

**DATE:** June 20, 2019

**TO:** Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

**FROM:** WCA Staff

**THROUGH:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 08: 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 6/03/19**

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 209 (Limón D) Parks: Environmental Education: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 1/14/2019, **Status:** Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

**Summary:** This bill is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534. As a reminder, this bill would require the Director of Parks and Recreation 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. To the extent that the skill sets of persons retained through the River Rangers Program includes interpretative/naturalist aptitudes, the program envisioned in this bill may underwrite these positions.

**AB 217 (Garcia, Eduardo D) (Burke) Safe Drinking Water for All Act** **Income taxation: credits: exclusions: federal conformity.** **Introduced:** 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on REV. & TAX. Read second time and amended.

**AB 556 (Carrillo D) Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Status:** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 11). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**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. Authorizes the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences. Given that, in the aggregate, more than 40% of the households within WCA's jurisdictional scope are disadvantaged, this bill represents a terrific opportunity to enhance programming opportunities.

**AB 933 (Petrie-Norris D) Ecosystem Resilience: Watershed Protection: Watershed Coordinators**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal to develop and implement watershed improvement plans, and other enhancement plans, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.

**AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** In committee: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Summary:** Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025. This bill has become a two-year bill.

**AB 1111 (Friedman D) Office of Outdoor Recreation: California Outdoor Recreation Account**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Commission on Natural Resources & Water and Governors Office.

**Summary:** This bill replicates the language contained in last year's vetoed AB 1918 and would establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation in the Office of the Governor. 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. Given that outdoor participation rates in California pale in comparison to those in neighboring states, this bill among other things, heightens the focus of exploring practices and policies that generate greater outdoor use.

**AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) Park Property: City of El Monte: Pioneer Park**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

**Summary:** Would authorize the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property acquired or developed with grant moneys per the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris Urban Open-Space and Recreation Program Act, the Community Parklands Act of 1986, the California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act, and subject to the acquisition of property of equal or greater value, as approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation, at no cost to the state.

**AB 1549 (O'Donnell D) Wildlife: Deer: Santa Catalina Island: Report**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/21/2019, **Status:** In committee: Held under submission.

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to biennially report to the Legislature and Fish and Game Commission on the progress made toward restoration and maintenance of California's deer herds. This bill would require the department to develop by 1/2/2022, a report, in consultation with state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, NGO's, landowners, and scientific agencies to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding deer on Santa Catalina Island, including historic, current and future deer population on the island and assessment of their overall health.

**AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy: Territory: Dominguez Channel Watershed and Santa Catalina Island**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/29/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** This bill would add the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island to the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bill would require the conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use within the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island.

**ACR 69 (Garcia, Eduardo D) "Parks Make Life Better!" Month**

**Introduced:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Chaptered by Secretary of State - Res. Chapter 82, Statutes of 2019.

This measure would recognize the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians and would declare the month of July 2019 as "Parks Make Life Better!"<sup>®</sup> Month.

**SB 226 (Nielsen R) Watershed Restoration: Wildfires: Grant Program**

**Introduced:** 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**Summary:** Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would, upon appropriation by the

Legislature, require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit an annual report to the agency regarding projects funded by the grant program.

**SB 367 (Hueso D) State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/22/2019, **Status:** Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofits for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose. This bill would authorize the conservancy to undertake educational projects and programs for adults and for pupils in kindergarten to grade 12 and to award grants to nonprofits, educational institutions, public agencies, etc. for educational projects and programs related to the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, enjoyment of coastal resources and for onsite and distance learning facilities, activities, and instruction programs that support the delivery of science, history and social science. Would authorize conservancy to award grants for the construction and improvement of structures and facilities used for those projects and programs.

**SB 404 (Chang R) State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion**

**Introduced:** 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** May 16 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

**Summary:** Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units, one of which is the Chino Hills State Park. This bill would require the department to provide all necessary assistance for the state's acquisition and acceptance of four specified parcels from willing sellers that are adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park. Would require the department to agree to accept and manage each parcel as it is acquired with specified funds as part of the Chino Hills State Parks, and to expedite development of a management plan for the parcels once acquired.

**SB 462 (Stern D) Community Colleges: Urban and Rural Forest and Woodlands Restoration and Fire Resiliency Workforce Program**

**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/30/2019, **Status:** From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Committee on Higher Education.

**Summary:** Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to establish a model curriculum for a forest and woodlands restoration and fire resiliency workforce program that could be offered at campuses of the California Community Colleges. The bill would require the chancellor's office to distribute the model curriculum to community college districts no later than January 1, 2021, with the goal of enabling interested community college districts to offer the course to students beginning with the 2021–22 academic year.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D) Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation: Project Prioritization**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Committee on Environmental Quality with recommendations to Consent Calendar. (Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 11).

**Summary:** The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, approved by the voters at the June 5, 2018, statewide primary direct election as Proposition 68, authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for the purpose of financing a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The act authorizes, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$40,000,000 of those bond funds for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change, including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat restoration and protection, among other things. Among other items, this bill would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the act, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. Hence, for possible collaborative projects between WCA and the State Coastal Conservancy subject to the \$40 million contained in Proposition 68 for the conservancy, projects must incorporate natural infrastructure such as earthen embankment and shoring, raised or elevated trail improvements so as to avoid sea level rise and inundation.

**AB 293 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Greenhouse Gases: Offset Protocols**

**Introduced:** 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 5). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

**Summary:** Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the CA Air Resources Board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.

**AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program**

**Introduced:** 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/20/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality.

**Summary:** Would, beginning July 1, 2020, 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, to include a specified application timeline. Requires the Department of Finance to include in an annual report to the Legislature specified information on the applications received for each grant program allocating moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Bill would also authorize the Strategic Growth Council to give grant priority to plans and projects covering areas that have a high proportion of low-income communities.

**AB 382 (Mathis R) Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Grant Funding: Upper Watershed Health**

**Introduced:** 2/5/2019, **Status:** In committee: Held under submission.

**Summary:** Current law provides that an integrated regional water management plan is eligible for funding allocated specifically for implementation of integrated regional water management. Current law requires certain state agencies to include in any set of criteria used to select projects and programs for funding, a criterion that provides a preference for regional projects or programs. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to include in any criteria used to select a project or program for grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020 a criterion that provides a preference for a regional water management group undertaking a project improving upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan. The bill, if consistent with a general obligation bond act providing grant funding authorized on or after January 1, 2020, would require a group to contribute a lower amount of matching funds as a local cost share for a project that improves upper watershed health upstream and outside of the defined geographical area covered by the group's plan.

**AB 552 (Stone D) Coastal Resources: Coastal Adaptation: Access, and Resilience Program**

**Introduced:** 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/30/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Water.

**Summary:** Would establish the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Program for the purpose of funding specified activities intended to help the state prepare, plan, and implement actions to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change. The bill would create the Coastal Adaptation, Access, and Resilience Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the California Coastal Commission and specified state agencies to expend moneys in the fund, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to take actions, based upon the best scientific information, that are designed to address and adapt to sea level rise and coastal climate change, as prescribed.

**SB 45 (Allen D) Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Act of 2020**

**Introduced:** 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 4/4/2019, **Status:** May 6 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources. There is a specific category contained in the bond that is LA River specific.

**SB 576 (Umberg D) State Coastal Conservancy: Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program**

**Introduced:** 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

**Summary:** Would require the State Coastal Conservancy to develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to, among other things, recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency of the state's coastal communities, infrastructure, and habitat and collaborate with certain entities and scientists to facilitate information sharing regarding coastal

climate change adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness using the Office of Planning and Research Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program state clearinghouse.

**BUDGET**

On the budget front, the California Natural Resources Agency, has submitted a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) which outlines the appropriation timetables associated with the roll-out of Proposition 68 (See the following link: [https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/1920/FY1920\\_ORG0540\\_BCP2935.pdf](https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/1920/FY1920_ORG0540_BCP2935.pdf)). Also, regrettably, Governor Newsom’s 2019-20 proposed allocation/investment strategy through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund places little emphasis on programs of interest to WCA, including natural and working lands investments (watersheds and coastal wetlands), and the funding of urban greenspace improvements such as the Urban Greening and Urban Forestry Programs. This funding deficiency has resulted in a joint-letter to the respective budget committees by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia and Senator Ben Allen encouraging an investment of \$400 million in these areas and the content of that letter is reflected in the GGRF investments proposed by the respective legislative houses (see chart below).

Chart is from the 2019-20 California Budget Conference Report – Resources and Transportation Conference Committee on AB 74 (Item 3900, page 15). Link to the report is: [https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Resources\\_and\\_Transportation.pdf](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Resources_and_Transportation.pdf)

**3900 Air Resources Board (ARB)**

Issue	Description
-------	-------------

**Issue 12: Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plan**

Governor proposed \$1.25 billion Cap-and-Trade expenditure plan.

Senate did not approve the Governor’s proposal and instead adopted a \$1.5 billion expenditure plan and provisional language regarding wildlife-urban interface and other fire prevention activities.

Assembly did not approve the Governor’s proposal and instead adopted a \$1.4 billion expenditure plan, placeholder provisional language and placeholder trailer bill language (TBL).

**2019-20 Cap-and-Trade Expenditure Plans**  
(in Millions)

CATEGORY	GOVERNOR	SENATE	ASSEMBLY
Low Carbon Transportation	447	547	660
Air Toxic and Criteria Pollutants	230	70	275
Forests	200	268	200
Integrated Climate Action and Resilience	151	289	185
Agriculture	153	185	45
Waste Diversion and Recycling	25	75	25
Climate and Energy Research and Technical Assistance	12	27	10
Workforce Training*	35	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,253</b>	<b>\$1,461</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>

\* Assembly plan provides \$27 million (Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund) for workforce training at the Energy Commission.

Conference issues are the differing expenditure plans as proposed by the Governor, Senate, and Assembly, provisional language added by the Senate, and placeholder provisional language and placeholder TBL added by the Assembly.

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:** The Angeles National Forest (ANF) Forest Supervisor, Jerry Perez signed the Decision Notice (NOD) for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (SGMNM) Plan on May 30, 2019. A news release was printed in the Los Angeles Times. This action marks the culmination of a collaborative effort with the ANF’s many partners. The U.S. Forest Service plan prioritizes environmental protection over economic development and, in some cases, recreational access — limiting overnight camping along certain popular rivers and streams because of its ecological toll.

A statement from ANF Supervisor Perez from the NOD, “The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument presents a unique and exceptional opportunity for the Forest Service to: (1) demonstrate how resilient forest landscapes and healthy ecosystems can thrive side-by-side with major infrastructure; (2) cultivate connections between a diverse urban population and nature in a county with little open space; and (3) employ collaboration and partnerships to improve access, conservation education, and visitor services. This Monument Plan reflects my belief that this Monument is a valuable investment in the health and well-being of local communities and the people of Southern California for generations to come. I have reviewed the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA); comments from Federal, state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and the public; and supporting documents, and have selected Alternative 3 (selected Alternative) as the Monument Plan. The selected Alternative includes additional plan components to benefit transportation and access, sustainable recreation, and heritage and biological resources to enhance protection of Monument resources while balancing use and enjoyment by a diverse visiting public.”

**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative:** The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) held its last meeting on Thursday May 23, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. The collaborative continues to work on challenges faced by the forest regarding community access, visitor management, and protection of natural resources. The May meeting included an overview of the upcoming Action Plan template and goals, presentations from ad hoc committees on priority projects, and a presentation by WCA staff updating the Collaborative on agency projects, including the Crystal Lake Recreation Area and San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Area Planning effort being conducted in partnership with U.S. Forest Service within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

*The SGMCC has a Steering Committee and four topical ad-hoc Committees working to enhance National Monument management and accessibility for local communities in four areas: Trails and Recreation, Transportation, Volunteer Engagement, and Conservation Education. Meeting occur every other month.*

## **WCA PROJECTS & PROPERTIES**

**Duck Farm Project:** Construction progress is on-going with earthwork and grading underway to develop the new entry drive, parking lot and landscape mound formations. Additionally, work on preparing the site for the delivery of the restroom facility kit to be installed in July has begun, including utilities, septic system and foundation work. Landscape Water Efficiency and Building Permits (Structures, Electrical and Plumbing) have been issued. Coordination with SCE on the removal and relocation of electrical service to the Caltrans on-ramp metering light continue. Construction schedule remains on target for principle completion by General Contractor at the end of October. Landscaping work by the Conservation Corps will continue through the end of this December.

Staff is working with LA County Parks and Recreation related to potentially operating and maintaining the park starting in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.



**Westside of the Park – sculpting the landscape mounds at the riparian area and the restroom taking shape.**

*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:** WCA is in discussions with County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation to discuss the potential for Parks to assume operations of both the Duck Farm and the Duck Farm House. WCA staff will continue to consult with Parks on programmatic elements to inform the development of the design build RFP for the project, currently in progress. WCA is continuing to pursue other funding opportunities, including from SEP, Prop 68 and Measure A.





*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 Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan:**

WCA continues to work with Trust for Public Land to shape a study that may be used in prioritizing future acquisitions of conservation lands.

Appraisal, due diligence, and negotiations for access are underway for Parcel 001 “Vasquez Overlook”, which abuts the newly acquired Parcel 009 “WCA’s Vasquez”. Funding venues are being explored for the purchase of “Vasquez Overlook” and “Rainbow Ranch,” which would add to a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA’s River Wilderness Park. These parcels offer unique passive use opportunities. Rainbow Ranch offers a particularly significant opportunity to restore rare floodplain habitat.

Final Transfer documents for the 128-acre Easley Canyon property (a donation the Board accepted in January 2019) have been submitted to San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC). WCA is waiting to receive Conservation Easement documents from SGMRC for review.

*San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan Project will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve 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.*

**Roberts Canyon Acquisition:** A Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant funded WCA’s due diligence for the potential acquisition of the parcels collectively known as Roberts Canyon. This site is located adjacent to WCA’s River Wilderness Park within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains at the entrance of Roberts Canyon in the city of Azusa. The property consists of unbuildable steep slopes surrounding the Mountain Cove Community residential development, which Lennar Homes is offering as a donation.

Because WCA would only have limited immunity in the case of a landslide that causes damage outside the boundaries of land we own in fee title, WCA has requested that Lennar Corporation consider two scenarios that would not expose a public agency to unnecessary risks or expenses: 1) Lennar Corporation conveys a conservation easement to WCA but holds the fee OR 2) WCA accepts the fee and is given an indemnity by Lennar Corporation should a landslide occur in the future.

Lennar has responded that they do not want to continue to hold the fee title, therefore a conservation easement would not be appropriate. Nor would they provide indemnity. Lennar offered to provide an upfront payment to WCA to compensate for the cost of insuring the property.

WCA is currently seeking estimate for general liability to present for Lennar’s consideration.

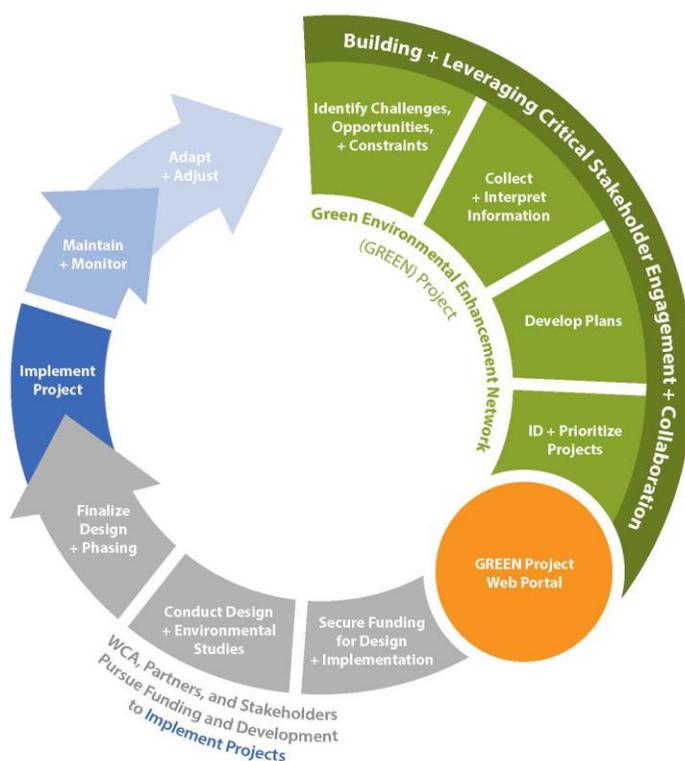
**Vasquez Acquisition:** In March, the Board approved the award of a contract to Long Beach-based ecological consulting firm, Tidal Influence, to conduct a Spring Biological Survey of WCA’s “Vasquez” property. WCA’s “Vasquez” property [AIN 8684-024-907] is approximately 40 acres of undeveloped land in the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills above the City of Azusa.

The biological survey commenced in March, and the last field survey will occur on June 18. Digitization of vegetation mapping is currently in progress. The team is compiling a species list and a narrative which will

describe the biological resources on site and their significance, stages of post-fire recovery of coastal sage scrub habitat, recommendations for the management of invasive species, and potential restoration targets.

The survey and accompanying report are expected to be submitted in July. The survey results and land management recommendations included in the report will form the basis of a land management plan which is expected to include a restoration component, and to be formed in dialogue with other foothills conservation stakeholders.

**GREEN Project:** WCA staff has been developing the functionality and structure of the GREEN project portal in conjunction with the content of the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. The GREEN project is a multipart effort by the agency to promote urban greening in the WCA / RMC territory. The GREEN project website will be a tool that documents, complements, and amplifies these efforts. Most recently, WCA has been working on the GREEN Project Portal in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District on the specific content and outcomes of the Portal.

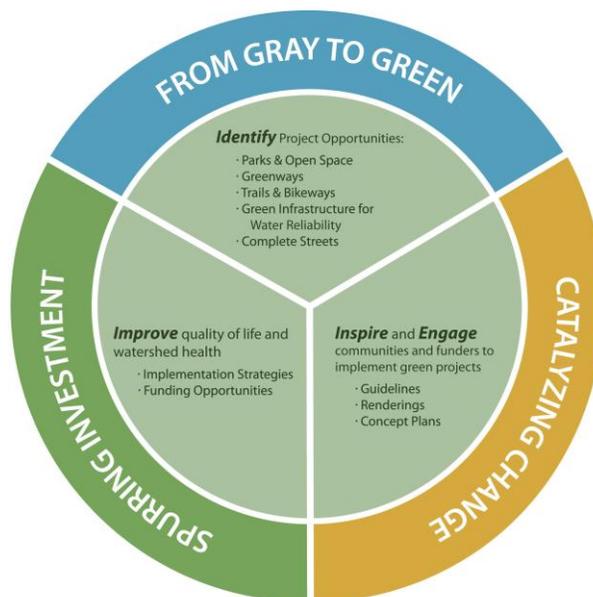


*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection 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 Greenspace tool is wrapping up this month. Staff are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. Staff is also incorporating consultant data analysis into city-specific profile and region-wide recommendations. The design and development of the web portal

is complete, although staff needs to continue to migrate material into new templates and user interfaces. The project is expected to launch in late Summer be complete by the end of 2019. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

WCA is also collaborating with the Gateway Cities COG and GWMA on Prop 68 grant applications to continue planning and implementation of urban greening in the Gateway Cities.



*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 work of 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.*

**Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis:** The WCA Governing Board authorized the WCA to apply and receive funding from RMC’s Proposition 1 program for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis (Supplemental Analysis) at the March 21, 2019 WCA Governing Board Meeting. On April 19, 2019, the RMC Governing Board authorized the grant to the WCA. To date, the WCA has attended stakeholder meetings as necessary for the study.

*The purpose of the Supplemental Analysis is to supplement the State Water Board funded Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study to include a more robust analysis of the potential impacts to recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Lower Los Angeles River from reduced instream water flows. Including the WCA as part of the Stakeholder group and adding a third-party review of the analysis itself.*

**Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** As part of the ongoing site maintenance, WCA Rangers have re-stripped the fire lanes in the main parking lot at the Preserve. To continue with additional site improvements, WCA is seeking funding options for new and updated signage, trail improvements, and updated site amenities.

WCA staff continues to plan for a Convert-a-Can event for the summer of 2019. The event will bring together community members and volunteers to assist in painting murals on two trash cans and one onsite job box. The murals promote clean open space through the use of art and creativity while encouraging proper trash disposal and graffiti prevention. The murals will include imagery of natural landscapes found within the Angeles National Forest. Similar Convert-a-Can murals can be found at the East Fork and West Fork.

*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 USFS, WCA, and consultant project team met on May 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss new recreation opportunities in San Gabriel Canyon. The next meeting in late June will review new recreation opportunities in the Crystal Lake area. The project team will then develop conceptual alternatives for the San Gabriel Canyon and Crystal Lake areas for public review and feedback in August 2019.

*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.*

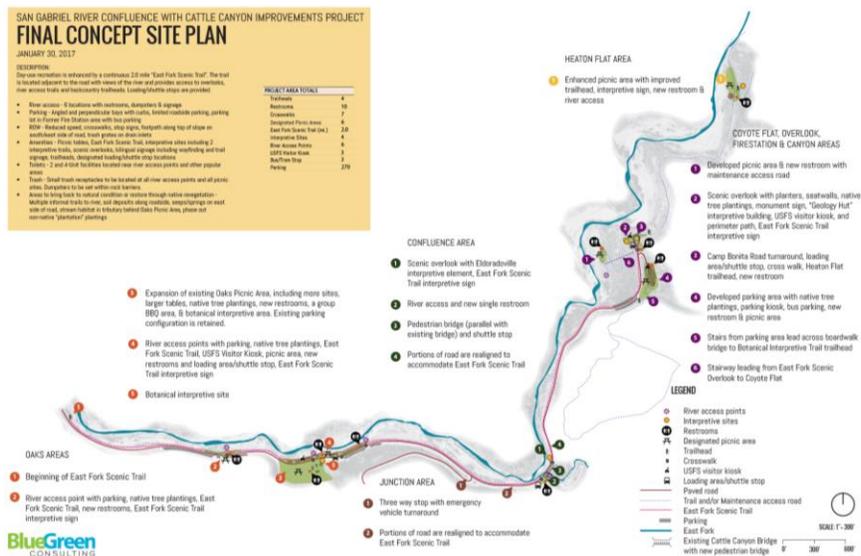
**River Wilderness Park:** Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4<sup>th</sup> application for ATP funds was not successful. WCA will continue to advocate for Caltrans to develop the roundabout, but will develop the park in its absence in order to prevent further delays. Staff is preparing Prop 68 grant applications and will pursue other grant opportunities to fill funding gaps for park elements.



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:** Staff was successful in reapplying for funding from the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to complete the design of the Oaks River Access project along with already secured remaining funding from Resource Legacy Fund (RLF). WCA is meeting with the Angeles National Forest and consultant, BlueGreen, to finalize the concept design of the project prior to completing the full Construction Document package. WCA is awaiting a conference meeting with the RMC to update the status of the project for a pending award to fund construction.

U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project later this year.



Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use, and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** WCA is working with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to complete the execution of the Construction contract and set a Notice to Proceed for early July. Additionally, staff is working with the City of South Gate to plan a ground-breaking event/photo opportunity

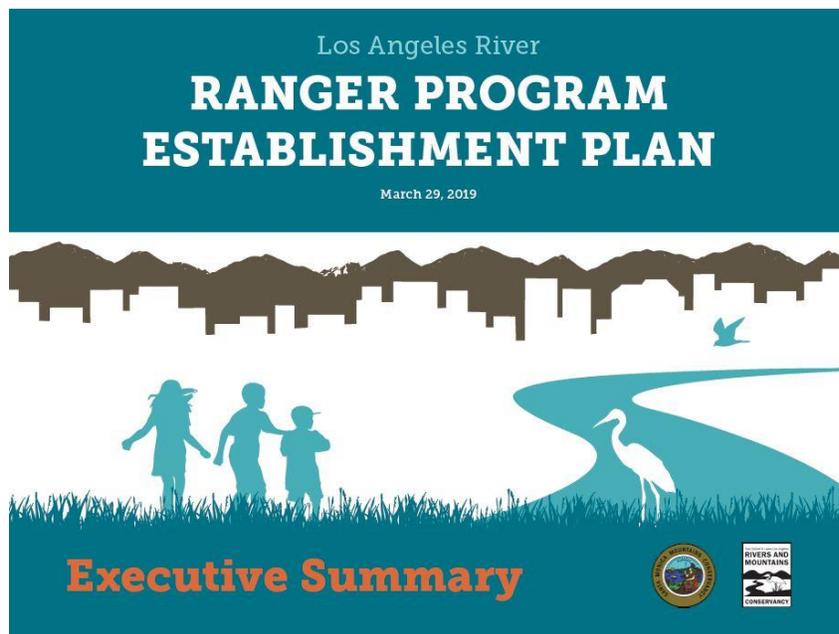


*City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors and connect to the Antonovich Trail via County-operated trail staging areas.*

**River Ranger Program Implementation Project:** The final Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan was submitted to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife on May 31, 2019. The Los Angeles River Ranger Program Establishment Plan provides the framework and tools to facilitate the refinement and implementation of the Program. Included is an Executive Summary followed by six chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Envisioning the River Ranger Program, 3. Outreach and Engagement, 4. Program Framework, 5. Governance and Funding, and 6. Program Rollout.

Key recommendations of the plan include the following:

1. Anticipated programmatic needs of the River Ranger Program are best served by a tiered staffing approach containing Sworn Peace Officer Rangers, Resource Management & Maintenance Specialists and Interpretive Specialists, complemented by River Stewards.
2. Three possible governance models are: existing cooperative entities (i.e. Park District or Joint Powers Authorities), existing governmental agencies (i.e. County or municipalities), or a hybrid of the two models.
3. Funding for the River Ranger Program can be secured through state, local, and/or private sources.
4. A suggested next step is to roll-out the program in 3-mile segments referred to as River Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat (REACH) Zones, which can eventually be expanded.
5. Immediate and ongoing collaboration with both community and agency partners are needed for successful implementation of the proposed River Ranger Program





## ENVISIONING THE PROGRAM

### MISSION

The mission of the River Ranger Program is to foster connections between communities, agencies, and resources to promote safe, equitable usage and stewardship of the LA River and its tributaries as an activated and connected greenway that supports ecological, social, and recreational opportunities.

### VISION

*How the River Ranger Program and a revitalized river will impact communities in the future...*

As the river is being revitalized and embraced as a community resource, the River Ranger Program will ensure safe, enjoyable and equitable experiences along the LA River and its tributaries by promoting equitable access, recreational and educational opportunities, community engagement, and resource protection along this vital resource. The River Ranger Program will provide opportunities to experience the River as a safe and inviting place, and to participate in its enhancement through volunteer or employment programs.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1

#### Maintenance and Resource Management

Natural, cultural, and built resources along the Los Angeles River provide multiple environmental and community benefits; these resources will be protected, maintained, enhanced, and interpreted for the public to ensure that the River is a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2

#### Recreation, Interpretation and Education Programs

The Los Angeles River will continue to serve as an outdoor classroom that provides resources and experiences that build understanding and inspire appreciation of the river's ecology, history, and community benefits, as well as an experiential landscape that offers active and passive recreational opportunities that respond to the varying physical conditions along the River.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3

#### Outreach and Engagement

All visitors will be encouraged to utilize the River, and provided information and resources to ensure safe and resource-sensitive use.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4

#### Public Safety

Designated access points, trails, parks and open spaces along the Los Angeles River should be inviting and safe for visitors to enjoy.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5

#### Administration & Coordination

Coordination and collaboration among agencies with jurisdiction over the River, organizations that provide services and programs, and members of the public is essential to providing dependable services that enhance the river as a natural and community resource. The River Ranger Program will act as a central conduit to bring together all parties involved.

WCA Satellite Office: WCA staff, in coordination with Conservation Corps of Long Beach, drafting an MOA/lease agreement to utilize office space at one or more of their facilities. WCA and RMC staff met with CCLB to discuss space needs, sharing of equipment and supplies, access considerations, etc. to aid in preparing the agreement. This item will be presented at a future Governing Board Meeting for consideration to enter into the agreement.

*Satellite Office Space currently under consideration are CCLB's Nietos Ave. and Atlantic Ave. sites.*