

DATE: September 21, 2017
TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board
FROM: WCA Staff
THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 7: Liaison and Activities Report

Strategic Vision Plan

An update will be provided today in a presentation of the Public Relations, Marketing, and Outreach accomplishments and activities since the 2012 Draft Strategic Plan process began.

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/>

Current as of 9/10/17

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

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: 9/10/2017, Status: *AB 18 merged with SB 5 as amended on 9/10/2017; sent to Governor's Desk for approval.*

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 **\$4,100,000,000** 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, each fiscal year that principal or interest on bonds issued and sold for the program are and payable, appropriate \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of paying costs associated with operating and maintaining certain park projects funded by the program. This bill would also 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.

The chart below highlights Senate Bill 5 (De Leon) and compares to what AB18 (Garcia) proposed prior to being incorporated into amended 9/10/17 version of SB 5.

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

	AB 18 (Garcia) – See SB 5	SB 5 (De León)
AB 31 Park Poor Communities Program	\$900 Million	\$725 Million
Per Capita	\$455 Million	\$215 Million
County/Regional Program	\$115 Million	\$30 Million
Self-Help Block Grants for Local Taxes	Previously in County/ Regional Program	\$40 Million
Rural Program	\$40 Million	\$25 Million
Trails	\$45 Million	\$30 Million
State Parks (Fairs Included)	\$330 Million	\$218 Million
Conservancies (Including WCB & Other)	\$160 Million	\$767 Million
River Parkway Program	\$510 Million	\$162 Million
Oceans and Coastal Protection	\$280 Million	\$175 Million
Miscellaneous (including Cal Fire, WCB Conservation, Climate Resiliency, CCC, and Natural Resources Agency)	\$635 Million	\$443 Million
Clean Drinking Water and Drought Preparedness	\$0	\$250 Million
Groundwater Sustainability	NEW>>	\$80 Million
Flood Protection	\$0	\$550 Million
Coastal Low Cost Accommodations	\$100 Million	Captured in State Parks and State Coastal Conservancy
Regional Sustainability: Water	NEW>>	\$290 Million
TOTAL BOND COST	\$3.470 Billion	\$4.1 Billion

AB 1180 (Holden D) Los Angeles County Flood Control District: taxes, fees, and charges.

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 8/21/2017, **Status:** Now a 2-Year Bill

Summary: Would authorize the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to levy a tax, in compliance with the applicable provisions of Article XIIC of the California Constitution, or impose a fee or charge, in compliance with the applicable provisions of Article XIID of the California Constitution, to pay the costs and expenses of carrying out projects and programs to increase stormwater capture and reduce stormwater and urban runoff pollution in the district, and would specify that projects funded by the revenues from the tax, fee, or charge may include projects providing multiple benefits that increase water supply, improve water quality, and, where appropriate, provide community enhancements, as prescribed.

AB 1483 (Daly D) Housing-Related Parks Program

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Now a 2-Year Bill

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.

Appropriates \$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 Senate floor 28-12. Bill is heading to the Governor.

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, **Last Amended Date:** 7/3/17, **Status:** On the Assembly Floor

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:** 6/19/2017, **Status:** On the Senate Floor

Summary: Would, until January 1, 2028, establish the West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program, to be administered by the State Coastal 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) Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Introduced: 2/13/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 9/1/2017, **Status:** Passed the Assembly floor with 78 ayes votes and one person not voting. Bill is heading to the Governor.

Summary: This bill would establish within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group. Would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, in consultation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles to the extent they wish to consult, to consider requests from specified local agency representatives to participate in the working group. Requires by March 1, 2019, the working group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, a revitalization plan to address the needs of the Upper Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the communities through which they pass, and to include watershed education programs. The bill would require the conservancy to provide any necessary staffing to assist the working group. The working group will be required to submit the revitalization plan to the conservancy for approval. Requires the revitalization plan to be considered amendments to the watershed and open space plan for the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers upon adoption by the conservancy and would require the conservancy to submit the plan to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles City Council for their consideration.

AB 1235 (Daly D) Santa Ana River Conservancy Program

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Now a 2-Year Bill

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, **Last Amended Date:** 5/3/2017, **Status:** Now a 2-Year Bill

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) Natural and Working Lands: Unified Program Application and Process

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 7/18/2017, **Status:** On the Senate Floor

Summary: Would require the Strategic Growth Council , on or before April 1, 2018, to establish and convene an interagency taskforce consisting of representatives from various state agencies who are knowledgeable in programs for natural or working lands to develop a common application form and process for those programs. Requires the task force, on or before January 1, 2019, to develop and implement the common application form and process for those programs.

AB 1530 (Gonzalez Fletcher D) Urban forestry

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 9/1/2017, **Status:** On the Senate Floor

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: . The August meeting of the San Gabriel Mountain Community Collaborative (SGMCC) was canceled, the next meeting is September 28, 2017, Big Pines Lodge in Wrightwood.

The Forest Service provided notice that it is extending the time for completion of the Plan EA, Decision Notice, and related comments for the San Gabriel Valley National Monument Plan.

Action items from the July meeting included:

- The SGMCC decided to keep focusing on the four topics that were brought to the top during the June 22 meeting (Transportation, Trails/Recreation, Conservation Education, and Visitor Engagement). The SGMCC agreed that the four Ad Hoc Committees would develop the goals/objectives for each of these four topics by September 10 for circulation via email to the SGMCC and then have a vote during the full SGMCC September 28 meeting.
- NFF will provide a form the ad-hoc committees can use to develop their goals/objectives, where to put funding etc.
- SGMCC Planning Committee will develop potential dates for review and submittal of comments on the final Monument Management Plan.
- Jack Sahl and Liz Reilly, Collaborative Board Members, to draft a Blog Write Up/Press Release regarding the Building Bridges Award from Congresswoman Chu to post to NFF Website.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: WCA provided LA County's Watershed Management staff with draft proposals outlining three Level of Effort planning scenarios in which WCA staff would provide consultant services to develop and implement a plan for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network. In August, the Department of Public Works (DPW) submitted a report (available online) back to the Board on the preliminary schedule, resources, and funding required to develop a strategic implementation plan for transforming the Los Angeles County Flood Control Channels right of way into a world class greenway network across the San Gabriel Valley.

Next steps include:

1. In September, DPW will initiate meetings with WCA staff to finalize a scope of work based on the previously submitted proposal and to develop a formal agreement to use WCA's services; and
2. In October, DPW will hold the kick-off meeting with other Project Team members, WCA and Department of Parks and Recreation, to discuss developing scope of work for the consultant

On May 16, 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 an effort being undertaken by the County in collaboration with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), its member cities, and numerous community-based organizations, including WCA and Bike SGV.

A greenway network was listed as a priority active transportation project by the SGVCOG, and 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 SGRDCA consultants are engaged to respond to ACOE response letter dated May 2, 2017. A meeting with LA County Parks and SGRDCA has been scheduled for September 21, 2017 to discuss the project plans and move forward in the ACOE review process. 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 22nd where the Board provided direction for staff to explore additional opportunities for completion of the Discovery Center Project. Review of these options will take place at the next scheduled SGRDCA Board Meeting anticipated for November 9, 2017.



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: Team has received permit plan check approvals from LA County Building and Safety Divisions (Architectural and Plumbing) and are awaiting resubmittal of Landscape Development Division's Roads and Streets plan by AECOM which is the last remaining County plan check approval needed. Once received, County Grading department will clear the project for permit.

Additionally, WCA received 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 pending confirmation.

WCA is presenting for Board consideration today, a Labor Compliance Program (LCP) for adoption and authorization to submit an LCP application to California Department of Industrial Relations as a requirement of the State Bond funding WCA was granted for implementation of this project.

A Caltrans ROW Ingress/Egress easement is pending final review and recording by CALTRANS, once recorded a fully executed Maintenance and Operations Agreement will be issued and a permit will be ready to pull.

A consultant contract was awarded to BlueGreen, under the Construction Management Master Agreement, to prepare an updated 2017 project engineering estimate, provide value engineering recommendations and prepare bid packages. Due to the prolonged nature of the permitting process for this project it is anticipated that the available budget for the project will be less than the full scope of work of the current design. The estimating and bid strategy will be presented at the November board meeting. At that time, it is expected a series of small specialty contracts will be presented for pre-award consideration. By breaking the scope of work down into smaller contracts for which the work is common to the contractor or fabricator thus resulting in both higher quality work for a lower price than having a single contractor complete all the work. This strategy is being considered to ensure the greatest extent of work can be accomplished with remaining funding for Construction which is approximately \$2.8M not including contingency of \$200K. Additionally, the previously completed irrigation system will be repaired so it is 100% operational when the new contracts start to avoid any future warranty issues. The intent of this multi-prong strategy is to complete critical aspects of the park that meet funding expectations and provide a good user experience, as well as, stage work in a manner to complete reimbursable grant scope first to ensure availability of cash flow. February 2018 is targeted for the major riparian area ground-breaking.



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: Images of the successful volunteer planting event held in coordination with Amigos De Los Rios involving approximately 100 participants who installed over 1,200 buckwheat and black sage native plants saved from a closing RECON nursery in Santa Maria. The plants are currently being maintained and are growing nicely as a first step in revegetating the native plants on the site after several years of drought.

Duck Farm - Community Planting Event, 6/24/17



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 purpose of this feasibility study is to identify and evaluate the feasibility of a multi-use trail along the Westside Multi-Use Trail. The study will identify and evaluate the feasibility of a multi-use trail along the Westside Multi-Use Trail.

- 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 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

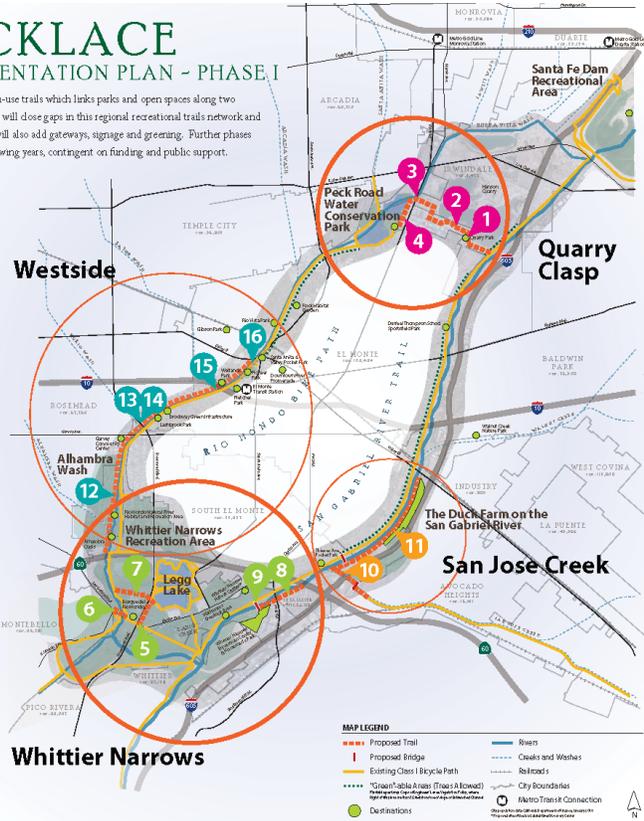
Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

Linking Existing Park Resources

This map shows the location of the existing and proposed Class I trails and projects and identifies the trail route to be implemented in the Whittier Narrows area. The map also shows the location of the existing and proposed Class I trails and projects and identifies the trail route to be implemented in the Whittier Narrows area.

- 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 Edison Easement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horseman's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Horseman's Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp:

Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail: The existing project on Peck Road Water Conservation Park will be extended to the Quarry Clasp. This will connect the trail between the Quarry Clasp park and the Peck Road Water Conservation Park.

- 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: Connect Park in Peck Road Water Conservation Park

San Jose Creek Regional Access:

Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This map shows the location of the existing and proposed Class I trails and projects and identifies the trail route to be implemented in the San Jose Creek area. The map also shows the location of the existing and proposed Class I trails and projects and identifies the trail route to be implemented in the San Jose Creek area.

- 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

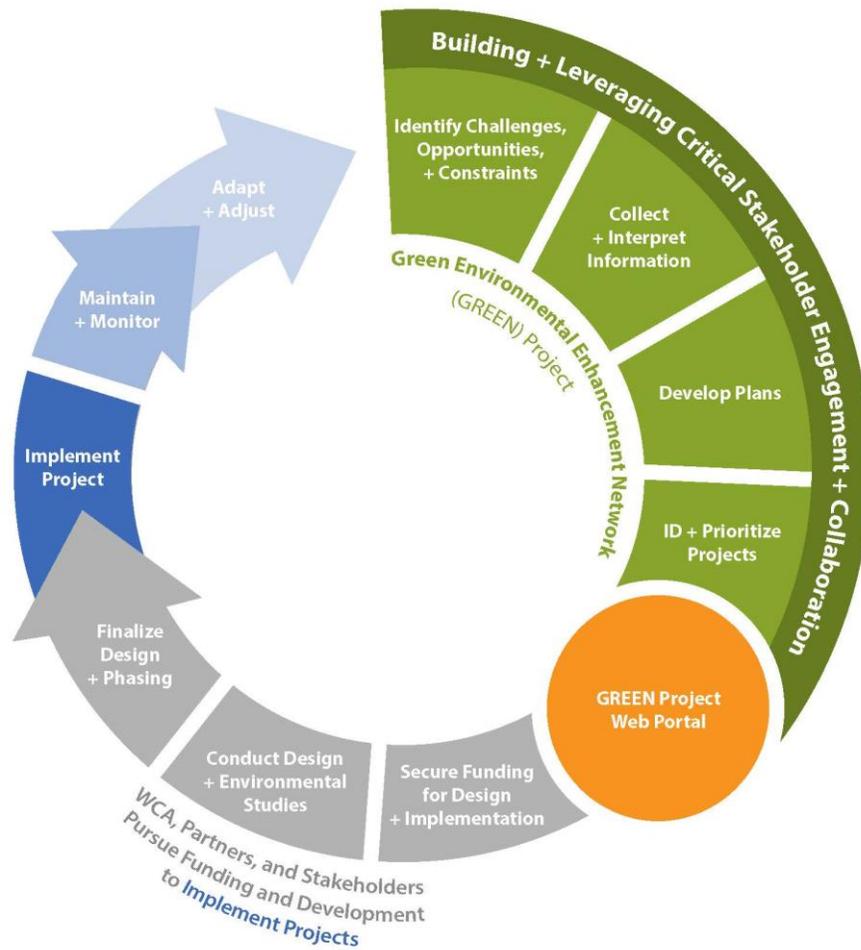


The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows 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 Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities Staff will be bringing an item before the Board today to authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and authorization to accept funding. The grant will fund the investigation of property acquisition opportunities and recommendations for operations and management of open space for foothill watershed and open space conservation, habitat enhancement, mitigation and passive recreation in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills. The funding would also be utilized for staff and consultant costs to perform due diligence and appraisal activities related to Glendora Community Conservancy and Rainbow Ranch parcels among others.

GREEN Project: Staff is coordinating with Sabio LA—a local programmer training program—on 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. WCA staff is also development content for the web platform for a soft launch planned for December 2017.

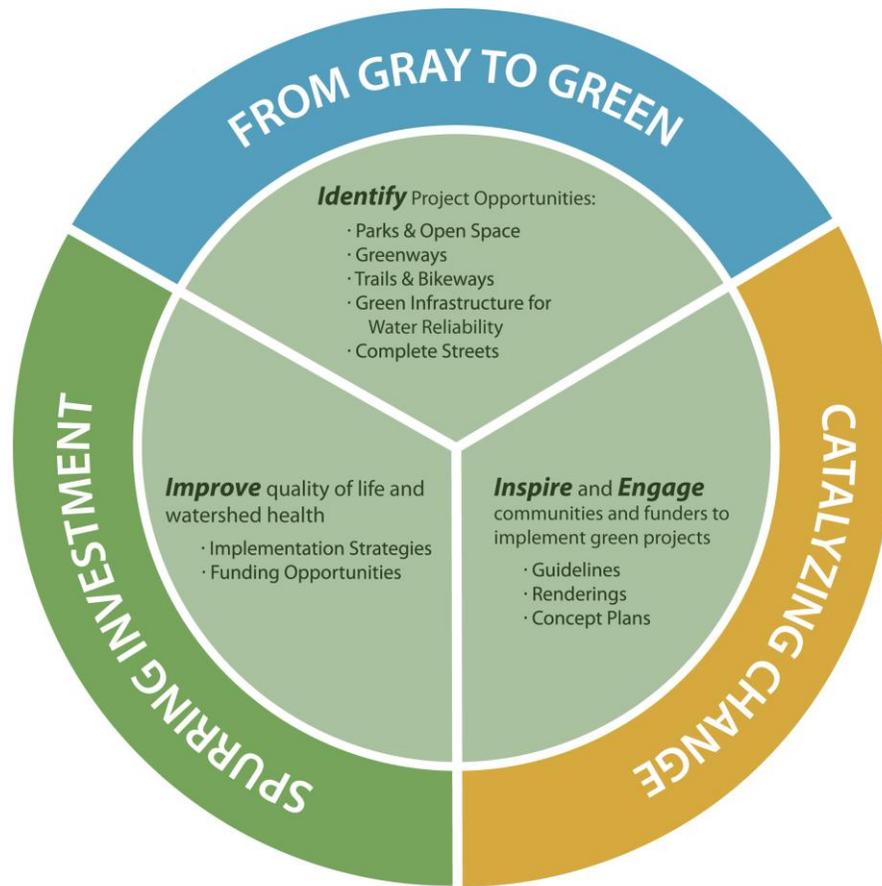


The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection 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 phase of outreach was concluded and compiled for discussion at the last Advisory meeting held July 17, 2018. Outreach has included the ongoing quarterly advisory meetings, workshops and events, surveys, and representation in parallel efforts. WCA staff both hosted and attended 7 workshops and events reaching approximately 417 participants representing more than 80 organizations, agencies, and cities focusing on the LA and San Gabriel Rivers. An online survey launched May-July 2017 presented 17 questions, additionally disseminated at 9 events reaching more than 70 organizations, agencies, and cities with 201 participants. Findings included overwhelming interest in improving and expanding open spaces through increasing urban canopy and plant cover, more programs and amenities, safety and security, improving access, water capture, and maintenance concerns. Detailed findings will be submitted in the next report to the Natural Resources Agency.

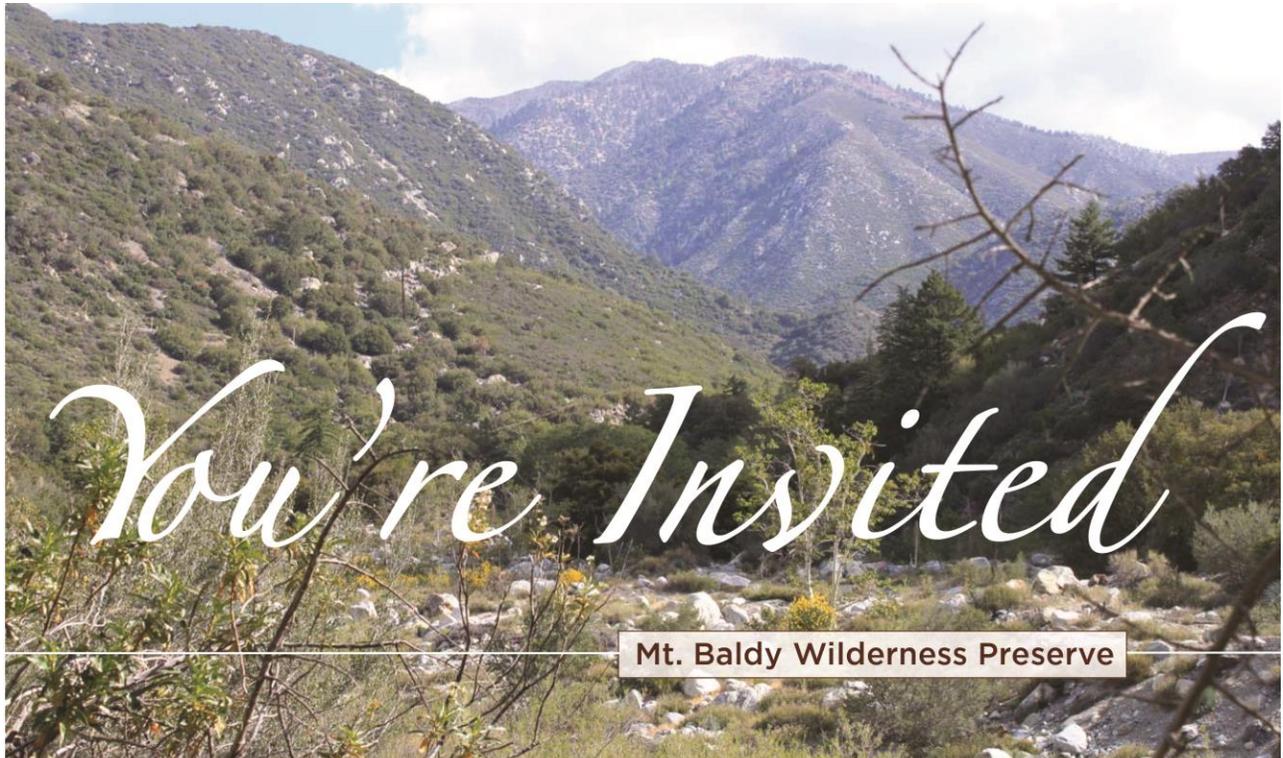
Staff continues to develop content for the soft launch planned for December as a pilot and module of the GREEN Project web platform. The completed content will be the final deliverable for the plan. Advisory

meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, with the next meeting planned for Tuesday October 17.



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: WCA and The Conservation Fund will be hosting a Dedication Ceremony with a commemorative sign ribbon cutting event on September 22, 2017 at 10 am sharp. Invited dignitaries include LA County 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger, San Bernardino County 2nd District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, U.S. Forest Supervisor Jeffery Vail and FS staff from the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, California Natural Resource Agency, WCA Board members and staff, RMC Board members and staff among other dignitaries, non-profits, environmental groups and community members.



The Conservation Fund and the Watershed Conservation Authority invite you to join us for a dedication event celebrating the conservation of more than 230 acres of open space at Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve—located just below Mt. Baldy Village.

WHERE:

Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve
(Mt. Baldy Rd & Barrett Stoddard Rd)

WHEN:

Friday, September 22, 2017
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Invited attendees include the Los Angeles County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger (5th District), San Bernardino County Supervisor, Janice Rutherford (2nd District), U.S. Forest Service, California Natural Resources Agency, and Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, among other dignitaries, non-profits, environmental groups and community members.

We recommend arriving at 9:30 am to allow time to walk to the dedication area.
Please carpool and wear trail appropriate shoes.

THE
CONSERVATION FUND



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 moving to a complete set of construction drawings through the final approval process for implementation. Staff is actively seeking grant funds and working with both the City of Azusa and Caltrans to move this first phase to realization additionally including the Newman's Roost Special Use Area. Three items on this September Board Agenda concern the Operational Statement and approval of grant applications.



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 the Draft environmental technical assessment and report (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Forest Service to review before public release. The Draft EIR/EIS is expected to be publicly released for a 45-day comment period by the end of October. The Notice of Availability will appear on the federal register on 10/27/17, and will be mailed to interested parties during the week of 10/23/17. A legal notice will also be in the LA Times.

There are currently two planned outreach meetings in November (both on Saturdays). The First public outreach meeting will be held at the US Forest Service office in Arcadia on November 4th. The Second public outreach meeting will be held at WCA's office in Azusa on November 18th. There may also be an on-site outreach event along the East Fork on October 28th, but this is still pending coordination with Forest Service.

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.

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 river 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

DESCRIPTION:
 • 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, hotpath along top of slope on south/east side of road, trash grates on drain inlets
 • 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, snags/springs on east side of road, stream habitat in tributary behind Oaks Picnic Area, phase out non-native "plantation" plantings



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: Staff is bringing before the Board today a recommendation to authorize negotiation and authority to award a Construction Contract to begin project implementation. Upon award, Conservation Corps/Contractor will develop SWPPP and pull applicable permits from Caltrans and LA County Flood Control District prior to work commencing.



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 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. An item on the agenda concerns approval of grant funds for a comparative study of the Land Life Company Cocoon strategy for planting, including funds to augment planting implementation.

WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



Figure dated October 4, 2016

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.