

DATE: September 12, 2019

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: WCA Staff

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 07: 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 8/26/19

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: Outdoor Environmental Education: Grant Program

Introduced: 1/14/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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 pupils 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 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Introduced: 2/4/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/14/2019, **Status:** Re-referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Summary: Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the

amount of \$3,920,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a wildlife prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. The bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. The bill would provide that its provisions are severable. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Assembly leadership has drafted and look to propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 352 represents such a vehicle and AB 1298 (Mullin) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond remains in discussion, as well as Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated the bills priority.

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

Introduced: 2/13/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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 an 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:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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 plans to enhance the natural functions of a watershed, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would require the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes of all watershed coordinator grants. The bill would require, on or before January 31, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, the department to report those outcomes to the appropriate 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: This bill 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:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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 until January 1, 2025. 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 1298 (Mullin D) Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/22/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

Summary: Would enact the Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a climate resiliency, fire risk reduction, recycling, groundwater and drinking water supply, clean beaches, and jobs infrastructure program. The bill would require the bond act to be submitted to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. In response to the failure of Proposition 3 (Water Bond) and the more recently filed Climate and Resources Bond with the Attorney General, Speaker Rendon has greenlighted members of Assembly leadership to draft and propose bonds for future deliberation and possible inclusion on the November 2020 ballot. AB 1298 represents such a vehicle and AB 352 (Garcia) is a companion/complimentary bond funding mechanism to address climate, fire, infrastructure and resource related priorities throughout the state. AB 1298 is a little more expansive in scope than AB 352 at this juncture and both contain provisions specific to the funding of the LA River. Also, both contain funding for urban park and resource related investments. SB 45, Senator Ben Allen's Climate Bond remains in discussion as well as Senate Natural Resources Chair Henry Stern appears to have elevated the bills priority.

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:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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:** 7/11/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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:** 7/3/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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 Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program 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 the Natural Resources Agency to develop guidelines for the grant program. 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:** Suspense hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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:** Suspense hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

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

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: Natural Infrastructure: Local General Plans

Introduced: 12/3/2018, **Last Amended Date:** 8/13/2019, **Status:** 3rd Reading on the Senate Floor

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 adaption 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 prioritizes 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 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:** Chaptered

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 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: Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access

Introduced: 2/13/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 8/12/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

Summary: Would establish the Program for Coastal Resilience, Adaptation, and Access 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 Resilience, Adaptation, and Access 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.

AB 839 (Mullin D) Climate Adaptation Strategy: Strategic Resiliency Framework: Resiliency through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Account

Introduced: 2/20/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 6/26/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Senate Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

Summary: Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to update every 3 years the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan, to identify vulnerabilities to climate change by sectors and priority actions needed to reduce the risks in those sectors. This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2021, to review the plan and develop a strategic resiliency framework, as specified. The bill would require updates to the plan to include, among other things, a review of the progress made implementing past plans and an evaluation of each lead agency's lead adaptation efforts, as well as a detailed description of the framework developed by the secretary.

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

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 for funds to state conservancies as well as the LA River and San Gabriel and Los Angeles River watersheds.

SB 576 (Umberg D) Coastal Resources: Climate Ready Program and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Infrastructure, and Readiness Program

Introduced: 2/22/2019, **Last Amended Date:** 7/1/2019, **Status:** Suspense hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee on 8/30/19

Summary: Current law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to address the impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, this includes undertaking projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address extreme weather events, and coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. Current law also authorizes the conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these activities. This bill would recast these provisions as the Climate Ready Program to be administered by the conservancy as described above. Existing law also establishes the Ocean Protection Council. This bill would require the council, subject to the availability of funding, develop and implement a coastal climate adaptation, infrastructure, and readiness program to recommend best practices and strategies to improve the climate change resiliency, etc. and facilitate information sharing, including providing information to the Office of Planning and Research to be considered for inclusion into a certain clearinghouse for climate adaptation information.

PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument turns five this year, the designation was signed by President Obama on October 10, 2014. WCA staff is working directly with USFS staff to develop a list of improvements to be made within the National Monument by June 30, 2020 with special attention to the following areas: Crystal Lake and adjacent campgrounds, East Fork and Oaks Picnic Area and WCA's Mt Baldy property. Improvements may include replacing picnic tables, BBQ units, interpretive panels, way-finding signage, as well as the creation of two camp host sites at Crystal Lake

and Coldbrook Campgrounds, trailhead amenities, and various opportunities for field work involving local youth conservation corps. As the workplan is developed and approved by USFS, further details will be shared.



San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative: The San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) held its last meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019, from 9am-1pm, at the Altadena Community Center. The meeting objectives were to review members' roles and explore how best to pursue projects and initiatives within the Angeles National Forest. Review of each ad hoc committee's progress on the action plan and identify next steps. Due to this meeting occurring at the same time as the RMC's River Summit, WCA staff did not attend this meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 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 work has begun on the footings for the shade structures at the overlook, parking lot grading is underway, utility boring to bring water to the farmhouse is in process and the concrete slab and underground utilities have been completed for the restroom facility to be installed upon. Work on the dry streambed and riparian area is expected to begin next month. SCE has approved boring as the installation method to relocate electrical lines underground to serve the Caltrans on-ramp metering light. The timeline to completed landscaping work by the LA Conservation Corps has been updated to continue through Spring 2020.

Staff and LA County Parks met with SD1 and received concurrence approval to continue with process for LA County Parks and Recreation to take steps necessary to take over the operation and maintenance of the park starting in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.



Upper Left: Preparation for of slab for the installation of the ROMTEC restroom facility to be constructed onsite as finished restroom building. Installation of septic system tank in progress in background.

Upper Right: Footings for the shade structures at the River Overlook.

Lower Left: Water line extension construction material to bring services to the Farm House.

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: In July and August, WCA submitted applications to both the RMC and State Parks for Prop 68 funding to support the construction of a community center at the Duck Farm House. In addition, WCA developed a work plan for potential funding from the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County – Supplemental Environmental Program (SEP). The SEP would augment the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project and include additional public amenities and an expanded parking lot. The Work Plan is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board. Also, in August, WCA met with County Supervisor Hilda Solis, along with County Parks and Recreation staff to secure First District’s support for Parks and Rec operating and maintaining the Duck Farm and Duck Farm House as well as support for current grant and SEP funding opportunities. 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.

In July and August, WCA hosted or participated in 4 community events. These events solicited community ideas about specific design elements of the project as well as future park features.



Community Meeting at San Angelo Park to get feedback on design of the Duck Farm House project and future park features.



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 received a work order from LACFCD to participate in project planning meetings. Staff attended the kick-off meeting with the consultant team. The work order will allow a staff member to attend project meetings and strategic planning/Technical advisory meetings over the next two years. Additional work orders are expected to participate in reviews of technical documents prepared by the consultants and to perform up to four additional community engagement meetings.

Emerald Necklace: The September 5, 2019 meeting will discuss Emerald Necklace activities by participants and continue the discussions on forwarding of priority projects. The meeting to be attended by staff from the Supervisor's office, various Los Angeles County agencies, and non-profit partners. The meeting had not yet occurred at the writing and publishing of this report. A status of the meeting will be provided verbally and/or at the next WCA Governing Board Meeting. Meetings are planned to 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 partnership of the Emerald Necklace and the Westside Multi-Use Trail will create a trail network that connects the Emerald Necklace to the Westside Multi-Use Trail.

- 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 Fuller Blvd.

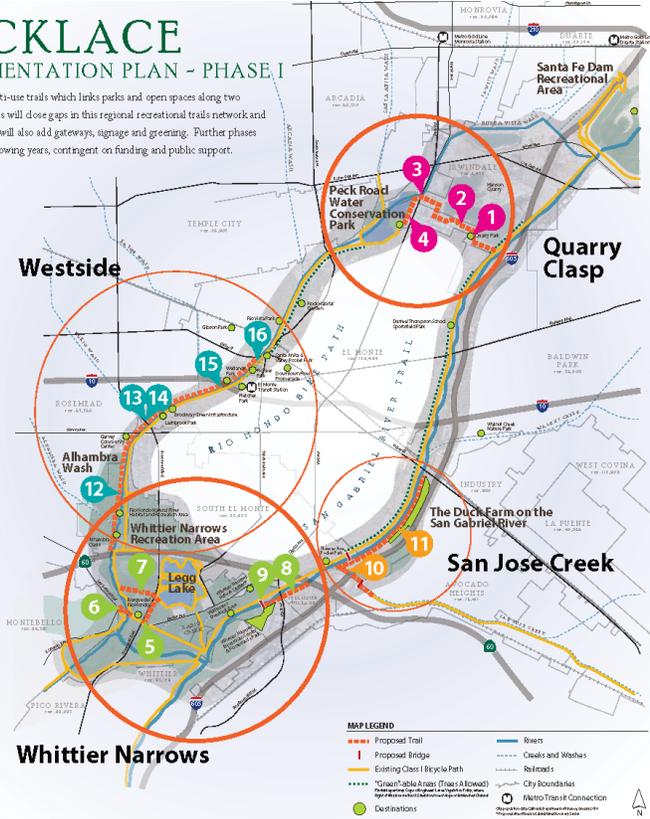
Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

Linking Existing Park Resources

This section will connect the existing and proposed trails along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will connect the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to the Whittier Narrows Regional Park.

- 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 Signaling, 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: Pullitzer Villages from State Highway 60 to Horseshoe Park
- 9 Multi-Use Bridge: Pullitzer Bridge at Horseshoe Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp:

Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail between Peck Road Water Conservation Park and the San Gabriel River will connect the trail between the Quarry Clasp and the Peck Road and the San Gabriel River.

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

San Jose Creek Regional Access:

Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This project will add a bridge crossing to connect the San Jose Creek Trail to the San Gabriel River.

- 10 Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11 Multi-Use Trail: From San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreation 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 Open Space 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 San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) for review so that the transfer of Easley Canyon to WCA gets completed.

Applications have been submitted to RMC's Prop 68 for funds to acquire "Vasquez Overlook" and "Rainbow Ranch," which would add to a cluster of publicly owned land centered around WCA's River Wilderness Park. If funds are awarded, additional funds will still be required to acquire Rainbow Ranch.

San Gabriel Mountains and Foothills Open Space 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: Long Beach-based ecological consulting firm, Tidal Influence, submitted a report of their spring biological survey of WCA's "Vasquez" property in the Azusa foothills [AIN 8684-024-907].

The biologists mapped the plant communities on site and recorded the presence of 101 plant species, of which 71 were native and 18 were classified as invasive. Annual species make up 24% of the native plant species richness, which confirmed the importance of performing a springtime survey. Wildlife cameras captured the presence of foxes, mountain lions, deer, and coyotes.

The biologists observed patterns of recovery after the 2014 Colby Fire, such as the re-sprouting of large fire-adapted coastal sage shrubs, the reestablishment of other native species via the existing seed bank, and the use of post-fire snags as perches by resident birds, and avian breeding activity.

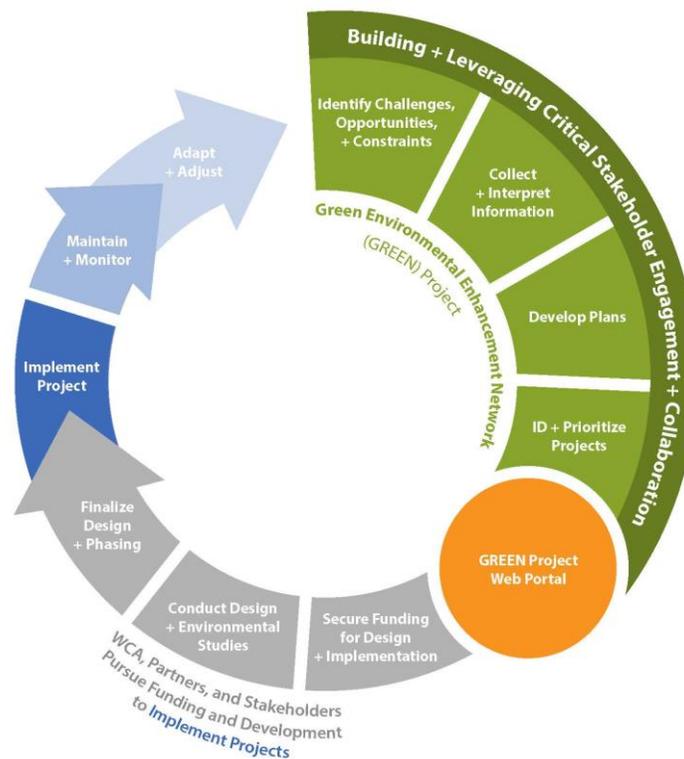
"The results of the biological surveys indicate that the Vasquez property boasts an intact and thriving ecosystem with limited disturbances despite its relatively proximity to the urban edge. This lack of disturbance has much to do with the site's inaccessibility resulting from the steep slopes, dense vegetation, and connection to vast contiguous natural open space on all edges and formerly private ownership. Much of the property's vegetation is recovering from a fire that occurred just five years ago, but this natural disturbance was far from devastating, and the ecological communities are clearly recovering at a promising rate. While the succession of the ecological communities should be monitored, the need for intensive intervention through habitat restoration is limited."

Biologists recommended selective control of *Pennisetum setaceum* (crimson fountain grass), the most numerous and aggressive invasive on site, which has naturalized throughout the foothills. Biologists also recommended enhancement and expansion of Oak Woodland (which used to be more extensive on site before the Colby Fire), and enhancement of an existing population of native walnut trees which also appears to be recovering from the fire.

These discoveries and recommendations will inform the next stage of this project: the formulation 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.

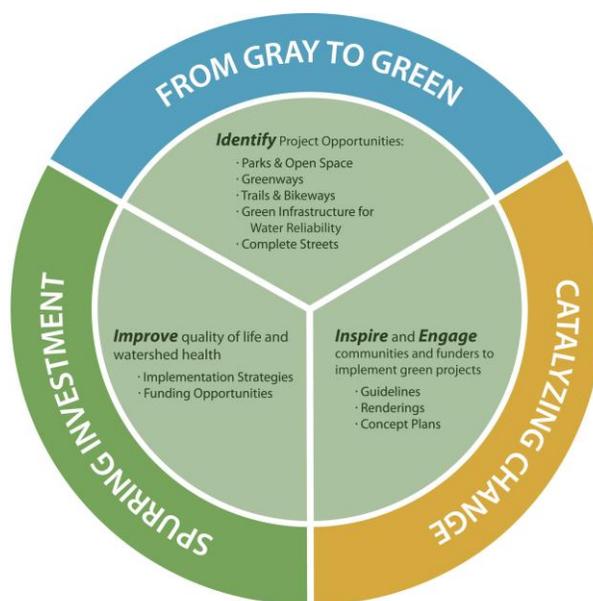
To gauge city interest in the GREEN Project, WCA staff has been having ongoing conversations with organizations and city staff throughout the Gateway Cities. The first city to receive focus has been the City of Cudahy, as they are actively looking for tools and avenues for urban greening. Preliminary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



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 are currently drafting and uploading written and visual content to the Gateway Greening website. An RFP for City Profile pages was released, and staff is evaluating proposals. 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 for completion 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 through April 2020.

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 next of which is in September.

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 met with 5th District, as well as, a member of the public representing community members adjacent to Walnut Creek property on July 24th to review the Prop A grant request for both Mt Baldy and Walnut Creek properties to complete site upgrades and enhancements including new and updated signage, as well as, trail and trailhead improvements. The meeting was beneficial to answer questions and to provide more details on the intent of the work proposed. The request is now under consideration to fund, WCA is awaiting the final determination.

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 are evaluating completed and unfinished elements of this planning project to make best use of USFS Master Agreement funds before they revert in July 2020. Complete and in-progress reports are being completed to facilitate feasible amenity and site improvements within this timeframe and budget.

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.

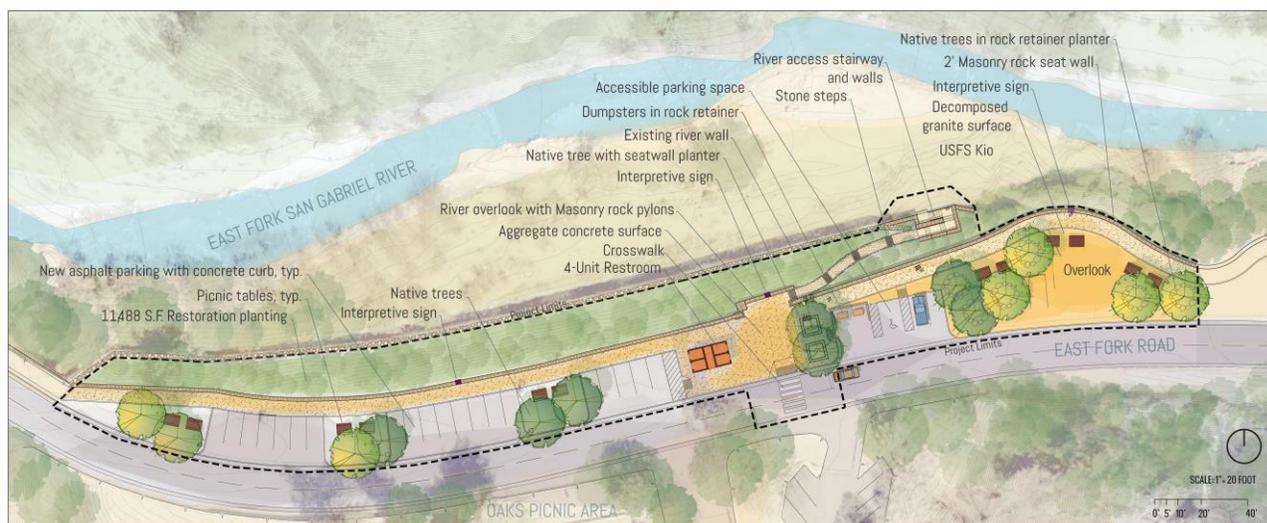
River Wilderness Park: Staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. WCA is currently pursuing a strategy of developing the park without the Roundabout on Highway 39, as its 4th application 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 submitted an application in August 2019 to support the Entry Project, including road realignment, utility work within the park, restrooms, trails, and courtyards.



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: WCA consultant, BlueGreen, is currently updating the site design based on recent feedback from WCA staff and Angeles National Forest staff. 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. In July, WCA applied to the RMC for Prop 68 funding for the construction of the project.

U.S. Forest Service anticipates making a decision of record on the EIS/EIR for the project by January of 2020.



Initial concept plan for the Oaks River Access project. An updated design is currently in process.

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 Construction Contract with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach was finalized and a notice to proceed issued. A kick-off meeting was held on August 19th and a ground-breaking event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th from 10 am to noon. Los Angeles County First District Supervisor Hilda Solis, Mayor and City Council members of South Gate, LA County of Public Works and California state leadership representatives are expected to be in attendance.

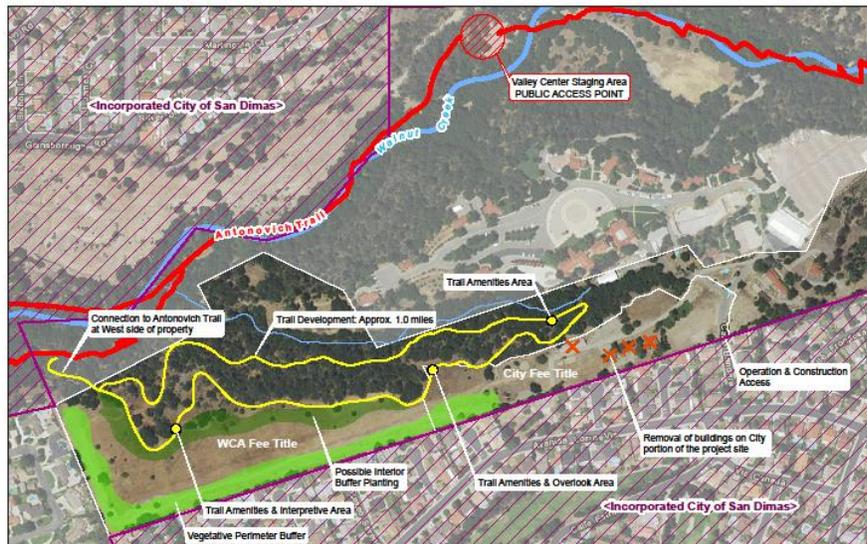
Construction update, an extension for the Caltrans permit has been requested, onsite meetings with inspectors has been completed and work has commenced on the site starting September 3rd. This project will be one of the first improvements along the Lower LA River to be completed that is listed in the LLAR Revitalization Plan and one of the improvements identified as part of the Rio Hondo/LLAR confluence signature project. A meeting with Caltrans representatives related to their drainage easement is scheduled for September 5, 2019.



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. BlueGreen has submitted their comments to a bid sheet for a contractor to be hired by the City.

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 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. A grant for implementation of the Plan is expected to be submitted in Q4 2019.

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 is reviewing with RMC staff the actual operations and maintenance cost data from CCLB to establish a basis for the lease value proposed to utilize office space at one or more of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach's facilities. This cost information, once negotiated, will then be utilized in the drafting of a MOA/lease agreement. 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 is in City of Long Beach owned property that houses Conservation Corps of Long Beach and city council office space for the Honorable Suzie Price, at Nietos Ave. and Atlantic Ave.