

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this notice is to inform any responsible agencies, interested parties, and organizations that the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has completed a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the **Canyon Inn Supplement to the River Wilderness Park Master Plan**.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located along the San Gabriel River in the City of Azusa, near the mouth of San Gabriel Canyon on San Gabriel Canyon Road (SR-39).

Project Description: The WCA is proposing to complete the proposed objectives of the Canyon Inn Master Plan (Proposed Project) in three phases through 2028. Implementation of the Master Plan is dependent on acquiring the necessary funds to design and construct an individual or group of project elements. Sufficient detail is known about the projects to be implemented beginning in 2017 so that these projects can be discussed in detail at the Project IS/MND level. However, details of projects that would be implemented in the later stages become speculative in terms of timing and design. These projects are discussed at the Program IS/MND level.

Elements from Phase I, and all of the project components of Phases II and III, are known collectively as the Entry Improvements Projects. The Entry Improvements Projects have a funding plan for construction scheduled to begin in 2017 and are analyzed at a Project level. These components are described in more detail below. The remaining elements of Phase I: Bike Path Underpass, Western Bank, Point Bar, The Triangle, and Azusa Springs, though part of Phase I, would be constructed at a later date. These projects are known collectively as Future Projects, and are analyzed at a Program level. Additional information on these elements is provided below. Subsequent California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review would be required when the remaining elements are scheduled for development.

The Entry Improvements Project Area is located south of the San Gabriel River between the El Encanto parking lot and State Route 39 (SR-39). The following Entry Improvements Projects elements would improve the entry to the Canyon Inn Property within the River Wilderness Park by:

- Constructing a roundabout to slow down vehicular travel along SR-39 at the entry to the Park at Old San Gabriel Canyon Road.
- Extending the San Gabriel River Bike Trail from its northern terminus along the west side of SR-39, across SR-39, and into the Park (originally planned as an alternative to extend to and under the SR-39 bridge).
- Installing water and sewer utility lines from the connection point at Mountain Laurel Way, along SR-39 to the realigned and improved Old San Gabriel Canyon Road.
- Undergrounding existing overhead electric utility lines and communications lines within the realigned and improved Old San Gabriel Canyon Road and within the project area.
- Constructing the following park amenities within the Canyon Inn Property:
 - Entry Gateway;
 - Park Signage;
 - Café/Office/Information Building;
 - Restrooms;
 - Pavilion;
 - Loop Nature Trail;
 - Bicycle Rest Stop;
 - Roundabout;
 - River Overlooks;
 - Shady Grove Picnic Facility; and
 - Adventure Play Area.
- Grading drainage improvements and vegetated swales.
- Landscape plantings and irrigation system.
- Realignment and improvement of approximately 900 feet of Old San Gabriel Canyon Road from SR-39 at the River Wilderness Park entry to the property boundary between Canyon Inn and El Encanto.
- Reconfiguring existing parking to accommodate park improvements.

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The existing abandoned septic tank located approximately where the Café/Office/Information building would be abandoned and removed per current guidelines. New sewer utility lines would be installed to serve the park.

The project elements located north of the San Gabriel River, identified as Future Projects, do not have a detailed capital funding strategy at this time and implementation timing and design are speculative. Therefore, these elements will be analyzed at a Program level. Once more project detail is known and the projects receive funding and further design, they will undergo separate CEQA review. A brief description of Future Projects elements is included below.

- **Western Bank**
 - Nature Trail
 - River Outlook
 - Habitat Restoration
 - Interpretive Sign
- **Point Bar**
 - Nature Trail
 - Habitat Restoration
 - River View Bench
- **Azusa Springs**
 - Tent Camping (by permit)
 - Nature Trail
 - Habitat Restoration
 - Interpretive Installations
- **The Triangle**
 - Habitat Restoration

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: No potentially significant impacts to resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, the WCA acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Public Review Period: In compliance with CEQA, the WCA has established a 30-day public review period beginning December 2, 2015 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND. To accommodate the holidays, one week has been added to the public review period. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND should be submitted no later than January 7, 2015 to:

Rob Romanek
Watershed Conservation Authority
100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702

Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available for public review at the following locations:

www.wca.ca.gov/river_wilderness_park

and

Watershed Conservation Authority
100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, CA 91702