, included the following:

- Consider opportunities for small businesses in and adjacent to the river areas, such as concessions.
- How will implementation occur? – *Local jurisdictions and partner agencies may pursue and evaluate implementation. An implementation group may be established to assist in tracking and pursuing grant and funding opportunities.*
- Ensure there's a balance and acceptance of qualitative and quantitative metrics
- Identify narratives of support for communities to further define success for each project and community
- Ensure that the mission and purpose statement emphasize an integrated approach to watershed management, as articulated in the Water and Environment committee.

### **Agenda Item #12. Resolution: Adding the Burbank Western Channel**

Mr. Galang reviewed the evaluation of the tributaries and presented the recommendation for adding the Burbank Western Channel, particularly given the scoring against the CalEnviroScreen measure. Working Group members' discussion points and questions, with project team responses noted in *italics*, included the following:

- Is there additional budget available for expanding the project scope of work? – *Propositions 1 and 84 hold promise for providing additional funds.*
- How will the analyses of the other tributaries be impacted? – *The current 5 tributaries will remain the focus pending additional funds for the Burbank Western Channel.*
- Challenge the project team to include the Burbank Western Channel as it's a community of great need.
- Could Measure W be a source of funding? – *It may be better oriented to implementation.*
- It's important that the overall project schedule be maintained as it is informing the LA River Master Plan Update process.
- How soon could an augmented budget be in place? – *The augmented budget is anticipated in February 2019.*

The Working Group adopted the resolution to add the Burbank Western Channel as part of the revitalization plan, with the amendment that it is contingent upon secured funding.

## **NEXT STEPS AND CLOSE**

The project team briefly recapped the upcoming meeting dates. Chair Rodriguez then closed the meeting by thanking Working Group members and members of the public for their participation and attendance.

WALLGRAPHIC

