ITEM #1

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September 8, 2009

The Los Angeles City Council

Honorable Ed P. Reyes, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River
Los Angeles City Council

c/o Maria Espinoza
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Dear Councilmember Reyes and Honorable Members:

**COUNCIL FILE NO. 07-1342 LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN: RIVER PROJECT OFFICE PROGRESS REPORT**

I am hereby submitting a report in response to the City Council's direction to the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) via Council File No. 07-1342 to facilitate Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) implementation and to report on the establishment of a Los Angeles River Special Projects Office.

## DISCUSSION

Coincident with adoption of the LARRMP, the City Council directed BOE to report on establishment of the River Project Office, which it oversees as project manager. To maintain the River Project Office, BOE:

- Serves as the central coordination office for the implementation of the LARRMP, including communications regarding the establishment of the three-tiered management structure;
- Serves as the central coordination office for LARRMP-related project delivery, including the management and monitoring of consultant activities in support of establishment of the River management entities and in the development of River project scopes, designs, grant applications, budgets, and implementation;
- Chairs the City's Interdepartmental Task Force on the River; and

- Serves as the primary point of contact for the City in establishing River cooperation partnerships in coordination with the County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of California.

In support of its role in overseeing the River Project Office, BOE regularly provides progress reports on LARRMP implementation to the City Council; attached is the report for the period including April to May 2009.

Please direct any questions regarding this report to the managers of the River Project Office: Carol Armstrong: (213) 485-5762 and/or Larry Hsu: (213) 485-4562.

Sincerely,

Deborah Weintraub for

Gary Lee Moore, P.E.
City Engineer

Attachment:
Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Progress Report (June-August 2009)

Cc:
Krista J. Kline, Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa

# LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT (JUNE-AUGUST 2009)

*The following has been compiled in response to the City Council's direction to the Bureau of Engineering to regularly report to the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River regarding the progress of the Los Angeles River Projects Office as per Council File No. 07-1342.*

## RIVER GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### RIVER MOU & RIVER MASTER USE AGREEMENT

- The first meeting of the River Cooperation Committee which was established by the City-County River MOU will be held in October or November on a date to be determined; the Bureaus of Engineering and Sanitation and the Departments of Water and Power and Recreation and Parks have confirmed participation.
- Meetings with LA County to discuss the future possibilities of the River Master Use Agreement were held on May 27th, June 24th, and August 26th. The next meeting is scheduled for September 30th.

### RIVER FOUNDATION

- Discussions are ongoing regarding board members.

### RIVER REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

- CRA continues to catalogue potential projects sites. The CRA is hiring staff to address needs before the board of the River Revitalization Corporation is finalized.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding board members.

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Staff is renegotiating the Project Management Plan (PMP) governing the Study; the agreement should be formalized by the end of September.
- The City continues to work with its Congressional delegation to encourage appropriation of funds (to the Corps) for the Study and for a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) demonstration project.
- The City must be prepared to identify a 35% matching source should funds be appropriated by Congress for the WRDA demonstration project.
- The River Update Meeting/Design Workshops held on July 28th solicited input from the public regarding what they would like to see in the in future federally-sponsored projects.
- The City must prioritize a list of River projects for consideration in the WRDA 2010 funding; this should be finalized in the early fall.

## RIVER PROJECTS

- The Albion Dairy Park project has received approval from Prop. O's Administrative Oversight Committee to purchase the necessary parcels.
- The Aliso Creek Confluence/Reseda River Loop project (CD3) completed its public outreach process in July: Mujeres de la Tierra led the outreach effort; the Trust for Public Land completed the greenway design; and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is the lead on the park portion and will maintain the project once completed. Proposition 84 funds will be sought when the application process opens (expected in the spring). River Project Office staff participated in the public meetings and has been coordinating the City's involvement.
- North Atwater Park (CD4): A letter was sent to the State to confirm funding availability given the economic downturn; the County is nearing completion of its review of the agreement; the project's design is approximately 95% complete.
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- Sunnynook River Park (CD4): Letters were sent to both State funders to confirm funding availability; the Recreation and Parks Board approved the maintenance agreement for the project on August 12th.
- The Elysian Valley Bikeway project (CD13) is under construction—the groundbreaking ceremony took place on June 29th; the greening component (led by the MRCA) has been delayed because of the State funding freeze. The maintenance agreement with MRCA is expected before the Recreation and Parks Board in September.

## INTERNAL COORDINATION

- River Project Office staff met with Los Angeles Police Department staff to discuss the possibilities for the River Master Use Agreement's security components on June 10th.
- An Interdepartmental Task Force on the River meeting was held on July 7th; the next meeting will take place on September 8th.
- River Project Office staff met with Department of Water and Power staff to discuss upcoming (WISER) Committee activities on July 23rd. The next WISER Committee meeting will be on September 9th.

**CONTRACT WITH TETRA TECH, INC.** (No. C-108645)

- Contract ceiling: $4,600,000; Contract end date: July 31st, 2010; Amount remaining: $460,000
- BOE proposes to issue NTP No. 7 for $380,000, see the work description in the table below.

| Date | Name | Description of Work |
|---|---|---|
| 09/19/2007 | NTP No. 1 | List of LARRMP projects, grant applications, website update, outreach |
| 12/12/2007 | NTP No. 2 | USACE Study support, Sunnynook Park grant application, JPA support |
| 03/18/2008 | NTP No. 3 | Establishment of LA River Foundation |
| 05/09/2008 | NTP No. 4 | USACE F4 Phase support, River MOU support, Public Outreach |
| 05/09/2008 | NTP No. 5 | Grant application development for DWP Eco-Technology Campus |
| 01/21/2009 | NTP No. 6 | DWP Elysian Park Water Recycling and Ped./Bicycle Bridge |
| Pending | NTP No. 7 | Part of the City's in-kind contribution for the Feasibility Study: water quality analysis, design and graphics, Regional Economic Development (RED) analysis, cost estimating, plan formulation, technical review, website work, and public outreach. |

## EXTERNAL OUTREACH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- River Project Office staff participated in a tour of the River with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff for Paul Cunningham, Chief of Staff for U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard on June 2nd.
- River Project Office staff participated in a tour of the River for Proposition O leadership and other members of the community on June 17th.
- River Project Office staff made a presentation to a Valley River session hosted by State Senators Fran Pavley and Carol Liu on July 10th.
- River Project Office staff gave a tour of the River to Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army – Civil Works, Terrence "Rock" Salt on July 22nd.
- The River Project Office organized and conducted two public workshops on July 28th. Draft notes of the workshop comments will be available for review on www.LARiver.org.
- River Project Office staff participated in a tour of the River for State Senator Carol Liu's staff on July 30th.
- River Project Office staff met with KOTRA – a South Korean government agency on August 10th to share information about our respective river revitalization efforts.