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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN – ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

Public Works continues to coordinate the implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan. Since its adoption by your Board on June 13, 1996, we have been involved with the planning, review, and design of all projects that impact the River right of way. Attachment A is a list of project updates for each Supervisorial District within the Los Angeles River jurisdiction. In addition to project implementation, we have also been complying with the tasks identified for each of the Master Plan goals. Attachment B is a check list of these recommended tasks and their completion status.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Regional Planning

ATTACHMENT A

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS IN EACH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

First District

Public Works continues to participate in the City of Los Angeles Ad Hoc River Committee meetings to ensure that proposed developments do not conflict with the Master Plan interests. In the past year, the City formed an Outreach Subcommittee which recommended that safety mile markers be placed along the River bikeway. They also developed a video about River awareness. A Confluence Area Coordination Group was also formed to facilitate project developments between public and nonprofit groups. Some of the City's projects in planning include Riverside Bridge Widening, Spring Street Widening, Lake Los Angeles, Taylor Yard Acquisition, and Phase IC Bikeway (between Fletcher Drive and Barclay Street).

Public Works has prepared concept drawings for Elysian Valley Street End Projects and is proposing to work with North East Trees and the City of Los Angeles to design and construct the projects. Public Works is currently preparing survey work for the project.

Public Works began working with the City of Cudahy to propose the development of the Cudahy Riverfront Greenway Project. Public Works is currently developing a landscape concept plan.

Public Works began working with the City of Bell to propose the development of the Bell Riverfront Greenway Project, which will extend from Gage to Florence Avenues. Public Works is currently developing a landscape concept plan.

Public Works attended and will continue to participate in the Advisory Committee meetings for the Cornfield and Taylor Yard State Parks. Both projects are currently in the planning phase. A concept drawing was completed for Taylor Yard which proposed 20 acres of active recreation to be managed by the City of Los Angeles and 20 acres of passive recreation to be managed by State parks.

The City of Bell received a \$200,000 grant from the Resources Agency to landscape and install an aesthetic fence on the west bank of the River between Randolph and Gage Avenues.

North East Trees completed construction of the Meadowvale Street project along the River in Elysian Valley. North East Trees obtained approximately \$330,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board for two demonstration biofiltration projects along the River between Atwater Village and Elysian Valley.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is in the process of planning the Confluence Park Project. The parcels remain to be acquired while the project undergoes planning and design.

Third District

In January 2004, the City of Los Angeles kicked off planning efforts for the second phase of the Proposition K Riverfront Project.

Public Works is currently constructing River developments along Ernie's Walk (located on the north side of the River, between Cedros and Kester Streets in Sherman Oaks) and Laurel Canyon Greenway (located on the south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Radford Avenue in Studio City).

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's Office and Public Works held the Sixth Annual LARMP Earth Day event on Wednesday, April 21, 2003, in Canoga Park at the Los Angeles River Headwaters. In March 2003, Public Works applied for a Wetland Recovery Project grant to continue developing both the north and south side of the River headwaters after the Earth Day event. However, Public Works was not awarded the grant.

Public Works is currently developing concepts for the Los Angeles River Headwaters project. Phase I will extend between Topanga and Owensmouth Avenues and Phase II will extend between Owensmouth and Mason Avenues.

The Tujunga Wash Restoration Project is currently in the design phase which should be completed by September 2004.

Public Works is in the process of reviewing and completing a conceptual landscape plan for a multipurpose development at the Aqua Vista Sediment Placement Site in Toluca Lake.

In fall 2003, the City of Los Angeles completed construction of the Studio City Greenway project, located on the south side of the River between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard, in Studio City. A grand opening ceremony was held in April 2004.

As mentioned for the First District, the City of Los Angeles' Ad Hoc River Committee also impacts River efforts in the Third District. The Ad Hoc Committee has prepared a draft Request for Proposals/Qualifications for their proposed Revitalization Plan, which will include all 30 miles of the River within the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Glendale is currently planning the Riverfront Phase I Project which will be a half-mile landscaped trail between Bette Davis Park and Flower Street adjacent to ABC and Disney Studios. There has been \$420,000 secured for construction of the project which will include a linear arboretum, earthen spiral ramps, river rock features, and a historical flood control gate.

Fourth District

In June 2003, the San Pedro Bay Estuary Project completed the Riverlink Study for the City of Long Beach to identify potential developments along the City's 9 miles of River right of way. Public Works participated in this effort by providing requested information and reviewing the document to ensure consistency with the Master Plan.

In January 2004, Public Works submitted the Urban Park Act of 2001 (Proposition 40) grant application for developing the Wrigley Greenbelt between 34th and Willow Streets in Long Beach. We are awaiting a response by June 2004 to determine if we will be awarded the grant.

Public Works held the seventh Annual LARMP Earth Day event, on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, at Wrigley Greenbelt (corner of DeForest Avenue and 34th Street) in Long Beach.

Public Works is negotiating a contract with a consultant to develop design plans and specifications for the Dominguez Gap and DeForest Wetlands Projects.

All Districts

Public Works continues to facilitate the implementation of projects along the River by providing outreach through the semiannual newsletters and recently through the development of a website for Master Plan information. Public Works further provided awareness for the River this past year by participating in River tours for Generation Earth and the National Park Service.

In November 2003, Public Works received a letter from the former Secretary for Resources, Ms. Mary Nichols, regarding Assembly Bill 1147 (2000). At the January 2004 quarterly Master Plan meeting, Public Works announced that the LARMP Advisory Committee had been appointed as the advisory group that will be responsible for fulfilling the conditions of AB1147. Special AB1147 Advisory meetings will be held within the next year to identify a plan for implementing projects along the Los Angeles River.

On March 16, 2004, the Board adopted the Sign and Landscape Guidelines as an amendment to the Master Plan. The Landscape Guidelines, which were finalized with assistance from the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, provide criteria for implementing consistent native landscaping along the River. The Guidelines will facilitate the permit process for all Flood Control District rights of way until superceding guidelines are developed for individual watersheds or rights of way corridors.

Public Works is in the process of reviewing and finalizing the final draft of the Maintenance Manual which will provide procedures for maintaining the improvements identified in the Landscape Guidelines.

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ATTACHMENT B

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN General Project/Program Recommendations

AESTHETICS

- ✓ Develop a uniform regional mapping and signage system.
Propose a variety of artistic works along the River (i.e mural paintings)
- ✓ Manage semi-annual "Celebrate the River" events (i.e. Earth Day)
Develop a series of interpretive sites.
- ✓ Assist groups with in-kind services, technical assistance, or compatible use of right of way.
- * Outreach program with schools and libraries to promote river awareness.
Pursue funding for developing river graphics, signs, and art projects along the River.
- ✓ Develop design and implementation standards and guidelines for projects.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- * Provide oversight through cities' zoning and building review processes.
Establish or expand Concessionaire Program

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- ✓ Develop guidelines for planting.
Pursue funding for protection and enhancement projects on identified critical sites.
Develop a program for riparian and upland habitat restoration.
- ✓ Identify sites for restoration (i.e. Dominguez Gap)
Provide further studies of the river bird life.
Protect areas that currently serve as habitat.
Initiate water quality and environmental education programs (i.e. interpretive sites)
Cities are to revise their Open Space Elements section of their General Plan.
Plant in accordance with the Biota of The Los Angeles River Study.
Execute cooperative agreements to acquire land, develop and fund projects.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION

- ✓ Develop a means of information exchange (i.e. newsletter).
- * Develop multiple use flood control facilities.
Exchange land use with existing land owners.
- * Implement water conservation projects.

JURISDICTION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- ✓ Distribute a flow chart depicting jurisdictional relationships along the River.
- ✓ Develop programs that encourage active participation with Master Plan implementation.
- ✓ Designate and budget for a project manager at the county level.
- ✓ Form and interagency Implementation Team.
- ✓ Establish a Citizens' Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Maintain the Los Angeles River Advisory Committee.
- * Use JPA's and cooperative agreements to address funding, security, and maintenance.
- ✓ County Public Works to review all projects for impacts to LARMP.
- ✓ Cities to include LARMP in their General Plans and/or Capital Improvement Project Lists.

ATTACHMENT B

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN General Project/Program Recommendations

RECREATION

- * Develop continuous Regional Trail System.
- * Provide safe and well-defined access to adjacent parks along the trail.
Develop Interpretive Sites.
Provide pedestrian vista points at all bridges over the Los Angeles River.
- * Provide connections to the River from parks, schools, workplaces, and public spaces.
- ✓ Provide public safety programs (I.e. warning signs)
- ✓ Public Works and Army Corps to consider increasing public access to the River.