

**DATE:** June 18, 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 6/2/2020**

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. Update: The Governor's January Budget proposed \$20 million to underwrite the development and implementation of the provisions captured in this bill. However, given the state of economic affairs in California, this appropriation was struck in the May Revise.

**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. Both AB 1298 and AB 352 stalled-out in deference to AB 3256, a new bond vehicle that represents a collaboration of the two authors advancing these separate measures. SB 45, a Senate Bond vehicle, remains alive but is on life support as economic conditions in the state are undermining momentum for a bond.

**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, **Last Amended Date:** 5/4/2020, **Status:** Dead - Failed Deadline

**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 would eliminate the 2026 sunset of the BHC.

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

**Introduced:** 1/29/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/4/2020, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 2 and June 3

**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. 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: Dead – Failed Deadline**

**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. Given the shift in focus and priority of the Legislature in light of recent events, authors were encourage to downsize bill portfolios. This bill was among the many casualties subject to leadership directives.

**AB 2519 (Wood D) Conservation Projects: Grants: Advance Payments**

**Introduced: 2/19/2020, Last Amended Date: 3/12/2020, Status: Hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 2 and June 3**

**Summary:** Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board to administer various grant programs relating to natural resources. This bill would require, to the extent not in conflict with any other law, the Natural Resources Agency, the conservancy, the department, and the board, when awarding grants for conservation projects, as defined, to provide an advance payment of up to 25% of the total grant award if requested by a grant recipient.

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

**Introduced: 2/20/2020, Status: Dead - Failed Deadline**

**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) San Gabriel River**

**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, **Last Amended Date:** 5/18/2020, **Status:** Dead - Failed Deadline

**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:** Ordered to Consent Calendar

**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 adaptation 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: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program**

**Introduced:** 2/19/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/4/2020, **Status:** Dead - Failed Deadline

**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. Bill would additionally require the Office of Emergency Services to coordinate with the State Department of Public Health in the review and update of the Adaption Planning Guide. Bill would establish the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program to address extreme heat and to facilitate the implementation of regional and state climate change planning into projects through awarding of competitive grants to eligible entities. Strategic Growth Council would administer program and a fund would be established in the State Treasury and require the council, upon appropriation by the Legislature, expend moneys in the fund for implementation.

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

**Introduced:** 2/20/2020, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 2 and June 3

**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) Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/18/2020, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 2 and June 3

**Summary:** Would enact the Economic Recovery, 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 \$6,980,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for an economic recovery, wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

**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**

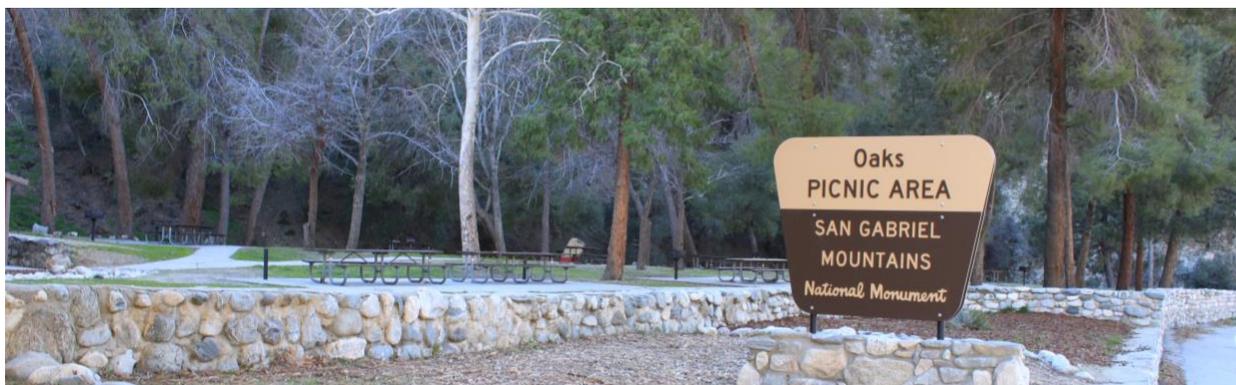
**Introduced:** 2/21/2020, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2020, **Status:** Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on 6/8/20

**Summary:** Current law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs. This bill, upon appropriations by the Legislature, would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2020, which would require state conservancies, and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish independent grant programs focusing on disadvantaged youth to underwrite climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects.

## PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** At the May meeting of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, Jerry Perez, Forest Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest (ANF), gave an update on the ANF's response to COVID-19. Recreation areas across the Angeles National Forest have been experiencing exceptionally high numbers of visitors. The ANF continues to operate with limited maintenance capacity due to the COVID-19 crisis. Visitors are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings, practice social distancing, and pack out their trash.

On June 13, the Angeles National Forest began temporary closing the Chantry Flat Recreation Area on weekends due to heightened public safety concerns. Weekday access, Monday through Friday, will remain open.



**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** On May 28, 2020, the SGMCC held a virtual meeting via Zoom. All Ad Hoc committees gave updates and presentations. The Angeles National Forest gave an update on USFS's response to COVID-19. The Collaborative discussed the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act. David Peebles, manager of the ANF Heritage and Tribal Relations Program presented on cultural resources in the ANF. The next meeting will be held on July 23, 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 restarted during the first week of June with work on the upper bioswales and landscaping trades re-mobilizing. Work had previously stopped onsite near the end of March 2020 due to both a higher than normal number of rain days for the scheduled grading, bioswale construction, hardscape construction, and landscape construction to continue. In addition, vendor impacts from the COVID-19 shutdowns in California and other states resulted in no work during April and May. With work restarted, WCA's Construction Manager is working directly with General Contractor, Fast-Track Construction, to develop and approve an updated project completion schedule.

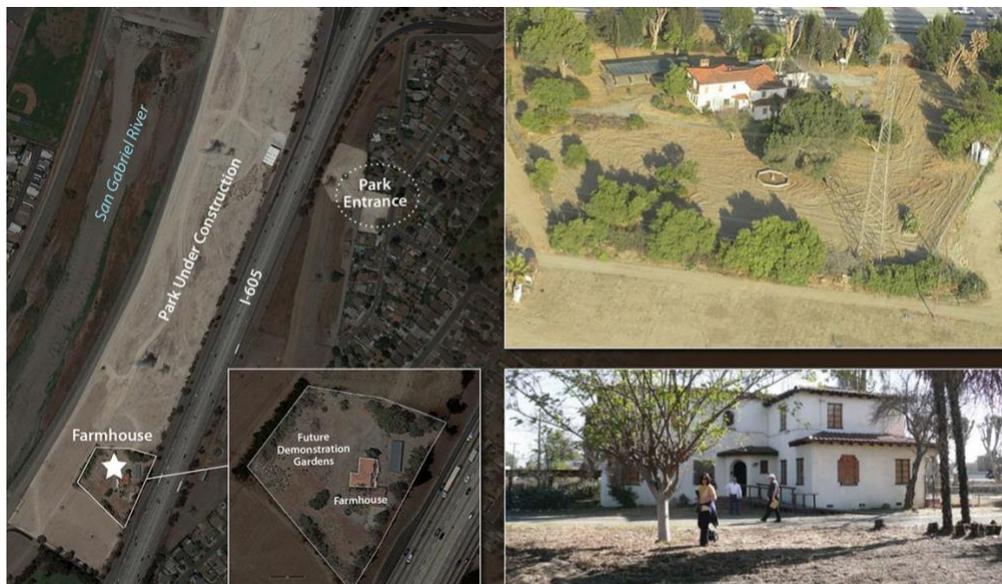


illustrative site plan for the Duck Farm River Park currently under construction.

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:** In April, the WCA Board approved a grant award from the RMC approximately \$2 million to complete the San Gabriel River Center. Staff will apply for an upcoming County Measure A grant program anticipated to be released in early Fall to fill the current 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 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control 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:** The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan is a multi-objective effort to transform existing Los Angeles County Flood Control District right of way in the San Gabriel Valley into a world-class Greenway Network in conjunction with identifying ways to upgrade and enhance the District's existing flood control facilities. The Plan will build upon the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative and will highlight connectivity with other planned active transportation components and green urban infrastructure projects throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

The Plan will accelerate development of greenway design standards and create cooperative agreements with other agencies to expedite project delivery for shovel ready projects. This approach will enable simultaneous implementation of high priority greenway projects while ensuring consistency with the broader master planning of the Greenway Network.

**Emerald Necklace:** The next Emerald Necklace Implementation Strategic Coordination meeting, originally scheduled for June 2, 2020 and hosted by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, was cancelled and will be rescheduled. This meeting brings 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.

# EMERALD NECKLACE FEASIBILITY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PHASE I

The Emerald Necklace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two water ways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and gear. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

## Westside Multi-Use Trail: A Trail for All User Groups

The purpose of the study is to establish a trail system along the Westside that connects the Emerald Neck to the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. The study also identifies key projects to improve access to the Emerald Neck system for all user groups.

- 12 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Gateway Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 15 10 Footway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

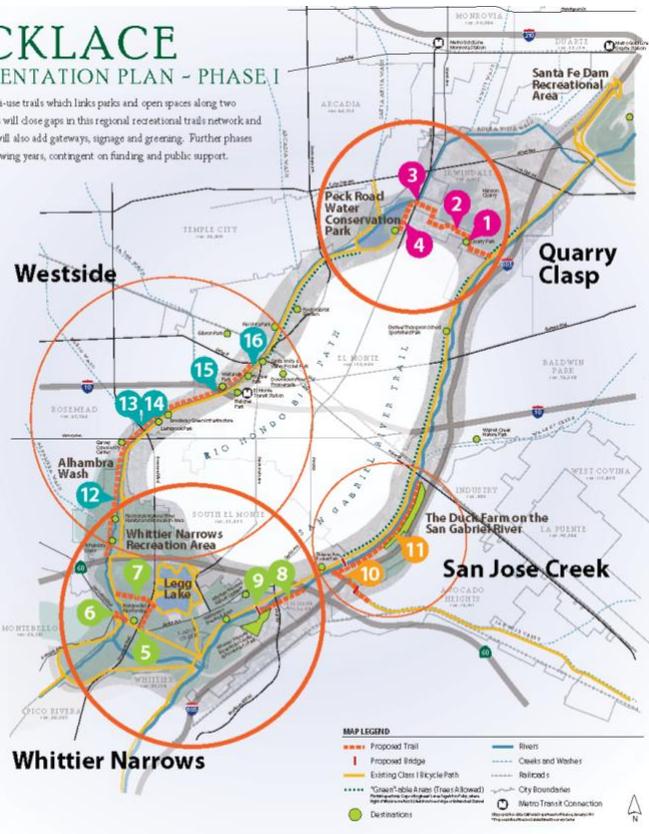
## Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the study and the study's analysis identify gaps in the Whittier Narrows trail system and how to fill them. The study also identifies key projects to improve access to the Whittier Narrows system for all user groups.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Logg Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Dorado del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signage & Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Logg Lake through the Southern California Edison Enclosure
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Hillcrest Village from State Highway 60 to Horseshoe Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Hillcrest Bridges at Horseshoe Park

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

- Greening
- Equestrian Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Foot/Bike/Horse Bridge
- Street Crossing
- Underpass
- Bridge
- Tunnel



## Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail: The Quarry Clasp Trail will connect the San Gabriel River to the Rio Hondo and the Emerald Neck.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Bike Paths
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connection to Peck Road Water Conservation Park

## San Jose Creek Regional Access: Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This project will add a bridge, signage and improve access to the San Jose Creek trail system and the Emerald Neck.

- 10 Multi-Use Trails and 2 Hillcrest Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11 Multi-Use Trail: From San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River

**EMERALD NECKLACE TRAILING COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING COLLABORATORS**

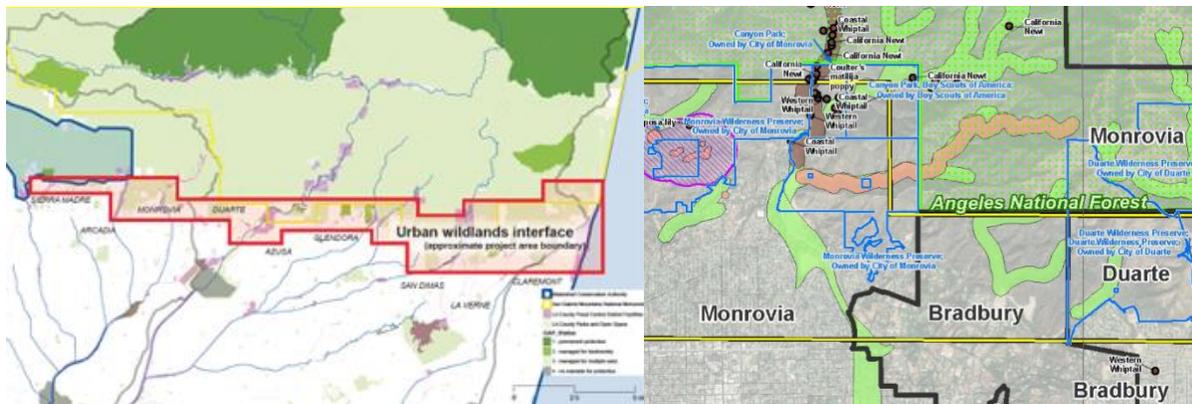
APRIL 2016

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:** Psomas has submitted a detailed timeline and checklist of deliverables for completion of the Report on Regional Biological Opportunities.

WCA is consolidating research completed thus far, so that consultants may be engaged to complete the Human Factors research, incorporating stakeholder feedback for completion of the Plan.



*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 Acquisitions and Interim Land Management Plan:** The second of four planned botanical surveys of Vasquez Overlook (Vasquez II) took place on June 10, 2020. The 3-person survey team is conducting survey activity in a manner consistent with the current social distancing requirements. Two remaining field visits will take place before the team submits a final report.

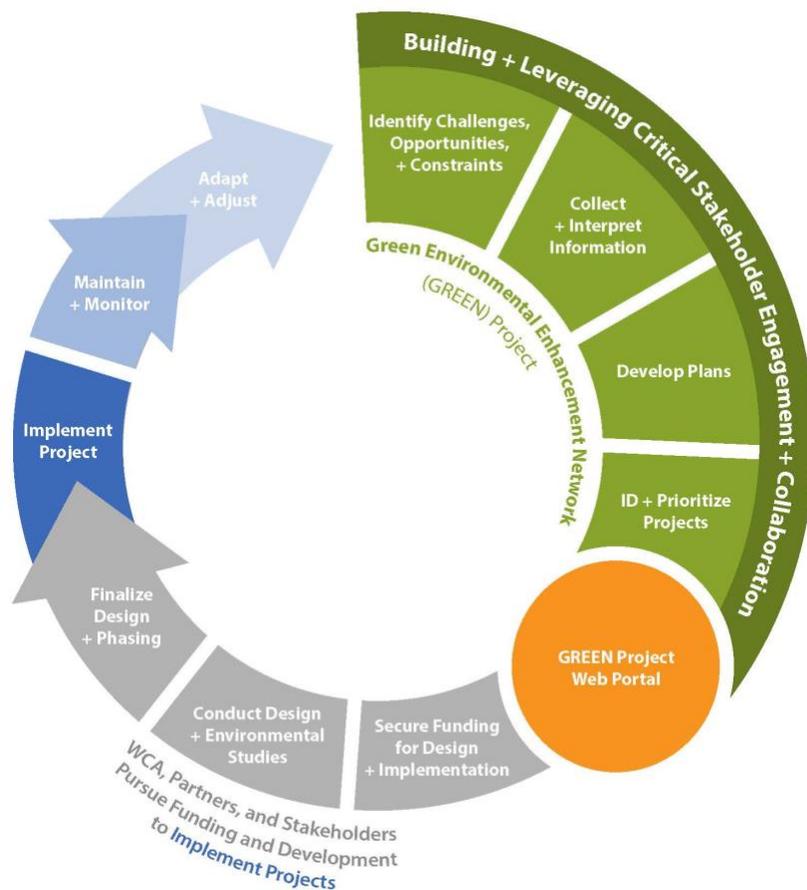
Legal counsel has suggested the City of Azusa, the Vasquez Ranch, WCA, and the County all approve, execute, and record a modification of the City's easement to clarify rights over the road. Such agreement is expected to require approvals from the Azusa City Council and the County Board.



*The Vasquez acquisitions (Vasquez I in 2016 and Vasquez II in 2020) protect some of the last undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses. WCA acquisition of these lands augments an existing cluster of contiguous public conservation lands in the Azusa Foothills that includes WCA’s River Wilderness Park, Azusa-RMC Open Space, and City of Pasadena Open Space.*

**GREEN Project:** The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory which has included engagement and support for regional plans as well as neighborhood and site-scale opportunities. WCA obtained a scope of work amendment from the RMC for this grant to continue efforts, and to concentrate remaining deliverables on both (1) the Duck Farm Equestrian Center update for water management, habitat, and operations improvements, and (2) for advancing work on the GREEN Project Portal including ongoing development of a strategic plan for the portal and the release of an RFP for software development.

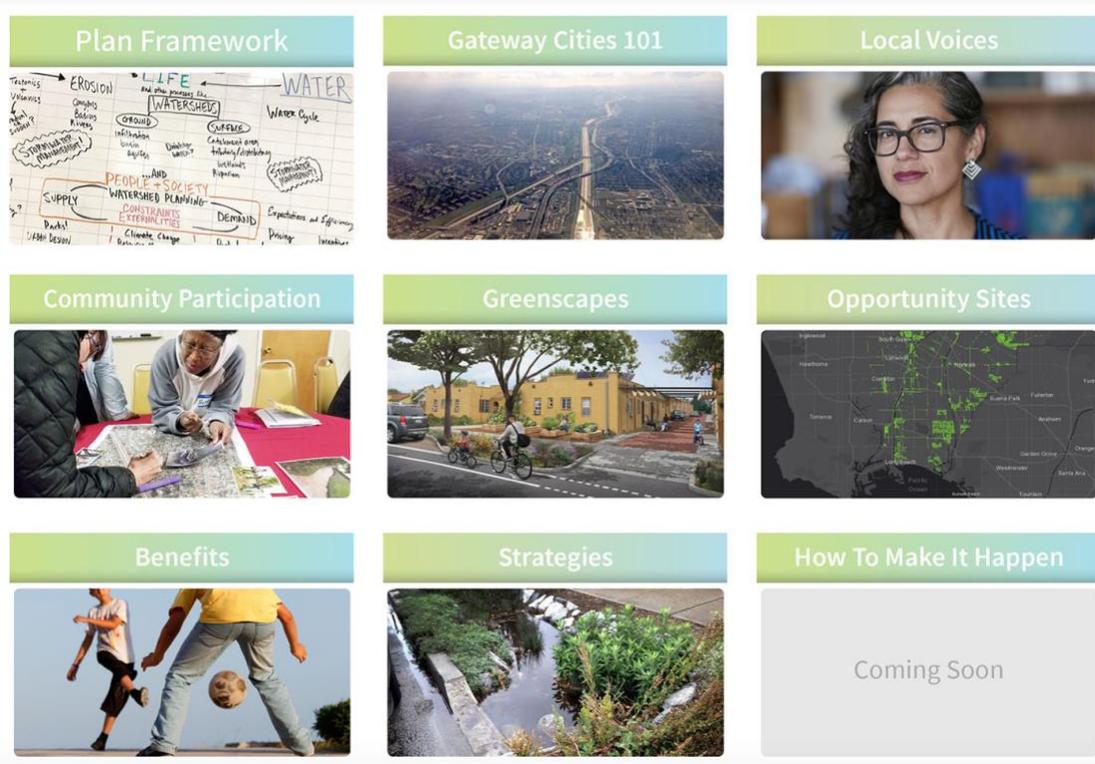
A Request for Proposals (RFP) for design services for the Duck Farm Equestrian Center was posted May 27<sup>th</sup>. Responses are to be received by June 30<sup>th</sup>.



*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 completing written and visual content for the Gateway Greening website. Lyric Design & Planning has completed its work developing

Greenscape maps and City Profile pages and WCA staff have integrated this work into the website. WCA anticipates completing a soft launch of the website for stakeholder feedback in the coming months as well as integration with the GREEN project portal in development.



Navigation buttons from the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Vision Plan homepage

With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council, the RMC, 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 is compiling a list of entities to reach out to for the outreach component of WCA's scope.

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:** Dick Swinney, who has been documenting the flora of the San Gabriel Mountains since 1989, is beginning work on compiling a flora (comprehensive list of occurring plants) of the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve. Swinney is a dedicated self-taught botanist and retired schoolteacher based in Glendora. He has now been botanizing throughout the Eastern San Gabriel mountains for over three decades. Plant lists he has spent decades compiling are available at [GlendoraNaturalHistory.com](http://GlendoraNaturalHistory.com).

Thousands of specimens Dick collected are represented in the California Consortium of Herbaria database... (and this is only a partial representation of his work because there may be a lag of years before his specimens are processed and catalogued!)

Because there has never been a plant list created or botanical study conducted on WCA's Mount Baldy Wilderness Preserve, Dick's volunteer botanizing on this conservation property will:

- 1) aid in future conservation decision-making on Mount Baldy Wilderness Preserve
- 2) educate the public about unique resources on this land
- 3) to add to public databases of regional conservation data used by conservation planners and scientists all over the world



*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 was extended 1 year to June 30, 2021 to complete in progress work delayed due to COVID-19 impacts. Work that will be completed under the extended agreements includes the 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, the demolition of several old, unused restrooms and dilapidated ancillary buildings. USFS is internally considering a construction start date in October 2020 to avoid the summer months and potential re-opening of the Crystal Lake Recreation Area to the public in the coming months.

*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.

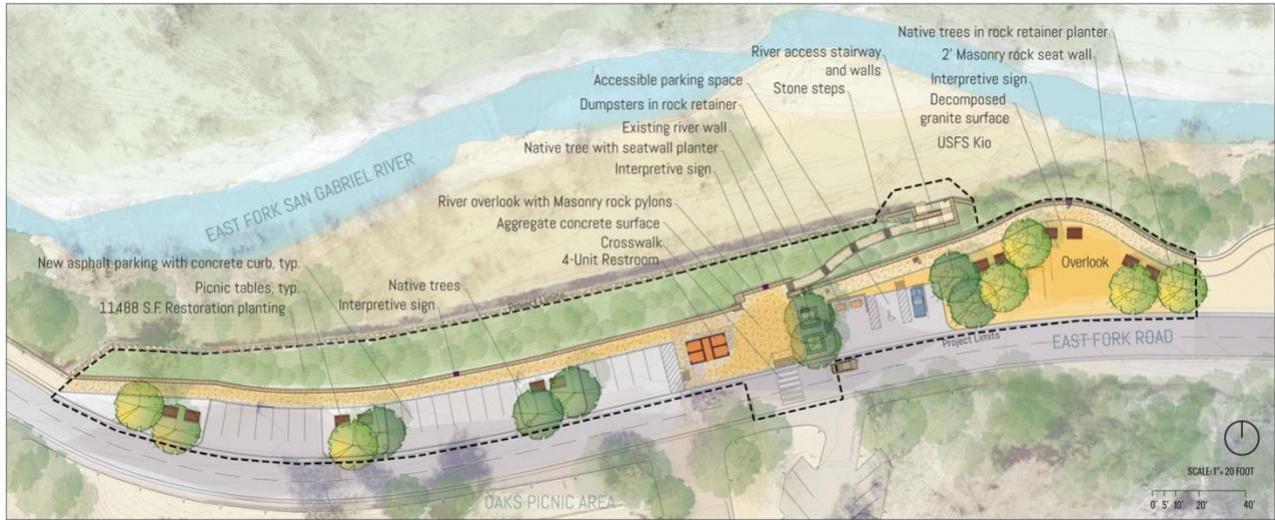
Currently Caltrans is reviewing River Wilderness Park project plans in consideration of including the bikeway underpass below the Highway 39 bridge in environmental compliance documents as they work on bridge improvements. The inclusion of this element in environmental compliance documents would be a step forward in ensuring a safe option to extend and connect the San Gabriel River Trail with River Wilderness Park.



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 consultant, BlueGreen, has completed its work on the site design for the project's first access point, 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 that was just extended for an additional 12-months due to COVID-19 related impacts.

WCA is awaiting notification from RMC of its grant award for construction of the Oaks River Access Project (first access point) under the Prop 68 grant. U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project in 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 project was granted a County permit amendment to install a second southern overlook, relocate a backflow device and make minor modifications to the northern bump-out rest area. The project has been de-mobilized since February 2020. The General Contractor, CCLB, is assembling their team of subcontractors and will begin work in early July, at which time a project completion schedule to meet the August grant deadline will be provided.

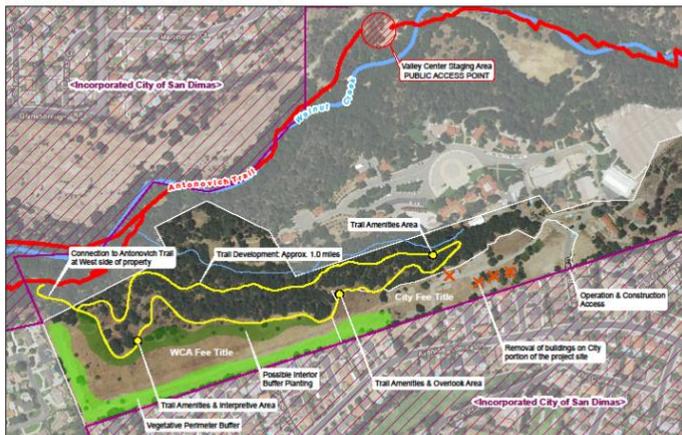
The Parque Dos Rios - Phase II Bioswale project, WCA's Measure W feasibility study to transform the existing Caltrans drainage V-ditch to a nature based riparian bioswale was approved for inclusion in the Lower LA River WASC Stormwater Improvement Plan for funding consideration by LACBOS later this quarter.



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 restarted in May and the project will complete hydroseeding and be substantially complete this week. A punch-list project walk is scheduled for the morning of July 18th to accept the work and determine the start date for the maintenance period to begin.

**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 connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.

**River Ranger Program Implementation Project:** WCA and RMC staff one – on one meetings with project stakeholders continues this month work toward the implementation of a Lower LA River REACH zone pilot program later this year. COVID19 conditions may impact ability of the project to complete desired level of outreach and public engagement and alternative opportunities and methods are being explored.

The second virtual meeting with LA County Flood Control District was held this month regarding their facilities, maintenance considerations and how the program may serve their needs as well as those of the program and community. The team also met for a second time with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to further scope the River Stewards program to provide routine maintenance activities along the REACH zone and share sample agreements for review and consideration.



*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.*