

DATE: July 18, 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 6/27/19

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:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

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) Safe Drinking Water for All Act (NOW INCOME TAXATION)

Introduced: 1/16/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** 3rd Reading on the Assembly Floor.

Update: *This bill was gut and amended on 6/13/19 to address income tax law. No longer a natural resources bill.*

Summary: Would enact the Safe Drinking Water for All Act and would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board to provide a source of funding to secure access to

safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. The bill would authorize the board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, bequests, and settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies, and to contribute funding available from other sources related to water quality. This bill and a companion measure, SB 200, reflect a priority articulated by Governor Newsom in his 2019-20 Budget and in his state of the state, implementing a sustainable funding source to address deficient water systems.

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

Introduced: 2/13/2019, **Status:** Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

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 926 (O'Donnell D) Oil Revenue: Oil Trust Fund

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 3/18/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: Current law requires the Controller to transfer certain oil-revenue-related moneys to the Oil Trust Fund. Current law requires the State Lands Commission to expend the money in the fund to finance the costs of well abandonment, pipeline removal, facility removal, remediation, and other costs associated with removal of oil and gas facilities from the Long Beach tidelands. Current law prohibits the total amount deposited in the fund from exceeding \$300,000,000 and requires all interest earned on money in the fund after the balance in the fund totals \$300,000,000 to be transferred to the General Fund. This bill would delete the provisions relating to the limit on the total amount deposited in the fund. By increasing the amount of money that may be deposited into a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

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

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/17/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

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. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, until January 31, 2028, the department to report those outcomes to the fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program**Introduced:** 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/9/2019, **Status:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

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:** Hearing in Senate Governmental Organization Committee on 7/9/19

Summary: This bill replicates most of 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 and working toward equitable access to outdoor areas 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. Also authorizes the office to receive assistance and funds from the public and private sources. 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:** Senate Governance and Finance Committee hearing postponed

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:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill

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 1578 (Rivas, Luz D) School Pavement to Parks Grant Program

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Education Committee on 7/3/19

Summary: Would establish the School Pavement to Parks Grant Program under the administration of the State Department of Education for purposes of providing grants to applicant school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools maintaining schools in disadvantaged communities, as defined, or low-income communities, as defined, to convert portions of existing pavement at those schools to green space. The bill would require the department to establish processes and procedures for administering the grant program, as specified. The bill would require a school district or county office of education that receives a request from a school in the school district or county office of education to participate in the grant program to inform the school that it has received the request in a timely manner.

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:** Hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on 7/9/19

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

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!"[®] Month.

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

Introduced: 2/7/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/11/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on 7/2/19

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:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

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:** 6/13/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 7/8/19

Summary: Requires the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, working in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, to develop a forest and woodlands restoration workforce model curriculum and vocational program to be offered by community college districts commencing on or before July 31, 2021. Bill would require the curriculum to reflect regional needs, and to be developed by the Chancellor's Office in consultation with experts from designated governmental, academic, and nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated expertise in forest and woodland restoration and fire management.

SB 474 (Stern D) The California Wildfire Protection Act of 1990: Habitat Conservation Fund

Introduced: 2/21/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 5/21/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee canceled by author

Summary: Would establish the Wildlife Protection Subaccount in the Habitat Conservation Fund and would require the Controller, if an appropriation is made for this purpose in any fiscal year, to transfer \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the subaccount, less any amount transferred from specified accounts and funds, to be expended by the board for the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wildlife habitat.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 6/17/2019, **Status:** Hearing in Senate Governance and Finance Committee on 7/3/19

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. This bill also includes a new, more robust, definition of “natural infrastructure.”

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

Introduced: 1/28/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 4/2/2019, **Status:** 3rd Reading on the Senate Floor

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:** Senate Environmental Quality Committee hearing canceled by author

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:** Failed Deadline - Now a 2-Year Bill.

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:** 6/14/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

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:** Senate Appropriations Committee hearing canceled by 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:** Hearing in Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 7/8/19

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

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the state budget on June 27th. Below is the 2019-20 GGRF Expenditure Plan from Assembly Budget Committee.

2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

Category	Department	Program	Funding
Air Toxic and Criteria Air Pollutants	Air Resources Board	AB 617 Community Air Protection & Local Programs to Reduce Air Pollution	\$245
		AB 617 - Local Air District Implementation	\$20
		AB 617 - Technical Assistance to Community Groups	\$10
		Subtotal	\$275
Low Carbon Transportation	Air Resources Board	Clean Vehicle Rebate Project	\$238
		Clean Trucks, Buses, & Off-Road Freight Equipment	\$182
		Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, School Buses & Transportation Equity Projects	\$65
		Subtotal	\$485
Climate Smart Agriculture	Air Resources Board	Agricultural Diesel Engine Replacement & Upgrades	\$65
	Department of Food and Ag	Healthy Soils	\$28
		Methane Reduction	\$34
		Subtotal	\$127
Healthy Forests	CAL FIRE	Healthy & Resilient Forests	\$165
		Forest Carbon Plan: Prescribed Fire & Fuel Reduction	\$35
		Wildland-Urban Interface and Other Fire Prevention Activities	\$10
		Urban Forestry	\$10
		Subtotal	\$220
Short-Lived Climate Pollutants	CalRecycle	Waste Diversion	\$25
	Air Resources Board	Fluorinated Refrigerants	\$1
		Subtotal	\$26
Integrated Climate Action: Mitigation & Resilience	SGC	Transformative Climate Communities	\$60
	Natural Resources Agency	Urban Greening	\$30
	Coastal Commission & BCDC	Coastal Resilience	\$3
	CSD	Low-Income Weatherization	\$10
	CA Conservation Corps	Energy Corps	\$6
		Subtotal	\$109
Climate and Clean Energy Research	SGC	Climate Change Research	\$5
	CalEPA & CARB	Transition to a Carbon-Neutral Economy & Zero-Emission Vehicle Strategy	\$3
Technical Assistance	SGC	Technical Assistance to Disadvantaged Communities	\$2
		Subtotal	\$10
Workforce Training	WDB	Preparing Workers for a Carbon-Neutral Economy	\$35
Safe Drinking Water	State Water Board	Safe Drinking Water	\$100
Total			\$1,387

2019-20 Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan (Discretionary Funding)

Notes for table:

BCDC= San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

CSD= Community Services and Development

SGC= Strategic Growth Council

WDB= Workforce Development Board

In addition, the Cap and Trade Expenditure Package includes the following.

Trailer bill language that codifies the AB 617 provisions previously in budget bill language and requires the Air Resources Board to report annually on the projects funded.

Trailer bill language specifying that 5 percent of the GGRF continuous appropriation beginning in 2020-21 is for safe drinking water with a cap of \$130 million and provides a General Fund backstop for the Safe Drinking Water Fund should the 5 percent of GGRF be lower than \$130 million beginning in 2023-24 and sunsets in 2030.

Provisional language that

- states that the funding for Low Carbon Transportation would fund pilot projects, demonstration projects, and commercial projects and ports would be eligible for this funding;
- states that \$1.5 million of the funding is for a study to identify strategies to significantly reduce emissions from vehicles and to achieve carbon neutrality in the sector;
- states that \$1.5 million is for a study to identify strategies to decrease demand and supply of fossil fuels, while managing the decline of fossil fuel use in a way that is economically responsible and sustainable;
- states that certain funding shall not be allocated for the purchase of fully automated cargo handling equipment; and
- gives the Department of Finance the authority to reduce allocations for certain programs, while maintaining budgeted funding levels for other programs to ensure that funding for certain programs is prioritized and would be cut last in a shortfall scenario.

PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: No Status Change. 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: No Status Change. 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 next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2019, 9:00AM – 1:00PM.

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 with continued earthwork, grading and the installation of the Restroom Facility underground system underway. The restroom facility materials were delivered to the site on July 10th and will begin installation of the structure this month. Additional work continuing is the preparation of the site for the new entry drive and parking lot improvements. Coordination with SCE on the removal and relocation of electrical service to the Caltrans on-ramp metering light is in process. Construction schedule remains on target for principle completion by General Contractor at the end of October. The timeline to completed landscaping work by the Conservation Corps has been updated to continue through March 2020.

Staff continues to work directly with LA County Parks and Recreation related to the operation and maintenance of the park starting in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.



Delivery of ROMTEC restroom facility materials to be constructed onsite as finished restroom building. Installation of septic system tank in progress in background.

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.



WCA is currently holding community meetings to get feedback and design ideas from residents. The next community meeting is scheduled for July 31st, 2019 at San Angelo Park.

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. The Farmhouse will be renovated and transformed into a community resource / visitor center to compliment these conservation gardens and provide additional programming opportunities.

San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network: WCA and LACFCD staff are scheduled to meet to complete the scope of work and task details needed to issue work orders and begin work on and in support of the plan. Overall, the start of WCA's effort on this plan has been delayed by one year.

Emerald Necklace: No bi-monthly meeting was held in July. Previously, on May 2, 2019, Supervisor Hilda Solis's office hosted an Emerald Necklace meeting to discuss the forwarding of priority projects. The meeting was attended by staff from the Supervisor's office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. WCA staff updated attendees on the Duck Farm project, as well as notified them of upcoming potential opportunities for grant funding. The team meeting was the second of an ongoing discussion on forwarding Emerald Necklace priority projects. Meetings take place every other month.

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

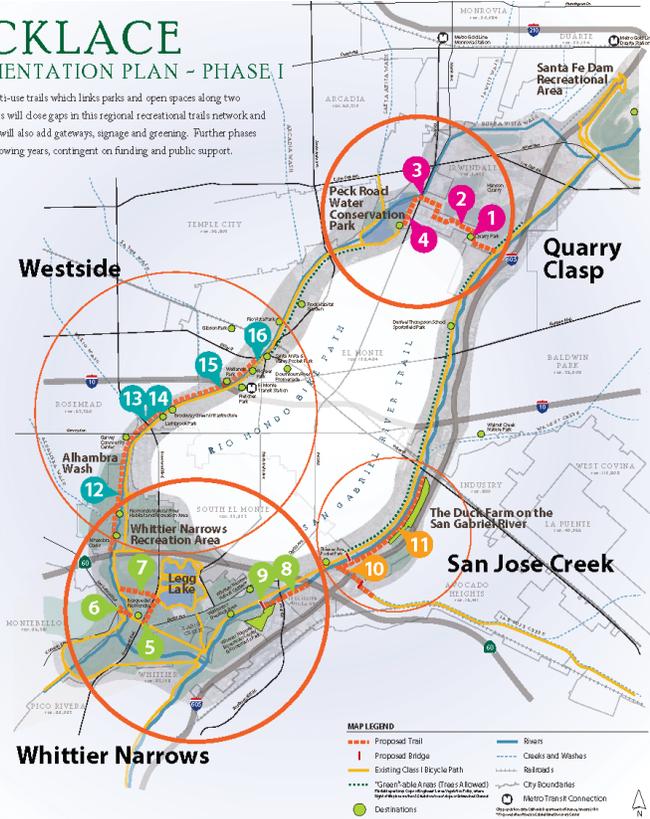
The purpose of the study is to work with existing and proposed trails to create a continuous trail network along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. The study will also identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system.

- 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 identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system. The study will also identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system.

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



Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

Make the Trail network complete by connecting the Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. The study will also identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Bicycle Paths
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connects to Peck Road Water Conservation Park

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

This section of the study will identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system. The study will also identify and prioritize projects to improve the trail network and increase access to the Emerald Necklace system.

- 10 Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to the Duck Farm on the 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 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. A request to RMC has been submitted to extend the grant performance period so that consultants may be engaged to supplement the TPL document with additional analysis on special topics: 1) a field perspective on the biological resources and role of the foothills lands; 2) the priorities of potential partners such as foothills municipalities and other conservancies; 3) expected operations and management costs, and 4) exploration of user challenges and opportunities related to access and low-impact recreational uses of open space lands.

WCA continues to wait to receive Conservation Easement documents from from San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) for review so that the transfer of Easley Canyon to WCA will be completed.

Grant applications are being prepared to acquire “Vasquez Overlook” and “Rainbow Ranch,” which would add to a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA’s River Wilderness Park.

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 extremely steep slopes surrounding the Mountain Cove Community residential development, which Lennar Homes is offering as a donation.

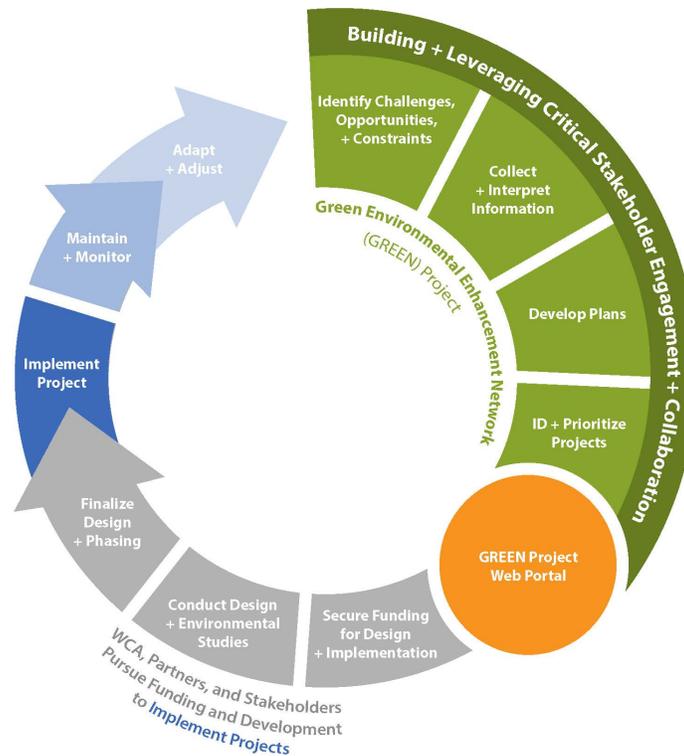
Lennar Homes offered to provide an upfront payment to WCA to compensate for the cost of insuring the property. WCA is currently seeking an estimate for general liability to present for Lennar's consideration. The costs and risks associated with this acquisition will be evaluated through the lens of the prioritization of parcels for acquisition to be provided by the San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Acquisition Master Plan.

Vasquez Acquisition: In June, Long Beach-based ecological consulting firm, Tidal Influence, conducted their last field visit to the WCA's "Vasquez" property in the Azusa foothills [AIN 8684-024-907] to conclude the Spring Biological Survey.

Production of the final survey report is 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. 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.

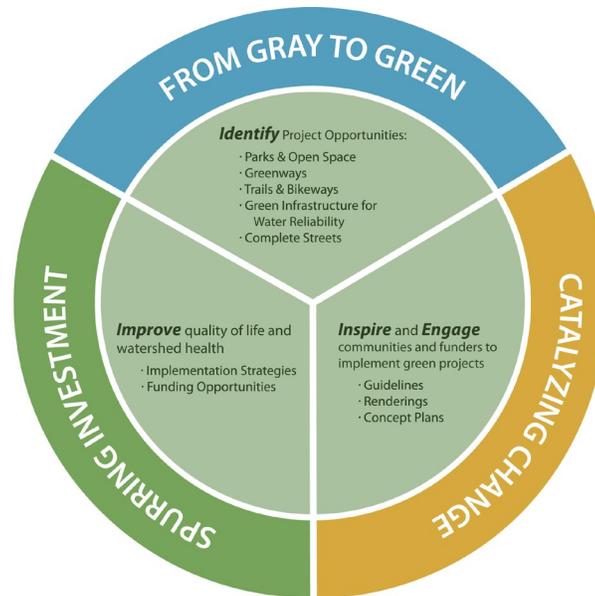
To gauge city interest in the GREEN Project, WCA staff has been having ongoing conversations with organizations and city staff throughout the Gateway Cities. The first city to receive focus has been the City of Cudahy, as they are actively looking for tools and avenues for urban greening. Preliminary research of City documents and conversations with city staff has been ongoing.



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: Staff and consultants have finished developing greenscape conceptual imagery and will complete the upload of final images shortly. 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. WCA is also exploring consultant contracts to accelerate and expand this element of the project. 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 and to be complete by the end of 2019. An expanded suite of deliverables is under consideration for a request to extend the expenditure period for recently secured RMC funds.

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: Staff is meeting with 5th District on July 24th to discuss the potential of receiving a small grant to complete site upgrades and enhancements including new and updated signage, as well as, trail and trailhead improvements.

WCA staff remains interested in holding a Convert-a-Can event this year based on availability of the artist to select a date. 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 Nation Forest. The site currently has one such muraled bear-proof container at the dedication sign trailhead.

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 14th to discuss new recreation opportunities in San Gabriel Canyon. The next meeting in late July 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.

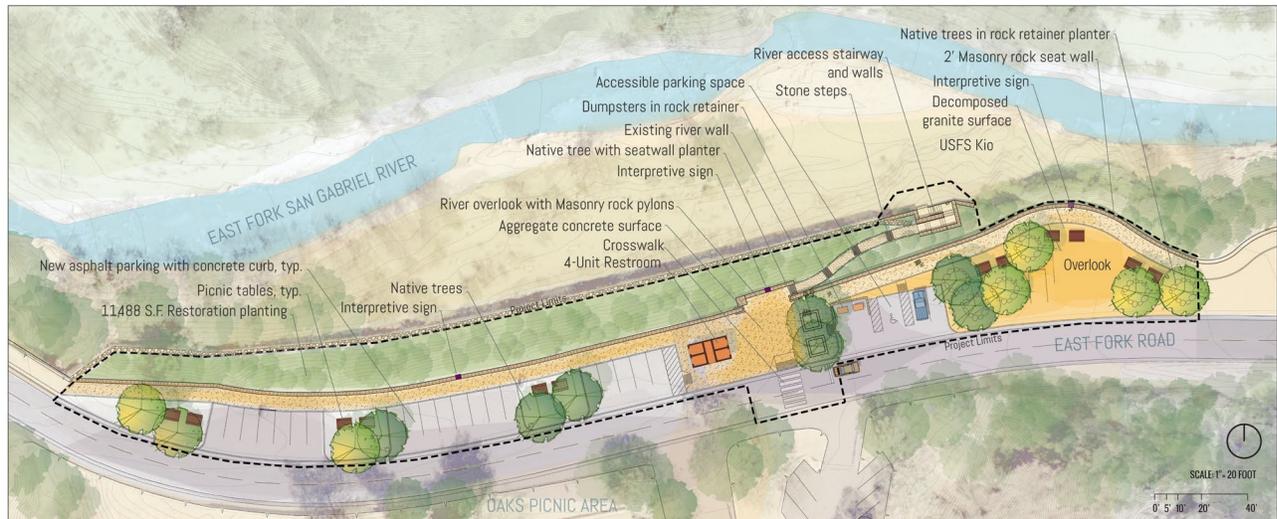
River Wilderness Park: Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4th 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). After a design strategy meeting with WCA and the Forest Service in June, BlueGreen is finalizing a concept design of the project prior to completing the full Construction Document package. At RMC's June 2019 Board Meeting, the RMC Board approved a partial Prop 1 grant to fund the permitting and bid/award process for the project. WCA is applying for a Prop 68 grant to fund project construction.

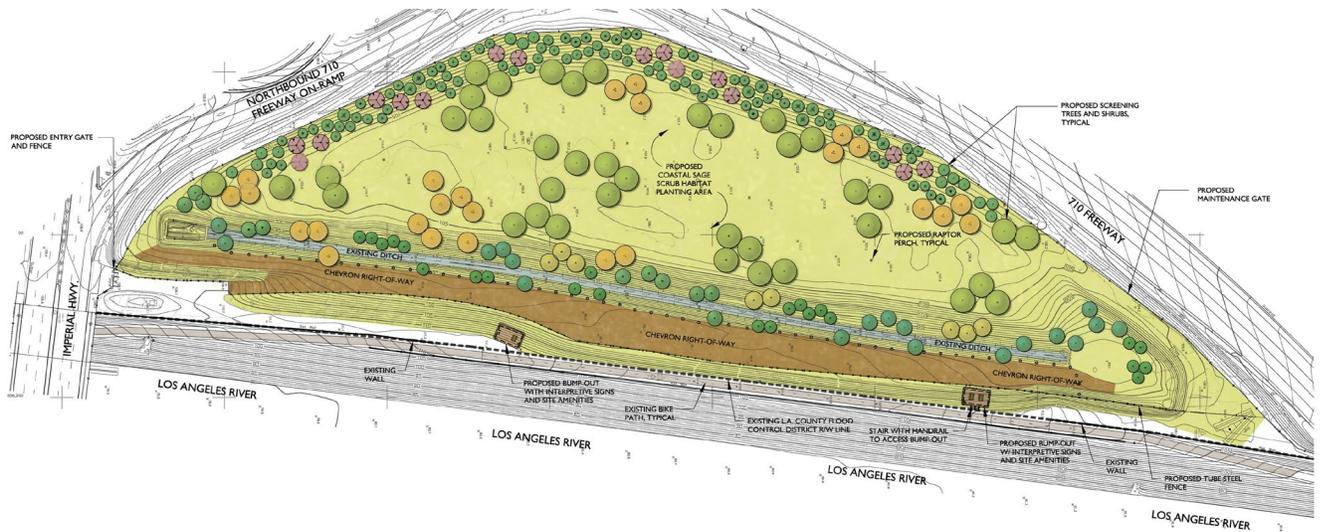
U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project later this year.



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project.

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.

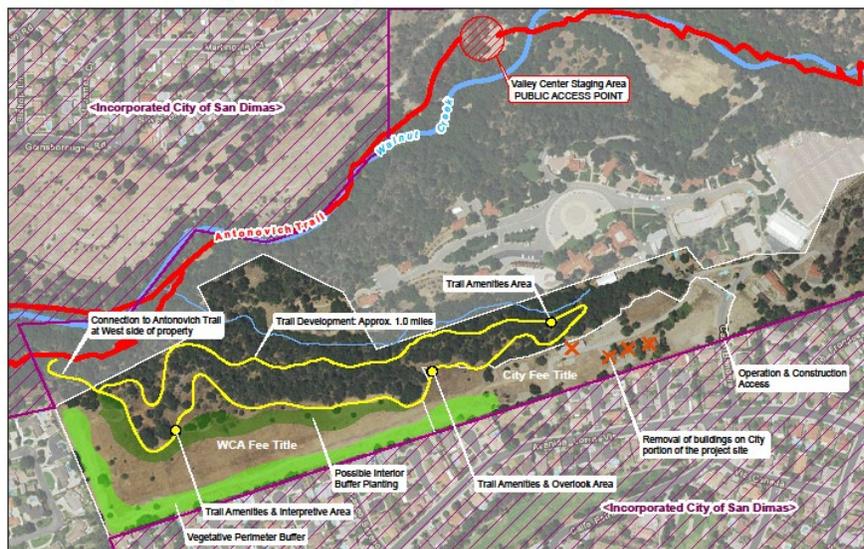
South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: The Conservation Corps of Long Beach has begun the process of pulling permits to begin construction. Finalization of the contract documents including approved schedule of values, bonding and insurance is being collected to issue the formal Notice to Proceed to facilitate the target start date of July 22nd. Additionally, staff is working closely with the City of South Gate to hold a ground-breaking event/photo opportunity in early August, details to follow.



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: Landscape designers BlueGreen have submitted stamped 100% landscape design documents. The City of San Dimas has finished with trail construction. Staff and consultants are working to forward the landscape design through the subsequent RFB and construction process.

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.

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 finalized in June 2019. The document was printed, bounded, and delivered in person by our Executive Officer, Mark Stanley, to the following: Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon, Assembly members Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, and Patrick O'Donnell, as well as Senator Henry Stern. WCA has requested an extension of the grant for Task 3 - Project Management and Task 4 – Printing/Outreach Supplies, as coordination of the printing and final tasks will be ongoing through the end of the year.

The River Ranger Program will 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.

WCA Satellite Office: WCA staff, in coordination with Conservation Corps of Long Beach, is in the process of drafting a MOA/lease agreement to utilize office space at one or more of their facilities. WCA and RMC is awaiting actual operations and maintenance cost data from CCLB to establish a basis for the lease value. The agreement, when prepared, 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.