

**DATE:** April 16, 2020  
**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board  
**FROM:** WCA Staff  
**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 08: Liaison and Activities Report

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### Legislative Update

For full text and history of bills and initiatives, visit these web sites:

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>

State Bills: <http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

**Current as of 4/2/2020**

The following is the status of legislative bills that have been introduced in the current session by Senate and Assembly potentially of interest to the WCA. Bills can be tracked on the legislative website: <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

### PARKS AND WATER

**AB 209 (Limón D) Parks: Outdoor Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/14/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder, this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve pupils who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes, the program envisioned in this bill may underwrite these positions.

**AB 217 (Burke D was Garcia, E D) Safe Drinking Water for All Act (NOW INCOME TAXATION)**

**Introduced:** 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Update:** *This bill was gut and amended on 6/13/19 to address income tax law. No longer a natural resources bill.*

**Summary:** Would enact the Safe Drinking Water for All Act and would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board to provide a source of funding to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water

service and infrastructure. The bill would authorize the board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, bequests, and settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies, and to contribute funding available from other sources related to water quality. This bill and a companion measure, SB 200, reflect a priority articulated by Governor Newsom in his 2019-20 Budget and in his state of the state, implementing a sustainable funding source to address deficient water systems.

**AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/14/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,920,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. The bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. The bill would provide that its provisions are severable. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Speaker Rendon has greenlighted members of Assembly leadership to draft and propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 352 represents such a vehicle and AB 1298 (Mullin) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond still remains in the mix as well and Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated this as a personal priority.

**AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/30/2019, **Status:** Vetoed

**Summary:** This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources community education programs, or recreational amenities. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

**AB 926 (O'Donnell D) Oil Revenue: Oil Trust Fund**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** Held on Senate Appropriations Suspense File

**Summary:** Current law requires the Controller to transfer certain oil-revenue-related moneys to the Oil Trust Fund. Current law requires the State Lands Commission to expend the money in the fund to finance the costs of well abandonment, pipeline removal, facility removal, remediation, and other costs associated with removal of oil and gas facilities from the Long Beach tidelands. Current law prohibits the

total amount deposited in the fund from exceeding \$300,000,000 and requires all interest earned on money in the fund after the balance in the fund totals \$300,000,000 to be transferred to the General Fund. This bill would delete the provisions relating to the limit on the total amount deposited in the fund. By increasing the amount of money that may be deposited into a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

**AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal to develop and implement watershed improvement plans, and other plans to enhance the natural functions of a watershed, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would require the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes of all watershed coordinator grants. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, the department to report those outcomes to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

**AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Community Colleges: Naturalist Workforce Model Curriculum**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 1/15/2020, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** Would require the chancellor's office to establish a naturalist workforce model curriculum and related vocational programs on or before July 31, 2022, for the 2022–23 academic year. The bill would require the chancellor's office to consult with specified entities in developing the curriculum, and would require the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to approve, modify, or reject the curriculum. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on or about March 1 of each year providing assessments on the curriculum and related vocational programs. Curriculum would provide a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The model curriculum would reflect regional needs and be developed in consultation with local experts.

**AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Outdoor Recreation: California Outdoor Recreation Account**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** This bill replicates most of the language contained in last year's vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Office of the Governor until January 1, 2025. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy and working toward equitable access to outdoor areas of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office. Also authorizes the office to receive assistance and funds from the public and private sources. Given that outdoor participation rates in California pale in comparison to those in neighboring states, this bill among other things, heightens the focus of exploring practices and policies that generate greater outdoor use.

**AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Senate Governance and Finance Committee hearing postponed

**Summary:** Would authorize the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property acquired or developed with grant moneys per the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program Act, the Community Parklands Act of 1986, the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act, and subject to the acquisition of property of equal or greater value, as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation, at no cost to the state.

**AB 1298 (Mullin D) Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/22/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** Would enact the Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a climate resiliency, fire risk reduction, recycling, groundwater and drinking water supply, clean beaches, and jobs infrastructure program. The bill would require the bond act to be submitted to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Speaker Rendon has greenlighted members of Assembly leadership to draft and propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 1298 represents such a vehicle and AB 352 (Garcia) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond still remains in the mix as well and Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated this as a personal priority.

**AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Deer: Santa Catalina Island: Report**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/21/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to biennially report to the Legislature and Fish and Game Commission on the progress made toward restoration and maintenance of California's deer herds. This bill would require the department to develop by 1/2/2022, a report, in consultation with state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, NGO's, landowners, and scientific agencies to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding deer on Santa Catalina Island, including historic, current and future deer population on the island and assessment of their overall health.

**AB 1578 (Rivas, Luz D) School Pavement to Parks Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/30/2019, **Status:** Vetoed

**Summary:** Would establish the School Pavement to Parks Grant Program under the administration of the Natural Resources Agency for purposes of providing grants to applicant school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools maintaining schools in disadvantaged communities, as defined, or low-income communities, as defined, to convert portions of existing pavement at those schools to green space. The bill would require the agency to establish processes and procedures for administering the grant

program, as specified. The bill would require a school district or county office of education that receives a request from a school in the school district or county office of education to participate in the grant program to inform the school that it has received the request in a timely manner.

**AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** This bill would add the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island to the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bill would require the conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use within the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

**AB 2000 (Kamlager D) Baldwin Hills Conservancy: Urban Watersheds Conservancy Expansion**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2020, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** The Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act, establishes until January 1, 2026, in the Natural Resources Agency, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, created with the purpose, among other purposes, to acquire and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area, as defined. This bill would expand the area covered by the conservancy to include southern Ballona Creek Watershed, as defined, and the Upper Dominguez Channel, as defined. The bill would rename the conservancy the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy and make conforming changes. In an effort to expand jurisdictional boundaries, similar to AB 1694 and AB 2103 (RMC Expansion bills), this bill seeks to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

**AB 2021 (Chen R) State Park System: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion**

**Introduced:** 1/29/2020, **Status:** 4/14/20 Hearing in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of 3 specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. The bill would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Park, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired. This bill appears to mimic last year's SB 404 (Chang).

**AB 2103 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/6/2020, **Status:** Hearing postponed by Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Current law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified areas of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located along the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River and tributaries along those rivers. Current law, for purposes of those provisions, defines "territory" to mean the territory of the conservancy that consists of those portions of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located within the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, as described. This bill would additionally include the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island, as described, within that definition of territory, and would make various related

changes to the boundaries of that territory. This bill represents a repeat attempt at expanding the boundaries of the RMC. Last year's AB 1694 stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee and the author has made a concerted effort to partner with legislative colleagues in the joint authoring of this measure.

**AB 2611 (Santiago D) Conservancies: Lower Los Angeles River Working Group**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2020, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Local Government Committee

**Summary:** Current law required, by March 1, 2017, the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods, a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the Lower Los Angeles River and the communities through which it passes, and that is consistent with, enhances, and may be incorporated into, the County of Los Angeles's Master Plan, and that includes watershed education programs. This bill would require the working group to, on or before January 1, 2022, update, through watershed-based planning methods, the above-described revitalization plan. This is a placeholder bill without specific intent to date.

**AB 3340 (O'Donnell D) Climate Risks: Bond Measure**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Status:** In Assembly waiting for committee assignment

**Summary:** Current law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and prescribes the functions and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified areas of the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange located along the San Gabriel River and the lower Los Angeles River and tributaries along those rivers. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation relating to the San Gabriel River. This is a placeholder bill that may be used to create a new San Gabriel River Program under the RMC.

**ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month**

**Introduced:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"<sup>®</sup> Month.

**SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Wildfires: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/3/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop guidelines for the grant program. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit an annual report to the agency regarding projects funded by the grant program.

**SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs****Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofits for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose. This bill would authorize the conservancy to undertake educational projects and programs for adults and for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 and to award grants to nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, etc. for educational projects and programs related to the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, enjoyment of coastal resources and for onsite and distance learning facilities, activities, and instruction programs that support the delivery of science, history and social science. Would authorize conservancy to award grants for the construction and improvement of structures and facilities used for those projects and programs.

**SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion****Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of four specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. Would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Parks, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired.

**SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Urban and Rural Forest and Woodlands Restoration and Fire Resiliency Workforce Program****Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline – Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to develop a forest and woodlands restoration workforce model curriculum and vocational program to be offered by community college districts commencing on or before July 31, 2021. Bill would require the curriculum to reflect regional needs, and to be developed by the Chancellor's Office in consultation with experts from designated governmental, academic, and nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated expertise in forest and woodland restoration and fire management.

**SB 474 (Stern D) The California Wildfire Protection Act of 1990: Habitat Conservation Fund****Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2 Year Bill

**Summary:** Would establish the Wildlife Protection Subaccount in the Habitat Conservation Fund and would require the Controller, if an appropriation is made for this purpose in any fiscal year, to transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the subaccount, less any amount transferred from specified accounts and funds, to be expended by the board for the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat.

**SB 886 (Archuleta D) Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District: Establishment: Board of Directors**

**Introduced:** 1/23/2020, **Status:** 3/18/20 Hearing in Senate Governance and Finance Committee Cancelled by Author

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the establishment of the Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District by petition or resolution submitted to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission before January 1, 2020. Current law authorizes specified city councils, including the city council of the City of Montebello, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint members to serve on the initial board of directors of the district. Under existing law, a violation of any rule, regulation, or ordinance adopted by the board of directors of a recreation and park district is a crime. This bill would extend the deadline to submit the petition or resolution establishing the district from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2023.

**SJR 14 (Archuleta D) Whittier Narrows Dam: Flood Protection Improvements: Federal Funding**  
**Introduced:** 2/26/2020, **Status:** 4/14/20 Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** This measure would urge the United States Congress to include and approve in its 2021 budget an appropriation of approximately \$385,000,000 to the United States of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program to perform the critically needed construction and repair work on Whittier Narrows Dam to protect the citizens of southeastern Los Angeles County from catastrophic flooding.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization: Natural Infrastructure: Local General Plans**  
**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 9/6/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaption to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, prioritize projects and project implementation that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation. This bill also includes a new, more robust, definition of “natural infrastructure.”

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**  
**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits

in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

**AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health**

**Introduced:** 2/5/2019, **Status:** Dead

**Summary:** Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan.

**AB 552 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

**Summary:** Would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**AB 839 (Mullin D) Climate Adaptation Strategy: Strategic Resiliency Framework: Resiliency through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Account**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/26/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

**Summary:** Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to update every 3 years the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2021, to review the plan and develop a strategic resiliency framework, as specified. The bill would require updates to the plan to include, among other things, a review of the progress made implementing past plans and an evaluation of each lead agency's lead adaptation efforts, as well as a detailed description of the framework developed by the secretary.

**AB 2441 (Rivas D) Climate Change: Safeguarding California Plan**

**Introduced:** 2/19/2020, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Natural Resources Agency every 3 years to update the Safeguarding California Plan. As part of the update, current law requires the agency to coordinate with other state agencies to identify a lead agency or group of agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector. Current law requires state agencies to work to maximize specified objectives. This bill would include, as objectives to be maximized, building resilient communities by developing projects that incorporate, to the maximum extent feasible, cool surface materials and investing in communities to develop community-specific climate resilience plans and to establish community resilience centers to mitigate impacts of local climate risks.

**AB 2619 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Program for Climate Resilience, Adaptation, and Access**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2020, **Status:** Hearing postponed by Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**Summary:** Would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**AB 3256 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Climate Risks: Bond Measure**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Status:** In Assembly waiting for committee assignment

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, approved by the voters as Proposition 68 at the June 5, 2018, statewide direct primary election, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact a bond measure that would address climate risks to the State of California. This is the Assembly vehicle drafted for the purpose of advancing a Climate/Resources Bond through the process to place on the November 2020 ballot.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Prevention, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 1/23/2020, **Status:** In Assembly waiting for committee assignment

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. Would also restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific. This is the Senate climate/resources bond vehicle that will serve as a compliment to AB 3256. This bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

**SB 576 (Umberg D) Coastal Resources: Climate Ready Program and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 9/6/2019, **Status:** Chaptered

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, this includes undertaking projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. Current law also authorizes the conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these activities. This bill would recast these provisions as the Climate Ready Program to be administered by the conservancy as described above. Existing law also establishes the Ocean Protection Council. This bill would require the council, subject to the availability of funding, develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat and collaborate with certain entities and scientists to facilitate information sharing regarding coastal climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness, including providing information to the Office of Planning and Research to be considered for inclusion into a certain clearinghouse for climate adaptation information.

**SB 1296 (Durazo D) Natural Resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Status:** In Senate waiting for committee assignment

**Summary:** Current law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs. This bill would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020, which would require state conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Natural Resources Agency to establish independent grant programs to support climate-beneficial and climate resiliency projects that incorporate partnerships with nonprofit organizations that provide certifications and placement services for jobs and careers in the natural resources field, as specified.

### PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** At the March meeting of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, staff of the Angeles National Forest (ANF) gave an update on the ANF's response to COVID-19. Until further notice, all campgrounds and developed recreation sites throughout the Monument and forest are closed.



**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the SGMCC met and identified key priorities shared between the Collaborative and the Angeles National Forest. The Ad Hoc Committees led break-out sessions with focused discussions about these priorities and the Collaborative at large then identified next steps for the SGMCC action plan. On March 26, 2020, the SGMCC held a virtual meeting via Zoom. Daniel Rossman was elected to Steering Committee Chair and Liz Reilly was elected Vice Chair. All Ad Hoc committees gave updates and presentations. The Angeles National Forest gave an update on USFS's response to COVID-19. The next meeting will be held on May 28, 2020.

*The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meetings occur every other month.*

### **WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES**

**Duck Farm Project:** Construction work on the project hit a new milestone this quarter as the trees start to go in and the secondary trails were being carved into the landscape. Landscape mounds were completed and soon, once the rains end, will be ready to plant.

On February 27, our team was honored to tour members of both the WCA and RMC Board of Directors around the construction site highlighting the entry park, parking area, west plaza, outdoor classroom seating, riparian bioswale and the overlook. It was an enjoyable day and quite active as the Landscaping crews were in high gear installing trees and irrigation.



*RMC and WCA Board Members touring the project site.*



*American Landscape installing trees and drip irrigation.*



*The bioswale and riparian landscape is taking shape with install of plant material starting with trees.*

Work by Conservation Corps youth was expected to begin in March/April but this work has been delayed due to rain. COVID-19 may also impact the availability of the Orange County Conservation Corps and Los Angeles Conservation Corps to install thousands of native plants and placing fine mulch throughout the project area. Other work left to be completed includes metalwork and signage. The completion of the

permeable parking lot, entry drive and remaining paving will be the last work to be installed to ensure it is not damaged during the remaining construction work.

*The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.*

**Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project:** The WCA was notified that its grant request to the State Parks Prop 68 program was not selected for funding. There was \$2.3 billion in requests and over 478 applications – and only \$254.9 million was awarded across the state. A RMC’s Prop 68 program grant of approximately \$2 million was approved by their board on April 6, 2020. Staff will apply for an upcoming County Measure A grant program anticipated to be released in early Fall to fill this funding gap and in the meantime the project will be designed relative to the funds on hand.

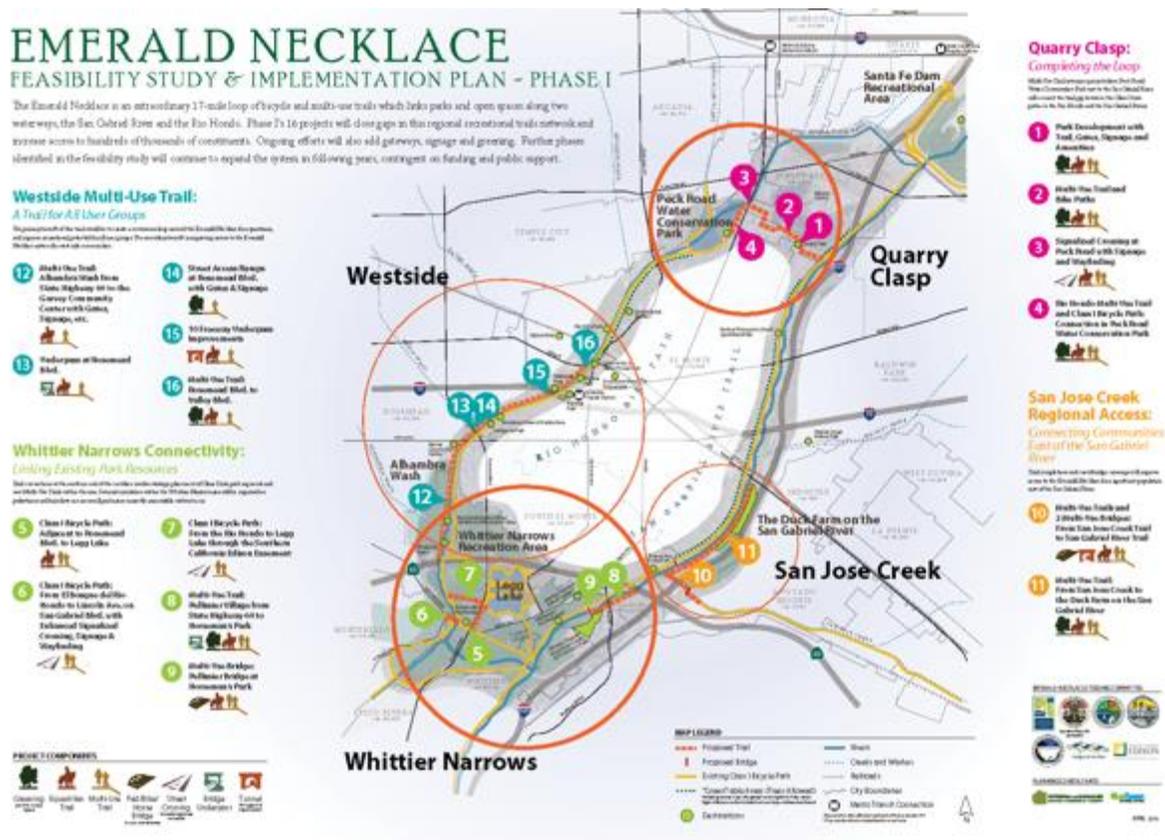
WCA is also moving forward with its application for Supplementary Environmental Funds in conjunction with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board.



*Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes. The Farmhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community resource / visitor center to compliment these conservation gardens and provide additional programming opportunities.*

**San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network:** Staff will attend the Steering Committee virtual kickoff meeting to be held on April 15, 2020 hosted by Brown and Caldwell, County’s consultant for the project. Due to timing, the content of this meeting will be shared at the May 2020 Board meeting.

**Emerald Necklace:** WCA attended a working group kick-off meeting on February 5th hosted by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Departments in Alhambra. The meeting brought together County and WCA staff to more closely collaborate to move projects forward. Priority projects continue to focus on the San Jose Creek Bridge and River Trail extension to the Duck Farm and the Rosemead Blvd complete street project between Legg Lake and Durfee within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This working group will continue to meet in an effort to identify funding, prepare grant applications and seek to partner to develop projects identified in the Emerald Necklace Plan.



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.

The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

**San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan:** Two studies currently in progress have been commissioned by WCA to supplement TPL's partially completed work on the San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan:

*Report on Regional Biological Opportunities:* Psomas has commenced work on a report on Regional Biological Opportunities that will approach prioritization from a scientific perspective. A literature review was conducted to obtain an understanding of the published plans and efforts regarding open space/natural resource management within the project area. Each of these plans included some elements related to natural resource conservation and were generally consistent with goals of the Foothills Open Space Acquisition Plan. Collaboration among the municipalities and conservancies will maximize the value of the collective energy and budget and minimize duplicative efforts. The Psomas GIS team is currently working to combine information from various datasets to improve accuracy of biophysical inventory before conservation analysis begins.

*Report on Human Factors:* A draft report on human factors has been submitted by Dr. Lee-Anne Milburn. This report summarizes interviews with the ten municipalities within the project area, and the eight conservancies who serve the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. The draft report points out commonalities, past challenges, potential conflicts, and makes recommendations. Below are some findings selected from this draft report:

- The few existing surveys of users of foothills trails suggest that the great majority of users come from communities that are not foothills-adjacent. This demonstrates that foothills open space is an important recreational resource for cities to the south and within the Greater Los Angeles Area.
- Though respondents recognized the need to preserve undeveloped foothills lands, municipal staff were often ambivalent about land ownership. Entities who owned land which required active management expressed that they would welcome transferring ownership, maintenance, and management responsibility for their conservation lands to another entity, as they had neither the resources nor the expertise to maintain it.
- The current conditions of fragmented and triaged management has been an outgrowth of shifting political and community priorities, and is unlikely to result in the most effective conservation outcomes.
- Government agency requirements place a significant burden on conservation groups and small municipalities. Providing resources to assist with these burdens would be a significant and important role in service of conservation.

This Initial Report provides a starting point for engaging stakeholders in further conversation about next steps in articulating conservation priorities in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. Such dialogue would be a critical step in building broader regional support for any resulting recommendations. WCA will conduct an RFP process for a consultant to collect additional data, coordinate stakeholder feedback, create visualizations useful in stakeholder engagement, and to compile the final study report with resulting priority parcels.

An amendment request has been approved by RMC to extend the grant performance period by ten-months through April 30, 2021 to augment these initial studies with stakeholder input to inform the

prioritization of acquisition opportunities that meet the shared goals and objectives of the RMC, WCA, and community.

As WCA continues to be contacted by willing sellers of undeveloped foothills lands, clarifying regional priorities for acquisition and building partnerships to this end are of critical importance. The requested time extension will enable regional partners to explore strategies for conservation that best leverage limited resources, and to focus public resources on open space acquisitions that have the highest value for the region as determined by a broad pool of regional experts.

*San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve habitat and open space, improve watershed health, and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.*



**Vasquez II ('Overlook')**: WCA completed the acquisition of the 40-acre Vasquez II parcel ('Overlook') [8684-024-001] from the Vasquez Ranch. The Grant Deed and Access Easement were recorded on Jan 24, 2020.

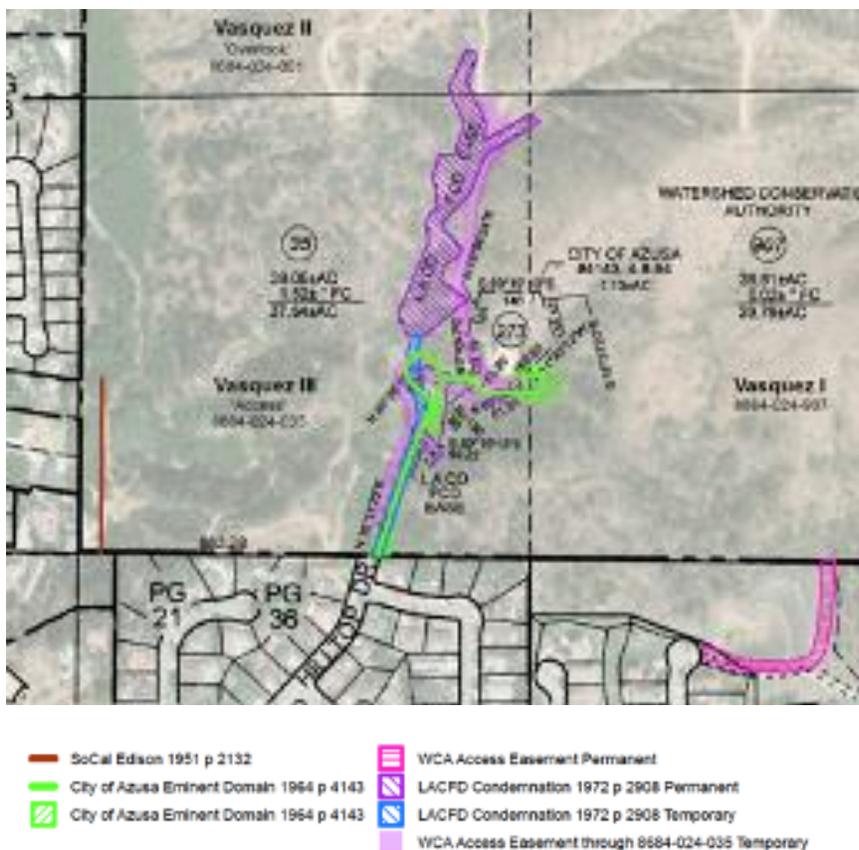
Following conclusion of the property transfer, a request was submitted to the Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor to cancel property taxes per public acquisition, and to prorate/refund taxes paid by the Seller. The Assessor's Office has indicated that transfers occurring in 2020 will be processed after July/August 2020.

Currently under negotiation are the specific conditions of the Vasquez family's occasional access to the overlook outside of public hours (this would require a Special Permit granted by the Executive Officer, per

the MRCA Ordinance) as well as finalizing the lease-back fee for one acre of active agricultural land in the Southwest corner of the conservation parcel.

On January 16, 2020, the WCA Board approved entering into a professional services contract to provide a biological survey of the new conservation property as well as to develop interim management guidelines for both Vasquez I [8684-024-907, purchased in 2016] and II.

Staff and Cooper Ecological will lead the biological survey. Cooper Ecological has extensive experience in the San Gabriel Mountains, experience with rare species throughout the County and San Gabriel Mountains, and they are involved in ongoing contributions to conservation science within the wildlands-urban-interface context that characterizes WCA’s vast territory. The 3-person survey team proposed to conduct survey activity in a manner consistent with the current social distancing requirements.

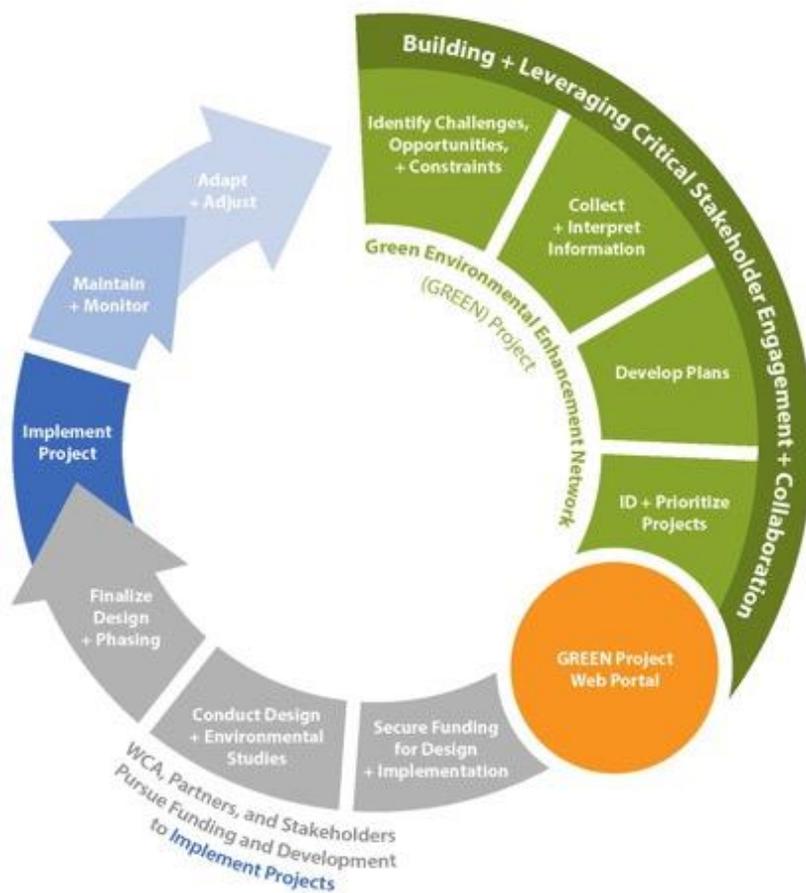


**Vasquez III ('Access'):** As part of the acquisition of Vasquez II, WCA secured an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for the undeveloped portion of the Vasquez III ('Access') parcel. This is the eastern portion of the parcel [8684-024-035], which holds the unpaved spur road that connects Hilltop Drive in Azusa to Glendora Ridge Motorway fire road and 241 additional acres of conservation land held by WCA and Azusa-RMC JPA. On January 16, 2020, the WCA Board authorized entering into negotiations for acquisition of this land, and to enter such contracts as may be necessary to complete due diligence.

The Vasquez Ranch and WCA have agreed on an approximate boundary, and this boundary will need to be surveyed for the purposes of creating a legal description.

However, before a costly and time-consuming survey is initiated, WCA seeks to clarify current easement rights over the Access Parcel. The spur road is currently used by the City of Azusa for access to the water tower. LA County Flood Control also has an easement over a portion of the property. The road is occasionally maintained by LA County Fire. Legal counsel has suggested the City of Azusa, the Vasquez Ranch, WCA, and the County all approve, execute, and record a modification of the City's easement to clarify rights over the road. Such agreement is expected to require approvals from the Azusa City Council and the County Board.

**GREEN Project:** The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. WCA obtained a scope of work amendment from the RMC for this grant to concentrate remaining deliverable on the following projects. Develop a Master Plan for the Duck Farm's Equestrian Center to improve facilities and water quality as a regional best practices demonstration project. Newest Project Manager has been brought onboard to research and define clear objectives for the portal and develop a Request for Proposals to hire a software development team capable of completing the desired functionality for the website and online tools. The software development tasks will be part of a Phase II grant amendment or separate funding depending on the investment needed to complete the work.



*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.*

**Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan:** Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. Lyric Design & Planning are currently developing Greenscape maps and City Profile pages and WCA staff are continuing to develop the Gateway Greening website with a grant from RMC. Due to staff and consultant limitations in response to COVID-19, WCA staff is requesting a 2-month extension on the project through June 2020.



*With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the work of the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.*

**Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis:** WCA-funded scope adds the Rio Hondo and Compton Creek tributaries to the Los Angeles River Flow Study conducted by Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). SCCWRP will evaluate proposed management scenarios along Rio Hondo and Compton Creek, and will provide technical memos summarizing aquatic and non-aquatic life beneficial uses and baseline hydrology, available data on species distributions and flow-ecology relationships, and the flow targets necessary for their support.

In addition, the WCA-funded scope augments the larger study's assessment of water quality effects of flow modifications on the LA River by developing a water quality model to predict dry weather concentrations of suspended sediment (TSS), specific conductance (as a surrogate for salinity), and trace metals. The study will evaluate effects of changes in wastewater discharge on water quality parameters, resulting in a report of how water quality and temperature of wastewater discharges affect habitat proposed management scenarios.

*The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows resulting from increased wastewater re-use upstream. An RMC grant funds WCA's participation in the Stakeholder group and adding third-party review of the analysis.*

**Mt Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** The preserve served as the backdrop for an eagle scene filmed by a major motion picture studio this month under a special use permit. The film crew brought along two African Fish Eagles to play the role of an eagle (American bald eagles and two falconers to coax the eagles into making the shot work). Six hours of commotion on site and lots of patient waiting for the eagles to act as cued, before the entire crew packed up and left, leaving not a trace!

The Earth Day clean-up event being planned in conversation with a Baldy resident and Town Hall representative was originally targeted for April 25th but will be delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Local student artists will help paint our bear-proof trash receptacles and job box with painted murals. We also anticipate hosting local volunteers, as well as, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Youth to participate in a variety of clean-up activities, planting and special programs. Details to follow and invitations to the Board will be shared once the event program is finalized.



*Film crew staging on site at Mt Baldy for a one-day film shoot.*



*Raptor handler and his feathered actor.*

*Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.*

**Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning:** The U.S. Forest Service Master Agreement has a finite life of 5 years with an end date of June 30, 2020. Funds deposited by USFS for work must be expended by that deadline or they are lost. WCA staff, working with USFS and Consultant, have identified priority projects to complete. Changing COVID-19 conditions may impair the ability of the identified work to be completed within the expected timeframe. USFS is exploring options to extend if necessary.

Today's board agenda includes the USFS approved priority projects funded through Federal funds as part of the participating agreement with the WCA. These projects include the design and construction of new camp host sites, kiosks and iron rangers at both Crystal Lake and Coldbrook campgrounds. Improvements to the Crystal Lake Visitor Center and the construction of a trash transfer station at Rincon Fire Station site. Additionally, USFS has identified for demolition several old, unused restrooms and dilapidated ancillary buildings. When completed these improvements will be a noticeable and welcome enhancement to the visitor experience.

*Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning, authorized by U.S. Forest Service under a Supplemental Project Agreement with WCA, to implement a redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources. Additionally, the implementation of maintenance and site improvements has been approved by USFS.*

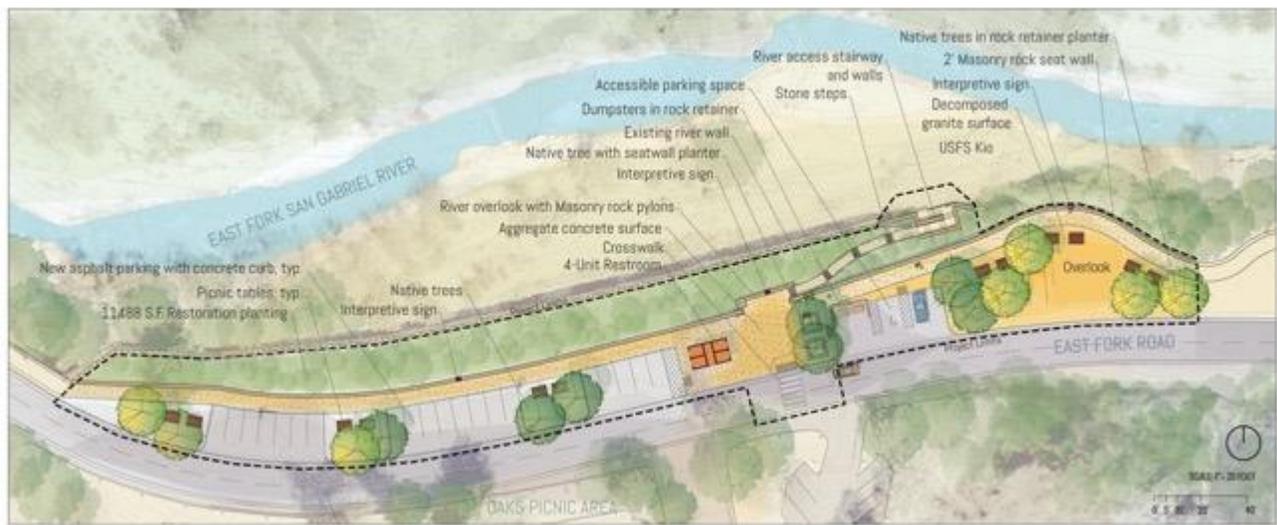
**River Wilderness Park:** WCA is awaiting notification from RMC of its grant award(s) under the Prop 68 grant program to fill remaining funding gaps. Staff continues to work with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA also continues to advocate for Caltrans to develop the roundabout but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays.



*The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.*

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** WCA is awaiting notification from RMC of its grant award for construction of the Oaks River Access Project under the Prop 68 grant. WCA consultant, BlueGreen, has completed its work on the site design for the project, and has begun work on the design of an additional access point which extends the footprint of the current design. This portion will be funded through WCA's Master Participating Agreement with the Forest Service.

U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project in early 2020.



*Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.*

*Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.*

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque Dos Rios:** The Construction on the Parque Dos Rios project is temporarily on hold awaiting a permit amendment from County to install a second southern overlook, relocate a backflow device and make minor modifications to the northern bump-out rest area. The decorative metalwork railings, shade structure and gates are fabricated and awaiting the go ahead to install. Interpretive signage and dedication sign artwork is complete and fabrication has begun.

The second southern overlook, once approved by County, will be constructed to highlight and provide views of cliff swallows that are nesting under the Imperial Highway bridge. Both the overlooks will feature seating, interpretive panels and viewsopes as amenities. The grant extension from Regional Parks and Open Space District was approved and executed. The Prop A grant completion date is now aligned with the work being completed under the Conservation Corps of Long Beach's Prop 68 grant and allowed for the time needed to obtain the permit amendment and addition of the second overlook. The structural work was completed in January and CCLB landscaping work was targeted to begin in April; WCA is awaiting amended permit approval by LACFCD. COVID19 conditions may delay schedule.

Staff, having applied for Measure W feasibility study funding in December, presented the project concept to improve both water quality and supply, as well as, transform the existing Caltrans drainage V-ditch to a nature based riparian bioswale. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we were invited back to answer questions and then the Watershed Study Area Committee (WASC) committee prioritized the Storm water Investment Plan applications. Our project ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the Technical Resource Program category and 6<sup>th</sup> overall. WCA is cautiously optimistic that funding will be awarded to this project to perform the feasibility study and prepare the project for future implementation funding consideration.



*Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.*

**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** Construction of the West Trail Loop is in progress; however, the project is experiencing delays primarily due to weather. On-going periods of rain have left the soil too wet to allow work to continue. The project is funded by a Regional Planning and Open Space District Prop A grant to the City of San Dimas. Work completed or in progress prior to rain delay included irrigation and plant installation, trail preparation, installation of decomposed granite paths and two overlooks.

**WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY**



*Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.*

*City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes trail development and amenities for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.*

**River Ranger Program Implementation Project:** WCA and RMC staff is coordinating with consultant to forward the implementation of a Lower LA River REACH zone pilot program over the summer. COVID19 conditions may impact ability of the project to complete desired level of outreach and public engagement. Additionally, the roll out of the pilot program may occur in waves over the summer for the same reason. The team is targeting the first rollout of the program to include the Conservation Corps of Long Beach as River Stewards to provide routine maintenance activities along the REACH zone expected to be between Hollydale Park and Parque Dos Rios in South Gate at the confluence and along the Rio Hondo up to Treasure Island Park in Downey.

*The River Ranger Program will foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities. The Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was finalized in June 2019 and the program is moving toward a pilot project this summer 2020.*