
THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



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20 December 2013

The Honorable Fran Pavley

Senator, California Legislature

5016 Parkway Calabasas, Suite 222

Calabasas, CA 91302

Dear Senator Pavley,

Thank you very much for hosting the recent public hearing regarding the Los Angeles River, during this important time of change and revitalization of our beloved urban waterway. The Trust for Public Land has been active on the LA River since 1995, completing more than 20 projects representing over 50 acres of preserved land. It has always been, and will remain, a priority for our local office. We are grateful for your longtime leadership and vision for the River, and your interest in our ongoing efforts.

Our current active project is a river park located at the confluence of Aliso Creek and the Los Angeles River in Reseda, which we visited with you and Kara Seward in early December. Nearly five years in the making, this project will create a two-acre park, one mile of walking paths, and three-quarter miles of bicycle path and greenway, plus 14 decorative entrance gates and 100-foot long mural, in this densely populated urban community. The project will transform a vacant lot alongside the river into a natural space that will provide habitat for wildlife and recreational green space for local residents. In total the Aliso Creek Confluence project will bring nearly seven acres of new open space along the LA River and Aliso Creek.

For this project, we have in place nearly \$1.5 million in State funding through the California Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Program and a Community Development Block Grant of \$255,000. This week City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield assisted with the required use agreements, to release the Urban Greening funds. This allows us to begin construction documents, which are expected to be complete and fully reviewed and approved by all parties by spring 2015.

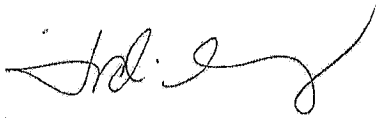
Once built, the Aliso Creek Confluence project will connect to and enhance a planned 50-mile network of bicycle and walking paths along the river. Environmental benefits of the project include decreasing air pollution, diminishing the consumption of natural resources and energy, helping plants, animals and people adapt to climate change, increasing the reliability of local water supplies, and capturing, cleaning and infiltrating stormwater before it enters the Los Angeles River and ultimately, the Pacific Ocean. In addition, the well-being factor

cannot be denied: access to safe green places to exercise, relax and play are proven to increase the health and happiness of those who use them.

We look forward to keeping you informed as this project comes to life, and future endeavors to help make the LA River a party of our city's everyday life. Along with our respected partners in the river family, we are determined to integrate this wonderful asset into our communities and bring unused areas to life.

Thank you again for your visionary leadership and support. Best wishes to you and your team for a great 2014.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Delaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Jodi Delaney

Los Angeles Program Director