

DATE: May 17, 2018
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 at the June Board Meeting.

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 5/04/18

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 466 (Bocanegra D) Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Introduced: 2/13/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 9/1/2017, **Status:** Signed by 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 1180 (Holden D) Los Angeles County Flood Control District: taxes, fees, and charges.

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 8/21/2017, **Status:** Signed by the Governor

Summary: Would authorize the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to levy a tax, in compliance with the applicable provisions of Article XIII C of the California Constitution, or impose a fee or charge, in compliance with the applicable provisions of Article XIII D 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 1235 (Daly D) Santa Ana River Conservancy Program

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Dead

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.

AB 1483 (Daly D) Housing-Related Parks Program

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Dead

Summary: Existing law establishes the Housing-Related Parks Program, administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, which provides 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. This bill would appropriate \$50,000,000 from the General Fund to the Urban-Suburban-and-Rural Parks Account for these purposes.

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

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 3/28/2017, **Status:** Signed by 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.

AB 1918 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Introduced: 1/23/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 3/12/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

Summary: Current law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake, for the purposes of discussion, reviewing research, planning, and providing

oversight regarding the health of Clear Lake. This bill would establish in the agency the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities such as promoting economic development and job growth in the outdoor recreation economy of the state. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office.

California's outdoor economy eclipses that of all other states in terms of generating \$92 billion in consumer spending and supporting nearly 700,000 direct jobs, which outpaces the film and wine industries combined. This bill create an office that seeks to promote a more robust operating environment for the outdoor industry, promote better access to public lands, create strategies to improve access, particularly among disadvantaged populations, and mobilize resources to combat negative federal actions and policies.

AB 2534 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program

Introduced: 2/14/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 3/15/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

Summary: Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation, on or before May 1, 2019, 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 students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

Proposition 68, formerly SB 5, which will appear on this June's ballot, contains a provision wherein 5% of the bond proceeds can be applied towards public and community outreach, as defined. In other words, if approved, funding will be available for programming to promote, among other things, nature based learning opportunities for disadvantaged youth. AB 2534 is designed as possible enabling legislation, creating a grant program template in which to funnel Proposition 68 proceeds through.

AB 2614 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Disadvantaged Youth

Introduced: 2/15/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 4/18/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

Summary: Would require the Natural Resources Agency to survey school districts, as provided, to identify school districts that offer bus transportation services from a school of the school district to a nonprofit organization that provides services to pupils of that school district. The bill would require the agency, based on the survey, to compile a list of schools within a school district that offer those bus transportation services, as specified. The bill would require the agency, upon request, to provide the list to a nonprofit organization or state agency that provides outdoor experiences to disadvantaged youth.

Similar to AB 2534, this bill seeks to capitalize on the proceeds that may be made available through Proposition 68 for public and community outreach. This bill complements the approach envisioned in AB 2534 as it focuses not on the learning aspect of nature and wilderness based experiences, but how to physically transport disadvantaged youth to these settings. In addition to the 5% contained in Proposition 68 for public and community outreach, there is a provision under the chapter related to trails and greenways which allows for 25% to be used for innovative transportation. This bill may serve as enabling legislation to determine how to best allocate these funds.

SB 5 (De León D) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 Introduced: 12/5/2016, Last Amended Date: 9/10/2017, Status: AB 18 merged with SB 5. SB 5 signed by the Governor and now on the June 2018 primary ballot

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.

SB 5 (DE LEÓN) Park Bond

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

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

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 7/3/2017, **Status:** Signed by the Governor

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:** 9/12/2017, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

AB 1433 (Wood D) Natural and Working Lands: Unified Program Application and Process now Tribal Gaming: Compact Ratification

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 4/10/2018, **Status:** Has been gut and amended.

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. ***This bill has now been gut and amended to address tribal gaming compact ratification instead.***

AB 1530 (Gonzalez Fletcher D) Urban Forestry

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 9/1/2017, **Status:** Signed by the Governor

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.

AB 1945 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan

Introduced: 1/29/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 4/23/2018, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Appropriations on May 9, 2018.

Summary: Would require the State Air Resources Board to work with state agencies administering grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring, to include a specified application timeline for programs

with competitive application processes, and to allow applicants from the Counties of Imperial and San Diego to include daytime population numbers in grant applications.

This bill seeks to expand on the list of approved co-benefits that agencies awarding Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants are required to consider to include public and community access. This provision builds off of the "Urban Greening Program," a grant program administered through the California Natural Resources Agency that promotes project investments in urban areas that seek to reduce greenhouse gas through tree plantings, non-motorized transportation improvements, and reductions in heat island phenomena.

SB-263 (Leyva D) Climate Assistance Centers

Introduced: 02/08/17, **Last Amended Date:** 5/3/2017, **Status:** Dead

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.

SB-1015 (Allen D) California Climate Resiliency Program

Introduced: 02/07/18, **Last Amended Date:** 4/5/2018, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee. Hearing canceled at the request of the author.

Summary: Would establish the California Climate Resiliency Program to increase resiliency to climate change impacts in urban and rural communities throughout the state and to fund the planning and implementation of projects that improve and enhance the climate change resiliency of natural systems, natural and working lands, and developed areas. The bill would require that the program be developed and implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Board, in coordination with any participating state conservancies, as defined.

This bill seeks to establish a program in law wherein Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) proceeds could be applied toward resiliency and adaption projects in natural environments and calls upon the Wildlife Conservation Board, along with the state conservancies, to administer these funds contingent upon the adoption of a climate change resiliency program. This bill is running parallel to a budget effort advanced

by the author to secure a portion of GGRF proceeds through this year's budget for the purposes described in this summary.

SB-1072 (Leyva D) Regional Climate Collaborative Program: Technical Assistance

Introduced: 02/12/18, **Last Amended Date:** 4/25/2018, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Summary: Would establish a regional climate collaborative program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, to assist under-resourced communities, as defined, in a region to access statewide public and other grant moneys, as specified, for climate mitigation and adaptation projects by establishing collaboratives, as specified. The bill would authorize the council to award specified grants to collaboratives for specified activities.

This bill is similar to SB 263, a bill that failed earlier in the year that sought to create the social infrastructure in and around disadvantaged areas of the state to improve education and awareness in regards to the various funding sources available to these communities to combat climate change and advance environmental policies to improve the health and living conditions of these communities. However, this bill also calls for an expenditure of up to \$5 million through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to underwrite the cost of establishing regional climate collaboratives through a competitive process.

PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

San Gabriel National Monument: Forest Service released the Final version the Monument Plan on April 20th, 2018, initiating the 45-day Objection Period. After the Objection Period, there will be an Objection resolution period where any changes are incorporated into the final EIS, and then the signing of the Record of Decision (likely late Summer/early Fall).

The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative held its last meeting on March 22, 2018. Currently the SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. The committee received updates on the Work Plans from each subcommittee containing 3-5 objectives and specific tasks to accomplish those objectives. Final Work Plans should be presented to the May or July Meeting.

The next SGMCC meeting will be held on May 24th. At the meeting, WCA will be providing an update on the River Wilderness Park Entry Project –roundabout on Highway 39— and ATP application.

In March, the SGMCC was awarded \$25,931 from the RMC, plus matching private funds of about \$8,000, to fund the facilitation of the SGMCC meetings by the National Forest Foundation through June 2019.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: LA County's Stormwater Management (previously known as Watershed Management) staff plans to submit to LA County Board of Supervisors in June (previously March) a resolution for consideration to contract with WCA over five-years, with option for two additional years for professional services to develop and implement a plan for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network, as well as, provide other professional services within our shared territory. WCA received Board authorization at the January 2018 meeting to enter into a consultant contract with LA County for this planning project. This work will support Department of Public Works (DPW) approved initiative 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.

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 administrative costs. April 9th, 2018, SGRDCA executive officer met with John Wicker and Alina Bokde at the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LADPR) Alhambra office to discuss next steps for the project, including the response and coordination with partners, funders and policy makers. April 20th, 2018, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County released Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R4-2006-0040, First Quarter 2018 Report on San Gabriel River Discovery Center Supplemental Environmental Project to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

SGRDCA has cancelled the tentatively scheduled May 24th SGRDCA Board meeting. In the upcoming months, SGRDCA will attend a meeting (to be scheduled by LADPR) with Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 1 Office and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano’s office to discuss next steps.



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: WCA has received verbal approval from LA County's Landscape Development Division's Roads and Streets. Submittal of updated and stamped Roads and Streets Plan will complete the entitlement process once accepted by LA County Building and Safety Grading department to clear the project for construction and for permits to be pulled.

Construction Manager and A/E are completing value engineering of Construction Documents and preparation of Engineer's V/E estimate and request for bid package to be published by the end of May. Publication will run for 21 days and a mandatory bid walk will be scheduled during this period. Project is working toward awarding a construction contract this summer.

Additionally, WCA is responding to comments from the California Department of Industrial Relations on our Labor Compliance Program (LCP) submittal. Updates were made and resubmitted for final approval of the program. Having an approved LCP is a requirement of the State Bond funding WCA was granted for implementation of this project. Information related to the LCP and prevailing wage requirements will be included in the Request for Bids notice.



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.

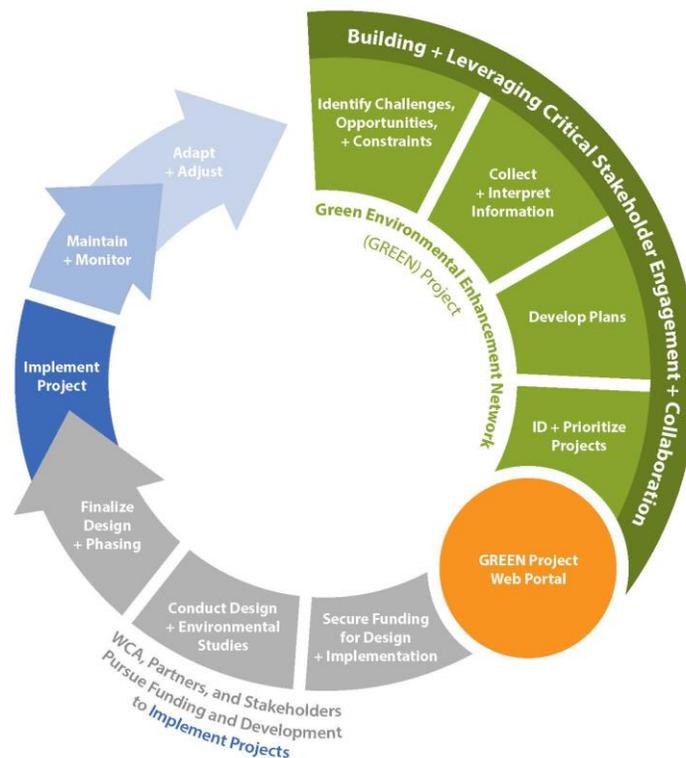
Emerald Necklace: WCA participated in an LA County Department of Public Works hosted on-site planning charrette on April 7th for the Rosemead Complete Streets Project within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This project is closely related to the priority projects identified in the EMNECK plan, specifically priority project #5. Additionally, WCA staff toured priority project areas with LA County Parks and Recreation Trails Planning staff in April to orientate new staff of both Agencies to the EMNECK opportunities within the Upper reach of the plan.

San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities: WCA has accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, which will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve critical 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.

WCA executed a project contract with Trust for Public Land (TPL) in January to begin Phase 1 of the project (a 3-month phase), for Methodology Development. In Phase 1, a Technical Approach draft report for each city will evaluate and summarize opportunities for acquisition and feasibility of acquisition, which will identify public/private parcels and provide general market data. Prioritization of key parcels with high ecological and recreational value will be identified, as well as maintenance considerations. Initial deliverables were received for comment toward the completion of Phase 1.

Additionally, the funding will be utilized for staff and consultant costs to perform due diligence and appraisal activities related to Glendora Community Conservancy, Rainbow Ranch parcels, Roberts Canyon Open Space, among others.

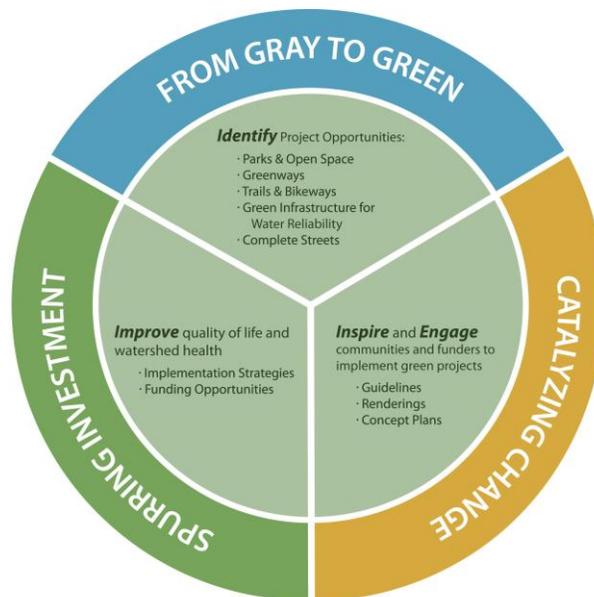
GREEN Project: Web developers with Sabio LA have completed their scope of work. The partially-built site is currently being built out by a contracted professional web developer in coordination with WCA staff for both the GREEN Project Portal and the pilot Gateway Greening Plan content. WCA is planning a soft launch of this portal for September, 2018. This framework will be built upon with additional mapping features developed with Dr. Weimin Li of Cal Poly Pomona and database features not expected for either the soft launch or the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening project scope. WCA staff is continuing to participate in stakeholder coordination on a variety of regional greening initiatives as part of the GREEN Project deliverables.



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: WCA staff, in coordination with consultants brought on board for conceptual design and imagery, are working to draft and upload written content as well as visual support, renderings, and the results of mapping analysis to the Gateway Greening online toolkit in preparation for a soft launch in September 2018. The design and development of the web portal is also ongoing in coordination with consultants. WCA continues to meet with representatives of Gateway Cities governments to workshop how the deliverable would be most useful to them and solicit project information to include on the site. The completed content will be the final deliverable for the plan.

WCA recently presented the project to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors as well as the Planning Directors Committee to highlight progress in outreach, website design, and concept renderings. More updates on site content will be provided in the next liaison report. 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 17th.



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 is working with an Eagle Scout to plan, design and implement an improvement at the Mount Baldy Preserve. The proposed interpretive and dedication sign site enhancements including split rail fence, native plants, ground cover and associated beautification elements. Additionally, WCA continues to work with MRCA Rangers, County Sheriffs, residents, and volunteers to support continued on-site maintenance at the Mt. Baldy Preserve property. To further support this coordination, WCA purchased and installed a job box on-site to facilitate equipment and supply sharing between staff, residents, and volunteers.

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.

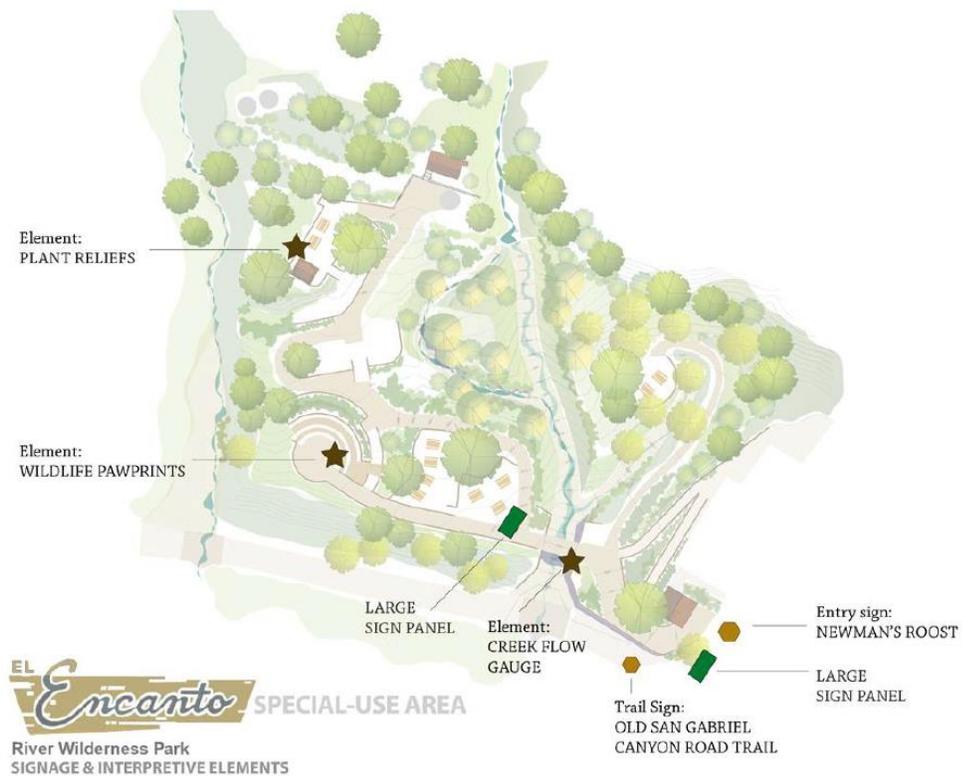
Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning: The U.S. Forest Service has engaged WCA to provide project management services for redevelopment and enhancement conceptual planning for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest as well as a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources. WCA has executed a contract with BlueGreen consultants for professional services and anticipates a kick-off meeting with project partners in late May, 2018.



The project at Crystal Lake Recreation Area will address the need for development that will support sustainable recreation. The conceptual transportation study will be implemented to provide a foundation for a transit system that will access the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM). The proposed transit plan will also explore options for mass transportation.

River Wilderness Park: WCA is currently supporting LA County Department of Public Works in preparing for and to apply for Cycle 4 ATP grant funding program to fund Roundabout and associated trail connection and safe-crossing features. DPW will take the lead to manage the design, permitting and construction of the Roundabout portion of the project. Staff will, concurrently, engage with City of Azusa related to permitting, as well as, City of Azusa Light and Water to bring public utilities to the park.

To date, \$2,752,860 of the estimated cost of \$6,495,000 has been secured. Staff continues to pursue other grant opportunities and will apply to those for which the project can be competitive. Unfortunately, our application for a State Parks Outdoor Education Grant (\$463,000) was unsuccessful for the educational features and outdoor classroom facility shown in the following concept.



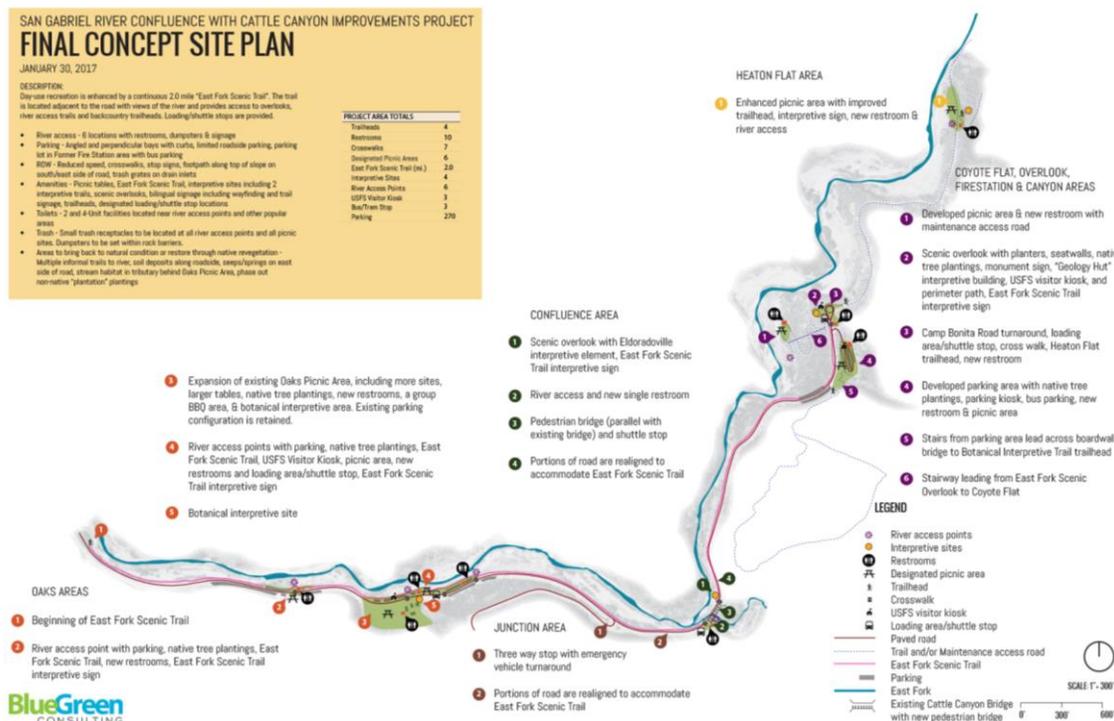
The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: The Draft EIS/EIR was publicly released for comment on November 9, 2017 for a 45-day comment period (ended December 26th, 2017). Two public meetings were held. The first public meeting was held on Saturday November 18th, 2017 at WCA's offices. The second public meeting was held on December 5, 2017 at Angeles National Forest Headquarters in Arcadia. Both meetings were well attended, each with over 50 attendees—see image below of the Deputy Monument Manager (Adrienne Dunfee) speaking at the December 5th meeting.



During the public comment period, we received nearly 500 comments. 400 of the comments were generated using a form letter template created by Sierra Club (which is positive and highlights areas of plan improvements that their members have expressed); there are roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, is in the process of analyzing the comments, preparing responses and, where necessary, incorporating changes into a Final EIS/EIR.



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: Long Beach Conservation Corps is working toward to July 2018 Construction start date for the project. The project was prominently featured as a signature project of the Lower LA River Master Plan at the Plan Signing event April 6th and visited by participants attending the Statewide Conservancy Retreat hosted by the RMC and the City of South Gate on May 25th. Drone images of the LLAR signing event and the project site were captured by ABC channel 7 news. <http://abc7.com/3310632/>



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, working with both the City of San Dimas and the Tzu Chi Foundation, is working toward the establishment of a license or MOU agreement with TCF to establish permission to construct and utilize the spur trail connection over TCF property. This interim solution will eventually be replaced with WCA obtaining fee title over the parcel through a mutually beneficial land swap with the TCF to clean up old land boundaries between the property holders. A survey to establish the extent of the interim solution license/agreement is anticipated to be completed this summer. Additionally, the City of San Dimas is in the final stage of completing their demolition of existing buildings to complete site preparation in anticipation of trail construction beginning this Fall.

WCA is also implementing a Metropolitan Water District's Innovative Conservation Program grant to test planting technologies to support native revegetation of the project site. Procurement of the cocoon materials will begin in September to meet a Fall/Winter planting window and will be followed by a monitoring program to document the effectiveness of the product.

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.