

**DATE:** June 26, 2017

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** WCA Staff

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 7: Liaison and Activities Report

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### Strategic Vision Plan

An update will be provided today in both a presentation of the highlight of the 2012 Draft Strategic Plan process and accomplishments and a related board consent item to direct staff to coordinate a FY2017/18 Strategic Vision Plan update focused on priority areas related to processes, funding and communications/marketing.

### 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.ca.gov/>

### STATE LEGISLATION

#### Current as of 6/14/17

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 18 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018**

**Introduced:** 12/5/2016, **Last Amended Date:** 2/23/17, **Revised:** 3/8/2017, **Status:** Passed the Assembly and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Senate

**Summary:** An act to add Chapter 14 (commencing with Section 5880) to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to a clean water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program, by providing the funds necessary therefor through an election for the issuance and sale of bonds of the State of California and for the handling and disposition of those funds, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

The bill would enact the California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of **\$3,105,000,000** pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a clean water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program. Note that both **SB 5 (DeLeon)** and **AB 18 (Garcia)**

have very specific allocations for the 10 Statewide Conservancies and other river and park funding that will have an impact on the work of the two local State Conservancies.

**SB 5 (DeLeon, Kevin D) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act 2018**

**Introduced:** 12/5/2016, **Last Amended Date:** 05/26/2017, **Status:** Passed the Senate and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Assembly

**Summary:** An act to add Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) to the Public Resources Code, relating to a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program, by providing the funds necessary therefor through an election for the issuance and sale of bonds of the State of California and for the handling and disposition of those funds, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

This bill would enact the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of **\$3,500,000,000** pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

This bill has very specific funds set aside for the 10 State Conservancies. It is anticipated that final allocations will be made once parties agree to the allocations. The chart below highlights some of the key comparisons between Assembly Bill 18 (E. Garcia) and Senate Bill 5 (De Leon).

## BOND COMPARISON - AB 18 (GARCIA) & SB 5 (DE LEÓN)

	AB 18 (Garcia)	SB 5 (De León)
<b>AB 31 Park Poor Communities Program</b>	\$900 Million	\$800 Million
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$425 Million	\$215 Million
<b>County/Regional Program</b>	\$110 Million	\$20 Million
<b>Rural Program</b>	\$40 Million	\$20 Million
<b>Trails</b>	\$45 Million	\$30 Million
<b>State Parks</b>	\$330 Million	\$150 Million
<b>Conservancies</b>	\$145 Million	\$157 Million
<b>River Parkway Program (Unallocated)</b>	\$70 Million & Funding for Specified Rivers including LA	\$125 Million
<b>Wildlife Conservation Board</b>	\$400 Million	\$288 Million
<b>Oceans and Coastal Protection</b>	\$180 Million	\$100 Million
<b>Miscellaneous (including Cal Fire, Conservation, Climate Resiliency, CCC, and Natural Resources Agency)</b>	\$200 Million	\$322 Million
<b>Water Quality, Groundwater Protection, Integrated Watershed Funding, and Recycled Water</b>	\$0	\$500 Million
<b>Flood Protection</b>	\$0	\$750 Million
<b>Coastal Low Cost Accommodations</b>	\$100 Million	\$0
<b>TOTAL BOND COST</b>	<b>\$3.105 Billion</b>	<b>\$3.5 Billion</b>

*Based on 3/8/17 revised version of AB 18 and 5/26/17 amended version of SB 5.*

**AB 1483 (Daly D) Housing-Related Parks Program**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Did not make it out of Assembly Appropriations

**Summary:** There is hereby established in state government the Housing-Related Parks Program, to be administered by the department, using funds allocated, upon appropriation, under subdivision (d) of Section 53545, for the purpose of providing grants for the creation, development, or rehabilitation of park and recreation facilities to cities, counties, and cities and counties based on the issuance of building permits for new housing units, or housing units substantially rehabilitated, acquired, or preserved with committed assistance from the city, county, or city and county, that are affordable to very low or low-income households.

Appropriated \$50,000,000 from the General Fund to the Housing Urban-Suburban-and-Rural Parks Account in the 2017–18 fiscal year. These funds shall be available to the department for grants for housing-related parks in urban, suburban, and rural areas, pursuant to this chapter.

**AB 1558 (Garcia, Cristina D) Los Angeles River: River Ranger Program**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Passed the Assembly and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Senate

**Summary:** This bill would require the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, as prescribed. The bill would require the conservancies, no later than June 30, 2018, to develop a plan for the design and implementation of the program, containing specified components and information, and to provide a copy of the completed plan to certain legislative committees by that date.

**SB 693 (Mendoza D) Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017, **Status:** 2/17/2017-Introduced, **Status:** Passed the Senate and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Assembly

**Summary:** Would specifically authorize 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, subject to specified existing laws governing recreation and park districts, including their formation, except as provided. The bill would authorize specified city councils and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint the initial board of directors of the district.

**SB 714 (Newman D) State Coastal Conservancy: West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 5/8/2017, **Status:** Passed Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and re-referred to Appropriations Committee

**Summary:** Would establish the West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program, to be administered by the conservancy and to undertake projects and award grants in the West Coyote Hills area, as described, for purposes relating to improvement of public access, and the protection, restoration, and enhancement of

natural resources in the area. This bill would prescribe the duties of the conservancy with regards to the implementation and administration of the program.

**AB 466 (Bocanegra D) Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2017, **Status:** 2/14/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/14/2017, **Status:** Passed the Assembly and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Senate

**Summary:** Would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to appoint, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the extent the board wishes to consult, a local working group to develop a revitalization plan for the Los Angeles River tributaries and watershed, called the Los Angeles River Tributaries and Watershed Working Group. The bill would require the secretary to consider requests from local agency representatives to participate in the working group and would authorize the working group to include specified representatives.

**AB 1235 (Daly D) Santa Ana River Conservancy Program**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017, **Status:** 2/17/2017-Read first time, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Did not make it out of Assembly Appropriations

**Summary:** Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy with prescribed powers and responsibilities for implementing and administering various programs intended to preserve, protect, and restore the state's coastal areas. Current law also establishes the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, to be administered by the conservancy, for purposes related to the implementation of projects to restore, preserve, and enhance specified lands in the Santa Ana River region, as defined. This bill would appropriate the sum of \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the conservancy to be expended for the purposes of this program.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**SB-263 Leyva (S) Climate Assistance Centers**

**Introduced:** 02/08/17, **Status:** Sen Environmental Quality, **Committee Hearing Date:** 03/29/17, **Last Amended Date:** 5/3/2017, **Status:** Did not make it out of Senate Appropriations

**Summary:** Existing law creates the Transformative Climate Communities Program, which is administered by the Strategic Growth Council. Existing law requires the council to award competitive grants to specified eligible entities for the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities, as defined.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act authorizes the state board to include the use of market-based compliance mechanisms. Existing law requires all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the state board as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available upon appropriation.

This bill would require the council to establish no less than 10 regional climate assistance centers, equitably distributed across urban and rural areas of the state, to build the capacity of local community organizations, municipalities, and small businesses from disadvantaged communities to participate in state climate

investment programs, as specified. Funds would be allocated through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to community based and nonprofit organizations to engage with climate assistance centers and conduct outreach in disadvantaged communities, as specified. The bill would require the council and the state board to make a specified report to the Legislature.

**AB 1433 (Wood D) Climate Adaptation and Resilience Based on Nature Act**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017 **Status:** 2/17/2017-Read first time, **Last Amended Date:** 4/27/2017, **Status:** Passed the Assembly and Waiting for Committee Assignment in the Senate

**Summary:** Would create the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Based on Nature Account in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, make available the moneys in the account to the Wildlife Conservation Board for grants and programs that facilitate actions to protect and improve the resilience of natural systems and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

**AB 1530 (Gonzalez Fletcher D) Urban forestry**

**Introduced:** 2/17/2017 **Status:** 2/17/2017-Read first time. To print, **Last Amended Date:** 5/15/2017, **Status:** Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**Summary:** The California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 has as a stated purpose the promotion of the use of urban forest resources for purposes of increasing integrated projects with multiple benefits in urban communities. This bill would provide that the purpose of the act is also to promote policies and incentives that advance improved maintenance of urban forest canopy to optimize multiple benefits, among other purposes. This bill contains other related provisions and other current laws.

**PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST**

**San Gabriel National Monument:** On May 2, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion (Attachment C) to direct the Chief Executive Office, in coordination with the Washington, DC Legislative Advocates, to send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County's congressional delegation (Attachment D), requesting their support to advocate and seek legislation that protects the existing National Monuments from ending. On May 18, 2017, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments voted to support the San Gabriel Mountains as a National Monument and sent a letter to LA County's congressional delegation requesting their support to advocate and seek legislation to protect the existing National Monument from ending. Additionally, the Collaborative will consider a letter at their May 25th meeting highlighting that the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument meets all the criteria, as established in the Executive Order, to keep its designation as a National Monument.

The focus of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative meeting last Thursday was discussing the interest and priorities of the SGMCC and ANF and how the SGMCC can work with the ANF to achieve them. SGMCC members were asked to help facilitate groups in the World Café portion of the meeting. Volunteer facilitator were requested.

*In October 2014, President Barack Obama designated 346,177 acres of land as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (Attachment A), the eighth national monument under Forest Service management. All the land included in the National Monument was already existing federal land as part of the National Forest. The designation provided additional resources for the San Gabriel Mountains and ensured that thousands of miles of streams, hiking trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities would be protected. President Obama's declaration also required public input, which resulted in the creation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaborative (Collaborative). Since its formation, the Collaborative has been tasked with bringing diverse partners and residents together to identify, prioritize and advocate for investments, management objectives, and values that sustainably benefit the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and all communities throughout the region.*

*On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order (Attachment B) directing the Secretary of the Interior to review all National Monuments established under the Antiquities Act over the past 21 years where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres which includes San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The Secretary of the Interior is to review all National Monuments based on the following criteria:*

- The requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected";*
- Whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest";*
- The effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of the Federal Land Policy and Management, as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;*
- The effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;*
- Concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities; and*
- The availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas.*

*The Secretary of the Interior is providing an interim report within 45 days to the President and a final report within 120 days of the date of the order.*

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: LA County's Watershed Management staff has met with WCA staff to gather input related to the development of a strategic implementation plan for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network that will be reported back to the Board of Supervisors in 90 days by LA County Department of Public Works.

*On May 2, 2017, The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Kathryn Barger to begin the transformation of County flood control channels, washes and creeks in the San Gabriel Valley into bikeable, walkable, and pedestrian-friendly networks.*

*Dubbed the "San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network," this is a collaborative effort between the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), its member cities, and numerous community-based organizations, including WCA and Bike SGV.*

*The network was listed as a priority active transportation project by the SGVCOG, has received grant funding from Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and will be eligible to tap into Measure A funding and up to \$231 million in available Measure M funding.*

**San Gabriel Discovery Center Authority:** SGRDCA continues to submit monthly project progress reports to LA Sanitation Districts as the Authority continues to receive funds from the Supplemental Environmental Project for design fees and administrative costs. Remaining plan check approval for grading permit and license is dependent on obtaining Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) approval, LA County Parks and DCA consultants are engaged to respond to ACOE response letter dated May 2, 2017. WCA has received a permit extension for Los Angeles County Department of Building and Safety that is set to expire on October 21, 2017. The SGRDCA Board work session was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> where the Board provided direction for staff to explore additional opportunities for final completion of the Discovery Center Project.



*The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Project is 5.9 redevelopment that will replace the existing Whittier Narrows Nature Center (WNNC) with the following enhancements: constructed wetland, naturalized bioswale, Walnut Woodland restoration, habitat buffer, two outdoor classrooms, interpretive center with exhibits, vehicular access and parking, pedestrian pathways and other interpretive elements. The Center's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship by providing accessible and engaging watershed and environmental education to the public.*

## **WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES**

**Duck Farm Project:** AECOM is updating plans to resubmit to LA County Building and Safety Divisions (Architectural and Plumbing) and Landscape Development Division's Roads and Streets. These are the last remaining County plan check approvals needed. Once received, County Grading department will clear the project for permit.

Additionally, WCA has requested the approval of two extensions. One from LA County Department of Health regarding the restroom waste system: that approval be based on the current septic system approval received

last week. The other approval extension is for Land Development Division Landscape Plan Check, and is still pending.

WCA is awaiting direction from County Public Works' Watershed Management Division regarding the establishment of a Labor Compliance Program (LCP); internal County discussions are still in-process. A Board adopted and California Department of Industrial Relations approved LCP is a requirement of the State Bond funding WCA was granted for implementation.

Awaiting final approval from Caltrans ROW Division related to Ingress/Egress easement; once received, a fully executed Maintenance and Operations Agreement will be issued and a permit will be ready to pull.

The project is moving towards construction in Winter 2017/ Spring 2018.



*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 Outreach: WCA held a planting volunteer event in coordination with Amigos De Los Rios involving approximately 100 participants to install up to 1,000 buckwheat and black sage natives that were saved from a closing RECON nursery in Santa Maria. The plants were picked up by Coiner Nursery and maintained by them until they could be planted. This is a first step in revegetating the native plants on to the site after several years of weed abatement activities to reduce the weed seed population in the soils. Photos of the event will be shared in the July report.

Emerald Necklace: On May 16, 2017 the Board of Supervisors approved the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan. The motion directs the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Works (Public Works) and Parks and Recreation to consult with various groups and organizations—specifically naming the WCA—to develop a strategic implementation plan for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network. This effort follows the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Task Force convened by the First District, and has strong overlap with the Emerald Necklace Plan which will be referenced as a precedent. WCA staff continues to actively engage in the process, and in the ongoing dialog on next steps and securing funding for priority implementations.

# 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 waterways, 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 greening. 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 primary benefit of the trail is to provide a continuous loop around the Emerald Lake basin, and to provide an accessible path to the Rio Hondo. The secondary benefit is to provide a trail for all user groups, including people with disabilities, and to provide a trail for all user groups.

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

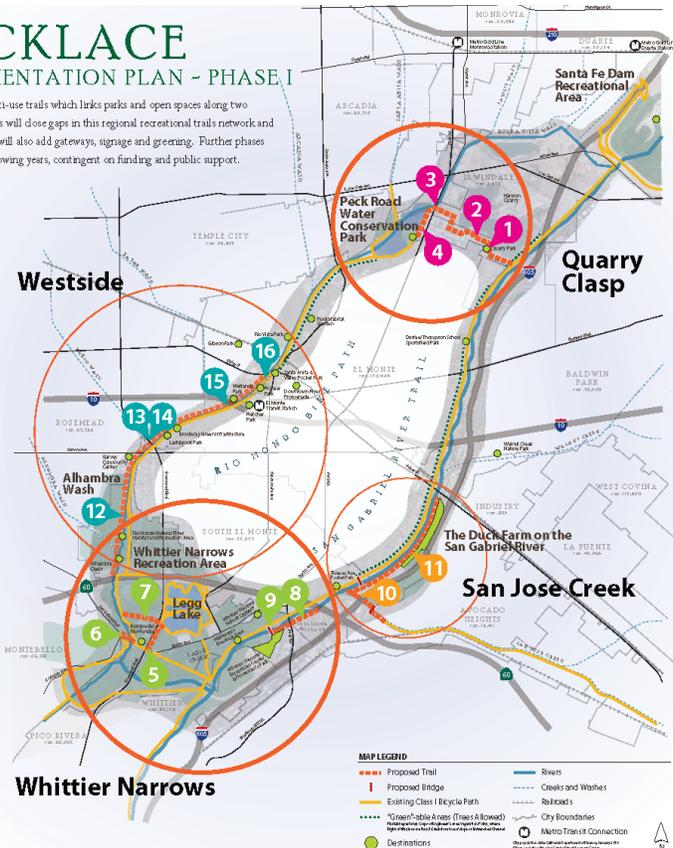
### Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

*Linking Existing Park Resources*

This connectivity trail links existing parks and open spaces in the Whittier Narrows area, including the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, the Whittier Narrows Regional Park, and the Whittier Narrows Regional Park. The trail will provide a continuous loop around the Emerald Lake basin, and to provide an accessible path to the Rio Hondo.

- 5. **Class I Bicycle Path:** Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake
- 6. **Class I Bicycle Path:** From El Bosque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signalized Crossing, Signage & Wayfinding
- 7. **Class I Bicycle Path:** From the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake, through the Southern California Ebbros Easement
- 8. **Multi-Use Trail:** Pullitzer Village from State Highway 60 to Horsemans Park
- 9. **Multi-Use Bridge:** Pullitzer Bridge at Horsemans Park

### PROJECT COMPONENTS



### Quarry Clasp:

*Completing the Loop*

Multi-Use Trail from Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the San Gabriel River, following the Rio Hondo to the San Gabriel River, and to the San Gabriel River.

- 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 connectivity trail links existing parks and open spaces in the San Jose Creek area, including the San Jose Creek Regional Park, the San Jose Creek Regional Park, and the San Jose Creek Regional Park. The trail will provide a continuous loop around the Emerald Lake basin, and to provide an accessible path to the Rio Hondo.

- 10. **Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use 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 STEERING COMMITTEE

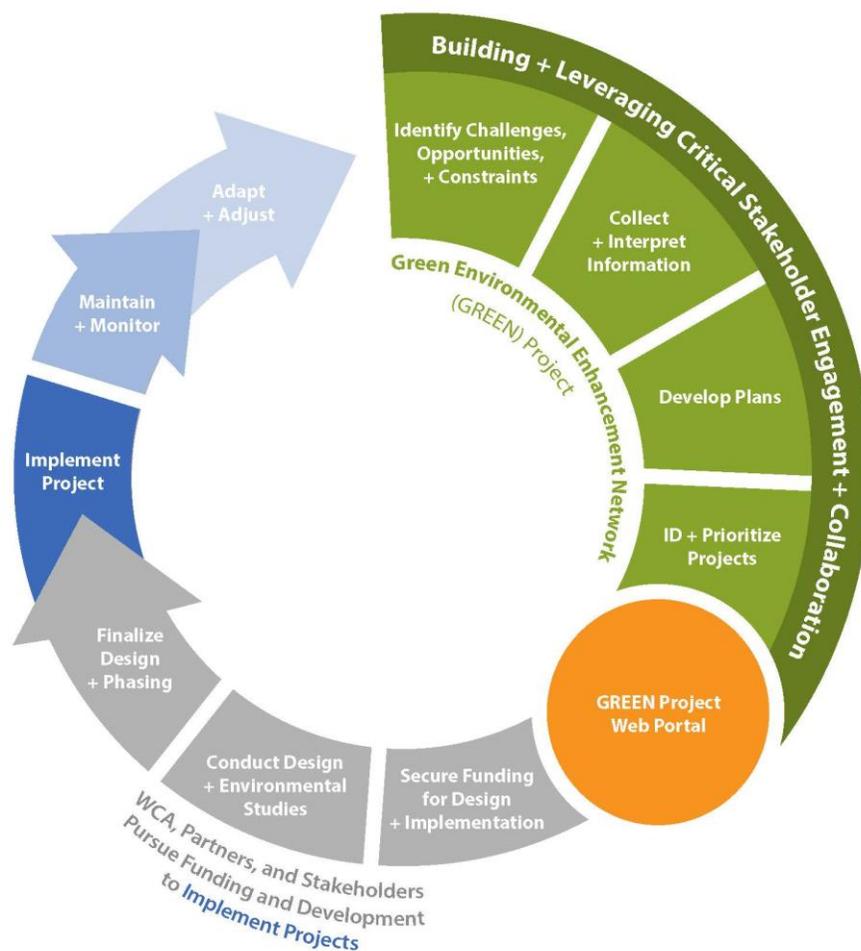


The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows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

**GREEN Project:** Staff is developing the scope of work for web development for both the GREEN Project Portal, and the pilot Gateway Greening Plan content, which will be the final format for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. The WCA has received a contract under review to enter into a no-fee agreement with Sabio LA, a local web development training group that focuses on complex, real-world applications to develop the soft launch of the web portal planned for this December 2017.

<http://www.sabio.la/>



*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:** The first major outreach survey has been launched and staff continues to connect with partners and stakeholders to help widely distribute links to the survey in both English and Spanish. WCA staff engaged participants at three (3) events in June:

- 6/11 Trails4All South Gate “Trail Etiquette” Event,
- 6/17 LAC Bike Coalition Family Bike Ride in Long Beach, and
- 6/24 LAC Bike Coalition Family Bike Ride in South Gate.

A copy of the Survey can be found at the following web address:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GatewayGreening>

Advisory meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, with the next meeting planned for Tuesday July 18.



*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 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.*

Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve: Rangers will increase patrols during summer and will report progress and recommendations regarding compliance with parking and park regulations as needed. Volunteer graffiti removal and trash collection is being supplemented by Ranger support and community service workers when available.

The Conservation Fund and WCA are collaborating to host a Dedication Ceremony with a commemorative funder acknowledgement sign unveiling by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, a site tour, and a keepsake photo-op with community members, conversationalists and local children at the Mt Baldy Preserve. Conservation Fund and all WCA Board members will receive an invitation to join us Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. for this very special event.



*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.*

River Wilderness Park: The design for RWP Entry Improvements Project is commencing toward 90% construction drawings for shovel-ready implementation. The design team is incorporating recommendations made through the geotechnical investigation that was conducted from early September through December 2016. A meeting has been scheduled with the City of Azusa June 29 to begin the review process to move through completion of the project and final permitting.



*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, Forest Service, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA have nearly finalized a first administrative draft of the environmental technical assessment and report for the Forest Service to review. The Draft EIR/EIS is expected to be publicly released for 45-day comment period by the end of August.

The proposed action has been completed for the design and implementation components of the project. This proposal is defined within a 30-page project description available online at [www.wca.ca.gov/cattle\\_canyon](http://www.wca.ca.gov/cattle_canyon).

### SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FINAL CONCEPT SITE PLAN JANUARY 30, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Day-use recreation is enhanced by a continuous 2.0 mile "East Fork Scenic Trail". The trail is located adjacent to the road with views of the river and provides access to overlooks, river access trails and backcountry trailheads. Loading/shuttle stops are provided.

PROJECT AREA TOTALS	
Trailheads	4
Restrooms	10
Crosswalks	7
Designated Picnic Areas	6
East Fork Scenic Trail (mi.)	2.0
Interpretive Sites	4
River Access Points	6
USFS Visitor Kiosk	3
Bus/Train Stop	3
Parking	270

- River access - 6 locations with restrooms, dumpsters & signage
- Parking - Angled and perpendicular bays with curbs, limited roadside parking, parking lot in Former Fire Station area with bus parking
- ROW - Reduced speed, crosswalks, stop signs, footpath along top of slope on south/east side of road, trash grates on drain siles
- Amenities - Picnic tables, East Fork Scenic Trail, interpretive sites including 2 interpretive trails, scenic overlooks, bilingual signage including wayfinding and trail signage, trailheads, designated loading/shuttle stop locations
- Toilets - 2 and 4-lit facilities located near river access points and other popular areas
- Trash - Small trash receptacles to be located at all river access points and all picnic sites. Dumpsters to be set within rock barriers.
- Areas to bring back to natural condition or restore through native revegetation - Multiple informal trails to river, soil deposits along roadside, weeds/springs on east side of road, stream habitat in tributary behind Oaks Picnic Area, phase out non-native "plantation" plantings

**OAKS AREAS**

- Expansion of existing Oaks Picnic Area, including more sites, larger tables, native tree plantings, new restrooms, a group BBQ area, & botanical interpretive area. Existing parking configuration is retained.
- River access points with parking, native tree plantings, East Fork Scenic Trail, USFS Visitor Kiosk, picnic area, new restrooms and loading area/shuttle stop, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
- Botanical interpretive site

**CONFLUENCE AREA**

- Scenic overlook with Eldoradoville interpretive element, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
- River access and new single restroom
- Pedestrian bridge (parallel with existing bridge) and shuttle stop
- Portions of road are realigned to accommodate East Fork Scenic Trail

**JUNCTION AREA**

- Three way stop with emergency vehicle turnaround
- Portions of road are realigned to accommodate East Fork Scenic Trail

**HEATON FLAT AREA**

- Enhanced picnic area with improved trailhead, interpretive sign, new restroom & river access

**COYOTE FLAT, OVERLOOK, FIRESTATION & CANYON AREAS**

- Developed picnic area & new restroom with maintenance access road
- Scenic overlook with planters, seatwalls, native tree plantings, monument sign, "Geology Hut" interpretive building, USFS visitor kiosk, and perimeter path, East Fork Scenic Trail interpretive sign
- Camp Bonita Road turnaround, loading area/shuttle stop, cross walk, Heaton Flat trailhead, new restroom
- Developed parking area with native tree plantings, parking kiosk, bus parking, new restroom & picnic area
- Stairs from parking area lead across boardwalk bridge to Botanical Interpretive Trail trailhead
- Stairway leading from East Fork Scenic Overlook to Coyote Flat

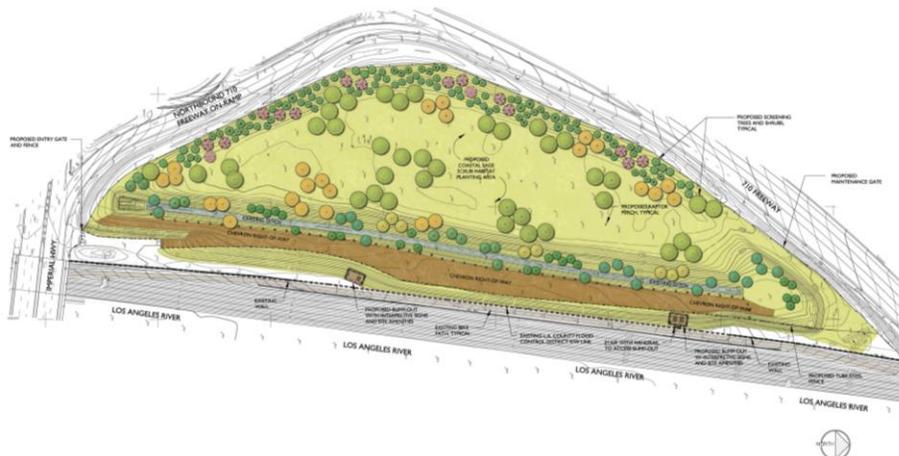
**LEGEND**

- River access points
- Interpretive sites
- Restrooms
- Designated picnic area
- Trailhead
- Crosswalk
- USFS visitor kiosk
- Loading area/shuttle stop
- Paved road
- Trail and/or Maintenance access road
- East Fork Scenic Trail
- Parking
- East Fork
- Existing Cattle Canyon Bridge with new pedestrian bridge

SCALE 1"=300'

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: WCA staff received Construction Proposals from Local Conservation Corps (LACC and LBCC) and is in the process of evaluating bids. A permit extension request has been provided to Caltrans for approval. LA County Flood Control District permit is ready for issuance and pick-up at their Downey Field Office by general contractor pending contract award.



*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: The WCA and City of San Dimas anticipate pending further developments for the next 4-5 months until a County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) exemption is confirmed. Together with an interim agreement pending with the Tzu Chi Foundation these approvals would expedite the West Phase developments making the site available to the public. WCA staff has also contracted the removal of several non-native pines on site following a positive identification of non-native, invasive bark beetle. The significant loss of trees is likely the result of both drought and the recognized infestation.

### WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



*Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.*

*After completing a conceptual development plan in coordination with the 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 site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors. This will realize the improvements necessary to provide public access over a portion of the Project Site through the Antonovich Trail, accessible from four nearby County-operated trail staging areas.*