

DATE: July 19, 2018

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: WCA Staff

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 7: Liaison and Activities Report

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 7/10/18

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 consider 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 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 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:** 7/2/2018, **Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Summary: This bill would establish in the Natural Resources Agency the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor

recreation economy of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office.

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 creates an office that seeks to support 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 mobilizes resources to combat negative federal actions and policies.

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

Introduced: 2/14/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 7/3/2018, **Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 contains a provision wherein 5% of the bond proceeds can be applied towards public and community outreach, as defined. 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:** 7/3/2018, **Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Summary: This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities. The bill would authorize the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences, as specified.

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 was signed by the Governor and became Proposition 68 which passed during the June 2018 primary.

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.

SB 1126 (Portantino D) Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group**Introduced:** 2/13/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 6/3/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Summary: Current law establishes within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group and requires, by March 1, 2019, the working group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods and community engagement, a revitalization plan for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, and Verdugo Wash, and any additional tributary waterway that the working group determines to be necessary. This bill would specify the Arroyo Seco Tributary as a waterway for the working group to include in the revitalization plan and watershed education programs. Recent amendments would extend the effective date of the submission of a report regarding the LA River Rangers Program from June 30, 2018 to March 30, 2019.

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:** 6/25/2018, **Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 for programs intended to improve air quality, and 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 the list of approved co-benefits that agencies awarding Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants are required to consider. Among other things, the requirements would include “improved community access to green space.” This provision builds off 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:** 2/08/17, **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: 2/07/18, **Last Amended Date:** 6/21/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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. The bill has been recently amended to require conservancies in developing climate resiliency programs to prioritize projects that include co-benefits such as recreational opportunities and local engagement through outreach. There was an effort to appropriate funds in the budget funds toward the objectives outlined in this bill but that effort was unsuccessful.

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

Introduced: 2/12/18, **Last Amended Date:** 7/2/2018, **Status:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Summary: This bill would, until October 1, 2029, 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 last year, that sought to create the social infrastructure in and around disadvantaged areas of the state to improve education and awareness in regard 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.

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 May 24, 2018. WCA staff presented an update on the River Wilderness Park development project, as well as, the proposed Roundabout and Trail Extension. WCA, in preparation for aiding Los Angeles County Department of Public

Works in applying for Active Transportation Project funding, requested consideration of the Collaborative to provide a letter of support for the Roundabout Project and Trail Extension. A vote was taken and approval for preparation of a letter of support was given.

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 July Meeting.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: LA County's Stormwater Management staff plans to submit to LA County Board of Supervisors at the first available Board Meeting as 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. A resolution to consider authorization to enter into a consultant contract with LA County for this planning project is on today's agenda. 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.

WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES

Duck Farm Project: Staff is currently submitting final sets to LA County Building and Safety Grading department to clear the project for construction and for permits to be pulled. An updated application for Public Health Department approval related to restroom facility is in process and will be reviewed for approval within two weeks of submittal to Environmental Health permit.

Construction Manager and A/E completed 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 July. 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 working with the California Department of Industrial Relations to finalize our Labor Compliance Program (LCP). Contracting with The Solis Group for LCP services is underway. 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 and reviewed by legal counsel prior to posting.

STEP 2 – PARK DEVELOPMENT



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: No change this period. 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.

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

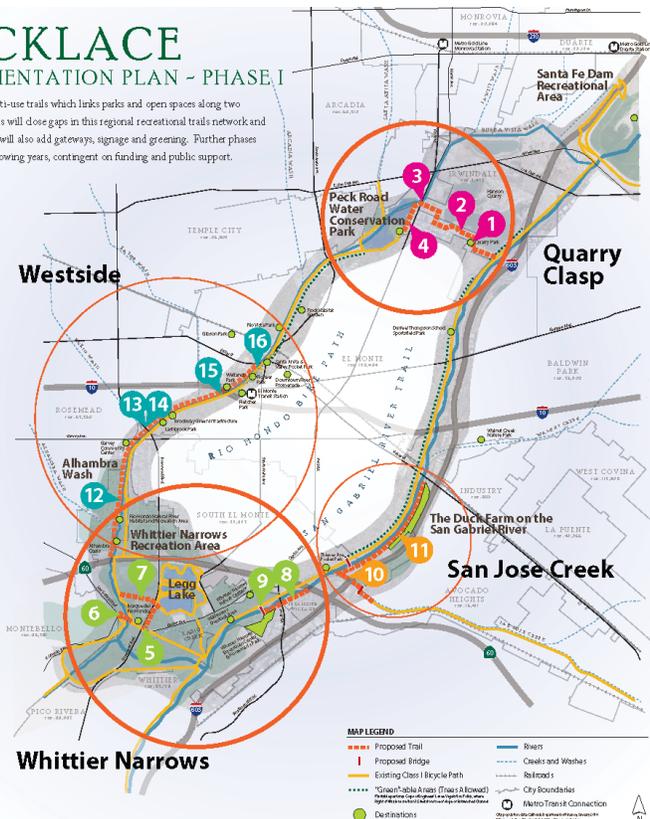
The purpose of the trail is to provide a safe, scenic, and healthy route for all users along the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups.

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

Whittier Narrows Connectivity:
Linking Existing Park Resources

This section focuses on the connectivity of the existing park resources of the Whittier Narrows region and the Rio Hondo. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Loop Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Estero del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signage & Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Loop Lake through the Southern California Edison Easement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Peck Road Villages from State Highway 60 to Rosemead Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Fullback Bridge at Rosemead Park



Quarry Clasp:
Completing the Loop

Make the Quarry Clasp project a key link in the Emerald Necklace trail system. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups.

- 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 this to the Peck Road Water Conservation Park

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

This project will provide a key link in the Emerald Necklace trail system. The trail will be a multi-use trail, suitable for all user groups.

- 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.

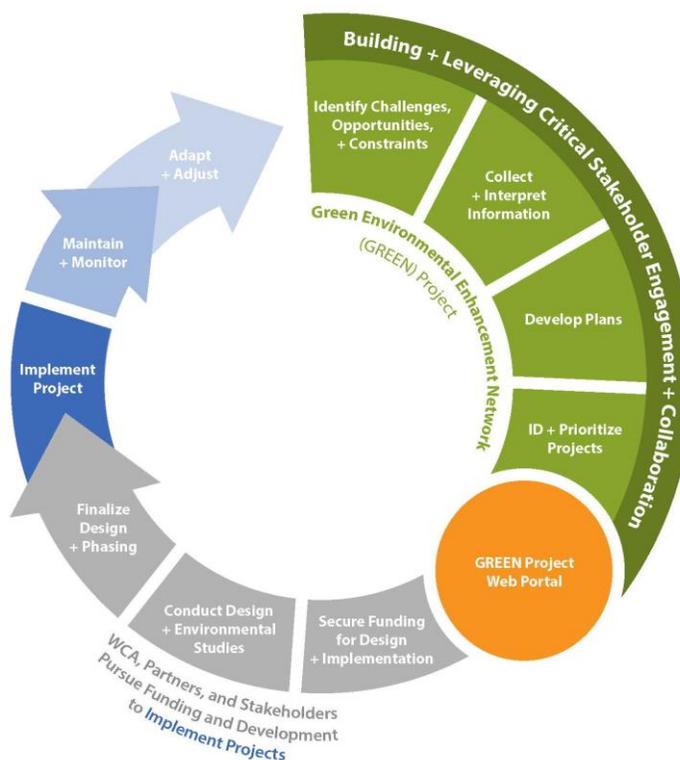
The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities: WCA is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to develop the programs methodology for property identification, evaluation, and prioritization. A Technical Approach draft report for each city will then be generated to 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 related to methodology development were received for comment and continue to be developed with an emphasis on outlining the final contents of a strategic narrative report giving clear guidance on management and long-term operations.

An initial draft deliverable will be focused on opportunities within the City of La Verne, while following up with known opportunities related to Glendora Community Conservancy and several willing sellers in the foothill region. Comments have been provided on the draft deliverable, updates are expected by mid-July and then a full rollout of the methodology and reports will begin to be generated for the rest of the study area.

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, 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.

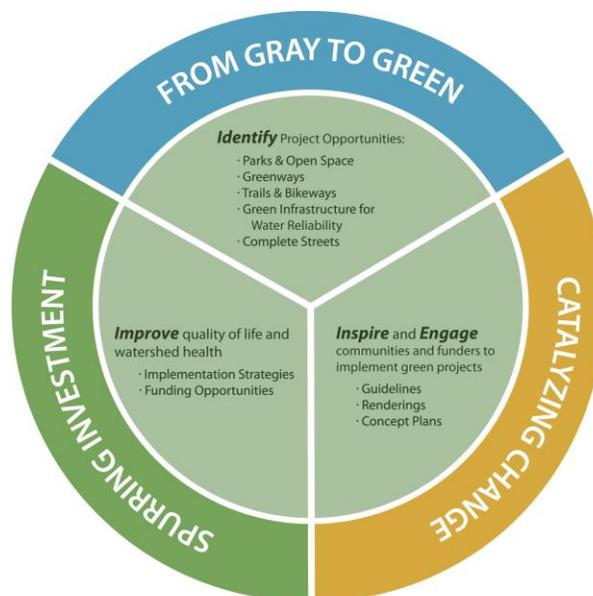
GREEN Project: Staff met with a project consultant June 27 to strategize outreach to regional stakeholders and cities to introduce the GREEN Portal and to obtain tool feedback and request project data for incorporation into the tool database. Staff is currently loading content into the portal before reengaging the services of the web developers to complete the initial soft-launch build out the Green Portal utilizing Gateway Cities and Rivers Greening Plan content. WCA continues to work toward the September 2018 soft launch date. 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: Conceptual design and imagery for the Greenscape tool is underway with 5 of the 12 land use types in production. Staff and interns are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the GREEN portal website. Additionally, the results of mapping analysis from CalPoly Consultant Dr. Lee and internally generated is being reviewed for inclusion in the targeted soft launch slated for September 2018. The design and development of the web portal is also ongoing in coordination with consultants. Staff is in the process of scheduling meetings with city representatives 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.

The next Advisory meeting, held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, will be 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 approved the Eagle Scout’s plan to design and implement an improvement at the Mount Baldy Preserve for his final Eagle Scout Service Project. The site enhancements will include the permanent installation of the Mt. Baldy Preserve dedication sign surrounded by native plants as well as construction of an educational kiosk for site specific displayed material. 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.

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: Following the kickoff meeting held last month, with WCA, US Forest Service, Blue Green Consulting, and their sub-consultants, the team is currently collecting and sharing existing data in support of completing the first project deliverable: site analysis.

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

River Wilderness Park: WCA is continues to support LA County Department of Public Works (DPW) application preparation for the 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, support DPW in their engagement with Caltrans and the City of Azusa related to permitting, as well as, consider options for bringing public utilities to the park.

WCA is proposing to complete the Entry Park Improvement construction documents in three steps to utilize funding that has been awarded to date while additional funding sources are being pursued. An action to ratify the application and approve the acceptance of funds is on today's Board agenda for consideration. The packages would be broken down into three steps the Overlook, Entry Park Improvements, and Highway Roundabout and trail extension. 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.

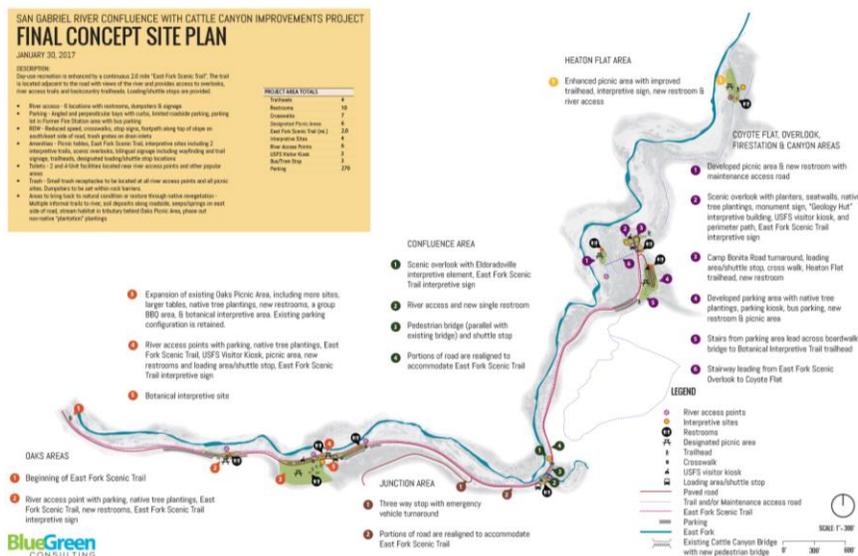


The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

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 in November and December of 2017. During the public comment period nearly 500 comments were received. 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 were roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, is finalizing the response to comments and, where necessary, incorporating changes into a Final EIS/EIR. Team is also finalizing the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), Findings, and Statement of Overriding

Consideration, and WCA staff is targeting bringing the Final EIR and MMRP to the September 2018 Board Meeting for consideration for adoption and certification.



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 ready to enter into contract to construct with WCA and is preparing contract documents including schedule of values and implementation schedule as exhibits. Authority to award the Contract for Construction has been previously approved by the Board. Homeless encampments on the property will likely delay the anticipated July 2018 Construction start date as staff seeks to work with Caltrans, County of Los Angeles and CHP complete relocation and outreach as the camp is noticed in the coming weeks. In the meantime, LBCC is contacting permitting agencies to prepare for pulling permits to construct and to allow for ground-breaking to start soon after camps are cleared from site.



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. WCA staff met with the City at the end of June to obtain buy-in on an implementation schedule to begin construction this winter. WCA staff is preparing a request for proposal to obtain landscape design services while the City staff completes trail specifications. These items will allow WCA to remain on schedule with 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 is targeted to be initiated in September to meet the Winter planting window and will be followed by a monitoring program to document the effectiveness of the product.

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.

WCA is creating and will circulate a request for services on behalf of the City of San Dimas for landscape designs funded through Los Angeles County. These plans will inform the work of contractors, volunteers, and staff to implement Phase I planting by the end of 2018.