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August 26, 2008

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 Espinosa
City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Dear Councilmember Reyes and Honorable Members:

COUNCIL FILE NO. 07-1342-S2: LOS ANGELES RIVER PRIORITY PROJECTS

I am hereby submitting a report in response to the City Council's direction to the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to return to the Ad Hoc Committee with more detailed information on Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) priority projects.

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles River Project Office has revised the LARRMP priority project list and I am hereby submitting it here for your review and endorsement. This list is intended to guide our implementation of the LARRMP by identifying near-, mid-, and long-term priorities and by focusing efforts to seek external funding resources for them.

Subsequent to its initial reports on June 5 and August 31, 2007 and January 7, 2008, the project list has been revised, as follows:

- The Variel Avenue Park project (Council District 3) was removed because the property was not available for purchase;
- The North Atwater Park (Council District 4), the Sunnynook River Park (Council District 4), and the Elysian Valley Bikeway (Council District 13) projects were removed because they received full funding;
- The Riverdale Avenue Green Street project (Council District 13) was added because it received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy in June 2008;
- A variety of other projects have been added to the list because of their potential connections to other ongoing projects; their ability to be implemented through partnerships with other agencies/organizations/groups; their readiness via partial funding received or



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eligibility for upcoming funding solicitations; their leadership by or active involvement of other parties; their geographic diversity; and/or their functional diversity.

This revised list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all projects that the City may support in or near the River. For instance, the list does not cover ongoing maintenance or emergency projects and does not include street, stormwater, or sewer projects and others, unless noted, such as water recycling projects that fall under the purview of the Department of Water and Power, total maximum daily load (TMDL) and water quality compliance projects that fall under the purview of the Bureau of Sanitation, and/or projects of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The list includes those projects that are consistent with the LARRMP and fall within the River corridor as identified in the Plan—within ½ mile of the River for the 32 miles it flows within the City—from its beginning at the confluence of Bell Creek and Arroyo Calabasas in Canoga Park to where it flows into the City of Vernon in Downtown Los Angeles. Future Tujunga Wash tributary projects will fall within the purview of the Community Redevelopment Agency's ongoing visioning process as per Council File No. 07-1342-S1 and the May 29, 2008 report, *Plan of Action: Linking the Tujunga Watershed with Los Angeles River Revitalization*.

In order to continue with implementation of the LARRMP, it is necessary for the City to move forward in endorsing key projects that are consistent with the mission of the LARRMP and show promise as early successes, so that they will be more readily eligible to compete for and receive external funding. It is also critical that the City continue to coordinate its River project efforts so that available resources may be leveraged to result in greater benefits and more efficient project delivery.

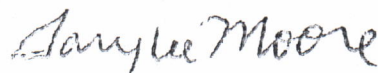
RECOMMENDATION

BOE recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee:

1. Adopt the attached LARRMP priority project list and forward it to the full City Council for its approval; and
2. Direct other City departments and agencies involved in River projects—such as through funding the work of nonprofit organizations who are engaged in River events, including cleanups, exhibits, performances, or capital projects, including parks, trails, and bikeways—to inform the River Project Office of these activities, so that it may continue to more efficiently coordinate the City's LARRMP implementation efforts.

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,



Gary Lee Moore, P.E.
City Engineer

August 26, 2008

Attachments:

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Priority Projects (August 26, 2008)

Cc:

Honorable Wendy Greuel, Councilmember, District 2
Honorable Dennis Zine, Councilmember, District 3
Honorable Jack Weiss, Councilmember, District 5
Honorable Tony Cardenas, Councilmember, District 6
Honorable Greig Smith, Councilmember, District 12
Nancy Sutley, Deputy Mayor

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Candidate Priority Projects
August 26, 2008 (Prepared pursuant to Los Angeles City Council File No. 07-1342-S2)



NOTE: Projects are listed by anticipated readiness and color-coded as follows: ☐ Near Term ☐ Near-/Mid-Term ☐ Mid-Term ☐ Mid-/Long-Term ☐ Long-Term
After being sorted by readiness, the projects were then sorted by Council District (CD) number and name; those with names in CAPITALS are from the previously-approved priority project list; those in **bold** have received partial funding.

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects																									
Name	Description	CD	Plan No.	CAO No.	IRWMP	Potential Partners & Resources	Status/Notes	Acquisition	Land Conversion	Habitat Restoration	Public Access	Active Rec. Acquisition	Active Rec. Develop.	Trails Acquisition	Trails Develop.	Nature Ed. Centers	Signage & Interp.	Water Quality	Water Conserv.	Green Streets	Urban Forestry	Environ. Justice	Community Support	(Near-, Mid-, Long-Term)	Upstream to Downstream
Albion Dairy Park	This project would result in improved river access and multi-benefit amenities including active recreation and expansion of the River greenway.	1	204	78-083	Yes	MRCA: RAP	\$5 million from Proposition O	Y	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		N	27
Arroyo Seco Confluence Park	This project has been in development for many years and involves the creation of a park, artistic, cultural, educational, and access amenities at the Arroyo Seco Confluence and linking to the Riverside Drive Bridge.	1	135			MRCA is lead.	New Add: acquisition not needed; relocation of City yards needed	N	X	X	X	X		X			X	X			X	X	X	N	25
Taylor Yard Non-Motorized Bridge	This project is approaching its design phase; the bridge must accommodate cyclists and pedestrians and will carry a recycled water pipeline across the River from Taylor Yard into Elysian Valley near Doris Place	1	171		No	Metro; DOT; DWP	New Add: is part of larger DWP Elysian Park Recycled Water Project	N			X	X				X	X			X	X		X	N	23
TAYLOR YARD RIVER PARK	Very large ecosystem restoration opportunity	1	164 & 165	78-082	Yes	TFL Coastal Conserv.; State Parks	\$25 million from Prop. O; \$2 million from Coastal Conservancy	Y	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N	22
LA RIVER GREENWAY PHASE II (Coldwater to Whitsett)	Key component of River greenway through Studio City; is partially funded; has some infrastructure challenges at Sportsmen's Lodge and bridge/roadway connections	2	Part of 81	78-063	No	Prop. K & Prop. 50	Did not receive Prop. 50 funding from application submitted in 2007.	N	X	X	X				X		X	X			X		X	N	8
CANOGA PARK GREENWAY	Bikeway/greenway on S/W side of River connected to multi-purpose greenway on N/E side from Jordan to Mason	3	13	78-015	Yes	County; DOT; RAP; MRCA; Metro	Did not receive Prop. 50 funding from application submitted in 2007.	N	X	X	X				X		X			X	X	X	X	N	2

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Candidate Priority Projects
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Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

Name	Description	CD	Plan No.	CAO No.	IRWMP	Potential Partners & Resources	Status/Notes	Acquisition	Land Conversion	Habitat Restoration	Public Access	Active Rec. Acquisition	Active Rec. Develop.	Trails Acquisition	Trails Develop.	Nature Ed. Centers	Signage & Interp.	Water Quality	Water Conserv.	Green Streets	Urban Forestry	Environ. Justice	Community Support	(Near-, Mid-, Long-term)	Upstream to Downstream
Marsh Park Expansion Elements	Would involve a City partnership with MRCA to expand the existing Marsh Park project northward, including new ecological, recreational, educational, and access enhancements	13				MRCA/SMC	New Add; connects to Elysian Valley Bikeway	N	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	N	20
Red Car Park Gateway	Would improve the existing Red Car Park with artistic, cultural, environmental, and public access enhancements	13	Link to 151		No		New Add	N	X	X	X			X	X		X	X			X			N	18
Sunnynook River Loop	Would fund the green street, river interface, and access improvements to link the communities on the N/E side of the River and N/S sides of the Glendale/Hyperion bridge to Sunnynook River Park, Red Car Park, Griffith Park, etc.	13	Link to 151	78-030	No	BOS, Street Services, Coastal Conserv.	New Add/Revision—this is the street end interface component of the loop, linking to the Red Car Park element (below)	N	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	N	17
Boyle Heights River Gateway Park	The approximately 3-acre site, bounded by Rio Vista, Olympic Boulevard, and 12th Street would connect the large Sears site to the River and provide a multi-needed multi-purpose park with both active and passive amenities in an underserved area. The site provides ample room for formal athletic, recreational space as well as areas with enhanced landscaping and passive recreation features. This project would result in improved river access and would be a significant River project for Boyle Heights, and would complement and enhance the redevelopment of the Sears site.	14	238 & 239			MRCA; RAP; County	New Add acquisition needed	Y	X	X	X			X	X		X	X			X	X		N	37

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Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

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Name	Description	CD	Plan No.	CAO No.	IRW/MIP	Potential Partners & Resources	Status/Notes	Acquisition	Land Conversion	Habitat Restoration	Public Access	Active Rec. Acquisition	Active Rec. Develop.	Trails Acquisition	Trails Develop.	Nature Ed. Centers	Signage & Interp.	Water Quality	Water Conserv.	Green Streets	Urban Forestry	Environ. Justice	Community Support	(Near-, Mid-, Long-term)	Upstream to Downstream
Arts District River Promenade	This project will green the western bank of the River through downtown LA between 4 th and 6 th Streets with a multi-purpose park and promenade, extending the River bikeway/greenway. The project will include habitat, water quality, and recreational elements and will be a much-needed link between the Arts District and the River in an area that is underserved. Additionally, the site could offer river-related amenities or economic development opportunities. The project would also link to the proposed Metro Rail Cop Park—offering an opportunity to partner in rails-to-trails conversion/creation.	14	221 & 225			MRCA, RAP, County	New Add; acquisition needed	Y	X		X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	N	33
LA STATE HISTORIC PARK WETLANDS	A wetlands park would be created at the eastern end of the future LA State Historic Park (a State Parks project), which would link to the River and result in ecosystem restoration benefits that are consistent with the US Army Corps of Engineers ongoing LA River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The wetlands would be supported by recycled water in the near-term and River water in the longer-term.	1	196			State Parks is lead; Metro; USACE	New Add	Y	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N/ M	26	
River Promenade (Chinatown/ Cornfields Opp. Promenade)	This would significantly expand the River bikeway/greenway into downtown Los Angeles, where it is currently absent; the project would provide green, publicly-accessible	1	206			Linked to DWP Rio Vista Eco-technology Campus project	New Add; this is the DWP parking lot at the Main Street Yard site	N	X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X	X	N/ M	28	

LARRMP Candidate Priority Projects

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Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

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	open space with environmental, educational, artistic/cultural, and water quality benefits.																								
Tujunga Wash Confluence Greenway Connector	Would divert the River bikeway/greenway around CBS Studios along Radford, the N/E side of Tujunga Wash and reconnect to River S/W side at/near Collax	2	Part of 93		No	CBS; DOT	New Add; This project would go around CBS.	N	x	x	x	x			x		x	x			x		x	N/ M	11
Aliso Creek Confluence Park	Multi-purpose park at confluence of Creek and River	3	29			BOS; MRCA; County	New Add		x	x	x		x				x	x			x			N/ M	3
River Origin Park	Park on Canoga Park HS property—triangle at beginning of the River in the City	3	3		No	MRCA; County; LAUSD	New Add	N	x	x	x				x		x				x		x	N/ M	1
134 Freeway to Colorado Greenway Promenade	A major extension of the River greenway on the N/E side, which would allow a connection to the City of Glendale's Riverwalk project, a celebration of the Verdugo Wash confluence, possible non-motorized bridge connection to Griffith Park, and would encourage safe River passage in an area that is heavily congested w/ autos	4	138		No	DOT; Metrolink; Disney; Glendale; Lowe's; Zoo; Griffith Park; State; NE Trees	New Add; City of Glendale interested in partnership	N	x	x	x	x		x				x			x			N/ M	14
North Atwater Greenway—Colorado to Los Feliz	A major extension of the River greenway on the N/E side, connecting to the 134/Colorado stretch upstream, N. Atwater Park, and Los Feliz (existing active rec. uses)	4	143		No	BOS; R&P; Guimby	New Add; City of Glendale interested in partnership	N	x	x	x		x				x	x			x			N/ M	15
Weddington Park River Buffer & Promenade	Opportunity to create a River loop by providing a multi-purpose greenway on the N/E	4	103 & 104		No	Quimby; Coastal Conserv...	New Add		x	x	x		x		x		x	x			x			N/ M	12

LARRMP Candidate Priority Projects

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	side and bikeway/greenway on the S/W side of the River near a key confluence					NE Trees; TreePeople																			
Legion Lane Park	Large parcel in private ownership; would provide a multi-purpose open space and possible Riverkeeper station/community center to provide education programs and surveillance functions	13	150		Yes	MRCAs: Props. A & K	New Add	Y	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X			N/ M	16
DWP Elysian Park Recycled Water Project	This project is linked to the Taylor Yard Non-Motorized Bridge project; it would involve bringing a recycled water pipeline through Elysian Valley, across the 5 Freeway and into Elysian Park with Green street, trail, educational, environmental, and access amenities.	1 & 13	n/a		Yes	DWP is lead; MWD; Caltrans; SOS	New Add		X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X		N/ M	24
Woodman to Whittell River Greenway (River's north side)	This Greenway would border the Studio City Golf and Tennis property in the public easement area—to create a River loop	2	79			Quimby; Props. A, K, 50, & 84	New Add; border Studio City Golf & Tennis	N	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X			M	9
Lankershim/ Caluenga to Headworks River Greenway	A major extension of the River Greenway/bikeway on both side of the River in a dense, heavily auto-dependent area	4	109		No	Universici; DWP; DOT	New Add		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X			M	13
CENTER STREET RIVERWAY PARK	This project would create a much-needed multi-benefit open space park near the River (on the western side) in densely urban downtown LA.	9	w/ 220	78-098		RAP; Quimby		Y	X		X						X	X		X	X			M	30
Pickleworks River Market & Park	This project would link the 1st Street Bridge project and efforts of Project Restore to revitalize the 1st Street corridor with the River as a critical connector; the project would	9	225 & 220		No	Bridge Program; Project Restore; CRA	New Add; would involve new plaza and 1st Street Bridge improvements		X		X			X			X			X	X	X		M	31

LARAMP Candidate Priority Projects

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Candidate Priority Projects
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Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

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	have open space, environmental, access, artistic/cultural, and community revitalization benefits on both the western and eastern banks of the River—featuring non-motorized circulation compatible with the new Metro rail along 1 st Street.																								
CROWN COACH RIVERWAY	This project would link the CRA eco-industrial development of the Crown Coach site to the River on its western bank in downtown LA—providing environmental, access, artistic/cultural, educational, and community revitalization benefits.	14	238/239	78-087	No	CRA; DWP; tech. cos.	CRA is lead; will seek tenants; River project will connect to River from site.		x		x						x	x			x	x		M	38
River Archway Park	This project would involve the creation of new River-adjacent multi-purpose open space on both the western and eastern banks of the River in downtown LA, in harmony with the 6 th Street bridge project.	14	w/1225		No	Bridge Program; Caltrans; CRA	New Add; would involve greening associated with 6 th Street Bridge project	N	x	x	x	x			x		x	x			x	x		M	34
Rio Vista Eco-technology Campus	This will be a multi-benefit, phased project that will incorporate expansion of the River bikeway/greenway, public access to the River, artistic/cultural elements, green street and open space connections to the River, will exemplify green building, technology R&D, academic excellence through a consortia of local universities, and high-quality green jobs.	1	197			DWP is lead; USACE; universities; tech. cos.	New Add; this is the 5-acre portion of the site along Leroy Street.	N	x	x	x	x			x		x	x			x	x		M/L	29
STUDIO CITY GOLF & TENNIS SITE	Large multi-purpose open space opportunity	2	81	78-100		Quimby; Props. A, K, 50, & 84	Not clear if parcel is for sale	Y	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x			M/L	10

LAREMP Candidate Priority Projects

Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Candidate Priority Projects
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Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Projects

Name	Description	CD	Plan No.	CAO No.	IRWMP	Potential Partners & Resources	Status/Notes	Acquisition	Land Conversion	Habitat Restoration	Public Access	Active Rec.	Active Rec. Acquisition	Trails Develop.	Trails Acquisition	Nature Ed. Centers	Signage & Interp.	Water Quality	Water Conserv.	Green Streets	Urban Forestry	Environ. Justice	Community Support	(Near, Mid-Long-term)	Upstream to Downstream
7TH STREET RIVER PARK	This project would expand the multi-purpose River greenway on the eastern bank of the River in downtown LA, in Boyle Heights. The project would take advantage of a large easement and lots upstream of the 7th Street Bridge and could incorporate revitalization of the bridge into an effort that would result in environmental, access, artistic/cultural, educational, and community revitalization benefits.	14	232	78-095	Yes	CRA; Coastal Conserv.	Ranked high on first IRWMP list; could involve parcel at Myers/7th upstream of 7th Street Bridge	Y	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	M/L	35	
Sears Site	This is a significant historic complex on the eastern bank of the River in downtown LA. The site offers opportunities for adaptive reuse of structures, creation of a multi-benefit development, and significant/high-profile, open space next to the River.	14	Part of 238			CRA; DWP; tech. cos.	New Add	Y	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X		M/L	36	
Silver Lake Paseo (Primary Local Green Street)	Would provide safe, multi-modal River access with green street improvements—linking the community of Silver Lake to the River	4 & 13	159		No	Coastal Conservancy; NE Trees; SCAG	New Add	N		X				X		X	X	X					M/L	19	
Taylor Yard Bowtie Projects (e.g., Edward Way & Railway Portal)	Would involve a City partnership with State Parks to connect with Taylor Yard to the south, including new ecological, recreational, educational, and access enhancements	1	160-163			State Parks is lead	New Add	N	X	X	X						X	X			X		L	21	
Reseda Park Greenway & River Park Buffer	Connect existing park to River on one or both sides; extending River bikeway/greenway	3	36 & 37		No	USACE	New Add; in Corps Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study	N	X	X	X						X	X	X		X	X	L	4	

LARWMP Candidate Priority Projects

LAXRMP Candidate Priority Projects

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HJELTE TO DAM WETLANDS PARK	Very large ecosystem restoration opportunity w/ bikeway and greenway extensions	6	56	78-035	Yes	USACE		N	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			L	6
Sepulveda Spillway Park	Very large ecosystem restoration opportunity	6	58			USACE	New Add: Ranked high on first IRWMP list, but is complicated b/c of pending 405/101 project	N	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			L	7
Metro Rail Cap Park	This project—potentially “Pacific Horizon Park”—could be the LA equivalent of Millennium Park in Chicago. It would involve capping the Metro rail yard on the west bank of the River, south of the 1st Street Bridge to provide a very significant, multi-purpose, River-adjacent open space in downtown LA.	9	w/1 220		No	Metro: CRA	New Add: would involve capping Metro rail yard	Y	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		L	32
SEPULVEDA BASIN S.C. RIPARIAN BUFFER	Fund riparian buffer connection to River from Sports Complex project (N/E side); would extend River bikeway/greenway; larger scope of project could also include detention basins/cisterns underneath multi-purpose open space fields (not yet funded)	12	47	78-032	Yes	USACE	Sports complex early phases funded; this phase not funded.	N	X	X	X				X		X	X	X		X			L	5