

Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan

Community Workshop

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Discovery Cube (11800 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar, CA 91342)

S U M M A R Y

Introduction

On July 9th, 2019, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority held their first of two Conceptual Design Workshops, phase 2 community meetings to solicit input into proposed project concepts that will be included in the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization (ULART) Plan. The workshop opened with a presentation that provided background on the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan, overview of the process, and introduction of proposed projects for each of the six tributaries included in the Plan. At the end of the presentation, participants were invited to assemble into one of six smaller groups. Participants rotated from one table to the next in order to provide input into the ULART study area.

Each group focused on one of the six tributaries, these include:

- Aliso Canyon Wash
- Pacoima Wash
- Tujunga Wash
- Burbank-Western Channel
- Verdugo Wash
- Arroyo Seco

Participants were asked to provide input into the project that is being recommended for each tributary. The following questions were used to generate input.

Question #1 - What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

Question #2 - What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

Each tributary discussion area had several exhibits to inform the conversation. These included a map delineating the recommended project area and proposed project elements, tributary map with a summary of opportunity sites proposed by the Working Group and community, and a poster for gathering comments and ideas.

A set of index-card size images which represented improvements to opportunity sites were also provided to participants to inspire ideas for the types of elements they would like to see. Participants were encouraged to post these images or write their comments on the map or on the poster. A comment sheet was also provided to everyone and participants were encouraged to write down additional ideas to help guide design.

There were approximately 200 attendees, not including families with children. The following is a synopsis of the input provided on the maps, posters, and comment sheets. Images of the posters are included in the appendix.

Key Themes by Tributary

The key themes for each tributary are listed below

Aliso Canyon Wash

- Create a Natural Space where people can do things
- Link the community and the tributaries
- Make it a place where the community can grow, gather, and sell

Pacoima Wash

- Ensure more natural parks and open space
- Create ways for us to move around the city safely
- Celebrate OUR community
- Create Flood Protection that is beautiful

Tujunga Wash

- Make the park safer and easier to get to
- Educate people about the story of our community
- Create pockets for recreation and places for nature
- Enhance the opportunity for ecological habitat

Burbank-Western Channel

- Make Connections to other parks and schools
- Create a place where people can learn about nature and our community
- Create places to rest along the path
- Mitigate the pollution from the highway

Verdugo Wash

- Ensure design and features that create safe access
- Create areas that provide small gathering spaces
- Incorporate trails and pathways

Arroyo Seco

- Create more greening opportunities
- Incorporate educational components
- Include design elements that make it more inviting and safe

Aliso Canyon Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Markets
- Vegetated swales
- Arboretum
- Natural filtration
- Integrate urban gardens and farmers markets
- Incorporate complete connections from transit services to the tributaries
- Include shaded areas for respite
- Connect cyclists and pedestrians to the tributary
- Integrate nature educational opportunities for youth
- Provide space for local popups, services, and amenities along trails
- There's an opportunity to have improvements at the metro station
- Plant native trees for shade

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Mas limpia porque hay mucha basura
- Look for connectivity for horse-friendly trails
- Naturalized waterways and multiuse paths connectivity to places where people already reside AKA Chatsworth Street
- Connection points for bikers and walkers to get to places like CSUN and the mall, lighting should be increased everywhere via solar or some type of renewable energy given the amount of theft in the region, connection to the Orange Line in Reseda.
- Incorporate more education for locals and students around, create moments of gathering, have opportunities for small business around path. Small structures to teach from, sell locally from
- Green lung is good because there are few parks and tree canopy. Will help with pollution and heat island effect
- No concrete. Filtered ground water, removal decontamination (of land and water), education to local schools on how to care for the water and land (indigenous taught)

- It is great to create access to transit (Metrolink) the current streets Wilbur/Parthenia are very dangerous! I didn't even know Vanalden Park was there. Wayfinding signs are key!
- Nurseries – green space is a good idea, nurseries can even downsize and only sell native plants and pocket parks can be created, native plants where there are existing utility easements
- Increase the walking paths
- This area is good for encouraging recreational use. Keep things as natural as possible, Less concrete, no plastic.

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- El Proyecto es muy atractivo pero me gustarria que no tubiera aseso para personas indijentes
- I feel it's the most centralized which can be really beneficial to the community
- Designated local tribal space, a place to allow local tribal people to gather their relatives (resource), permeable walking paths, no invasive species, replenish native water life (fish)
- Be sure to coordinate with Metrolink because there was talk about relocating that station. Also, there was talk about a 'road diet' on Parthenia. Please consider where to position entrances/exits to the developed area. The most frustrating thing about the valley is walls/fences that reduce walkability and make it less pedestrian friendly. Make it open and inviting
- I think the proposed plan for this wash is a good idea.
- Great ideas
- I like most ideas but wish to limit harmful chemicals that concrete and other building materials contribute.

Pacoima Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Native planting
- Pools
- Natural filtration
- Lighting
- Bike paths
- Picnic areas
- Passive games
- Depressional storage
- Emergency phones
- Consider complete streets designs
- Enhance local access
- Integrate more trees throughout all tributaries

- Add ADA accessible paths
- Use the Pacoima Spreading Grounds for recreational opportunities
- Add restrooms
- Add art that focuses on local stories
- Represent local indigenous people with education, history, and natural diversity

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Mas limpia y seguridad mas alumbrado y mas arboles
- Look for connectivity for horse-friendly trails
- Recreation opportunities at the spreading grounds for aquatic activities, multiuse paths, open to all people, no chain-link fence, connectivity to local areas, greening native plants
- We need to prioritize this region, public art from local artists throughout, walking path/biking paths - California native plants, seating for senior citizens
- The opportunity for community access to education, structures that can be used for different activity education selling homegrown gardening. We need safety for people, open space, lighting, plants, shaded areas to keep cool
- More bridges crossing the river, safer areas for people to enjoy the area
- Not cause gentrification, no concrete, natural, bring back the native plants and fish, decontamination of land and water
- I would like to see spaces available for agricultural use by the community, no gentrification. Protection from flooding. If there is recreational use, have some profits benefit the community
- Take advantage of the existing San Fernando Road bike path and Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station. Add wayfinding to/from the transit and the parks/schools. Metro Bus
- Native plants/green corridor to combat the three freeways and refineries. Also, in terms of funding I believe this area has a right to more funding than the Arroyo Seco and Verdugo Corridor based on the environmental injustices and low median income of the area (much more disadvantaged)
- More walking paths, improve green canopy
- Clean water, equestrian and hiker friendly. As natural as possible. (less concrete) Natural/native plants and gardening opportunities.
- Walk/bike/ADA accessible trails throughout the entire area, integrate multiuse in the Pacoima Wash. Handle flooding like the Sepulveda Basin does

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Es muy atractivo mas igual mas seguridad y limpia
- I love the idea of connecting the Pacoima Wash with the community, currently it is an eye sore and has so much potential to provide the community and ecosystem services! The community deserves green open space accessible to all.

- My favorite, our community is due for something like this. We need to inspire our people and show them spaces that allow for afternoon strolls, activity, and entertainment, year-round!
- Lots of good ideas
- Designated space for local tribal people, areas for local tribal people to gather their relatives (resources)
- I think it is great, but would like to see indigenous people's input
- Coordinate with any potential Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects. Let people access cultural events in the new space (concerts, etc.), via transit (car-free)
- I think this is a good location because it's more central (densely populated/the North end of this one is already getting park improvements from Lopez Canyon) landfill (sanitation). Having a green corridor is also so important in this area because of the presence of refineries throughout.
- Love the idea of more community events, improve access to green areas
- I'm concerned about overuse. Currently Hansen Dam isn't available to many of us residents.

Tujunga Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Outdoor movies
- Performances
- Kayaking
- Trails
- Markets
- Adventure play
- Playgrounds
- Festivals
- Bike path
- Consider access for equestrians going to Griffith Park's trail
- Utilize some of the vast space for farming
- Incorporate fun activities and places to buy food

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Look for connectivity for horse-friendly trails
- Farmers market, classes, lake actually be a lake! Boating, fishing, natural walkways
- We love Hansen Dam, the food, the horses, make it safer, do not remove the recreational components

- Safety is a big concern, flooding, remember the Tujunga River used to pass through here so something that can be prepared if it overflows again. Great example is the Reno river area!
- More recreational - boating, kayaking
- Education on how to care for land and water by local tribe, decontamination of water, removal of concrete, replenish native water life (fish)
- Have more spaces available for wildlife crossing. Do not have 24-hour lighting because it will impact the breeding cycles of animals
- While it's nice to have nostalgia for the 1950's, it is also important to be forward-looking. Q: How will we get from Point A to Point B safely and without pollution? A. Bicycles!
- Redirecting the water coming from the mountains to the lake. Right now the water isn't going directly in the lake causing quicksand. Trail maintenance around Hansen Dam and increase of park rangers
- Natural, natural, natural please. This is currently the best place for hiking. Swimming in clean water would be wonderful!
- Multiple uses throughout, use the Sepulveda Basin as an example

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Has a lot of potential... restoration of the lake = important
- Keep it a hybrid of recreational and open space, it is possible
- This will be a great location to really teach people about nature/river. Outdoor spaces to educate, bring the community together Look into the Reno River!
- Good idea
- Native space for local native people, removal of invasive species
- Rather than a circular loop to bike around, I prefer a linear path that is separate from busy streets. It's not useful for transportation if it's an isolated loop. People will drive to it which does not address congestion and air quality.
- I agree that the lake revitalization should be a priority for this plan.
- Nice but please limit building structures, educate people about responsible usage to keep it clean.

Burbank-Western Channel

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Native planting
- Channel naturalization
- Border planting
- Tree canopy
- Habitat
- Natural Filtration
- Catchment

- Pools
- Vegetated swales
- Depressional storage
- Arboretum
- Trails
- Bike path
- Ecological connections
- Lighting
- More trees
- Add areas to stop, reflect, and relax
- The green lung is appealing
- This area has less investment than area C
- There is a lack of green space, specifically West of I-5
- This should address pollution and public health
- Pasear con la familia y mas seguridad
- Senderismo
- Mas arboles
- Accesible para sillas de ruedas
- Add lighting and better security
- Integrate information stations
- Integrate drought-tolerant shade trees along the bike paths

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- No estoy muy familiarizada con esa comunidad por eso no puedo opinar
- Look for connectivity for horse-friendly trails
- This region is not park poor
- Center area of design needs to include plants that will allow for pollution to be captured. Heat island planting, boarder planting. This area in Burbank will need lecture areas for students to learn about landscaping etc.
- Cultural
- Bike path along channel with barrier (eg trees) between it and the freeway
- Removal of concrete, natural, native plants (only) removal of invasive species school education by local natives on how to care for land and water
- Connect to LA River and Glendale narrows (both sides of the river) with a bike path along the Burbank-Western Channel
- Green lung
- More open area to hike, nature and native plants
- Integrate trail access for cyclists and pedestrians, provide connections for schools and parks

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- This region is not park poor
- I like the 'A' and 'B' section most because it is bringing more opportunities to have more than just brick wall at the 5 Freeway
- Seems a bit complicated
- Space for local natives (ceremonial, place to gather), decontamination of land and water
- It is very important to create a safe bicycle route from Chandler bike path to Griffith Park because the current options are dangerous, we ride along Victory sometimes
- Good, keep designs as natural as possible

Verdugo Wash

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Tree canopy
- Reforestation
- Green roofs
- Biofiltration
- Vegetated swales
- Picnic areas
- Open fields
- Waterfall gathering spaces
- Emergency phones
- Riverfront pathways
- Adventure play
- Interactive exhibits
- Outdoor movies
- Cultural gatherings
- Sculptural shade structures
- Congestion pricing on the 110
- There is not a lot of open space, wildlife should be connected throughout the wash (South), consider safety
- Add more sidewalks to enhance connectivity to the Verdugo Wash

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- Look for connectivity for horse-friendly trails

- This area has always seemed like a pass-through area only, so to see that the hills will be given the chance to be used as a space is great. More access for pedestrians over to the community colleges.
- Not able to get the idea
- Removal of concrete, natural, native plants (only) removal of invasive species school education by local natives on how to care for land and water
- It is really sad that only a small area of each tributary will be improved. As a 6-year resident of Glendale, we always hoped the entire length of the wash could be a bike path connecting North and South Glendale
- Clean water, native plants, shade, and hiking trails
- Integrate multi-use trails that connect to the wash

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- Where would parking go? How would the neighborhood feel about this?
- Space for local natives (ceremonial, place to gather), decontamination of land and water
- This recommended project improves the North area (which is privileged) and does not help the densely populated South Glendale. But I understand the need for nature crossing the 2 freeway
- Keep concrete/building to a minimum

Arroyo Seco

Input from Exercise

Input gathered through posters, verbal comments, and written post-it notes are listed below

- Channel Naturalization
- Border Planting
- Native Planting
- Infiltration Basins
- Green Roofs
- Biofiltration
- Arboretum
- Waterfront Gathering Spaces
- Trails
- Ecological Connections
- Kiosks and Restrooms
- Festivals

Comment Sheet Input

1. What improvements would you like to see included in the recommended project for this tributary?

- More connectivity for equestrians, including hitching posts and water troughs. There are five horse stables along the Arroyo Seco, including LA's oldest – Arroyo Seco stables at York Boulevard – built in 1906
- Connections to Metro from surrounding area, waterway
- Soften up the area and make the design work with incorporating it with existing concrete condition
- There are little connections to the LA river and the Los Angeles State Park. I would recommend connecting the river to the park near the underpass area
- Bike path, day light creek, active recreation
- Filtered clean ground water no concrete at least at the bottom of the river; replenished wildlife (native fish), local school education (taught by local natives) on how to care for land and water
- I support re-naturalization of the concrete channel. For Design Area C, it would be great to have a greenway connecting to transit and cultural institutions
- Anti-displacement considerations
- Improve the green canopy, more shade, more green
- Bring it back to nature as much as possible but please educate people on how to respect nature.

2. What do you think about the recommended project for this tributary?

- May have a negative impact on the lower end if not looked at carefully
- How will you preserve historical elements, example – the bridge?
- I think it's a great idea. It was thought through in order to conserve the community
- Open space for active recreation, daylight creek
- Permeable bike path, no more concrete, local native space (ceremonial and places to gather), no invasive species
- It's a shame that the Metro bikeshare was unsuccessful in Pasadena. It would have been great to have. Please add more spaces for cultural events like yoga and bike-in movies
- Connection to LA State Historic Park
- Great ideas
- Very good. Please consider natural barriers/water filtration (stones and native plants) instead of concrete

Questions

- What is going to happen with the reservoir near Elysian Park?
- Will any of these projects be started or finished in my lifetime? What's the overall timeline (in years)?

Additional Comments

- There was a request for when planning for trails that separate uses and trails are explicitly indicated in appropriate areas. "The City has bought the lie that bikers, hikers and horses can share urban trails. Ask MRCA about their safety problems at SMMC! The Altadena Horsemen Association and Equestrian Trails International volunteer members replaced/rebuilt all these tributary trails after the floods of 1934 and 1938 yet riding these trails has become an unsafe obstacle course for equestrians. Add "citizen stewardship" component to plans. People do not know how to behave in nature and just building new infrastructure will not solve that problem.
- Remove concrete there should be bike paths along all tributaries so people can bike to the LA River away from vehicle traffic from many parts of the cities. All walk and travel paths should be smooth to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, etc. without bumps. Get rid of concrete and make ADA accessible.