

DATE: October 25, 2018
TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board
FROM: WCA Staff
THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Item 09: 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 10/03/18

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 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.

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 1126 (Portantino D) Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Introduced: 2/13/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2018, **Status:** Signed by the Governor

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. Amendments extended the effective date of the submission of a report regarding the LA River Rangers Program from June 30, 2018 to March 30, 2019.

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

AB 1918 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**Introduced:** 1/23/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 8/24/2018, **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

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.

After near unanimous support from the Legislature, Governor Brown vetoed this bill by wrongly asserting that the actions of the proposed office duplicate the California Department of Parks and Recreation's activities. HMA is working with those close to the Gavin Newsom camp to explore the possibility of an executive order to establish this office in 2019.

AB 2534 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program**Introduced:** 2/14/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 8/24/2018, **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

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.

In the case of this bill and AB 2614, Governor Brown rationalized his veto by suggesting that Proposition 68 provides the necessary funding to carry out the activities captured in both bills.

AB 2614 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Disadvantaged Youth**Introduced:** 2/15/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 8/17/2018, **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

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. T

This bill may serve as enabling legislation to determine how to best allocate these funds. See AB 2534 for veto rationale.

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.

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

Introduced: 2/17/2017, **Last Amended Date:** 9/12/2017, **Status:** Dead

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 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.

SB-1072 (Leyva D) Regional Climate Collaborative Program: Technical Assistance**Introduced:** 2/12/18, **Last Amended Date:** 8/20/2018, **Status:** Signed by the Governor

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.

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 1945 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan**Introduced:** 1/29/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 8/24/2018, **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

Summary: Beginning, July 1, 2019, would require state agencies administering competitive 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 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 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. Governor Brown’s objections of this bill were rooted in the notion that the content and intent of the bill would be better addressed through a budget action.

SB-263 (Leyva D) Climate Assistance Centers

Introduced: 2/8/17, **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: 2/7/18, **Last Amended Date:** 8/6/2018, **Status:** Dead

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 was 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.

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. A 45-day Objection resolution period where changes would be incorporated into the final EIS was extended through September 2018 (delays were due to fire season and changing of FS staff), and the signing of the Record of Decision is now expected by the end of the year.

The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative held its last meeting on September 20, 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 completed by the end of the year, and Collaborative members were asked to start thinking about how to move forward with the Work Plans into next year (including looking for funding and sustainable purpose for the Collaborative into the future).

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: LA County's Stormwater Management has prepared an agreement to contract with WCA over a five-year period, with the option for two additional years for professional services to support the development and implementation of the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network. In addition, to providing as needed 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.

WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES

Duck Farm Project: A resolution to consider authorization to award a construction contract to implement Phase 1A – Step 2 park project is on today's agenda. This is the culmination of a 9-month process involving value engineering, bid preparation, publishing, holding of a mandatory site walk with prospective bidders, receipt and evaluation of bid and process, along with current market conditions. Staff has requested gap funding from Rivers and Mountains Conservancy at their October 15, 2018 meeting and pending approval today to award, construction can begin in December 2018 and complete late Summer 2019.

In support of start of construction, staff has received permit extension from Caltrans and is awaiting formal extension of 408 from ACOE through LA County Flood Control District. LA County Building and Safety grading is completing their plan check review with final approval imminent.

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.

Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project: Staff is preparing a design and build RFP to forward the implementation of the Project. Staff will draft a grant application for proposition 68 funds to complete funding picture for the project to include exterior building renovations and potential small indoor resource center.



Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project will include the construction of practical landscape-oriented water capture and conservation strategies that average homeowners can achieve in their own landscapes. Images above show an aerial view of the project site and a concept illustration of strategies.

Emerald Necklace: Emerald Necklace team meetings to forward priority projects will be held the 4th Wednesday of every month at 3:30pm in the South El Monte Office of SD1. Funding opportunities including Prop 68, Measure A, and future bond measures will be discussed at upcoming meeting.

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 Westside Multi-Use Trail is to provide a safe, scenic, and accessible trail for all user groups. The trail will connect the Westside Multi-Use Trail to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

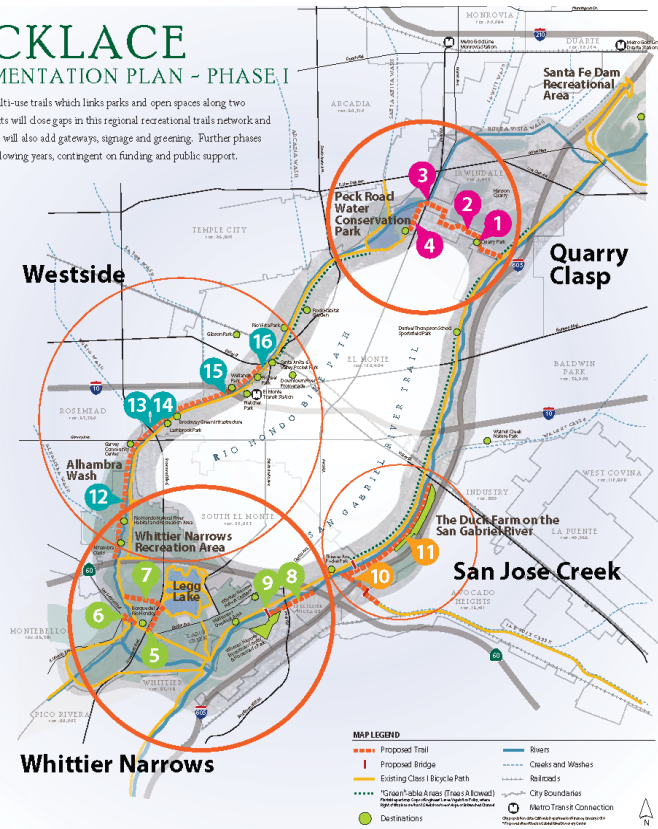
- 12 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13 Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 14 Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 15 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements
- 16 Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the study will focus on the Whittier Narrows area, which is a key link in the Emerald Necklace. The study will identify opportunities to improve connectivity between existing park resources.

- 5 Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Lego Lake
- 6 Class I Bicycle Path: From El Bosque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signage, Wayfinding
- 7 Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Lego Lake through the Southern California Edison Easement
- 8 Multi-Use Trail: Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horseshoe's Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Puller's Bridge at Horseshoe's Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Multitasking the Quarry Clasp will connect the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River, completing the loop of the Emerald Necklace.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connect West in Peck Road Water Conservation Park

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

This section of the study will focus on the San Jose Creek area, which is a key link in the Emerald Necklace. The study will identify opportunities to improve connectivity between existing park resources.

- 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, a revised draft is currently being reviewed. A full rollout of the methodology and reports will 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 is currently uploading content into a Beta version of the portal in conjunction with the Gateway Greening Plan and will invite critical technical advisory committee members to review and comment before reengaging the services of web developers prior to public soft-launch in Spring 2019.

Additionally, WCA staff is participating in a variety of regional greening initiatives as part of the GREEN Project deliverables including the East San Gabriel General Plan Update, Los Angeles County LA River Master Plan Update and implementation of the Lower LA River Plan which is described in more detail below.

Lower Los Angeles River – Implementation Advisory Group

With the completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) held its first meeting on August 22, 2018 at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra. The purpose and charge of the IAG is to: provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects/programs related to the Lower LA River; ensure proposed projects/programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan; and maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits by encouraging collaboration among the many project proponents and organizations in the project area.

In its role as an advisory body, the IAG will provide guidance on issues presented before them, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will continue to have decision-making authority. The IAG members and sub-committees will work together to further define the roles and guidelines of the IAG in the upcoming months.

The IAG will include four sub-committees, including:

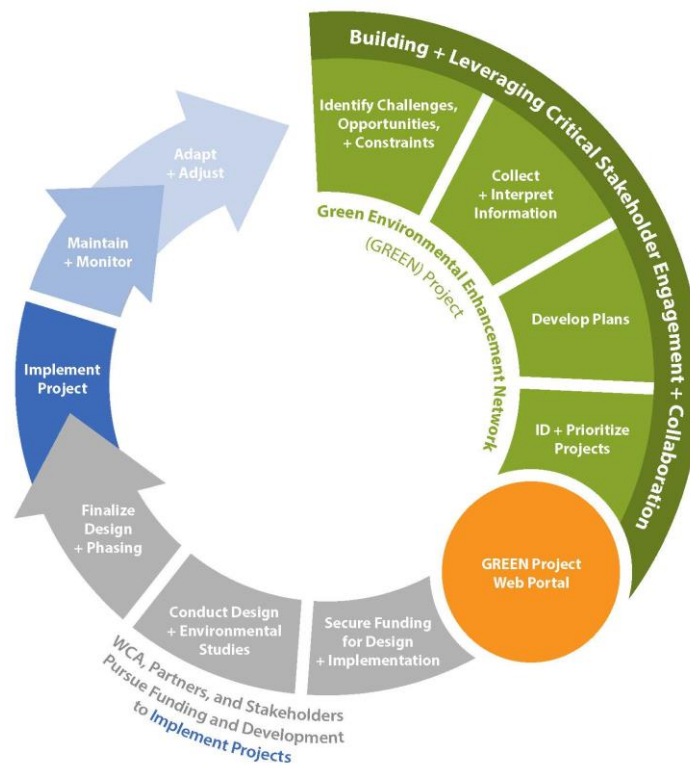
- 1) Programs/ Policies & Community Engagement;
- 2) Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure;
- 3) Public Advisory; and
- 4) Future Committee TBD (as-needed).

The committee meetings will first be comprised of members of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan Working Group; however, the committees may choose to invite representatives of other agencies and organizations as needed to address committee needs. The facilitator and future chair should be an organization other than the IAG members.

The following organizations volunteered:

- 1) *Programs/Policies and Community Engagement* hosted by Dan Knapp (Conservation Corps of Long Beach)
- 2) *Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure* hosted by Wendy Macias (City of Paramount), Debbie Enos (Watershed Conservation Authority) and Jim Meyer (Trails4All)
- 3) *Public Advisory* hosted by Gladis Deras (City of South Gate) and mark! Lopez (East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice)

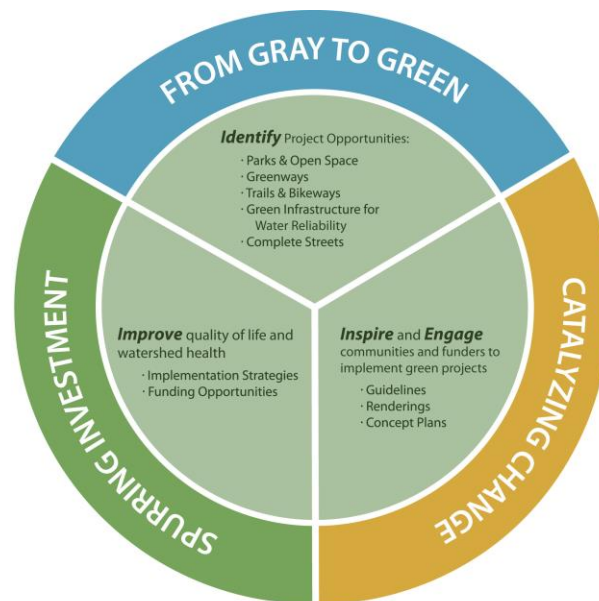
The District will follow-up with the organizations that showed interest during the meeting to coordinate the first committee meetings. The District will be involved in the committees and assist with some overall coordination. The first committee meeting's primary objectives will be to determine the roles and responsibilities, define the structure, identify a chair, and set procedures for inviting additional members.



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 all 12 greenscapes in production. Staff 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 Spring 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 last Advisory Committee meeting, held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, was October 16th. The next meeting will be held January 15th.



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 staff and the Eagle Scout presented the project to the Mt Baldy Town Hall at their regular meeting in September. The Eagle Scout Service Project has a go fund me page to support the scout in his fundraising activity. The approved site enhancements 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. WCA staff attended the community’s annual pancake breakfast on October 6th meeting our neighbors and sharing volunteer opportunities.

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 has completed collecting and sharing existing data in support of completing the first project deliverable: site analysis. The team has started and will continue circulating an outreach survey and is preparing for the first major stakeholder engagement meetings in mid-November 2018. With existing data collection complete and outreach ongoing, the team is also moving forward with analysis to better understand the lake water dynamics.

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

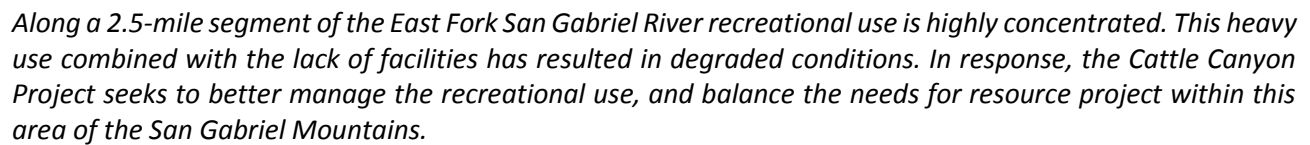
planning effort for the Crystal Lake recreation area located in the Angeles National Forest, as well as, a recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon area focusing on access, circulation, and recreational resources.

River Wilderness Park: Having received a grant augmentation and timeline extension from the design contract was amended and work will restart to complete the overlook and park entry improvement element of the park while the road and roundabout feature awaits an award decision on the ATP grant application. 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.

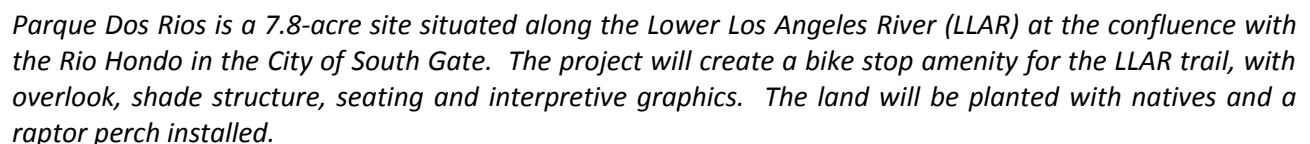


The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, are in the process of completing the Final EIS/EIR. WCA staff is bringing the Final EIR to the October 25, 2018 WCA Board Meeting for consideration for adoption and certification. This will complete Phase 1 of the project plan and can move forward with implementation.



South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: Long Beach Conservation Corps is in the final negotiation stage with its subcontractor. Once completed, CCLB will submit their final schedule of values and timeline schedule for WCA staff to review and formally award the Contract for Construction previously approved by the WCA Board for award. Homeless encampments on the property may delay the anticipated December 2018 Construction start date. A request has been made to Caltrans to finish the clean-up efforts that were started in March 2018 but stalled over the summer. In the meantime, once the LBCC contract is executed, LBCC will begin to pull permits and schedule a ground-breaking event.



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 need to be completed. WCA staff met with the City and prepared a request for proposal to obtain landscape design services while the City staff completes trail specifications. WCA and the City are putting a selected proposal before the San Dimas City Council on October 23, 2018. The designs are expected about six weeks after the contract is executed. These items will allow WCA to implement 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 meet a late 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.