

## **Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase I**

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project identified below. The preparation of this DEIR is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the DEIR is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an understanding of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the Proposed Project. The WCA will also use the DEIR to obtain, as appropriate, permits, agreements, and approvals from other agencies.

**Project Location:** The Proposed Project is located in the San Gabriel Valley in the southeastern portion of Los Angeles County. The San Gabriel Valley is an urbanized valley that is largely built out with single- and multi-family residential, commercial, and industrial land uses; however, some areas within the valley are reserved for open space. The Proposed Project is a 17-mile interconnected network of 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 Area in the south. Along the San Gabriel River it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in the south (Figure 1).

**Proposed Project:** The Proposed Project includes 15 projects that would close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area. It should be noted that the numbering of the following 15 proposed projects does not indicate prioritization. The proposed projects may be implemented in any order depending on funding and community needs. They are organized in four distinct regional areas: Quarry Clasp to the north, Whittier Narrows to the south, San Jose Creek to the east, and Westside to the west.

**Probable Environmental Effects:** Less than significant effects were found for Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Land Use and Planning, Public Services, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities/Service Systems. The Proposed Project would result in potentially significant effects to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural/Paleontological Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Recreation. Impacts to these resources would be mitigated as described in the DEIR.

**Public Review Period:** In compliance with CEQA, the WCA has established a 45-day public review period beginning October 19, 2016 to solicit comments and input on the DEIR. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, the WCA encourages interested parties to submit written comments. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the DEIR, or any questions regarding the DEIR, should be postmarked no later than December 2, 2016 to:

Robert Romanek, Project Manager  
Watershed Conservation Authority  
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road  
Azusa, CA 91702  
rromanek@wca.ca.gov

Responses to written comments raising significant environmental issues received during the 45-day public review period will be included in the Final EIR. Copies of the DEIR are available for review online at [www.wca.ca.gov/emerald\\_necklace\\_greening\\_and\\_trails](http://www.wca.ca.gov/emerald_necklace_greening_and_trails) and at the following locations:

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

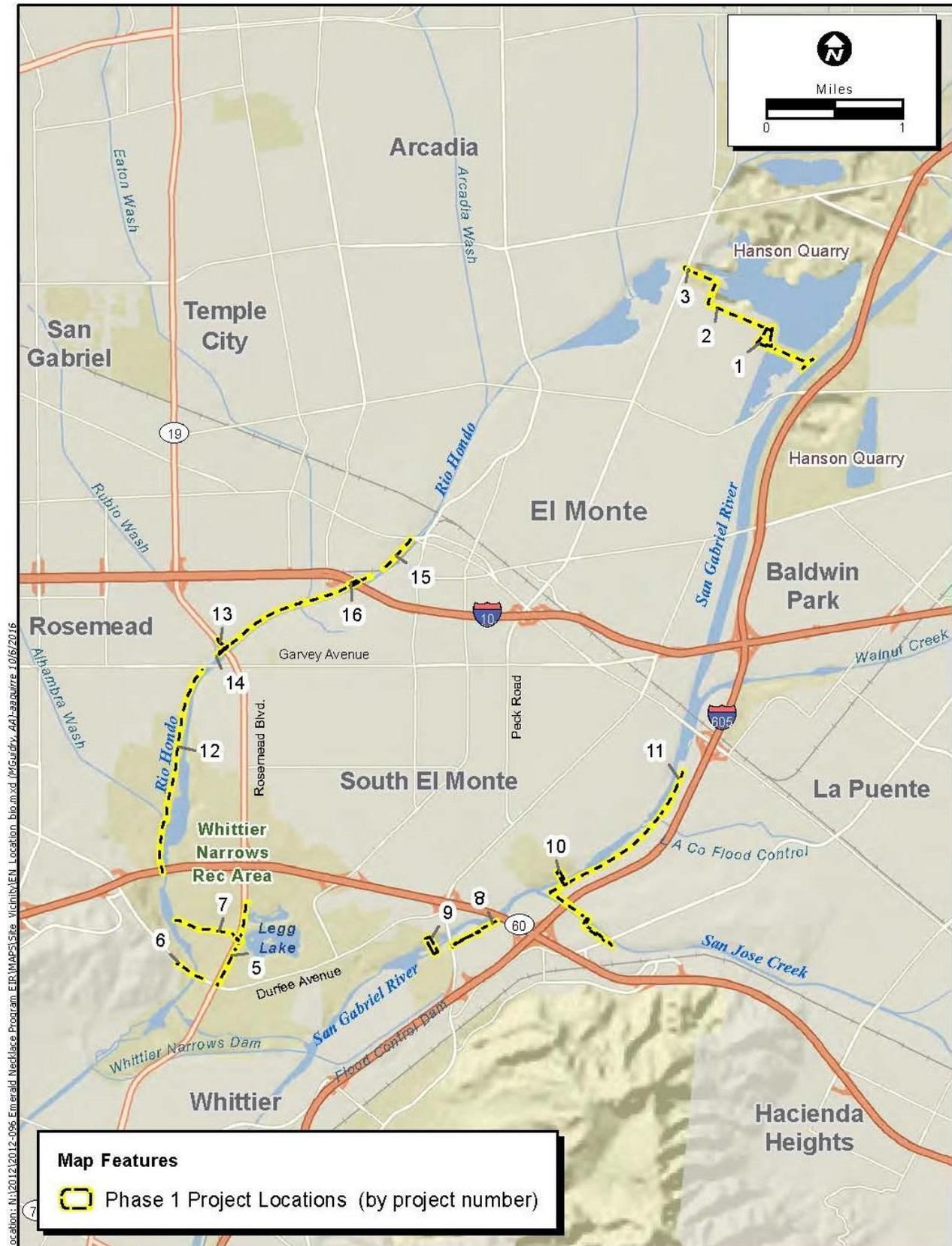
El Monte Library  
3224 Tyler Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91731

A public meeting will be held on October 26, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the following location:

Bassett Park Community Room  
510 N. Vineland Avenue  
La Puente, CA 91746

The public meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the Proposed Project and the environmental document. Written comments may also be submitted at the meeting.

**Figure 1. Project Location Map**



Location: N:\32012\12-096 Emerald Necklace Program EIR\MAPS\Site\_Vicinity\EN\_Location\_bio.mxd (MGuilford\_A41-azouire 1/16/2016)

Map Date: 10/6/2016  
Source: ESRI